

The Silver Lining



"Each little bird that sings... the Lord God made them all."

November 1997

“WE ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD”

Sermon by Bro. Elder Bro. John Lehman, Bern, KS

II Chronicles 18:1-27 and I Corinthians 3:16 - 4:21

We see the writings of the Apostle Paul to the believers of Corinth. The Apostle Paul was one of the great men of God. It is always an inspiring thought when we think of a man who had a great purpose in life. He was an individual who received an excellent education. He thought he was doing the right thing, but he violated because he was going down the wrong road.

Paul persecuted the Christian people, and God had to strike him down and turn him around. Once he was turned around, we see the great works that he did for God in establishing the churches today.

When we look at the life of the Apostle Paul, knowing that when the Lord struck him down, as we can read there in Acts, it obviously took a great miracle. He was on the way to Damascus and he was blinded. Once he was struck down, God used him in many, many ways.

As we are here gathered together this morning, there is probably not anyone in this room that is going to make an individual impact like the Apostle Paul did in those times, because he was going into an area of the world where there had been a lot of heathen worship. There was a lot of heathen religion and they were following idols. With idol worship, Paul had a very tough area to penetrate. We realize, regardless wherever God did lead him, remember what he asked, “What must I do to be saved?” Once his eyes were opened and he saw that he was going the wrong way, he was filled with zeal.

I do not know what the population was in the areas that he went to, but think of the impact that he had on all those people in the differ-

ent churches. I believe each one today, as God has called us into His service, we have areas that we can reach out to.

We have areas that we can be effective by our walk of faith for those individuals without the hope of eternal life. We live in a time in which there is a lot of sin and unbelief all about us. We can't look at the Bible and say, “Well, it is wonderful that Paul did that, but what am I to do? What does God have for me? What is my purpose and what is my mission?” God has a mission and He has a purpose for all of us, and that is that we live each day in His service.

We come together in a structure like we are in this assembly here in Champaign today. We come Sunday after Sunday, but I don't think God wants us to get in a rut. He does not want us to come to the point where we just methodically go through life and are thinking only about our own self.

On the other hand, I don't believe that He wants us branching out to areas of uncertainty and polluting His doctrine. We want to remain with the true Word and stay in step with the Word and with the Holy Spirit so He will guide us.

Whether we are young or old, all of us can be, in one way or another, like the Apostle Paul. We must realize, just as he told the believers at Corinth, “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (I Cor. 3:16). This morning, God's Holy Spirit dwells within us. If God's Spirit dwells within us, then we are the temple of God. We have a purpose and a mission to help those who are lost.

There isn't any of us in this room, I am sure, if we would ask the question, “How many people do you think you were exposed to this past week that don't have the hope of eternal life?” Could we answer that question? Or can we say, “Well, I was just so wrapped up in myself of what I had to do. You don't know my schedule and how many hours and the responsibility that I have at work.” I don't think that is an acceptable excuse.

We need to make a living. We need to have bread on the table. We need to pay our bills, but we can't become so wrapped up that our work becomes an idol. We can't become so wrapped up that we forget we are a child of God. We are the temple of the living God!

The temple is not just the church building where we go and sit from ten o'clock Sunday morning until one o'clock in the afternoon. We need to make sure that that temple is preserved. We go and sing praises to God and pray for the ministry. That is only one temple.

Sermon continued on page 45

The Silver Lining (Vol. 51, #10)

RR 2 Box 50 Roanoke, IL 61561

USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America

Counselors:

Wayne Anliker, Ervin Knecht

David Bertsch

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Silver Lining

RR2 Box 50, Roanoke, IL, 61561

309-923-7513 (phone) 309-923-7359 (fax)
Periodical postage paid at Roanoke, IL 61561, and
additional offices. The subscription rate is a donation.
Send zip number with address. Remember to send
changes of address. Send both old and new addresses
(with both zips). Postmaster send address changes to:

The Silver Lining

RR2 Box 50, Roanoke, IL 61561

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

November 1997

Fasting Accompanied by Prayer - II

In the last article in the "Light From The Word", attention was focused upon fasting as it was observed in the Old Testament days. This article will address fasting from the perspective of the New Testament.

As was the case in the days before Christ's birth, so it is true today that fasting, to be of any significant value, must be accompanied by prayer.

Jesus' example in fasting as described in the Gospel of St. Matthew, Chapter 4:1-12, shows us that fasting should be done in a very private manner and should be directed of the Spirit. "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered" (Matt. 4:1-2).

This was in preparation for the temptations Satan would bring upon Him as He began his ministry, and throughout the temptations Jesus used the Word of God as His defense. Satan was thus defeated and left Jesus for a time. After forty days of fasting, Jesus' faith was strong and He was able to overcome all that Satan could bring before Him.

In addition to His example, Jesus provided valuable instruction about fasting, teaching that we must fast without show or pretense. "Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face: that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly" (Matt. 6:16-18).

Jesus also emphasized that our attitude toward fasting must be of a humble nature. The Pharisee, who boasted that "I fast twice in the week..." (Luke 18:12) received no blessing because he exalted himself.

The Apostle Paul also fasted and prayed when he was called into God's service. After he received his call on the road to Damascus, Paul was instructed to go to the city and await further instruction. There "He was three days without sight, and nei-

ther did eat nor drink" (Acts 9:9).

Ananias was told to go to Paul "...for behold, he prayeth," (Acts 9:11).

As Paul and Barnabas were about to depart on their first missionary journey, Paul, Barnabas and others were in Antioch and "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted, and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away" (Acts 13:2-3).

When significant steps were taken to spread the faith, the Apostles were careful to draw close to God by fasting and prayer, "And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed" (Acts 14:23).

Since our bodies are the temple of God, we must be careful that we do not abuse God's temple by fasting in an inappropriate manner. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?... therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Cor. 6:19-20). God does not ask us to starve ourselves. To fast to the point of starvation would be abuse and would bring no spiritual gain. "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are (I Cor. 3:17).

Also, we must remember that when we fast in order to receive instruction or help from God to accomplish a certain task, we must be careful that we do not ask amiss. If the Bible instructs us to do something, we might consider fasting to help us do it but we should not fast to determine whether we do it. Obedience is better than sacrifice.

James teaches us that when we ask something of the Lord, we must be careful that we ask in faith and with a proper attitude. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God,... But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways"

(James 1:5-8). James also writes "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts" (James 4:3). We ought not to ask, fast nor pray for God to give us anything that would not be to our spiritual benefit.

Furthermore, fasting is not necessarily total abstinence from food or drink. We may choose a partial fast and refrain from certain kinds of food to insure that we do not offend our brother. "But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died" (Romans 14:15). "Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend" (I Cor. 8:13).

Finally, fasting can involve more than simply giving up food or drink for a period of time. Anything that we might sacrifice for the Lord can bring benefits similar to abstaining from food. It must, however, be something that is not sinful; sinful activities should be eliminated from our lives simply because they are wrong. While eliminating sin from our lives brings much relief and many blessings, we must realize that the concept of fasting accompanied by prayer involves giving up something that is important to us that would not bring us harm if we continued to do it. To be a sacrifice, it must involve giving up something that has value to us—and sin has no value.

Jesus made it very clear that denying one's self of something we hold dear can bring many blessings. "And everyone that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life" (Matt. 19:29). Luke 18:29-30 reinforces this concept of sacrifice.

As we can see from the scriptural example, fasting that is observed in a quiet, humble, prayerful manner, can help us draw closer to God, overcome temptation, increase our faith, and accomplish God's purpose in our lives.



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

"Occupy Until I Come"

The Word speaks

The words above were spoken by our Lord and Savior before He left this earth to take His place at the Father's right hand. The apostles took this directive seriously, and directed the believers as follows:

"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

Our current response

The verse above is a basic guideline of the World Relief Committee, and is quoted in most of our documents. All who labor in this continuing effort feel a commitment to the message contained in that verse. Our Mission Committee also takes its scriptural charge seriously, and reverts to basic teachings often as they continue to carry out their work. In this month's pages devoted to reporting activities of both groups, we wish to share the work among our European brethren.

The work goes on

The European Board serves both of the above mentioned Committees and administers the efforts in Europe. For the most part, our brethren are of European heritage and know our church has its roots there. However, this work is only a portion of the activities of each of these Committees. We are living in a troubled world which gives a great many opportunities to serve the needy who can be found in increasing numbers throughout the world. It is sometimes hard for us who live in a land of unprecedented prosperity to relate to the desperate situations in which many people find themselves today.

The European situation

Europe is an assortment of cultures, ideologies and loyalties with a history of discord and struggle for over 1,000 years. Our European brethren are benefactors of both the positive and negative effects resulting from the many conflicts and changes on their continent. As we visit these countries we develop a renewed appreciation for the believers and how they have coped with these changes, particularly in former Communist countries.

What happened to Communism

From the lips of our brethren, we learn of the experiences they have made during the years of this century of turmoil. Today's generation has known nothing in the past except the communist system. However, it is the simple truth that this system has totally failed. The theory could not support reality, and the result was governmental and financial collapse. During the communist years, the regime did little to improve the infrastructure, such as roads, utilities, etc. Except for military technology, progress was virtually stopped seventy years ago. What remains today portrays this neglect, and the visitor steps back in time as he views the land. All buildings have fallen into decay and need major repair and upgrading.

Under Communism, commissars had the final say at the individual level, and their concern was primarily for themselves. The people did what they were told to do and submitted to authority because they had few choices.

However, this unworkable system finally collapsed under its own weight, and the people found themselves with freedom to choose for the first time in their lives. The problem was that they had neither

experience nor judgment to guide them in a free enterprise system. The result was a chaotic situation which continues to this very day. Our brethren struggle just for daily existence. Without stable currencies or prices in the marketplaces, they do the best they can to provide for themselves each day. In many lands, organized crime seems to be the controlling force.

Keeping the faith

During those years of war, hardship, oppression, and misery, many of our brethren fell victim to oppression. The numbers of faithful pilgrims whose heritage of faith is virtually identical to ours through the work of Bro. Samuel Froehlich have been diminished by over 80%. It is impossible to estimate how many members were lost to persecution, or how many youth simply had no opportunity to partake of a faith based upon scriptural principles. Those who remain have endured situations which almost sicken a person who learns about them. However, with thanks to God, although the flame of faith grew very dim, it did not go out.

Our heritage

Bro. Froehlich began his ministry in Switzerland, preaching in the German language, and finished his life in Strasbourg, France, where he lies in a grave marked by a simple headstone. On this piece of granite are inscribed in German the words from Proverbs 10:7, *"The memory of the just is blessed."*

Although we were opponents in a great war generated by politicians, today we have a very close working relationship with our German brethren. Communication from the European Board with the Germans continues as we work together for the benefit of our needy brethren in Eastern Europe.

Support to Ukraine

By the Breidenbach, Germany congregation sent a semi load of clothing into Ukraine, and also delivered substantial funds for our suffering brethren there on the same trip. Hourly wages for those fortunate enough to have employment in Ukraine are about \$1.25/hour. Those making the trip visited a market, and report as follows the hours one must work to purchase consumer items.

- 1 pound sugar = .7 hours
- 1 dozen eggs = 1.5 hours
- 1 liter of cooking oil = 2 hours
- 1 pound of cheese = 4 hours
- 1 pound of rice = ¾ hours
- 1 ton of poor coal = 160 hours
- 1 gallon gasoline = 2 hours

These are some representative numbers which we hope will help our readers to understand the plight of our brethren.

A very small percentage of the Ukrainians have indoor plumbing, and hot running water is almost non-existent. It is a very unfortunate truth that many of them were hungry and cold last winter. It was one of the worst winters on record in Europe, and suffering was rampant. As we enjoy the comforts of our American homes, it would be well if we would think that not everyone enjoys the comforts we do. Very few Eastern brethren have the luxury to be concerned about cutting back on calories to control weight.

Visit to Hungary and Yugoslavia

The faith of our fathers had a beginning in Hungary very early in its history. Although they were overtaken by Communism after the war, the Hungarians did not fully subscribe to the ideology. As a result, they have emerged better than most of the other brethren in Eastern Europe. Here we also want our loyal and supportive brethren in the USA to know that we have an excellent relationship with the Hungarians, which has resulted in mutual trust and cooperation. We esteem them very much, and they, too, are fighting the

same battles as other former communist nations and need our support and prayers.

In November, Elder Bros. Gene Marti, Marvin Leman, and Kevin Ryan intend to be present at the dedication of an addition to the church in Hódmezővásárhely, Hungary. Bros. Louis Bikadi and Peter Petrovic plan to accompany them as interpreters in the Hungarian and Serbian languages. These brothers plan to visit Yugoslavia during their trip to Europe. There will be a report of this trip in future issues.

Romania

In Romania we have been working with and visiting the brethren on at least an annual basis. While it would be amiss to say there are no problems, it does appear that as of now the situation is somewhat better than last year. We have a number of self-help programs in place, and in spite of difficulties, look to the future with faith and trust in Almighty God.



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

Cooperation with other relief organizations

We recognize that we cannot cover all the needs without some assistance and have found two groups with whom we work and have much confidence.

Christian Aid Ministries

Christian Aid Ministries (CAM) is a ministry serving conservative congregations in the Amish-Mennonite fellowship. We have been working with them not only across the seas, but here in America on disaster

projects for many years. These efforts have brought mutual respect from us all. On October 11, a group of our brethren met with them at their headquarters in Berlin, Ohio. This is done on a yearly basis. CAM serves as our freight forwarder for sea container shipments to Europe as well as the Caribbean nations. They have distribution centers, including one in central Illinois, in which our brethren can contribute time and goods for this effort. Some of the products which go into the monthly shipments from the Bluffton Distribution Center are purchased at modest cost from them.

Iron Curtain Ministries

This Amish group is located only a few miles from CAM in Holmes County, Ohio, and the annual visits to the area also include a meeting with them. The Anabaptist heritage of the Amish-Mennonite fellowships predates the conversion of Bro. Samuel Froehlich in Europe. He had close connections with these groups, and we feel most comfortable as we meet with them.

Although there is never any thought or discussion of doctrinal issues, their humanitarian efforts directly parallel ours. There is a deep feeling of mutual trust in one another on humanitarian efforts. Iron Curtain Ministries contributes to our food package work in Romania. Their financial support amounts to over \$10,000 per month.

Gratitude to God

As we evaluate our efforts, we thank God for all of our loyal supporters, without whose contributions this work could not proceed. It takes substantial amounts of resources to keep these programs functioning, and we can only continue with your prayerful and financial support. If you would like to help, donations can be sent to: Bro. Gene Marti
Apostolic Christian
Mission Committee
P.O. Box 23356
Overland Park, KS 66283

- 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>
October	3,759	37,169	401,212

* Repaired Bibles Shipped = 180

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

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

PLACEMENT OF POCKET TESTAMENTS

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

Be sure to ask permission to place the Testaments.

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

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

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Thanksgiving season is the time to count the blessings which we continually receive from our Heavenly Father.

Lois Egli who had lived at the Home for many years was called to her Heavenly Home. Those of us who knew and loved Lois will miss her, but cannot help but rejoice for the victory she has won. It was mentioned at Lois' memorial service how at the time of her mother's death it was found noted in her Bible next to "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk

*Poblacion, Kalilangan
8718 Bukidnon, Phil.
2 October 1997*

Dear Banwarts,

Warm Christian greetings in the mighty name of Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.

Thank you very much! The Bibles arrived here (two m-bags) last week safe and sound. Once again, thank you very much, though by heart I know such words is not enough to express our gratitude for such valuable gifts that left to ourselves we could never afford. In behalf of our Christian brethren here, I send you our heartfelt thanks.

Please extend our thanks also to the Christians or churches that donated such books and Bibles. We knew it would take a heart to give away such treasure.

Enclosed are the cards that signified the packages reached its destination.

Once more, thank you very much and more power to you all from on High.

*Yours for God's glory,
Rev. Adonis Y. Baquirquir*

in truth" (III John 1:4), that this was her most sincere desire for her children.

The continued support which so many of you give to the Home is a great blessing. Please continue to pray that God's wisdom will be granted to those who must make daily decisions and that caring, compassionate workers will be directed to our doors to care for our dear residents who possess such a variety of needs.

Birthdays for December are: ACHH - Dirk Slonneger (5), Bryan Streid (8), Christina Otten (9), Bland Jones (18), Anne Carrescia (30). OAKWOOD - Delores Wieland (15), Phil Fehr (18).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Carol Schrock

In a recent sermon we heard about the rich young man who came to Jesus asking what to do to be saved. We read in Mark 10:21 that



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
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.

**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

**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 14-21

Contact Bro. Wayne Lehman
(South Bend)
(219)824-5160

March 7-14

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

March 21-28

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

"Jesus looked at him and loved him." Because the young man was loved, he was not let off the hook. Jesus went right to the issue and told him what he needed to hear. In verse 22, it says "...he went away sad." Too many times we "go away sad" and this is sad! Once we understand truth, we will be glad, if we obey. We see this in our lives, and the lives of the families we serve. Change is hard and so often we resist. How much happier we would be if we would only listen to what is being said, from those who love us (as Jesus loved the young man) and are not "letting us off the hook", but challenging us to change!

Some change we enjoy! The beauty around us in the autumn time of year is such a lovely one! May our hearts be exceeding glad and thankful as we behold such wonders. God is in control of change. He creates it!

Changes have happened in the Fiechter home. Selena and Adam B. have moved on to their father's home and Bill A. has moved in. We pray for the Creator of all to meet the needs of each one and that the seeds we have sown will some day germinate into living faith in Christ.

We are thankful for the volunteer help this past month from Sis. Trisha Metzger (Chicago), Brian

Meyer (Bluffton) and Bro. Allen Stoller, our dentist. What a blessing and gift to us is the service from others!

We have another wonderful little addition to our campus. Our Alternate Houseparents, Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lisa Kipfer, along with big brother A.J. are thrilled to welcome Luke Josiah born October 6.

Sis. Missy Frieden (Wichita, KS) has been hired as the full-time teacher for our On-Grounds Education Program that serves our residents who need additional structure as they prepare to return to public school. Sis. Missy will join our staff at the end of the year.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Molly Stickling**

October has been a very busy month at the preschool. We started this month by having parent-teacher conferences. This is a neat time to discuss each child's progress and abilities with the parents. Some of the parents tell us they love to hear their child sing Bible songs and say Bible verses that they are learning at school. This is also encouraging to the teachers as well.

Our themes for this month have been transportation, music, Fall, and the color orange. We also

learned about letters E-F-G-H, and I. Our Bible verse for the letter "H" was "Honour thy father and thy mother." (Exodus 20:12). One child's explanation of this verse was, "So you don't get a whooping!" We then stressed the importance of obeying our mothers and fathers. How thankful we are though for our Heavenly Father, who is so loving and patient with all His children.

To coincide with our transportation theme, we held our annual fund-raising Trike-A-Thon. The children collected pledges, and were able to bring their bikes to school to ride around a course we set up in our parking lot. The children took their job of riding around the course as many times as they could very seriously, and the teachers and parents had an enjoyable day watching!

As part of our Fall theme, we took a field trip to a local ranch. The children had an exciting day of pumpkin-picking, hay-rack riding, petting animals, and participating in an old fashioned farm scene. We

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	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jan 02-10	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	Harold Witzig	Work Place	40	5%
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

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	

also enjoyed a picnic lunch, but most of all, a beautiful day outside.

October was the month for our preschool board meeting. We would like to thank each of these brothers who came and gave of their time and support. May God bless you.

November will bring our theme of Thanksgiving. The children will be learning about thankfulness, and this wonderful holiday set aside for the purpose of thanking our Heavenly Father for all the blessings He bestows on us.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Joan Reinhard

September 20 and 21 was the weekend for the Nashville, TN church dedication, so Elder Bro. La-voyd Moore and some of the others

from our congregation traveled there for the weekend and participated in the dedication service. We rejoice with our closest church neighbors in this wonderful occasion.

The weekend of September 27 and 28 was again a weekend of rejoicing as some traveled to Peoria, IL to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Sis. Kristin Meister. She is the daughter of Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and is attending school in Peoria.

A board meeting for the Tennessee Fellowship Area was held Saturday, October 4. We want to thank each one who serves on this board for their efforts they have put forth for this project. Our visitors that weekend were Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bud Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN), Bro. John and Sis. Patsy Stoller (Leo, IN), Mike and Sis. Janet Campbell (Leo, IN) and Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister (Peoria, IL). We enjoyed the fellowship of the weekend and we appreciated the company who made the effort to come.

We wish God's richest blessings on Anthony and Jennifer Lynn who were united in marriage on October 10. Anthony is the son of Bro. Buddy and Sis. Clarann Lynn. May they seek the Lord's guidance as they continue their new life together.

Sis. Ruby Ross and Sis. Anis Perry have both had hospital stays this month. Their ongoing struggle for good health reminds each of us to be thankful for the health we have and we pray that God will soon restore to them a measure of health according to His will.

During this Thanksgiving season, let us remember to look at all the blessings we have and be more thankful to our Heavenly Father all year around.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him."

Psalm 89:7

Thanksgiving time is soul searching time for one's respect and reverence for our Father, who gives us more than our daily bread. Let us give thanks to God.

We appreciated sermons from Bros. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Lloyd Kraft (Lamont-Gridley, KS). We need "God power" sermons, especially with two precious dears in crisis conditions.

Our prayer list includes Bro. Paul Emch and Mary Beth Sutton (Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene) in the hospital, and Sis. Heidi Kokanovich for a broken foot.

We are thankful Sis. Madeline Knochel, Bro. Allan Freed and Bro. Alvin Laukhuf could worship with us.

Terry Koehl (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary) has peace with God after a time of repentance and is looking forward to giving his testimony and baptism on October 17-18.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Eleanor Hill were in Kitchener, Ontario for the arrival of new grandson, Jaben Schlarb.

Millie Stickling moved to our church home in Peoria, IL.

Our sympathy to Bro. Quill Barna on the death of his sister, Priscilla, in Ohio.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

This is the month our nation has set aside a day of Thanksgiving, but we, the redeemed of our Lord, know

that every day is a day of thanksgiving; in fact, at all times our hearts should have an attitude of praise and thanks. The Apostle Paul reminds us in Col. 3:2 to "continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving" and in Rom. 12:12, "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer."

Our congregation in Prescott has much to be thankful for. We are blessed every Sunday by visiting ministers that the Mission Committee has arranged for us this last year, since we do not have our own minister yet. We have been told from the minister's point of view, that it is more difficult to preach to a small congregation than a larger, but those of us sitting in a small group feel more blessed because it seems so personal. This last month God's Word was delivered to us by Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Bros. Bob Meyer (Bluffton, IN), Greg Gramm and Ken Lawson (both of Phoenix).

We are saddened that Bro. Brian and Sis. Debbie Katich and their two children, Kelsey and Casey, have moved to Phoenix for new employment. We will miss them, but wish them God's blessings in their new home and employment.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held yesterday, Sunday, October 12. Since our weather had taken a sudden turn towards autumn, we had quite a cool, windy picnic. It didn't seem to hamper the children's spirits as they all enjoyed the food, games and pinata. Our bake sale/auction was a success despite everyone being a little cold and wind-blown. It was an enjoyable day for all of us.

As I mentioned, our weather has

changed considerably. We were having our usual late summer weather of heat and sunshine and in the matter of one day, we had a drop of 20 degrees in the temperature and lots of wind. We can safely say that autumn (at least as we know it) has arrived in Tucson.

Our Sis. Martha Blessman does not assemble with us any longer. She is limited to the fellowship she receives through visitors. We are keeping Sis. Martha in our thoughts and prayers.

Bro. Al Zeltwanger has been able to come to church in the afternoon recently. We are glad Bro. Al is able to gather with us even if only for part of the day.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Joshua Martinez

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

1 Thess. 5:18

Greetings across the many miles! As we approach Thanksgiving Day, may we reflect and thank God for the blessings He bestows upon us. Let us remember all that our Father has given during the past year and give Him praise and thanks.

We are thankful for each and every one in our Altadena family. We are especially thankful for our older brothers and sisters. We have a special love for you all and thank you for your wisdom, guidance and Christian example. May God continue to bless you for being shining lights to us.

God's healing power was revealed to our hospital patients this month: Bro. John Klotzle, Bro. Clarence Graf and Kari Neimeyer. We thank God for bringing them renewed health and strength.

We extend a warm welcome to

Sis. Adela Chavez and her daughter, Letty, into our Altadena family. Sis. Adele worships in Ixtlan, Mexico with Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold and will be with us for an extended period of time. We are also happy and thankful for Takeshi and Manami Miyamoto and their sweet baby daughter, Mao, from Yokohama, Japan. Takeshi is on a three-year assignment in Los Angeles. He and his family have been worshipping with us for months and we wish to extend an overdue expression of thankfulness for their love and friendship. We thank the good Lord for reminding us that the love and bond we share is special and transcends national borders and language barriers.

Our hearts were uplifted by the message of truth brought forth in a Bible study led by Elder Bro. John Klotzle this month. May God bless Bro. John for serving and inspiring us.

May God grant you all a happy Thanksgiving holiday. On that day, and every day, let us rejoice in the glories our Heavenly Father has given us: the precious gift of salvation and the joy of living the abundant life.

We are thankful for our visitors this month. As always, we extend a warm invitation to come and be with us if you happen to be in the area. Have a happy month!

"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable."

Psalms 145:3

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Rose Huetten

All Come and Thank the Lord
Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom the world rejoices,

Who from our Mother's arms,
Has blest us on our way,
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

Zion's Harp #236

We have many reasons to be thankful. This month Elder Bro. John Klotzle, with his wife, Sis. Lois (Altadena, CA), spent a Sunday with our congregation. Bro. John had been ill but is feeling much better now.

Also, we are thankful for our many visitors. It's always a blessing to have you in our midst. We thank you and invite you to come often.

ONTARIO, KITCHENER CANADA Laura Baxter

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

Luke 15:7

Our congregation is rejoicing along with those in Heaven as Peter Pfeiffer has begun his repentance and desires to be at peace with his Lord. Our prayers, along with many others, are with him during this time of repentance and also of sorrowing as he recently experienced the death of his dear wife, Elizabeth.

On October 25 and 26, our congregation traveled to Detroit, MI to hear the conclusions of the Memorandum. We are thankful to our Detroit brethren for their kind hospitality and also for our Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) for their loving exhortation and encouragement to walk in humility, submission and holiness to have true joy in Christ.

We are thankful for our many visitors this past month. We thank

especially our visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), and Bros. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), William Gerst (Alto, MI) and Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) for their sacrificial labors on our behalf. We have felt many blessings.

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

Lynne Martin

There cannot be a more beautiful time of the year than fall in the Rockies. As we experience warm sunshine, view the snow-capped mountains and gaze upon the colorful aspen, we surely thank God for the beauty He has created.

Our congregation has bid farewell to Bro. Miklos and Sis. Ebola Ochs who have been staying with their son in Glenwood Springs and have worshipped with us for most of the summer. May God go with them as they return to Hungary.

This past month we have been listening to the tapes of the Conference. We often forget to thank and pray for our Elder brothers as they gather together in unity and offer instruction, support and encouragement which we all need so much.

As the summer crowds start to dwindle at this time, we will miss the full fellowship which we have enjoyed and encourage more to visit us in the coming months.

Elections were held to fill several vacancies. Chosen were Bro. Larry Steffen for Trustee, Sis. Susie Steffen for Sunday School, and Sis. Deb Leman for World Relief Sewing Committee. Bro. Nate Lehman has agreed to accept the responsibility of being the World Relief Treasurer/Representative. May God give

them all the grace and courage to fulfill these duties that the church may prosper.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Cherie Galat

As we approach the end of the year, we can see God's beauty in the changing colors of the trees here in the New England area. How great is His creation but even more so how great is the Creator! The leaves turn brilliant shades of color and then fall to the ground. May our lives reflect the brilliance of Christ's love and may we ever continue to "shed" those things in our life that hinder us in our walk with Him.

It surely is a blessing to have visiting ministers among us to fellowship with us and share out of God's Holy Word: Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) and Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA).

Steven and Kim Morrill were blessed with the joy of a baby girl, Robin Gale, on October 13. She joins her sisters, Kaylyn and Rebecca, and brother, Nathan, at home. Grandparents are Malcolm and Barbara Morrill and David and Ann Reutter. May they look to God for their trust in upbringing dear Robin.

It was a beautiful fall day for Neal Kupferschmid (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Ellen) and Jennifer Denisky (Peter and Rejane) as they were married on October 11. As they walk as one, may God direct their lives.

We have been blessed with many converts over the past months. May God continue to help each one of them: Lloyd and Jayne Bahler, Linda Luginbuhl (Bro. Keith), Donna Moser (Eric), Joshua Virkler (Bro. John and Sis. Maureen), Rhonda Zahner (Bro. Curtis and Sis. Sally), Sarah Crary (Bro. Ken and Sis. Debra) and Alan Schulz (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Lois).

We bid a fond farewell to Melinda Ryan (Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl) as she moved to Forrest, IL. Our prayers surely go with her and may God always be her guide.

Our prayers and thoughts go out to many at this time. May God restore health to each one according to His will: Bro. Lester Heintz (Sis. Helen), Sis. Bertha Trueb, Bro. Fred and Sis. Leah Zahner, Sis. Anna Heintz, Christian Trueb (Steven and Mary Ellen), Brent Moser (Bro. Roger and Sis. Joan) and Todd Webb (Linda).

"O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people."

Psalm 105:1

As we count our blessings during this time of year, may we thank Him for all His abundant gifts.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON

Henrietta Meyer

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."

Psalm 19:1

This time of the year is so beautiful in this area. When you think of Washington, DC, you may think of lots of office buildings and monuments, but there are still lots of trees. Even on my short drive to work, I pass some brightly colored trees.

Our ministers this past month were Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH). We thank these brothers and their families for coming to serve us. Our other visitors this month were from Smithville and Toledo, OH; Chicago

and Morton, IL; West Bend, IA; Milford, IN; and Philadelphia, PA.

Services are usually held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at the Tysons Corner Westpark (Best Western) 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 NORTH FT. MYERS

Anjie Baum

Greetings to all.

While many of you have been enjoying the beautiful northern fall weather, our hot, humid days have been dragging on. At last we, too, are finally enjoying some cooler weather. How refreshing! Sometimes it seems the heat will never end. I am reminded of how at times our trials in our Christian walk seem to never end, like we'll never make it through. And how refreshing to know that Christ carries us through, that we don't have to go through anything alone!

Yield not to temptation,
For yielding is sin;
Each victory will help you,
Some other to win;
Fight manfully onward,
Dark passions subdue;
Look ever to Jesus,
He'll carry you through.

To him that o'ercometh,
God giveth a crown;
Thro' faith we will conquer,
Tho' often cast down;
He who is our Saviour,
Our strength will renew;
Look ever to Jesus,
He'll carry you through.

Chorus: Ask the Saviour to help you,
Comfort, strengthen and keep you;
He is willing to aid you,
He will carry you through.

Hymns of Zion #166

This month our ministering Bro. Victor Beer had surgery and is recovering well.

We are happy to have our dear friend, Clarence Peters, back with us. Clarence lives in Morton, IL for part of the year and had intended to return to North Ft. Myers sooner but was unable to because of his heart condition. We are thankful that he also has recovered well.

May you all enjoy a blessed Thanksgiving.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Melissa Sabo - Rachel Sabo

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;"

Ephesians 5:20

"He enjoys much who is thankful for little."

Once again we were blessed with visiting ministers, Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Will Schieler (Milford, IN). We are thankful for their willingness to preach the Lord's Word.

October 10-12 was our annual Lakewood Retreat. It is always such an uplifting time for family and friends to come together to praise and honor our Saviour. This year we were excited to have ministering Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) with us. These brothers encouraged us to not only hear the Lord's Word through their messages, but to apply it in our Christian walk of life. May the Lord richly bless their efforts.

Congratulations to Bro. Jeff and

Sis. Ruth Streitmatter on the birth of their new grandchild, Ruthann Eileen Haefli. Ruthann's parents are Bro. Eric and Sis. Katrine Haefli (Bloomington, IL).

It is always such a nice time of year as we see some of the winter residents returning to our Sarasota congregation. It is our prayer that the Lord will watch over and protect each one as they travel.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Peggy Camp

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

I Chronicles 29:13

At this time of the year, let us remember to give thanks for the many blessings God has given to us.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Mike Leman (Denver, CO), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL). May God richly bless them for their willingness to travel many miles to worship with us.

Our annual cookout was held on October 19. We enjoyed an evening of good food and singing around the campfire. Many thanks to those who helped organize this enjoyable event.

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

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Carlene Jepson

It is hard to believe that the fall is

about over and soon the snow will be flying. The squirrels are busy gathering food, birds are flying south and we are all gathering our harvest in, whether it be the end of our gardens or the crops in the field. We are all preparing for the winter time. But we also need to stop and gather all the spiritual fruit that our Dear Lord has provided us. Are we ready to meet our Maker? Are we ready for His coming? Let's all be prepared and be thankful for all He has provided us with.

We are glad to have Bro. Ryan Harris (Gridley, IL) worshipping with us while he is attending Northern Illinois University in Dekalb.

Our special thanks to Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), and Bros. Ron Schambach, Gary Anliker and Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) as they ministered the Word to us during the past month.

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**
Carol Sauder - Janice Horner

We rejoice with the angels over the four individuals who are repenting: Molly Hodel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine), Alexis Hany (Bro. Rick and Sis. Carol), Anita Winger (wife of Gil Winger, Bloomington), and Catherine Brame, who became acquainted with our faith and began to attend our services through members of our faith.

On October 2, Ellie Renae brightened the home of Bro. Ross and Sis. Erin Wuthrich and the hearts of their extended families. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Val Wuthrich (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail Mayo (Morton, IL). The late Bro. Willis and Sis. Florence Wuthrich, Bro. Wallace and Sis. Rosella Bucher, the late Bro. Robert and Sis. Marie Taufer and LaVerne Mayo are the great-

grandparents.

We suffered heartache to hear of the passing of retired Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Sis. Lucille, Peoria), as it touched our congregation in two ways. He was the stepfather of Sis. Marcia Bauer (Bro. Ray) and also the brother of Sis. Evelyn Beyer. We praise God for life everlasting.

What joy we experienced on October 5 as Sis. Jill Bauer (Bro. Ray and Sis. Marcia) and Bro. Any Lehman (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Yvonne, Denver, CO) were united in Holy Matrimony. Grandparents are the late Bro. Robert and Sis. Lucille Beyer (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene Schwab (Wolcott, IN).

We thank Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) for ministering to us October 5.

On October 12, we had a church potluck followed by an evening of singing. The Bible Class and a special quartet each sang several hymns of praise. "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High." (Psalm 92:1)

In addition to our regular article, we want to add a special note in regard to one of our Silver Lining correspondents, Sis. Carol Sauder. Many of you are aware of her lengthy struggle with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). On November 13-16, Lord willing, she is planning to have a device programmed for her specific type of MS, in hopes of improving the symptoms which she has borne with courage and cheer. We are asking all who know her to remember her in prayer, that our great God may be glorified, whatever the outcome.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

As harvest time is coming to a close, we should take time to give

God the thanks due Him. Thanksgiving is such a wonderful time of year. We are given time off from the business of life to "count our many blessings". May each of us take the time to do this. It sure makes the crosses that we carry daily a lot lighter as we remember all that God has given us.

Brent and Michelle Knobloch are thankful for another healthy son. Zachary Michael was born on September 26. His big sister, Britny, and big brother, Austin, welcome him home. Happy grandparents are Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy Knobloch and Lowell and Mary Hanyenga.

With thankful hearts we welcome another dear soul as our sister in faith. Sarah Rumbold (Bro. Herb and Sis. Diana) was brought into the fold on September 27 and 28. We pray that God will be with her as she daily strives to live her life for Him.

September 14 was a very special day for Bro. Wendell Stahl and Sis. Linda Martin (Princeville, IL) as God united their two hearts as one. Their parents are Sis. Charlotte Stahl and Bro. Nathan and Sis. Esther Martin (Princeville, IL). We are so thankful for them and pray they will feel God's nearness as they serve Him as one. We also welcome Sis. Linda into the Bradford congregation and pray that she will feel at home here.

Bro. Brent Kieser and Sis. Fawn Esslinger (Peoria, IL) also celebrated a special day. They were married on October 12. Parents are Bro. Verle and Sis. Vonnie Kieser and Bro. Leland and Sis. Patsy Esslinger (Pulaski, IA). May God bless them as they begin their lives as one.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jean Ehnle and her family as her dad, Ward Hartley, passed away this month. May God be near them during their time of sorrow.

Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Brian Huber (Francesville, IN)

and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) were our visiting ministers this month. As always, we are thankful for each one who gives of himself to share God's Word with us.

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

With the Thanksgiving season upon us already and Christmas and year's end coming up quickly, it seems that the year has really flown by! When making comments of this nature to one another, the concept of time passing by so quickly is usually attributed to the myriad duties, tasks, and responsibilities we fill our lives with. With such busy lives, it is all too easy to focus on the larger picture of pressing matters at hand and let true thankfulness slip by. Sure, we give thanks for the necessities of life and even for the "small things". What really makes me stop and realize how much I have to be thankful for is seeing first-hand or in the local news reports of those who really have nothing compared to what I'm blessed with. Each day we have people in our city who have no home to live in—a terrible situation made even more serious as the weather turns cold. Violence and accidents touch lives in all of our communities daily, and we are generally safe and sound, going about our own busy lives. When an unfortunate circumstance hits one we know, it makes us more aware of what we have to be thankful for. When we get a bit ill, we're reminded how well we must normally feel without even realizing it. In this past year, our family has been reminded to be thankful for our good health through the illness and resulting death of one of our friends and the threat of blindness striking another. One of my students came to school one day to report that his house had been gut-

ted by fire earlier that morning. A fellow teacher's much hoped-for baby died. As we enter this Thanksgiving season, it is a good time to stop and look at how many things we have to be thankful for, then try to be genuinely thankful to God for those things.

Our annual fall picnic at Illini Grove on the U of I campus was held on a beautiful September evening. The event was well attended by students and home folks. In October, the Bro. Dennie and Sis. Cheryl Manger family hosted their annual hayride and wiener roast for the Sunday School. The evening prior, they hosted a similar event for the students. Each of these events provided good food and fellowship for those in attendance. It seems that even though we think we know each other fairly well, we come away from times like these knowing at least a couple of people just a little better. We thank those who coordinate and organize these events.

"I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."

John 17:4

Sis. Clara Vogel, mother of Jerry Vogel of our congregation, finished her work on earth and has gone Home to be with the Lord. Although it is reassuring to the family to know that this very dear and gracious lady had long ago set her path toward Heaven, they will surely miss her. Our condolences go out to Jerry and Lois and their family.

Jerry Hari, husband of Sis. Ila June, has had ill health recently and received unfavorable results from tests. We miss him in church and pray for God's presence and comforting Spirit for him.

Visitors this past month have included Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bros. DeWayne

Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO). We appreciate each of these brothers and their families taking the time to travel to Champaign-Urbana and preaching the Word.

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Jill Rager**

We were doing some fall landscaping around our home and discovered that the soil is mostly clay and very hard to work with. After much digging and chopping at the soil, we got our bushes placed where we wanted and are pleased with the finished appearance.

Not long after the digging project, I heard a phrase in a song that referred to a hardened heart. My mind quickly went back to that hard clay soil...the same material that God used to form Adam! I would imagine that the clay God used in that world before man's sin was soft and pliable, but given the right conditions, was capable of drying out and hardening. The rest is truly history. Sin did come into the world and so did the conditions for a hardened heart. But God provided a Saviour to enter the world, a way to work with these hearts to soften and mold and make them beautiful.

The Lord has been adding pieces to the shape of our congregation. Sis. Stephanie Elliot (Bluffton, IN) and Sis. Jeanie Hangartner (Roanoke, IL) have both recently moved to the Chicago area. Sis. Stephanie is completing an internship requirement for her goal of becoming a registered dietitian. Sis. Jeanie has taken employment at Evanston Hospital as a physical therapist. We welcome both of these sisters and are thankful that we can share sweet fellowship with them.

Another newcomer, Sis. Heather

Steffen (Remington IN), became the wife of Bro. Phil Conrad on September 28 in Remington, IN. Sis. Heather's parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Vicki Steffen of Remington and Bro. Phil's parents are Bro. John and Sis. Jayne Conrad of Cissna Park, IL. We wish warm congratulations to Sis. Heather and Bro. Phil as they begin their walk together in the Lord and pray that our church can be an encouragement to them.

September 28 was also the date of our annual Invite a Guest activity. We were not only blessed by the fellowship on this day, but also by the visiting ministers. Many thanks go to Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) for sharing the Word of God with us that day.

As the Thanksgiving Day holiday approaches, may we keep the "clay of thanksgiving" warm and pliable throughout the entire year.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Joyce Bauer - Beth Steffen

Because He Lives

How sweet to hold our newborn baby,
and feel the pride and joy he gives.
But greater still the calm assurance,
this child can face uncertain days
because He lives.

There is much joy in the following homes as they welcome precious little babies. Sheree Olivia was born on September 10 to Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue Waldbeser of Lawrenceville, GA. Paternal grandparents from Cissna Park are Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser. Bro. Dan and Sis. Anne Moser (Elgin, IL) became the parents to Nathan Gene on September 23. Nathan's grandmother from here is Sis. Velma Rinkenberger. Sis. Loretta Baumgartner became grandmother again on

September 16 when Carly Kay arrived into the family of Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie Rabe (Fairbury, IL). Gerrold and Sally Haas welcomed little Elizabeth Sue into their home and hearts on September 20. Urban and Sis. Judy Edelman are Elizabeth's grandparents. We wonder as we raise our children what their future holds. What calm assurance to know they can face tomorrow because Jesus lives.

And then one day, I'll cross that river.
I'll fight life's final war with pain.
And then as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory
and I'll know He reigns.

It seems like we have had so many of our loved ones cross that river lately. On September 22, Sis. Mattie Bauer passed away. Sis. Mattie's children include Jo Ann Hartman, Madalyn Seggebruch, Glen Hodel, Bill, Cal and Lowell Bauer. We will all certainly miss Sis. Mattie's kind ways. Bro. Aaron Bauer went Home on September 27. Our thoughts are especially with his dear wife, Sis. Marguerite, along with his surviving children, Sis. Jayne and Bro. John Conrad, and daughter-in-law, Sis. Joyce Bauer, Aaron's brothers and sisters, and grandchildren. Bro. Aaron walked with a notable limp. At his funeral a moving poem was shared of two crippled men who came to church one day. The one had a crippled leg, the other one, a crippled soul filled with bitterness. The end of these two men was very different. All of us who knew Bro. Aaron were blessed by his Christian example and can now entertain the wonderful thought that God has given him a new glorious body. It was on October 1 that Sis. Clara Vogel left this earth for her Heavenly Home. Sis. Clara leaves behind two sons, Jerry and Lois Vogel and

Stan and Naomi Vogel. It was an inspiration to visit with Sis. Clara even after she moved from here to Fairview Haven. Fighting life's final war with pain, Sis. Mary Heinold went on to receive her crown. Our sympathy is extended especially to Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Heinold and their family of here, as Sis. Mary would be Bro. Dan's mother. May all of us, as we watch our loved ones leave us, have hope knowing this:

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know who holds the future,
And life is worth the living
just because He lives.

We want to pray for those in our churches going through health problems. Bro. Ben Rudin and Sis. Marie Kaufmann both submitted to surgery. Bro. Dale Walder has been hospitalized in Chicago. Also, we think of Walt Sinn as he experiences the change of moving from his home to an apartment. We just pray that God seems extra close to each of you.

September 28 was the wedding of our Bro. Phil Conrad (Bro. John and Sis. Jayne) to Sis. Heather Steffen (Bro. Roger and Sis. Vicki, Remington, IN). We pray that your love for each other and most of all for the Lord will just continue to grow, Bro. Phil and Sis. Heather, as you make your home in Chicago.

Along with the angels in Heaven, we are rejoicing over the wonderful news that Jenny Hoffman realized her need for a Saviour. For us as believers, there is no news that compares to this that a soul is seeking God in repentance. Jenny is the daughter of Sis. Elsie Hoffmann.

We are grateful to the following ministers for sharing God's message with us recently: Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Dale Eis-

enmann (Chicago, IL), along with Bros. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL). We are very appreciative of your labors of love. May you continue to feel God's blessings and inspiration.

Fall is such a beautiful season. May each one of us take more time to thank God for the bountiful blessings He shares with us.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

**Missy Banwart
Sandy Steiner**

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

I Chronicles 29:13

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are reminded to be thankful for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us.

We thank Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) for bringing us God's Word this month. May God be their Rewarder.

Bro. Tim, Sis. Sandy, Tyler and Jessica Dietrich welcomed little Travis James on September 21. Travis's grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Sheri Dietrich and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp (Taylor, MO). Bro. Jim and Sis. Ree Hartman were blessed with the arrival of Carly Suzanne on September 25. Perri, Nathan and Jacey are the happy siblings. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Carrie Lou Hartman and Sis. Marie Taufer (Morton, IL). May God grant these parents wisdom to train their precious children in His ways.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Peggy Heiniger
Norma Schambach**

Father, We Thank Thee

Father, we thank Thee;
For peace within our favored land,
For plenty from Thy bounteous hand,
For means to give to those in need,
For grace to help in thought and deed,
For faith to walk, our hands in Thine,
For truth to know Thy law divine,
For strength to work with voice and pen,
For love to serve our fellow men,
For light the goal ahead to see,
For life to use alone for Thee,
Father, we thank Thee.

—*Greenville Kleiser*

On September 28, Dan and Stephanie Cargill (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay and Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma Schambach) vowed to walk hand in hand with God on a journey of faith until they reach their heavenly goal. We are thankful for their testimony of grace, faith, peace and love. May the heavenly light that guided them light the way for others.

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who shared with us the blessings of the weekend: Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Ron Messner (Washington, IL), and Bros. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL).

Two precious babies were born to loved ones in our congregation during this past month. On September 23, Bro. Dan and Sis. Ann Moser welcomed Nathan Gene into their family. Joshua and Ryan are happy for a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Libby Ann and Sis. Velma Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL).

Bro. Jason and Sis. Karen Schambach are thankful for the arrival of their first child, Heather Elizabeth, born September 29. Her grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie

Schambach and Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie Anliker. May God grant them wisdom and love as their children grow up in their care.

A special welcome to Bro. Joe Bohart who has moved here from Peoria to work in this area and is now a part of our congregation. May he feel the warmth and love of our fellowship.

Our prayers have been with Verona Schock (the late Heine) who recently underwent surgery. She has returned home and we look forward to having her with us again in church. May she feel God's presence.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Bro. Gary (Sis. Edie) Anliker's father, Bro. Emil Anliker (Forrest, IL). He was also the dear brother of Sis. Mabel and Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Albert) Schambach. While we rejoice that he could go Home, we feel for those who will miss him.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dori Blunier

"O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth."

Isaiah 25:1

We appreciated the ministering visits of Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL). We were reminded that even though Satan plants seeds of discouragement, we can overcome them with a thankful heart. May God help us to have a heart of praise and thankfulness.

We rejoice with Bro. Eric and Sis. Tami Vierling who recently had their second son. Michael James was born on September 29, and is welcomed home by Jonathan and

grandparents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda Vierling and Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta Martin.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our brethren who have recently met with accident, illness, or surgery. We pray for God's healing touch for Bro. Nelson Martin (Sis. Mary Ellen), Sis. Helen Wiegand (Bro. Bob), Sis. Laurene Zimmerman (Bro. Leland), Sis. Ida Belsley, and Sis. Clara Bach.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Caroline Moser whose sister, Emma Bessler, passed away on September 19.

We were inspired and uplifted recently to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four converts. Our new brother and sisters in faith are Brian Vierling (Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda), Christy Wettstein (Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna), Tami Bauman (Glen and Sis. Becky), and Julie Schertz (Randy and Tereza). We pray that God will help them to keep and cherish the peace and faith they have found. Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), and Bros. John Steiner and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) ministered to us that weekend.

Note of Thanks:

We want to express our gratitude and appreciation for all the cards, gifts, and tokens of love given to us in honor of our 50th wedding anniversary. May God be the rich rewarder for all the love and kindness shown to us.

Henry and Sis. Wilma Blunier

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

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

I Thess. 5:18

Thanksgiving is approaching—a special day in the year set aside to reflect on our blessings and be thankful. As children of God, every day in our lives should be filled with a constant overflowing of praise and thanksgiving to God for all He has given us. However, sometimes it is a little difficult to give thanks in every thing...such as, the death of a loved one, sickness and suffering, trials and tests in the workplace...yet we have the blessed assurance that nothing can come to us except by the Hand of God, and that Almighty Hand is making all things work together for good. (Romans 8:28). How can we then be other than thankful?

"We should at all times lay a good foundation with thanksgiving. If everything else were wanting, this is always present...that He has saved us from hell. Then, that He has given us His Holy Word—His Son, His choicest gift—and the Holy Spirit. Therefore we have abundant reason for thanksgiving. O let us aim at this!"

—George Mueller

God has granted new life to four precious little souls in our congregation.

Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie Rabe were blessed with a new little bundle, Carly Kay, on September 16. Durelle, Adrian, Julissa, Dustin, Quinton and Benson are happy to have a little sister. Grandparents are Sis. Loretta Baumgartner (Cissna Park, IL) and Julie McDugle and Don Rabe.

First-time parents, Greg and Julie Bazzell, welcomed Abbie Elizabeth on September 18. Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Bazzell and Charles and Arlene Farley are her grandparents.

Kamryn Christine arrived Sep-

tember 30 to bless the home of Bro. Charles and Sis. Kathy Fehr. Kamryn has a big brother, Kent, and her grandparents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Juanita Schneider (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma Fehr.

Also born on September 30 was Cassandra Ruth Curry. Craig and Tricia Curry and big brother, Cody, welcome her, along with grandparents, Bro. Henry and Sis. Lola Steffen and Les and Emma Kay Roberts.

May God bless these parents with wisdom to "train up their children in the way they should go." (Proverbs 22:6)

We are so happy to welcome newlyweds, Bro. Fred and Sis. Shaena (Schambach) Dietz, into our congregation. Also moving back to the area are Bro. Thadd and Sis. Molly Walter and Avery. May they all feel the blessings of God as they share our fellowship and worship with us.

Inspire, O Lord, each servant
With love and ardor fervent
Thy gospel to proclaim;
That, prompted by Thy Spirit,
They work and toil with merit
Unto the glory of Thy name.

Zion's Harp #207

How blessed we were to have the Lord's inspired servants visit us this month. Our thanks to ministering Bros. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Greg Stoller and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) and Craig Martin (Princeville, IL) who were willing to proclaim His gospel.

We are thankful that Minnie Rinkenberger was able to seek the Lord and find peace with Him even in her old age. She was baptized at Fairview Haven where she resides. We welcome her as our sister in faith.

"But he knoweth the way that I

take: when he hath tried me; I shall come forth as gold."

Job 23:10

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our hospital patients, Bro. Dan Steidinger (David and Deann), who suffered an accident and is now in rehabilitation; Bro. Manny Steffen (Sis. Lucille), who is recovering from major surgery; Sis. Sally Schieler, who faces more surgery soon; and Sis. Kathryn Gerber.

In a recent sermon, we read Mark 13 and the ministering brother pointed out the verses that described what we should "take heed" to in these latter times. When comparing this chapter with the prophetic chapters in the other Gospels, there is great similarity. Following are the verses containing warnings to "take heed" to: "Take heed that no man deceive you." (Matt. 24:4); "Take heed lest any man deceive you" (Mark 13:5); "But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten; and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them." (Mark 13:9); "But take ye heed; behold, I have foretold you all things." (Mark 13:23); "Take ye heed, watch and pray; for ye know not when the time is." (Mark 13:33); "Take heed that ye be not deceived;" (Luke 21:8); "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." (Luke 21:34). I found it very significant that the warning about deception is the only one that is reiterated in all three of the Gospels.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Marlene Walter
Mary Bachtold

May God bless Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), and Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), John Stoller (Leo, IN), Clark Stoller, Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) for being willing to share His Word with us. We appreciated having them in our midst.

Our hearts rejoice as we see two souls turning their lives to God in repentance. May He grant the needed grace to Janelle Lehmann (Art and Jana) and Rosemary Koehl (Barry) to anchor firmly on the Foundation, Jesus Christ.

September 20 was the wedding day of Charity Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida) and Andy Atteberry (Nora and the late Frank, Champaign, IL). Also exchanging wedding vows in Bonn, Germany were Lyle Steidinger (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn) and Sonia Harzouk. May these couples look to the Lord for guidance as they walk the path of life together.

Two families in our congregation have been blessed with baby boys. Joseph Fredrick is welcomed into the home of Bro. Eldon, Sis. Stephanie, Krystle, Joshua, Kaylee, Kara and Jenna Kaeb. His grandparents are John and Adeline Kaeb (Arrowsmith, IL) and Bob and Sis. Elaine Mueller. Bro. Glen, Sis. Holly, Craig, Katie, Betsy, Larissa and Arlen Steidinger are happy to have Logan Scott join their family circle. Logan's grandparents are Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger and Bro. Al and Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Kathy Leman as she spent time in the hospital this past month. May she continue to feel God's heal-

ing power.

As we laid Bro. Emil Anliker to rest, we were thankful his wish to go "Home" could be granted. We extend sympathy to his children and their families: Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy, Bro. John and Sis. Bev Eisenmann, and Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie (Elgin, IL). May God comfort them in this time of sorrow.

We also sympathize with Mark and Ruby Bolliger and family as they grieve the loss of their stillborn baby, Mollie Ann. May it comfort them to know she is safe in the arms of Jesus.

Note of Thanks:

We humbly thank each one, at home and across the land, for their prayers, love, and expressions of sympathy at the time of Dad Anliker's death. God bless you all.

Wayne and Judy and family
John and Bev and family
Gary and Edie and family

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD **Jan Beer**

Before Bro. Wayne Wiegand began the morning service on September 28, he warned us that we would hear the fire alarm sometime during the morning. The Sunday School children had not been warned about the annual fire drill so that their response would be unaffected. Even though we had been told about the event, some of us were so engrossed in the sermon that we were startled when the alarm rang! We are grateful that our Sunday School superintendent is caring for the safety of our children by preparing them for the possibility of a fire. How does all this relate to us on a spiritual level? We are constantly warned by our ministers that the fire (hell) is coming—some of us become engrossed in the world, will the fire alarm catch us off guard? We are grateful

for those who care enough about our spiritual safety to teach us to prepare to avoid the fire. We don't know if fire will ever attack the Goodfield church building, but we do know that hell fire is a reality.

Dean and Sis. Inge Zimmerman's son, Jason, was married in September to Kim Aeschliman. We pray God's blessings on this new family.

We were glad that Bro. Harold and Sis. Carol Hohulin were home from Tennessee for a visit recently. We look forward to them returning to Goodfield when his assignment with his employer is completed.

The first family hymn sing of the season was held October 5 at the Fellowship Hall. It is a great opportunity to worship God in song with our family, and the fellowship is priceless!

On October 5, 12 and 19, Elder Bro. Wes Knapp conducted a Bible Study for our friends at the Fellowship Hall. Matthew (chapters 5, 6 and 7) was the text used. We pray that each attendee gained a better understanding of the Scripture and felt encouraged to seek the way of the Master.

Our gratitude goes to Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) for ministering to us on October 5 and October 12, respectively. We appreciate your service in the Lord's name.

"When a Christian dies, his grief, buried lies. All distress and tribulation in death's slumber find cessation." (Hymns of Zion). The tribulation of cancer ended for our dear Sis. Mary Helen Heinold in death's slumber. Her funeral was conducted on October 8. Sis. Mary Helen gave many hours to World Relief work and her absence is keenly felt there. Bro. Melvin, Bro. Dan, Sis. Carol, Don and Peg are especially in our prayers as they learn to live without their beloved wife and mother.

October 11 was the wedding day of Chad Kloter and Kalene Uftring. Just as the beautiful fall sunshine blessed their special day, we pray God's sonshine will bless their life together.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

The Bible tells us what kind of a person God will look to: "But to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." (Isaiah 66:2)

The last fragment of that verse, "trembleth at my word" is instructive today. Our calling in being converted and following the Lord is to apply God's teachings in our lives.

Selective and/or preferential "following" omits one's "trembling" at the Word. Our awe and respect toward the Bible should compel us to follow God's ways in their entirety.

"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth in it, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." (James 1:25)

September 25 was the birth date of Adam Richard Kuntz. He is the son of Bro. Richard and Sis. Rae-Jean Kuntz. Adam has a sister, Abby, 5, and a brother, Oliver, 2. Grandparents are Bro. Clyde and Sis. Wilma Kuntz, and Ray and Ellen Lenaway of Pekin.

Twin girls were born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Wettstein on October 10. They were named Jackie Marie and Jayla Ann. They have a brother, Brandon, 2, and a sister, Mindy, 1. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Gloria Wettstein, and Bro. Elvin and Sis. Janet Nuest (La-Crosse, IN).

Bro. Roger and Sis. Becky Roberts became the parents of their first child on September 27. She was

named Rhoda Kay. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Gloria Wettstein, and Lester and Emma Roberts of Chenoa.

Thanks be to God for these precious gifts from Heaven. May grace be plentiful to their parents as they strive to train them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. And may each one of us as brethren seek to be a positive influence for the youth of our church.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

Harold Hirstein passed away on September 23 at the age of 93. May the Lord comfort and bless his wife, Sis. Louise; his two sons, Thomas and Bro. Ted; his three daughters, Shirley Sessom, Judith Brenkman and Jan Tharp; his three brothers, John, Sam and Edward; his three sisters, Sis. Edna Fite, Anna Rupprecht, and Samantha Meeker; his 17 grandchildren and 7 step-grandchildren; his 10 great-grandchildren and 13 step great-grandchildren, and his many other relatives.

Bro. Matt Ackerman and Sis. Missy Stratton (Taylor, MO) were united in Holy Matrimony on October 5. Their parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Marge Ackerman, and Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Stratton (Taylor, MO). May God richly bless this union and may their life together glorify the Lord.

Ellie Renae was born to Bro. Ross and Sis. Erin Wuthrich on October 2. Her grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail Mayo, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Valerie Wuthrich (Roanoke, IL). She is the first grandchild on both sides of the family and is welcomed by many adoring aunts and uncles. May the Lord grant wisdom and guidance in rearing this precious baby.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce Kaiser

were also blessed with a baby girl, Clair Elaine, who was born on October 14. She was welcomed home by Lara, Nicholas, and Nathaniel. Her grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Lorraine Kaiser, and Bro. Roland and Mary Anne Young (Cissna Park, IL). May the Lord continue to bless and guide this family.

On the weekend of October 11 and 12, our Bible Class hosted the Bible Class students from Princeville and Elgin, IL. We were blessed to have them in our midst.

Apostolic Christian Restmor showed appreciation for their volunteers with a dinner on October 16. The theme of the evening was "You are the Roses in our Garden." Three hundred and seven volunteers attended the dinner. It was reported that 16,856 volunteer hours were recorded in 1996.

On October 18 and 19, the choir from the Detroit congregation were our guests. We were blessed with the beautiful songs they sang to the praise and honor of our Lord. We thank them for coming.

We are thankful for the brothers in the ministry that visited in Morton this month. They were Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), and Bros. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) and Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA).

Note of Thanks:

The family of Harold Hirstein wishes to express gratitude and deep appreciation for all the prayers, kind deeds and expressions of sympathy during the loss of their loved one.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

We thank Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) for his visit on September 21 and meditation on Exo-

dus 38. Many stood at the Red Sea worrying about their tomorrow but God is going to work for us so we can sleep tonight. Thousands of gallons of blood were shed in the wilderness for the sins of the people, but then God gave His best for our best. God provided the Tabernacle, a holy place in the desert, but the veil was rent and Jesus shed His blood and paid the price for us.

II Corinthians 4 was the text for the afternoon service. We faint not but must hang on, experience how the church works together and be a help to each other. We must show our faith in Jesus and be examples to the world and do something for the kingdom of God. Discouragement is Satan's favorite tool and we must keep an eternal perspective on everything. We must not major in the minors, but in the majors. Are we making the mistake of looking into the things which are temporal? People love to watch Christians and we must be about our Father's business and pray for power in the pews so the sheep can be abundantly fed. Don't be ashamed of Jesus (Romans 1:16) but dress up each morning for the battle. Satan's reign is short but he has the power to rob us of the glory of Jesus. Is our Gospel hidden? Every day people are going to hell and we must show that we care and that Jesus is the answer. Bro. Ken Hoerr added that we would call the fire department immediately if the neighbor's house is on fire. Are we less committed to his spiritual calamity? Our light afflictions are but for a moment; like feathers in our hand they blow away.

On September 24, Bro. Ken Hoerr ministered on Galatians 1:1-14. The root of "forgive" is "give"...not ask for anything, but give. True conversion comes from our encounter with Jesus. Word and world are just one letter apart. Be thankful to come to a church which is founded

on the Word of God and has the power of the Spirit of God.

Saturday evening, September 27, was a special time to come together and hear what God had done in the lives of Nathan Herman, Andy Hoerr, Kristen Meister, Philip Sceggel and Willie Waibel as they were invited to speak to the church of their spiritual experiences in their own words and state that they believed they have found a Home in Heaven. They realized just going to church did not save them and testified they had repented and their old sinful natures were dead. Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) was here for this occasion and assisted Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer with the testimonies and baptisms. Bro. Lavoyd's meditation on Sunday was on Romans 6. Sometimes it takes a special effort to be in church at 10:00, but we will be on time for our last appointment with God. Only through God's grace is our life good. We must be dead unto sin and recognize the seriousness of God. The devil keeps us from coming to Him, one day, one minute and even one second at a time; some wait and wait, until when...? We should live every day as if we were waiting for His coming when He will claim us and the redeemed of all ages. How many will be left behind? We must grow in the Spirit, pray with sincerity and don't hesitate to ask God for grace and help. God did not create nobodies and we are all special in His sight. We don't need to know everything, but grow in the Spirit and believe Jesus died on the cross for us. Seek the Lord today while there is a breath of life in you and don't let sin keep you out of Heaven. The Jews saw, but believed not, because they had no faith.

Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) spoke on "Jesus Christ is coming soon, don't miss it for the world!" on October 1 for our family night serv-

ice. Sin is the reason for Jesus as the Old Testament was only a cover for sin. The heavens were searched for an offering to wash away our sins, not just to cover them up, and give us an open access to the Father. Do we believe Jesus is back in Heaven? Jesus is coming again in the rapture and if someone is coming, we should be ready, watch and get excited with the joy of the Lord, as He is coming for us. We are not promised tomorrow. The price has been paid at Calvary. If we know Jesus, our spiritual bags are packed and we are ready. "Coming soon" indicates an urgency. We don't know the day, but the season. God will only tolerate so much (Noah, Sodom and Gomorrah—Genesis 18:20-21): parents are killing unborn and born children, homosexual lifestyle, etc. Mark of the Beast technologies (in the right hand or forehead) are in place: we are moving towards a cashless society with debit cards, direct deposits, global positionings via satellites, etc...all factors not present ten years ago. Also Jews are migrating back to Israel, where the prime minister wants to hold on to land as God told them to do. If we miss Heaven, we make hell, the place of everlasting punishment where our conscience remembers over and over that we rejected our salvation. Today, God presents the New Heaven to us, lighted by the glory of God, with the tree of life. No more tears, sins, misunderstandings, worries, divorce, surgeries, disappointments. We are either saved or unsaved...which is it?

Sunday, October 12, became the second most important day in the lives of Bro. Brent Kieser and Sis. Fawn Esslinger, as Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA) and many guests assembled to witness their wedding. Bro. Ron meditated on Acts 18. "From henceforth I will

go unto the Gentiles" (6). Don't cast the Word of God out as the Jews and Greeks did, but look in faith to Jesus, Whom we can't touch physically but Who is near in the Spirit. Let's not put off to the last day of our life the beauty and joy of serving His perfect example and not question the Gospel of Salvation, but walk in faith and realize this world will someday vanish while His Word will not pass away. Elder Bro. Everett Hari read Eccles. 4:9-12 in the afternoon. We are all unique before God with special talents, created in His image, having a date with destiny. Our primary goal should be to serve God and make decisions according to His plan. Two are better than one and there is a threefold cord with an equilateral triangle: the closer we come to God, the closer we come to each other. Don't have pre-expectations and pre-conditions in marriage, but follow Biblical principles and use them to make decisions. Keep Jesus in your marriage and home and use the Bible as your guide. May the richest blessings of God follow as Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer pronounced them man and wife.

We thank our visitors for worshipping with us and particularly our ministers for bringing us the inspired Word of God.

Hospital patients were Wade Fehr, Bros. Vern Hohulin, Bob Plattner, Sis. Loretta Ross, Aldine Waibel and Erma Wieland. How thankful we are to be able to rely on God's promises and experience the support of the brotherhood at such times.

The finality of death was experienced for four families, but God does not take away without increasing His grace and we are comforted by I Samuel 7:12 "...Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." Retired Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (83) passed away on September 29; Bro. Bud Fehr (57)

on October 5; Lydia Meister (76), wife of Jim Meister, on September 21; and Sis. Esther Riggenbach (79) on September 25. May God's comforting Spirit be near to their families.

Elder Bro. Robert Beyer was active in the ministry for 43 years in Croghan-Naumberg (upper NY state), 14 as elder. He married Sis. Lucille (Streitmatter) Thomas in 1987 and they moved to a Skyline duplex in 1992. Always of a cheerful disposition, he truly surrendered the later years of his life gracefully and was an inspiration and blessing to all who knew him. May he be richly rewarded for his long service to the Lord and his fellowbelievers. The families of Robert Beyer want to thank everyone for the many expressions of sympathy during the death of their loved one. May God bless you all.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Sheryl Martin

"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."

Hebrews 13:15

Our hearts were touched by the miracle that happened in the lives of two dear souls as we witnessed the baptisms of Rick and Joyce Rumbold on September 20. May God grant them His grace and strength as they journey on in this path of life and strive to do His will.

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

Matthew 7:7-8

On August 30, Dennis and Jennifer Wagenbach were blessed with a girl, Nicole Lynn. She was welcomed home by her brother, Kyle. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Betty Wagenbach, and Gerald and Cathy Wages.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Deyona Streitmatter rejoice in the birth of their daughter, Wendy Mae, who was born on September 16. Wendy is welcomed home by Julie, Ryan and Nolan. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Floran and Sis. Twyla Streitmatter and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Edith Massner (Burlington, IA). We wish God's blessings upon both of these families as they look for His guidance and direction in raising their children.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sis. Emily Stoller (Elder Bro. Joe) and Marian Riley (Ken). May they feel God's nearness in the time of their illness.

We rejoice with Joel Gehrig (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Donna) who has started a new walk of life through repentance.

*Praise and Thanks
for God's Blessings*

Lord God, we honor Thee
And praise Thy mild compassion,
That Thou so gracefully
Dost hear our supplication!
Thy love is truly great;
Thy mercies are untold;
Thou givest food and drink
For Spirit, flesh and soul.

So now again Thou hast
To us a blessing given.
Our handiwork is blest
By Thy good Word from heaven.
Thou blessest food and drink,
Our needs to satisfy.
Therefore, we give Thee thanks;
Our song shall rise on high.

Thy living Word is sent
Our souls to feed and nourish.
Thou wilt that in our hearts
Thy love and praise we cherish.
Thou sheddest light and pow'r
Upon our pilgrim way,

And lead'st us by Thy hand
To heaven day by day.
Zion's Harp #13

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Jana Gastman - Lisa Leman

This covenant shall then endure
and stand forever;
There neither grief nor pain shall
come to part or sever.
There God shall e'er abide with us
our truest friend,
Our hearts in Him unite - forever,
without end.
Zion's Harp #79

On October 5, we witnessed the union of Sis. Jill Hoffman and Bro. Brad Sauder. Their parents are Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Hoffman and Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sauder. We wish them God's blessings as they establish their Christian home.

Michael and Joan Upts and daughter, Jenna, welcomed home Cody Michael on August 27. Cody's grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jane Schumacher and Ron and Carol Upts of Minonk.

Now it is accomplished! I'm no
longer mine;
Lord, I will forever and always be
Thine,
For Thou hast created and
purchased me too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou
makest me new.
Zion's Harp #209

Elsie Herbst Zimmerman was baptized on October 9. We pray the Lord will grant her daily grace as she lives as one of His children.

We are thankful for those who visit us and share God's precious Word. May God bless the three brothers who visited us this past month: Bros. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO).

May the Lord be ever near those who were hospitalized this past month. Our prayers are with Bro. Lloyd Aeschliman, Sis. Gina Luginbuhl, Sis. Dorothy Bittner, Sis. Doris Bowald and Jason Tibbs.

Notes of Thanks:

Thanks to everyone who remembered us with cards and gifts on our 25th anniversary. And thanks for the many prayers, cards, gifts, visits and other deeds of kindness shown to us during Bob's illness and hospitalization. We have truly been overwhelmed by the love and kindness of our church family.

Bob and Marilyn Ott and family

I wish to express our sincere thank you and appreciation to all the brothers and sisters, friends and ministers for your prayers and support, love and kindness, gifts of love and food, and transportation provided during Sharlane and Bonnie's illness and death. Also, a special thank you to the nursing home for their prayers, love and special care.

Mabel Bowald and family

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

We wish to thank our visiting ministers that were with us. We are always blessed by those who are willing to serve. They were Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL).

Many prayers were uttered on behalf of our hospital patients this month. They were Bro. Willis Sauder (Sis. Pauline), Sis. Christy Musselman (Bro. Nelson) and Bro. Glenn Stuber (Sis. Dorothy). May they feel God's love and care.

Many hearts have been saddened as loved ones have passed from this life. We extend our sympathy to Alice Patton in the passing of her

sister, Lydia Meister (Morton, IL); Dick and Cindy Miller in the passing of his mother, Josie Miller (Clinton, IL); and to Sis. Doris Baer, Sis. Barb Reinbeck and Sis. Phyllis Holmes in the passing of their brother, Bro. Bud Fehr (Peoria, IL). May they all look to the Lord for comfort and strength in their sorrow.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank each and every one for the many deeds of kindness, cards and prayerful support during Willis' surgery and recovery. God bless you all.

In Christian love,
Bro. Willis and Sis. Pauline
Sauder

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Sue Ruppert
Denise Romersberger

"Pray without ceasing."
1 Thess. 5:17

Prayer is more than words. It is an attitude and an expression of the heart towards God. God is greater than any of our problems. "With God, all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26). God invites us to take our problems to Him in prayer. "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." (Psalm 50:15).

God wants us to pray in Jesus' name. "...that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." (John 15:16). It is Jesus' sacrifice that makes God attentive to our prayers. Moreover, God wants us to pray with confidence. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16). God also wants us to expect great things when we pray. God "...is able to do exceeding abun-

dantly above all that we ask or think..." (Ephesians 3:20).

Prayer is like anything: the more we do it, the better we become. It is important to build your own prayer patterns. We live in a world that needs the warmth of fellowship which comes through praying, either alone or with friends and family. May God bless each of you and may we undergird each other with the power of prayer. Together let us lift ourselves and our dear ones into the light of His healing love.

Our church was blessed with three new birth arrivals. First was Megan Ranae Steffen, daughter of Bro. Scott and Sis. Marvella (Knobloch) Steffen. She was welcomed home by brothers, Layne and Nicholas, and sister, Amanda. Grandparents are Sis. Iola Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Sis. Lucille Steffen (Remington, IN).

The second arrival was Isaac Keith Teubel, son of Bro. Keith and Sis. Jill (Elsasser) Teubel. He was welcomed home by sister, Anna. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Louise Teubel and Bro. Duane and Sis. Doreen Elsasser (Princeville, IL).

The third arrival was Lydia Rose Pfaffmann, daughter of Bro. Robert and Sis. Lilly (Schick) Pfaffmann. She was welcomed home by sister, Elise, and brothers, Caleb, Joshua and Micah. Grandparents are Sis. Ida Pfaffmann and Elizabeth Schick (Morton, IL). Congratulations to each of the families and may the Lord grant each child health and strength.

Last month I neglected to thank Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) for presenting our monthly Bible Study. Please accept my apology.

Our guest minister this month was Bro. Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) who presented our Bible Study. He spoke about our responsibility as citizens of our country. Thank you

for making us think and remember our responsibilities.

Letter to the Brotherhood:
Greetings,

This is an informational letter to inform the brethren and friends of the Apostolic Christian Churches about a congregate living project under construction adjacent to the Washington Apostolic Christian Church.

Construction is in progress with the estimation of the roof being completed by the end of October. Three sizes of units are being offered in this nine unit complex. Unit A offers 1,091 sq. ft. and has its own garage. These units face east and are the largest. Unit B has 990 sq. ft. with entrance through the main hallway. There is also an exit to a patio on the west side via a sliding glass door. These units have specified garage on the north end of the building. Unit C has 798 sq. ft. with one bedroom. These units also have a sliding glass door exit to a patio, an entrance from the main hallway, and a garage on the north end.

Brethren or friends desiring information about these congregate living units should please call Bros. Ronnie Kellenberger (309) 383-2325 or Ed Wyss (309) 444-9915.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Kim Maller
Trudy Eisenmann

Thank Ye the Lord! Give thanks to the Lord,
For He is gracious, His mercy it endureth evermore.
Bless ye the Lord, O bless ye the Lord!
My soul, remember his goodness and His gifts bestowed on thee;
His is the power, Almighty is God!
He ruleth wisely, He manifests His favor ev'ry day.
Great is the Lord, yea great is the Lord!

His name is holy, Throughout the world
 His honor doth abound.
 Worship the Lord, O worship the Lord!
 With sacred rev'ence
 Respectfully We speak His holy name.
 Sing to the Lord, yes, sing to the Lord!
 In joyful chorus, for graciously He hears our song of praise.
Hymns of Zion #245

In Bluffton at this thankful time of the year we have witnessed the wedding of Sis. Sara Steffen to Bro. Art Kipfer on October 1. We hope they have a blessed life together.

Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda Fiechter brought home new baby girl, Megan Naomi, to meet her sister and other brothers on September 30. Grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary Fiechter and Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet Meyer.

We welcome Sis. Becky Clough (daughter of John Clough) from Philadelphia, PA to our congregation and it is our hope she feels at home here.

Ministers visiting our congregation last month were Bros. Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Mike Bauman (Mansfield, OH) and Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL). We thank you for lending yourself to us and we pray you and your families are blessed for your kindness.

We have a few who had to visit the hospital: Sis. Sara Reinhard, Bro. Henry Isch, Sis. Minnie Isch (Bro. Elmer), and little Elise Vanhorn (Bro. Dean and Sis. Marlene). We pray you all have a speedy recovery and that God's arms will comfort you until you are well again.

We regret to mention that Leon Kauffman's father, Norman Kauffman, has passed on. Our sympathy is extended to the Kauffman family.

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

Lily Pelsy

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

John 14:27

We rejoice with Sara Gutwein (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda) as she has found peace with God and man. May she continue to walk humbly before the Lord.

Great blessings are promised to those that seek God's will. The engagement of Bro. Ben Cook (Sis. Debbie) and Sis. Deana Overmyer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet) was announced.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Eli (Sis. Priscilla) and Bro. Elmer (Sis. Emilie) for the passing of their brother, Bro. Emil Anliker (Forrest, IL).

September 18, Selena Marie was born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz. She joins siblings, Sis. Cheree, Jordan, Mahlia, Obed, Ezra and Simeon. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Nate Gutwein and Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry Fritz.

Thankful for God's mercy are Isaac Denton (Bro. Todd and Sis. Penny) and Sis. Catherine Neihouser who were hospitalized this past month.

We thank Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) for coming to share with us the Word of God. As we approach Thanksgiving, may we

be grateful for the truth that is preached by the power of the Spirit.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Anna Marie Stoller

I am rich today, a baby ran to me,
And put her tiny hand within my
own
And smiled, her rosy lips a flower,
The light within her eyes, from
Heaven shone.
And when I crossed the fields the
birds were singing,
A golden blossom in my pathway lay,
It wasn't much; but, oh, the joy
there's in it,
To have a baby smile at you
In just that way.

—*Marguerite A. Gutschow*

Bro. Dale and Sis. Andrea Schneider, Alyssa, Blake and Jade have been blessed with a precious baby boy, Alec Dale.

Welcoming twin girls into their family circle are Bro. El and Sis. Jan Nuest, grandparents of Jackie and Jayla. Parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Wettstein (Gridley, IL).

Selena Joy is surrounded by love in the John and Carol Ailes family. Their granddaughter was born to Jim and Donald Garret of Marcus Hook, PA. A reception for Jim, Donald and Selena was held at the Valparaiso Fellowship Hall in conjunction with a surprise 40th anniversary celebration for John and Carol.

Sis. Lina Bock is recovering from injuries she received from an accident in her home, and after a lengthy hospitalization she is convalescing at Parkview Haven in Francesville. Her warm presence is deeply missed when we assemble, but our prayers are continually for her and we feel confident she is praying for us.

Mourning the loss of a brother-in-law, Ted Mavity, of Naples, FL are Sis. Lucille and Bro. John Heiniger.

On a crisp, sunny October day, Cathy Nuest, wife of Dan, became a cherished sister with us and our Lord. Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), and Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) were visiting ministers.

Other visiting ministers have been Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH).

Many special needs for prayer have occurred in our small congregation during the past month. Our hearts go out to Sis. Connie Knobloch who is beginning treatments for lymphoma. Joan Cambern, Bro. Harold Heinold, and Sis. Sandy Heinold have spent time in the hospital.

As Thanksgiving season approaches, we are grateful that God has sent His Son, Jesus, to erase our sin; grateful we have fellow believers to care for, to care for us; grateful for the Word of God, the songs of praise and voices to express our love to God and one another. May we each, by God's grace, become more humble, submissive, soft, and obedient to the voice of God whether it be by the still small voice of the Spirit, the preaching and exhortation of the Word, or the loving admonition of a brother.

INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter

We welcome Bro. David and Sis. Paige Stieglitz who became one in the Lord on September 28 at Taylor, MO. Bro. Marvin Stieglitz had part of the wedding service.

Bros. Steve Gutwein and Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) ministered to us on October 5. They, their wives, and other visitors were here for the 50th wedding anniversary reception of Bro. Bill and Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein. They opened their

home to receive many guests. Our congratulations and God's blessings in the coming years.

Sis. Pearl Klopfenstein has returned home. She is being cared for at the home of Bro. Lynn and Sis. Chris Klopfenstein, where she and Bro. Lloyd have been living. We pray for God's continuing grace and strength for the family.

Bro. Marvin Fischer was hospitalized for several days, but has returned home. May the Lord grant comfort and health again.

Keith Hall had open heart surgery and is improving. May God grant him complete health again. We remember you in prayer.

On October 12, the Agape Choir presented gospel songs in "Jesus Name" for our family singing at the Fellowship Center. We joined them in several numbers including "Jesus Loves Me", especially for the children. We usually have a large number of children at our gatherings.

Bro. Otto Bertsch was 93 years old on July 30. He lives by himself in the home where his parents lived, and he was raised. He and Sis. Frances shared their married life there and raised their family of three girls and a son. Sis. Frances passed away on October 17, 1994. He receives assistance from family and friends. Bro. Otto still attends church services, but someone brings him since his cataract surgeries last year. I asked him what he was thankful for, in keeping the theme of the month. He said he was most thankful for the freedom of worship and peace we have to attend our church. Bro. Otto, we wish God's blessing for continued health.

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner, Bro. Nile Bucher and their wives, Sis. Maureen and Sis. Phyllis (Bluffton North, IN), spent Wednesday evening with us at the Fellowship Center. We met there for our mid-week

service, as the final stage of our concrete work in paving the drive was not ready to drive on. We appreciated the messages Bro. Nile and Elder Bro. Phil shared with us. We always appreciate the visits and the love you share with us.

Luke Josiah Kipfer was born October 6 to Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lisa. He is welcomed by his brother, A.J., and grandparents, Bro. Lynn and Sis. Valerie Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and Sis. Pat Mikel (Milford, IN).

Now and Then

Beloved pilgrims, faith's association,
Keep on in striving for the promised
land!

Be praying, fighting without
hesitation,

For that great harvest day is near at
hand!

Behold the fields, they are soon ripe
for harvest,

The fig tree now is putting forth its
leaves.

Up, gather in! who slothful is in
harvest,

No crown of righteousness from
God receives.

Zion's Harp #191, vs. 12

INDIANA, MILFORD

Linda Beer - Renee Beer

We were privileged to have visitors and ministering brothers spend time with us this month. We would like to especially thank Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) for assisting the Milford congregation in selecting a brother to assist in the ministry. Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb) was that willing brother to take on the additional duties in serving our congregation. We pray for Bro. Dan and his family and hope they can feel our love and support.

We were also blessed by the teaching of Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL).

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

Our prayers are with those of our congregation who have experienced surgery or illness: Sis. Millie Beer (Bro. Phil), Sis. Connie Beer (Bro. Steve), Sis. Mary Ann Haab (Bro. Arthur), Kaylyn Price (Mitch and Shannon), and Bro. Bob Bowerman (Sis. Sue).

We are so thankful for the birth of Deborah Grace to Bro. Jason and Sis. Jenny Furrer (Wolcott, IN). Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer are Deborah's grandparents.

We rejoice with Bro. Randy and Sis. Deb Beer as they received their first son, Aaron Randall, on September 25. Anne has also helped to welcome her little brother into their family. Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby Beer, along with Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene Schumacher (Eureka, IL) are the thankful grandparents.

Russ and Sis. Pat Mikel are pleased to have another little grandson. Bro. Arlo, Sis. Lisa Kipfer and A.J. (Leo, IN) welcomed Luke Josiah into their family.

Bro. Noah Clauss, 95, passed away on October 13. He is survived by his loving wife, June, and two sisters, Esther Marquart and Katherine Graff, both of Fort Wayne. We are thankful that Bro. Noah could acknowledge his need for a Saviour in his later years in life.

On October 17, we said good-bye to a very faithful sister in our congregation. We can only think that Sis. Betty Beer, 74, now has been freed from her physical handicap that she so willingly and cheerfully endured during her life. We have all admired the way Bro. Maurice was such a caring and loving husband for 53 years. Survivors include two daughters, Sis. Sue (Bro. Will)

Schieler and Judy (Bob) Kitson; two sons, Kenneth (Lynn) Beer and David (Jo) Beer; three sisters, Sis. Leona (Everett) Price, Sis. Irene Schrock, and Sis. Lillian Levy; 12 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Patti Bahler

In 1636, amid the darkness of the Thirty Years' War, a German pastor, Martin Rinkart, is said to have buried five thousand people in one year, an average of fifteen a day. His church and community were ravaged by war, death and economic disaster.

In the heart of that darkness, with the cries of fear outside his window, he sat down and wrote this table grace for his children:

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

Here was a man who knew thanksgiving comes from the love of God, not from outward circumstances. May the example of this man's life be an inspiration for us to be thankful in all things, not only during this season, but throughout the year.

On September 21 and 22, our church enjoyed a blessed weekend of fellowship with several of the residents from the Home for the Handicapped. We thank each one who visited Remington and for being an inspiration to us.

On September 28, we enjoyed a beautiful day at Camp Mack with our Bible Class students and others who traveled to Milford, IN for the day. We appreciate all the efforts of

the Milford church to host Camp Mack each fall.

Sis. Heather Steffen (Bro. Roger and Sis. Vicki) was united in marriage to Bro. Phil Conrad (Bro. John and Sis. Jayne, Cissna Park, IL) on September 28. We wish them abundant blessings from the Lord as they begin life as one. They have made their home in Oak Park, IL and will attend church in Chicago.

Visiting ministers for the wedding were Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN). We thank each one for their part in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We are very thankful our hospital patients this past month are back home and doing well. Austin Schneider (Bro. Greg and Sis. Heidi) and Sis. Diane Isabell (Bro. Phil) both spent time in the hospital, but have been blessed with good health again.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Marci Nuenschwander
Sue Beebe

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

In silence give attention,
 the Lord will cheer and strengthen
 With His own word and hand.
 If earnestly we seek Him,
 and pray'rfully entreat Him,
 He'll not let us as orphans stand.

Zion's Harp #207

What will it be like on that great day when we assemble before God's throne, our earthly toil and burdens behind us? Am I thankful enough for what the Lord has done for me and for His promise of eternity with Him in heavenly places? I ashamedly would have to say, "No, I am not."

Thankfulness shouldn't be something I only contemplate each year in November, but should be rooted deep within me, my prime motivator each day. And if I am not thankful, first of all, for my salvation, then nothing else I am thankful for means anything.

Oh, Thou fountain of love,
 whose bleeding, dying move
 Erased my sin.
 Immanuel so dear,
 Thou fountain true and clear
 Be Thou to my heart near
 and flow within.

Thou art my Light and Pow'r,
 My joy and Life each hour.
 Redeemer blest!
 While pilgrim here I be,
 I lift mine eyes to Thee,
 My faith's security,
 My soul's true Rest!

Zion's Harp #202

Many from our congregation enjoyed a day of worship and fellowship at Camp Mack near Milford, IN on September 28.

Our prayers are with our new teachers, Bro. Marty Langhofer, Primary Class, and Bro. Rich Gramm, Bible Class, as they have begun a new year. May they say as Samuel said, "...I will teach you the good and the right way: Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you." (I Samuel 12:23-24).

Many thanks to outgoing teacher, Bro. Scott Schafer, for giving of himself in sharing the Word of God. The seeds have been sown; may God give the increase.

A blessed weekend of fellowship was enjoyed by our church family on October 11 and 12 as we invited a number of families from other congregations to spend some time with us. We are certainly thankful for

and cherish our Christian friendships. Ministering Bros. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), and Tom Troxel (La-Crosse, IN) and their families were with us for that weekend.

Our dear Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Sis. Shirley, Milford, IN) also assembled with us in October.

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation go out to each of these brothers for giving of themselves for us.

Some of our Sunday School children and teachers enjoyed a beautiful Sunday afternoon with the Milford Sunday School at a fall picnic on October 19. May these seeds of love and friendship which are being planted continue to grow in each heart.

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

Zion's Harp #236

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Ken Susdorf - Cheryl Bucher

What a beautiful time of the year when the fields are dressed and ready to be harvested, as well as the many colors of all the different trees all are showing off. To this weak one, this is the most beautiful and peaceful time of the year. Thanks, Dear God, and may we all be ready for the harvest also. Walking the walk, talking the talk, and causing others to want to have that peace that only God can give.

This past weekend, we had our annual harvest program and supper. What a blessed day we all had together renewing old friendships and making new ones. Thank you all for coming. Special thanks to ministering Bros. Rick Plattner and Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) for sharing God's

Word with us, and also the Peoria choir for their beautiful singing. We appreciate all the effort that was put into making this day a blessed one by the entire congregation.

Also coming to share God's Word with us this month was Bro. Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN). Thanks so much for letting the Spirit work through you. God will surely bless you for your labors.

Lord willing, Thanksgiving will be here shortly after this edition comes out. We certainly want to wish you all a happy holiday. God has been very gracious to us. May we all be mindful of this not only on this day, but every day of our lives.

We pray for you all and know that you are doing the same for us.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Beckie Lehman - Jody Bahler

We were privileged to listen to a topical presentation on September 24 given by Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler and Bro. Gene Lehman. Their topic was that concerning our relationship with the sister churches throughout the United States and those abroad. May God bless them for their efforts once again.

We also thank our recent visiting ministers, Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH). May we be not only hearers, but doers of His good and Holy Word. We appreciated their willingness to lend themselves in God's service.

October 4 was the wedding day of John Creed and Cindy Hopkins (Sis. Diane). May they make Christ the center of their home as they walk the pathway of life together.

Two precious babies have made their entrance into the hearts and homes of thankful parents. Isaac William Lehman (Bro. Rob and Sis. Beckie) was born on October 10. Big brother and sister, Benji and Leah,

are excited to have a little brother. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Witzig (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna Lehman. We continue to pray for little Isaac as he receives special loving care from doctors and nurses and family at this time.

Bro. Kip and Sis. Donita Edelman, Rebeckah, Samantha, and Valerie are happy to have a new little son and brother to care for. Seth Leroy was born on October 11. Grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. MaraJean Edelman (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Don and Sis. Rita Furrer.

May we always give God thanks for His continual blessings, not only during this Thanksgiving season, but all year through.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Edith Massner

Monica Eisenmann

We were thankful to have several visitors this past month. Among them were ministering Bros. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL), Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Bill Gerst (Alto, MI). We truly appreciate all of our visitors.

We once again have had a number of people from our small congregation in the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them and their families. May the Lord's will be done in their lives.

Lydia Raeann was welcomed into the home of Matt, Monica and Madelaine Eisenmann on October 10. Grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Elaine Eisenmann.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

At times, it seems we are given more than we are able to bear. The struggles and trials seem to overpower us and we can so easily be-

come discouraged and perhaps even despondent. A thought and the words of a song came to mind one day and I would like to share them. The words are these:

My burdens keep me humble
and teach me to pray.
If I murmur or grumble
forgive the words I say.
I need grace to carry
my load day by day
but don't take my burdens
or my cross away.
For I would grow careless
and hide all my fears
my eyes would be dry
and I could never shed a tear.
With the cross on my shoulders
my feet cannot stray
for the cross leads me homeward
to my home far away.
So I shall not question
If thou guide the way.
Don't take my burdens or my cross
away.

The thought was just this. Life is like a flight of steps. If we had to make it in one big step, it would be more than we could handle, but by taking one step at a time, we can make it to the top.

Again, we have been blessed with visiting ministers. Our thanks to Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Bros. Wayne Grimm and Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA).

We have enjoyed a beautiful autumn in this area. It is really humbling when we think of how often we grieve the Father heart in our weakness, yet He continually gives us so many blessings to enjoy. May we truly be thankful!

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Delores Reinhard

As Thanksgiving approaches, my mind so quickly can find many things to be thankful for. Yet I know there are those many, many people who have to think a lot longer than I do to find the blessings in their life.

May we all be able to see the wonders and joy all around us every day during the coming season.

We are well into the harvest season gathering in the grain. The weather has been so beautiful; we just can't be thankful enough for God's mercies.

We want to thank our visiting ministers and their wives, Bros. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA), Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS), Art Baurer (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Pulaski, IA) for coming and sharing the love of God.

On October 5, our congregation joined the Pulaski congregation at Lake Rathbun near Centerville, IA for a picnic and singing. It was a beautiful evening of fellowshiping and seeing the children get acquainted and have a nice time together. What a blessing it is when we can share this precious faith one with another. Let us count our blessings and rejoice.

Joshua Lee is welcomed into the home of our son, Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard, of Athens, AL. Sis. Kristin, Sarah and Bethany will greatly enjoy their baby brother.

Someone cried "where must the seed be sown,
To bring the most fruit when it is grown?"
The Master heard as He said and smiled,
"Go plant it for Me in the heart of a child."
—Anonymous

With the angels in Heaven we rejoice with Kristin Meister (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard) as she has turned her back on the world and gave her testimony on September 27 and was baptized in Peoria, IL.

We are so happy and thankful to have our first grandchild as a sister in the Lord.

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

Zion's Harp #236

IOWA, IOWA CITY Sharon Gerst

Visiting ministers who shared God's Word with us this month included Bros. Pat Zaugg and Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Steve Martin (Eureka, IL). We appreciate and want to thank all of these brothers for their labors on our behalf.

As the Thanksgiving season approaches, may we all reflect on the many blessings God has freely given us this past year. As we thank God for the bountiful harvest this year, may we also remember the harvest that God will gather in one day. Let us all be ready for the great harvest day!

Come, ye thankful people come,
raise the song of harvest home:
All is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
for wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

Even so, Lord, quickly come
to Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin;
There forever purified,
in Thy presence to abide:
Come, with all Thine angels, come
raise the glorious harvest home.

IOWA, LESTER

Sue Warner - Cindy Leuthold

We rejoice that Jared Metzger (Bro. Art and Sis. Kristy) and Kar-

men Popkes (John) have repented of their sins and are at peace with God and man.

We enjoyed a blessed weekend as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Monte Gerber (Bro. Bill and Sis. Erma), Bro. Dudley Knobloch (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma) and Bro. Curtiss and Sis. Laurie Knobloch. We thank Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) who assisted our Elder brethren. We pray that they will be strong soldiers in the army of the Lord.

On September 20, Carter Leuthold (Bro. Larry and Sis. Mardi) was united in marriage to Amy Dubiel. We pray that God will bless their marriage, and be near them as Carter undergoes Neutron Radiation treatments in Seattle, Washington.

Bro. Dan and Sis. ReJean Knobloch welcomed little Nash Daniel and Mattie Rose into their family on September 21. Nate, Josie, Sadie and Ned are the siblings. Helpful grandparents are Sis. Iola Knobloch, and Bro. Robert and Sis. Rosella Metzger.

On September 26, Kelwin Leigh was born to Bro. Lance and Sis. Kristi Knobloch. Kelwin has a brother, Keegan. Grandparents are Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie Knobloch, and Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley Ifft (Forrest, IL).

Taryn Jill Knobloch made her arrival into the world on October 3, and is lovingly welcomed by Bro. Troy, Sis. Donna and big brother, Chad. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knobloch, and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Wilda Koehl (Morris, MN).

May God bless these families and help us all to keep the faith for the children.

We were glad to hear that Bro. Nathan Knobloch (Sis. Irene) was released from the hospital and is now residing at a nursing home in

Sioux Falls, SD. We pray for his continued healing. Surgical patients include Bro. Alfred Feucht (Sis. Marie), Sis. Elgeva Knobloch (Bro. Art), Sis. Charlene Messner (Bro. Henry), Charlie Knobloch (Bro. Charles and Sis. Coralee), Mychal VanWyhe (Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan), and Sis. Paulina Knobloch. Bro. Silas Knobloch (Sis. Edith) was also a hospital patient. We're thankful that they're all at home and recovering.

We extend sympathy to Louis Moser (Tina) and Louise Tolvstad (John) on the death of their brother, Chuck Moser. May God comfort them.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debbie Wagenbach

On October 5, Sis. Monica Behne (Jeananne Pyle, Urbana, OH) and Bro. Marc Wagenbach (Bro. Paul and Sis. Dorothy) were united in Holy Matrimony. Our best wishes and prayers go with them.

Bros. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) have recently provided us with spiritual nourishment through preaching of God's inspired and Holy Word. Let us pray for our ministers that they may ever have the courage to speak the truth for the truth is what sets us free.

IOWA, PULASKI
Lisa Knecht

O God of Wisdom

As they go forth upon life's way,
 Sustain them by thy grace;
 May they Thy holy laws obey
 And live in joy and peace.

May they with holy lives adorn
 Thy doctrines, Lord, and be
 amid life's sunshine and its storm
 True witnesses to Thee.

Hymns of Zion #286

Sis. Fawn Esslinger and Bro. Brent Kieser, both of Peoria, IL, were united as one in the Lord on October 12. We wish them God's nearness and blessings as they strive to serve the Lord as He would direct. Parents are Bro. Leland and Sis. Patsy Esslinger and Bro. Verle and Sis. LaVonne Kieser (Bradford, IL).

Surely children are one of God's greatest gifts. Shane and Sally Santi (Millburn, NJ) are thankful parents of a son, Rudolph Sabastian, born September 26. His grandparents are Sis. Wilma and the late Bro. Richard Teubel and Ron and Kay Santi of Boone, IA.

Our congregation wishes to extend a very special thank you to the ministers who encouraged us this past month by their visit and by sharing God's Word to us as His Spirit did direct. May our Lord continue to grant His grace to each of you: Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA), Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL).

As I was listening to a sermon on tape, the brother gave the definition of success: "Success is the closeness of our alignment of our lives to God." Surely this is the success we want to strive for and by God's grace alone may we be able to achieve it.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Lela Banwart - Eunice Fehr

On our Thursday evening services we were pleasantly surprised to have Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) in our midst and then again on Sunday, October 12. May God bless him for his willing service.

God has blessed three dear souls with His wonderful peace in their hearts. Gene Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne, Elgin, IA), Lyndi Bru-

ellman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa) and Matthew Fehr (Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy).

Our thoughts are with recent hospital patients. Bro. Verner Wirtz (Sis. Betty), heart bypass; Eva Banwart, hip replacement; Dean Banwart (Irene) and Dalton Knobloch (Bro. Denton and Sis. Rose). Also, Alan Banwart (Dean and Irene) had the misfortune of breaking his ankle. Eva Banwart remains hospitalized at this writing. We pray that all will be restored to good health. May they feel God's presence as they recover.

We have several homes that have been blessed with those precious bundles from Heaven. Our best wishes and congratulations go out to all of these families. May they feel God's direction in raising their children.

Jeffery James was born to Gregory and Peggy Pfeffer of Windom, MN. Big brother, Andrew, welcomes a playmate. Grandparents are Eli and Margaret Grimm and Jim and Neva Pfeffer of Mankato, MN. Sis. Lena Grimm is Jeffery's great-grandmother.

Andrew David was born to Andy and Connie Girres of Sergeant Bluffs, IA. Amanda is happy for a new brother. Dean and Irene Banwart, Jack and Lilas Brzuchalski, and Ron and Judy Girres are Andrew's grandparents. Great-grandparents are Eli and Pearl Gerber and Bro. Walter and Sis. Esther Banwart.

Bro. Byron and Sis. Anita Fehr welcome a new baby girl, Felicia Marie. She has sisters, Colleen and Deanna, and brother, Evan, to help care for her. Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr and Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley Nester (Lester, IA) are her grandparents. Bro. Elmer and Sis. Matilda Fehr are her great-grandparents.

Bro. Denton and Sis. Rose

Knobloch have a new son, Dalton Loren. Calla is happy to have a brother. Grandparents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Doris Zaugg and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch (Lester, IA). Great-grandparents are Sis. Frances Zaugg and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Matilda Fehr.

Bro. Jordan and Sis. Ann Grimm welcome Nolan Ryan into their family circle. Nathan will be excited to have a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose Grimm. Great-grandparents are Sis. Nima Fehr, Bro. Verner and Sis. Betty Wirtz, Bro. Clifford and Sis. Rosine Grimm, and Bro. Albert and Sis. Betty Banwart.

Carolyn Zaugg (Bro. Bill and Connie) and Scott Kenney exchanged wedding vows on September 13 at Ruthven, IA. We want to congratulate and wish God's blessings on their marriage. May they look to him for direction in their life together.

At this season of the year when we see the fields being harvested, we thank God for blessing the fields and providing a bountiful harvest. We thank our Lord above all for the spiritual blessings He freely bestows on us if we will but humbly ask of Him.

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

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

Autumn is bringing many pleasant, cooler and sunny days to Tokyo after a hot summer. That is why we held, as every year, the annual church cleaning at the end of September. Everyone who is capable pitches in and helps to spruce up the church and renovate where needed.

After building on a kitchen to the church last year, we are also starting to think and pray about further major renovations to our church, which has hardly changed since it was built in 1960.

We are planning our fall Shuyokai (church gathering) again in the mountains between Tokyo and Shioda churches on November 3, with this year's theme being "The work of love".

I had the opportunity to travel to the island of Taiwan recently, and was amazed at the rate of modernization going on. The people there are all Chinese, but compared to their mainland counterparts, they are much wealthier. As I was discussing with a Taiwanese about the persecutions, especially of Christians, in China recently, he replied rather matter-of-factly, "As soon as the Chinese start getting interested in making money, they won't have to worry about those things anymore." It struck a deep chord about how modernization can affect our spiritual lives.

Just a thought to end on: "Life is not a problem to be solved, but a gift to be enjoyed."

KANSAS, BERN

Lori Baumgartner

Holly Meyer

As I sit outside enjoying a picturesque fall day, and as another harvest comes to a close, I really have

to marvel at the blessings of life. God granted our farming community plenty of dry days in the spring for planting, a hot summer (with much needed rain just at the right time) for growth, and many warm dry days in the past several weeks to harvest our bountiful crops. This is just one of the many things I am thankful for and it really seems quite small and insignificant in comparison to the spiritual blessings we have. Yet it's so encouraging to see God's handiwork as we go about our earthly occupations.

"For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised..."

Psalm 96:4

How thankful we are to report that another soul has given her heart to the Lord in repentance. We rejoice with Tammy Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan) and may she be a shining light at home, church, school, etc. as God directs her life.

Ted and Marci Rottinghaus, along with Jacey, have welcomed Colby Michael into their family circle. He was born on September 17 and is also welcomed by his grandparents, Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona Strahm and Jerry and Paula Rottinghaus (Seneca, KS).

Another set of grandparents in our congregation, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia Strahm, are thankful for their new granddaughter, Emily Joy. She joins the family of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Camille Hartzler, Anna and Caleb of Rittman, OH. Our congratulations and God's blessings go to both of these families.

Sis. Janet Meyer (Bro. Robert) has spent a few additional days in the hospital this month. It is nice to have her back in our assembly. Bro. Reuben Moser (Sis. Stella) has been a surgical patient and also required a short hospital stay. May they feel

our love and prayers.

We want to extend a warm welcome to Emma Mejring, a foreign exchange student from Sweden, who is spending this school year with the James Menold family. May she have an enjoyable and uplifting year here in Kansas!

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank all of those who have sent cards, furnished food, offered prayers, done many acts of kindness following my accident surgery. May God bless each one of you.

Sis. Janet Meyer

**KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Tammy Sinn**

Bro. Harold Kraft (Sis. Wanda) has been in our prayers as he has recently undergone ankle surgery. We are thankful to God for His healing mercies upon Bro. Harold.

Our hearts filled with joy as we heard of the engagement of Sis. Rebecca Sinn (Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen) and Bro. Phil Braker (Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller, Lamar, MO). We rejoice with them and pray God will direct them as they prepare for their life together.

Our heartfelt thanks is extended to Bro. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO) for willingly feeding us the bread of life. We trust God will bless him for his labors on our behalf.

**KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr
Darcy Kisling**

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."

Psalm 19:1

It is wheat sowing time in our area, and as we were driving home from church last Sunday, I looked

out across the carpet of small green sprouts, and marveled again at the lessons God sets before us in our everyday walk of life, if we only open our eyes to see. Those tiny grains of wheat had to die to have new life, and become free of the earth to bear fruit in their season. So it is with the person who chooses a life dedicated to Christ. We must first die spiritually to this world to have a new life in Christ with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Then we must die physically to have eternal life with God, our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ. Only then are we completely free of Satan and this world, and able to bear our fruit joyfully in the bosom of our Lord. Let's not become too enamored with the things of this world. We have been given so much to be thankful for by our precious Father, and if we remain faithful, there will be a never ending peace and joy awaiting when we are called Home.

Thought: Have you ever seen a sunrise or a sunset that God has painted for us? We saw an absolutely gorgeous one last night, and had to humbly think if God can show us His power and glory through the elements in the Heavens and the earth, why do we worry so much about our insignificant problems. He ALWAYS has EVERYTHING under CONTROL if we just let Him!!

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

"Let every thing that hath breath praise the lord. Praise ye the Lord."
Psalm 150:6

**KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Julie Bahr**

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held October 5. The children seem so excited and energetic to participate in activities together. The highlight is to sing the Sunday

School songs together and hear their delight as they give out their favorite selections. If they fear the Lord, love Him and serve Him, their life will be fruitful!

Our beloved Bro. Glen Anliker (Sis. Lorene) is assembling with us again after a near-death experience with his heart. We are so thankful God has spared his life and trust that a purpose is yet to be fulfilled. Also hospitalized was 6-year-old Katelyn Bahr (Bro. Brian and Sis. Julie) with a repeated case of pneumonia. We ask for the Lord's healing upon them, as well as several others in our little congregation who are enduring physical distresses. Lord, grant them Thy warmth, love and healing power.

We rejoice in the engagement of Bro. Cory Metzger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene) who has announced his engagement to Sis. Jodi Reimschisel (Bro. Max and Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS). A December 28 wedding is planned. Bro. Cory had moved from here to take employment in Wichita. May God bless them richly.

How precious it is to welcome a newborn child! Bro. Albert and Sis. Jeanie Edelman are the grandparents of a little grandson, Seth Leroy, born to Bro. Kip and Sis. Donita Edelman (Wolcott, IN). Maternal grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Rita Furrer (Wolcott, IN). Little Seth has three sisters to welcome him.

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

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

II Corinthians 9:15

As we progress into the fall season, the feeling of thanksgiving fills the air. With the Thanksgiving holi-

day approaching, it reminds us to think of all the blessings we have and for which we should be grateful. Do we remember to be truly thankful for the greatest blessing which God has given us: His only Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross and bear each one of our sins, so that we may have a hope of Heaven some day?

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

I Corinthians 15:57

We certainly are thankful for those in our congregation who have recently given their life to the Lord and now hope to attain the victory of Heaven. Our prayers are with Kara Grimm (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene) and Rita Hartter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth) as they begin this new walk of faith.

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever."

Psalms 106:1

We are also thankful for God's goodness and mercy shown to Bro. Dennis Hartter (Sis. Beth) this past month. Bro. Dennis spent time in the hospital with head and shoulder injuries he suffered in a fall from a scaffold. He is now recovering and we praise God for His healing touch.

Bro. John Plattner has been hospitalized recently and our prayers are with him.

Our sympathy is with Sis. Marie Hartter (Bro. Virgil) and Bro. Willard Bahr (Sis. Eloise) on the passing away of their aunt, Sis. Leona Aeschliman, of our congregation.

Please note that the area code for Sabetha has changed from 913 to 785.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

We had no visiting ministers this past month, however God provided by our dear local ministering brothers. On a recent Sunday, we sang the Zion's Harp #212, The 23rd Psalm. Then the Scripture opened to John 10:1-18. The brother reminded us that sheep are easy prey because they have so few defense mechanisms. They need a good shepherd for survival. Likewise, we as Christians are easy prey unless we have Jesus as our defense mechanism.

Saturday, September 27, Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) presented the marriage seminar, Greater Love, which was developed through Gateway Woods AC Family Services. Participants from Kiowa and Lamont-Gridley joined us for the day. The following comment was passed on to me. "We are grateful to our Elders who have made provisions to help and encourage us in fulfilling this commandment from God."

In thinking of the marriage seminar, I was reminded of a wall hanging give to Bro. Godfrey and I by our son and his wife.

Beatitudes of a Christian Marriage

Blessed are the husband and wife who continue to be considerate and affectionate long after the wedding bells have ceased ringing.

Blessed are those mates who never criticize or speak loudly to one another and who instead quietly discuss their disagreements and work toward solution.

Blessed are they who thank God for their food and who set aside some time each day to read the Bible and pray.

Blessed are they who love their mates more than any other person in the world and who joyfully fulfill their marriage vow in a lifetime of

fidelity and mutual helpfulness to one another.

We were thrilled to hear the announcement that Katie Wirtz has peace with God and desires baptism. Lord willing, this will take place the weekend of November 15-16.

Bro. Greg Rudin's recuperation has been a blessing. His thank you note follows: "We wish to thank our family, brothers and sisters in Christ and friends for the love, food, and prayers shown to us during Bro. Greg's surgery and recuperation. May God's blessings be upon each of you. In Christian Love, Bro. Greg and Sis. Patti Rudin and Family."

Our hope and prayer is that God will direct families to the Wichita area and that they will fellowship with us. As I mentioned last month, Wichita offers various employment opportunities. Our deacon, Bro. Max Reimschisel, will gladly counsel with you if you contact him.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Doug and Rebecca Germann

Once again, we have been blessed with many visitors. Special thanks to Bros. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH), Wally Ramsier (Sis. Helen, Mansfield, OH) and Mike Bauman (Sis. Florina, Mansfield, OH) for sharing with us one weekend also. We appreciate these brothers' timely warnings and encouragement to walk the narrow way and be lights to the world.

The fall of the year is a beautiful time for our families as we bring in the last items from the garden and orchard and see the pantry filling up with beautiful colors of red, green, orange, yellow and white from a variety of fruits and vegetables. How careful we are to make sure the contents of each jar are properly filled, the lids and rings sterilized and that the tops of the jars are free of any-

thing to keep the jar from sealing. One evening after the last of many jars were taken from the canner, I scanned the counter to see that every jar had sealed. During the evening, the familiar pop was heard as one by one the jars sealed to preserve the contents until it was needed for a meal. I noticed that one jar was still not sealed, and being too tired to wait up until the jar sealed, I breathed a sigh of hope that by the next morning it would be okay. I thought how similar this experience is to our spiritual lives. We as parents are careful with the raising of our children so their souls will be preserved for the Master when He calls them and ourselves out of this life. We want to make sure that every opportunity is there for a good sealing of God's Spirit in their lives. We strive to maintain Godly homes by following the scriptures and keeping wholesome activities in and things like television out. Many a parent has fallen asleep in Jesus with a sigh of hope that a child would repent. We must take courage and do our part; then we can rest in His hope that the sealing of God's Spirit will take place and that when we awake on the other shore, we will find those loved ones who were "late" in sealing the Spirit in their lives just like that canning jar. Each jar seals at it's own time; we must not despair, but we must make sure that the jar was canned properly so that it's possible for a vacuum to happen in the first place. If we allow impurities in our home, then we are asking for the beautiful fruit that was intended for a use, to spoil and not be useful.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Michelle Oesch
Melanie Kaeb

We held our annual Sunday School picnic on October 4 at Bro.

Jim and Sis. Julie Bloughs' shed. The evening consisted of games for the children and a hot dog roast supper for everyone. A blessed time was had by all.

Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) joined us on October 11 to help Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta) share the Communion service.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Manuela Denes
Kristie Meyer

Bright golds, vivid reds and oranges; the landscape is overflowing with the colors of autumn. We've been very lucky because the weather has been beautiful, but in the air, one can smell the coming winter and soon the trees will be bare of their foliage.

The change in seasons makes me realize how quickly time goes by. As I get older, I know that I should slow down and take more time to appreciate the blessings that I've been given, especially as Thanksgiving and Christmas draw near.

There have been many activities in Detroit this fall and we've all been so busy. Many of us were able to enjoy the fall weather at the annual Church picnic sponsored by the Sunday School. The children played games and then we all gathered for a campfire singing. These are the times that memories are made of.

It was with great joy that our dear friends, Sasha Mojic and Jason Rauhe, were announced to have found peace. We look forward to their testimonies and baptisms, Lord willing, in November.

Prayers are always with those who have been ill or hospitalized. May the Lord grant speedy recoveries to Bro. Walt Bauer, Sis. Joyce Germaine (Bro. Milan) and Carol Maibach (Bro. Doug).

Those of us who sing in the De-

troit Choir took the opportunity to travel to Morton, IL where we were invited for a weekend of song and fellowship. It is truly wonderful to travel across the land and be so warmly welcomed by our fellow brothers and sisters. We thank the Morton brethren for their hospitality.

As the leaves begin to fall from the trees, we know that winter is just around the corner. There is a hymn which we've sung in choir which reminds us that there is not only a physical harvest that needs to take place, but also a spiritual one. Let us spend our time wisely and work towards our heavenly goal.

Reapers Haste Away

O see the golden harvest waiting on
 ev'ry hand;
 Bending in evening breezes over the
 entire land;
 Jesus, the harvest master, points to
 the field away.
 So grasp ye the waiting sickle, haste
 away.
 Now is the time for reaping, why sit
 ye idly by?
 Summer will soon be over, winter is
 drawing nigh,
 This is no time for pining, work
 while it yet is day,
 So grasp ye the waiting sickle, haste
 away.
 Soon will the grain be wasting, go
 while the fields are white,
 Soon will the night be falling, go
 while then yet 'tis light;
 Jesus, the Master needs you, wages
 to you He'll pay,
 So grasp ye the waiting sickle, haste
 away.

Chorus: Go to the harvest field, O
 go to the harvest field,
 Go gather the precious yield, Go
 work while it yet 'tis day,
 Go forth to the fields away, Go labor
 for Christ while yet you may,
 Go with your sickle shining, Go
 with it shining bright,
 Oh, do all the good you can, 'twill
 soon be night,
 A glorious reward He'll pay, yes
 Christ the dear Lord will pay,
 Haste to the fields away, Go work

for the Lord today.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Perry Virkler

On September 21, we welcomed back the college students with a picnic at Marthaler Park. Furthering their education in the Minneapolis area are Bro. Kurt Domnick (Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma), Sis. Karla Schmidgall (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby), Tim Schmidgall (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lois), Micah Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachael) all from Morris, MN; Jerilyn and Dallas Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sheryl, Lester, IA); Sis. Stephanie Knobloch (Bro. Damon, Minneapolis, MN); and Jodi Messner (Sis. Carol Ann, Winthrop, MN). We look forward to enjoying their fellowship again this year.

Our Sunday School children, teachers, brethren and friends enjoyed the annual hay ride and wiener roast at Eagle Creek Stables on Saturday evening, September 27.

Now it is accomplished!
I'm no longer mine;
Lord, I will for ever and always be
Thine,
For Thou hast created and
purchased me too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit,
Thou makest me new.
Zion's Harp #209

Our congregation experienced a double blessing the weekend of October 11 and 12 when we heard the testimonies of Doug and Connie Bergstrom and the following day witnessed their baptisms. We welcome them into the fold and may they feel God's guiding hand in their new walk with Him. We thank God for the increase. Sharing in this blessed occasion were Elder Bros. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN), Leo Moser and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Bros. Wayne Grimm

(West Bend, IA) and Dale Wulf (Lester, IA).

Also sharing God's Word with us this past month was Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL). May all of these brothers be blessed for their willing labors in the vineyard of our Lord.

Bro. Joe Bednarski (Sis. Ethel) is in our thoughts and prayers, as he has been ill at home. May he feel God's strength, nearness and healing power.

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

Proverbs 22:6

Rejoicing with their first little bundle from Heaven are Bro. Anthony and Sis. Lila Fehr. They welcomed into their hearts and home a precious son, Landon Wayne, born October 12. Grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma Fehr (Fairbury, IL) and Gene and the late Sis. Ella Mae Schmidt (Winthrop, MN).

As Thanksgiving season is once again upon us, may we be reminded of the bounty of God's wonderful love and blessings that He daily bestows upon us.

"Praise ye the Lord, O Give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

Psalms 106:1

Our Prayer Of Thanks

We humbly bow before You, Lord
On this Thanksgiving Day,
To lift our prayers of gratitude
For all Your caring ways.

As You have blessed our harvest,
Lord
Let us remember, too,
That we should share with those in
need
As You would have us do.

Around this festive board today
Are those we hold most dear,
And in our midst Your presence,

Lord
Seems so very near.

We're thankful for this land we love,
For sod and sky and tree,
For Pilgrims who braved unknown
seas
That all may worship free.

We're thankful for each blessing,
Lord,
You send along our way;
But may our greater "thanks" be
shown
In serving You each day.
—*Kay Hoffman*

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, words of encouragement and telephone calls received while taking radiation treatments for cancer. May God richly bless each of you.

Bro. Perry Virkler

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Nancy Wulf Linda Schmidgall

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

This should be a reminder that for us every day should be Thanksgiving Day. No matter how difficult our lot, we have such abundance for which to thank Him!

We want to extend our sincere sympathy and prayers to the family of Bro. Joe Feuchtenberger, who passed away October 3. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Emma; three sons, Bros. Wallis (Sis. Diane), Gerald (Sis. Karen), Robert (Sis. Gwen); three daughters, Doris (Gerald) Gausman, Susie (Virgil) Wehking and Sis. Marilyn (Bro. Karl) Koehl; 35 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren. Also, a sister, Sis. Marie Feuchtenberger. May God comfort them in their sorrow.

Exchanging wedding vows on October 5 were Bro. David Schmidgall (Winthrop, MN) and Sis. Janet Feuchtenberger. What a blessing to be able to trust God for guidance in this second most important step in life. May God bless them as they start their life together. We welcome Bro. David to our Morris congregation as they will be making their home here. Parents of the couple are Bro. Dave and Sis. Alma Jean Schmidgall (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen Feuchtenberger.

We are thankful for the many visitors who traveled to be with us for this special occasion and especially the ministering brothers, Elder Bro. Leroy Messner, Bros. Dean and Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA). May God reward these brothers richly for their willingness to bring the Holy Word to us.

We pray for God's continuing blessings for strength and health to our hospital patients this past month.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Becky Braulick

Jan Messner

Greetings!

We were thankful to have such a wonderful turn out for our annual pork chop supper this past month! It is so nice to be able to participate in this weekend that was started a few years ago, and we look forward to it each coming year as we have been blessed with many Christian friendships because of this tradition. We would like to thank Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Sis. Leona) and Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther) from Lester, IA for bringing forth the Word of the Lord and for sharing this special time with us. We would also like to thank everyone who joined us this year.

Our love shall not diminish
Nor fade nor wax away;
Bind us till life we finish
And in the grave we lay.
Our love shall not diminish;
It is our Lord's command,
And free us from all blemish,
Before our God to stand.
Pure love leads to perfection,
Joy of our soul and guide,
Gives us true satisfaction,
And leads to heaven's light.

Zion's Harp #137

On October 5, Bro. Dave Schmidgall and Sis. Janet Feuchtenberger were united in marriage in Morris, MN and we were happy to be able to share it with them. Because many of us witnessed this joyous occasion, Bro. DeWayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) was asked to labor on Winthrop's behalf and we would like to thank them so very much for being so willing to serve us on the pulpit that day.

"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

1 Thess. 5:16-18

With the season of Thanksgiving approaching, let us not forget the true meaning of what giving thanks means. We need to look into our hearts and give thanks to the Lord for all He has done for each and every one of us. We wish everyone a blessed Thanksgiving holiday.

Our hospital patients this past month were Sis. Florence Messner, Bro. Leo Messner (Sis. Georgia) and Wes Schmidt (Gene). We pray the Lord will continue to watch over them and heal their bodily afflictions.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Brent Kellenberger

One thing we certainly can be

thankful for in this season is modern medicine, a tool that not only prolongs life, but also can increase quality of life for many people. While working at church Saturday, Bro. Barry Metzger (Sis. Gina) suffered a spontaneous pneumothorax. What not long ago may have been a potentially life-threatening situation, was corrected during a short stay in the hospital. We are truly thankful to God that Barry is back to excellent health.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Martha Kellenberger

Carolyn Banwart

We were thankful to have Bros. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) and Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL) with us. May God bless them for their efforts in speaking God's Word.

The wedding engagement of Bro. Phil Braker (Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller) and Sis. Rebecca Sinn (Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen, Ft. Scott, KS) was announced on October 12. We wish them God's blessings as they make plans to establish a Christian home.

Sis. Anna Marti celebrated her 99th birthday with all of her children and many grandchildren here. We trust God will continue to provide for her each day.

As Thanksgiving approaches, may we take time to count our many blessings that God has bestowed upon us again this past year.

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

Zion's Harp #236

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

"Jesus didn't save us in our sin—He saved us from our sin." Visitors bringing God's Word to the St. Louis church this past month were Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA).

Bro. Nate and Sis. Marilyn used the occasion to travel a few hours further west to visit their daughter for several days. Bro. Fred and Sis. Kathy were willing to bring their family here when they knew that Fred would be laboring alone. We spent a blessed weekend in Champaign where we used to live and where three of our children are now attending school. What joy our Christian friendships bring us!

Nearly perfect fall weather was enjoyed by the Congerville, IL Young Group when they came to St. Louis on Columbus Day Weekend for a time of fellowship, sightseeing and worship.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Tina Sutter

What an exciting month in Taylor. Bro. Dave Stieglitz and Sis. Paige Massner were united in marriage on September 28. What a blessed day to see so many supportive loved ones celebrate with them on this day. May God richly bless this new couple. We were also thankful to have Bros. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), John Reinhard and Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) share the truth from God's Word with us on this day.

On October 5, Bro. Matt and Sis. Missy Ackerman joined hands in marriage. This day was very special to all of us at Taylor and so many others that attended to support them. We were richly blessed to have Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) with us that morning.

May God richly bless Bro. Matt and Sis. Missy on their journey through life together.

Our prayerful support would be kindly appreciated on behalf of Bro. Brad Gehring and Jeremy Haerr. They were hospitalized this past month and are still recovering.

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

Philippians 4:6-7

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Anna Mellnitz

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah."

Psalms 46:1-3

We have had a nice fall; the leaves on the trees are beautiful this time of the year.

On September 21, our visiting minister was Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO); on October 4, Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL); on October 8, Elder Bros. Charles Hemmer (Peoria, IL), Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), and Edward Aeschleman who preached the funeral of retired Elder Bro. Robert Beyer who was called Home on September 29. We wish to extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Lucille,

and son, Philip, and daughter, Nancy Smith, and sister, Sis. Evelyn Beyer, and his grandchildren.

"The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

Psalms 90:10

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sis. Edna Sturtz who has had surgery and is recovering at this time. We pray the Lord's will be done.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser - Diane Jarrett

Love and greetings from Akron. This month we have been reminded of the truth of the writings in Ecclesiastes.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die...A time to weep, and a time to laugh..."

Eccles. 3:1,2 and 4

On September 12, Robert Kaufman finished his earthly sojourn. Our prayers are with his family; may God's comforting nearness be felt by his children, Don, Sis. Marjorie (Duane) and Sis. Carol (Bro. Harold) of Rittman, as well as by his grandchildren and their families.

Bro. Sandor (Sanyi) and Sis. Gyongyi Hegedus were blessed with a precious son, Sandor, on September 19. He is welcomed home by his brother, Ruben. Grandparents are Bro. Sandor and Sis. Ilona Hegedus (Budapest, Hungary) and Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy Bako.

On September 21, Sis. Joanna Schamback (Bro. John and Sis. Joyce) was united in marriage to

Bro. Doug Ingold (Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie) of Rittman. "This covenant shall then endure and stand forever..." (Zion's Harp #79). May God richly bless this union. We will miss Sis. Joanna as the couple establishes their home in the Rittman area.

With joy we witnessed baptismal services and welcomed our new brother in the Lord, Doug Milosevic (Vaso and Ljubica). We are thankful that he could share with the congregation his inspiring testimony, and wish him continued grace for each day.

In this past busy month, we are grateful for the many ministering brethren who have visited. Whether they preached a sermon, offered a prayer, or support those who were called upon to speak, we appreciated their presence. These brothers include Elder Bros. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), and Bros. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Earl Beery, Ron Steiner and Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Fred Domka and Mike Bauman (Mansfield, OH) and Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA). Again we want to thank you for visiting and for your labors.

Little Aaron Indermuhle (Marvin and Sis. Carol) was recently hospitalized and we are thankful that he is now feeling better.

We look forward to welcoming Bro. Mark and Sis. Marcy Graf and their sons to our area, as employment opportunities have allowed them to return to our congregation.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Nancy Banks

While passing a small country church the other day, I noticed a saying displayed on their outdoor sign. I do not know anything about the little church; whether it is of a

conservative or liberal nature, but the saying caught my attention. It read: "What on earth are you doing for heaven's sake?" At first glimpse, you can see the play on words. However, after repeating it, I began to see the question the author was asking—what are we doing with the time that has been given to us here on earth? Are we merely putting one foot in front of the other, just getting by from one day to another?

The Golden Harvest

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

He who gathers not at harvest,
Will a beggar be at last.
Therefore, rise today and labor,
Gathering golden sheaves with haste!

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

Hymns of Zion #46

We appreciate the seeds sown this month by our visiting minister, Bro. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH). We enjoyed visiting with the large group who traveled with him.

We are so glad to have Sis. Theresa Hunyady (Bro. Andy) assembling with us once again, and also Bro. Larry Banks (Sis. Nancy) who is recovering from knee surgery.

OHIO, JUNCTION Sandra Manz

Bro. Oliver Spangler went to his heavenly reward on September 27. Family members united to faithfully care for him at home for many years. Those left to mourn include his wife, Sis. Annabell, sons, Bro. James (Sis. Carolyn) and Roger (Marie), five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Sis.

Mary, Kansas City, MO) was our visiting minister on September 25. We thank him for his powerful messages and his many years of faithfulness in the ministry and eldership.

Sunday, October 12, was a day of firsts. Little Darren Manz (Bro. Roger and Lisa) was permitted to come to church for the first time since birth. He is progressing well after two surgeries. Attending church for the first time as husband and wife were Jason and Jennifer (Barnes) Carnahan. They were married on October 4. Parents of the happy couple are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Pauline Carnahan (Wichita, KS) and Ken and Marsha Barnes. We welcome them as a new family. October 12 was also the first day that Bro. Roger Gasser (Sis. Sue) was able to attend church since his second bone marrow transplant. We were thrilled to see his smiling face, and I believe the feeling was mutual. God is faithful.

The harvest season is progressing in a timely manner, and the reapings appear to be bountiful this year. Pumpkins and corn shocks are appearing in front lawns and at markets, hardy mums are in full bloom, and trees are displaying their beautiful fall foliage. It will soon be time for our nation as a whole to pause and give thanks for our blessings. If only all mankind could look also beyond the material blessings and see fit to thank God for the plan of salvation, the greatest blessing of all. We are a blessed people.

OHIO, LATTY Kathy Sinn Joyce Klopfenstein

We, at Latty, have many things for which to be thankful. We were blessed with a visiting minister, Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tre-

mont, IL), this past month. May God bless Bro. Curt and all the ministers who faithfully serve us.

We welcome to Latty, Koertland Beyer, who has relocated in our area. We are also rejoicing with him as he has decided to begin walking with the Lord. Koertland is the son of Sis. LouAnn Beyer of Oakville, IA.

October 4 was the wedding day of Shane Laukhuf (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Edith) to Shawn Gerber (Bob and Konnie). On October 11, Kristy Snyder (Ralph and Jeannie) was married to Adam Schlatter (Bro. Gus and Sis. LeAnn). The wedding day for Sis. Cindy Sinn (Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee) to Bro. Warren Schlatter (Elder Bro. William and Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) was on October 19. We are rejoicing with these couples and pray that God will be with them as they begin their lives together.

We are thankful to have Bro. Herman "Dick" Schlatter (Sis. Viola) gathering with us again following his heart attack. We have witnessed again the faithfulness of God to us, and the mighty power of prayer.

Sis. Esther Schlatter has recently moved to Dallas Lamb Foundation Home. Her new address is 650 N. Main St., Payne, OH 45880. May God richly bless and reward Bro. Clemens and Sis. Elizabeth Wieland for all the love and care they showed on Sis. Esther through the years, when she resided with them.

Our prayers are with Sis. Ruby Stoller (Bro. Justus), as her sister, Vera Brewer, has passed away.

May each of us remember our many blessings and what our Lord Jesus has done for us in this season of Thanksgiving.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Cari Mann

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Matthew 28:19

The weekend of September 20, we heard the testimony of Brenda Beer (Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue). What a pleasure it was to welcome her as a new sister in Christ. May she ever feel the love of the brethren and of the Father.

Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) was with us for the weekend. Also visiting us this month was Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH). May these brothers feel our prayers along with God's richest blessings for their labors.

We also wish to extend a warm and loving welcome to Bro. Bill Green, Sis. Elisabeth Betsch, Sis. Helen Brumm and Sis. Florence Schwartz who are now assembling with us. May they ever feel at home in our congregation.

"Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child."

Isaiah 66:7

We were delighted to hear of yet another new addition to our congregation when Bro. Henry and Sis. Diane Pfeiffer's new son, Austin Levi, was born on September 22. Thankful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Zuzanna Pfeiffer and Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder (Columbus, OH). Also rejoicing are great-grandparents, Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue Sauder. May these new parents ever feel the Father's guiding as they raise their son.

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

Psalms 23:4

Sis. Mary Witschi has long walked in the valley of the shadow of death, but she suffers from illness no more as she passed on to her eternal Home on October 16. Long before her passing, she found comfort in the rod and staff of her Heavenly Father. May her family that remains here on earth find comfort in them also. They include her sons and daughter-in-law: David Witschi, Walter Witschi and Carl and Sharon Witschi, along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Our prayers and deepest sympathy are with them all at this time.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Michelle Dotterer
Carla Stoller

We certainly are thankful for our friend who has answered God's call. May boundless mercy and grace be given to Alan Steiner (Bro. Carl and Sis. Carol) as he begins this new walk of life.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Camille Hartzler welcome Emily Joy, born October 3. Her siblings are Anna and Caleb. Emily's grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce Hartzler and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia Strahm (Bern, KS).

September 21 was the wedding of Bro. Doug Ingold (Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie) and Sis. Joanna Schamback (Bro. John and Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH). Kristin Bauman (Marion and Sis. Delores) and Nathan Bush (Patrick and Kimberly, West Bloomfield, MI) were united in marriage on October 1. Also married this month were Lisa Riggenbach (Joe and Sis. Karen) and Lonnie Tanner (Nolan Tanner and Cynthia Buchanan) on October 11. We trust that God will bless these couples and they will feel His guidance each day.

We appreciated Bro. Glenn Rigenbach (Smithville, OH) ministering to us recently. May the Lord bless him for his labors.

Sis. Eldora Steiner (Bro. Alvin) and Luke Schar (Bro. Gary and Sis. Vicki) have spent time in the hospital. We are thankful for their quick recovery.

May God grant comfort to Bro. Aquilla Barna and Sis. Joan Hartzler (Bro. John), as their sister, Priscilla Sagadencky, passed away.

OHIO, SARDIS Joy Indermuhle

"Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table."

Psalm 128:3

With joyful hearts, Bro. Andy, Sis. Cyndi and Alysha Figel welcomed little Baylee Renee into their hearts and home on October 1. Thankful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Paula Figel and Sis. Janette Blough (Smithville, OH). May the Lord's blessings be with them as they strive to raise their precious children.

Once again, fall has arrived and with it our annual Pig Roast. We thank those who hosted it and for the efforts put forth that day. Here to enjoy the day and weekend was Elder Bro. Robert Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT). We appreciate the willingness of these brothers to bring forth the Word on Sunday. May the Lord bless them and their families.

"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other

aboundeth."

II Thess. 1:3

There is much to be thankful for in life and as we approach Thanksgiving Day, may we remember, most of all, to be thankful for the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, the shedding of His blood for our sins. After the Lord, may we ever be thankful for our spouses, children, parents, siblings, grandparents and dear brethren in faith. Our need for each other will continue until death takes us from this life.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Ruth Gasser - Edith Miller

We welcome two new little boys to our congregation. On October 6, Aaron David was born to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Pam Zollinger. Carla and Joshua welcome home their new little brother. Also awaiting his arrival are grandparents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann Christian (Rittman, OH) and Bro. John and Sis. Marge Zollinger.

On October 19, Bro. Andy and Sis. Elizabeth Fetzer became parents to Carl Christian. At home to welcome Carl are siblings, Katie, Andrew, Peter, Susan, Claudia, and Anita. Grandparents are Alfred and Margaret Art and Fred and Harriet Fetzer. To both families we wish God's blessings and much grace from God to raise these little ones in the fear of the Lord.

We thank those who ministered to us this past month. Visiting our congregation were Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), and Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), John Stoller (Leo, IN), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL). May God bless them for their efforts.

Sis. Elaine Marty (Bro. Ed) recently underwent foot surgery. We

trust in God's healing power as she recovers.

When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by.

When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings money cannot buy,
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.

So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.
Hymns of Zion #116

With the Thanksgiving season approaching, may we reflect upon our many blessings, and live our lives in such a way that God knows we appreciate the blessings He shares unto us.

OHIO, TOLEDO Rebecca Beard Edie Fetter

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

I Thess. 5:18

When things don't happen the

way we would like, giving thanks can be far from our minds. However, the Bible is clear that we should always be thankful people. We have had reasons to rejoice and give thanks for the fellowship that we enjoy as a body of believers in recent weeks, as we hosted an alumni weekend for those who attended college or other training in the Toledo area in years past. We were blessed in fellowship together as we remembered special times we had shared. Among our guests were Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) who brought forth teachings from the Word on Sunday. We appreciated their service as well as the efforts of all who attended.

Sis. Janet Kipfer is thankful for the safe arrival of a granddaughter. Madison Heidi was born to Tim and Michele Merritt of Wixom, MI. We pray that their family will feel the blessings of God.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Louisa Gallup - Mary Berg

"Thankful"

Thankful for health, thankful for life,
Thankful for guidance in sorrow and strife.
Thankful for food and ripe golden grain,
For all that is needful our life to sustain.
Thankful for friends who just stand by
Upon whose help we can rely.
Thankful for home with comforts blest.
Where peace abides with love and rest.
Thankful for those who daily impart,
Strength for the journey, cheer for the heart.
Thankful for work in rich moist soil
Where roses bloom, to compensate toil.
Thankful to hear the still small voice
Making our heart in life's sorrows rejoice.

Gospel Hymns #480

Our thanks to Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) for ministering unto us this past month.

We were able to resume Sunday School this past month as our remodeling project has advanced far enough to allow for use of the rooms. It's always nice to get back to a normal routine again.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Rose Lee Kuenzi

Fall means many things to many different people. Here in the West, the harvest is past and we are enjoying the beauty of fall's colorful leaves, whether still on the trees or already fallen and waiting to be raked. Another common thought that comes is fall cleaning. We have had our Fall Clean Up at both our church and at the Restless Surf cabin. The blessings of the fellowship of working together and the accomplishment of cleanliness and order are always rewarding to all who participate.

Baby Lisa Jo Kuenzi was born September 28 and brings much joy to her sister and brothers, Michael, Megan, Jared and Kyle. Of course, Dad and Mom, Bro. Jason and Sis. Jo, are very pleased as well. Grandparents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet Kuenzi, and Wayne and Margaret Stedronsky of Sublimity, OR.

Another joyous occasion recently was the engagement announcement of Bro. Eldon Metz and Alice Hoffman of the Rockville, CT congregation. Parents of the young couple are Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz and Bro. Steven and Sis. Joan Hoffman. May God grant His grace and blessing on these two and their families as they prepare together for the wedding planned for December, 1997.

We are thankful again for visiting

ministers to our church. They were Bros. David Graf (Akron, OH), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) and Lloyd Kraft (Lamont-Gridley, KS).

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA**
Franz Soni

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, 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

Several families, with the help of home school children and the young group, recently gathered to "bale" clothes they collected at thrift shops, yard sales, etc. 3080 pounds were "baled" at the M.C.C. warehouse and trucked to Bluffton, IN via Christian Aid Ministries, where it was then shipped to Zapata, TX to be used for the needy. This makes a total of over 5,000 pounds this year.

We thank Elder Bro. David Wiegand (Champaign, IL) for sharing God's Word with us this past month. May God richly reward him for his efforts.

We thank the many visitors we've had this past summer and encourage 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

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

Psalms 100:1-5

As we enter into this Thanksgiving season, may we take this opportunity to give thanks and praise to our God in Heaven for sending us His Son, and the wonderful spiritual and material gifts He continually bestows upon us. May we continue to carry this spirit of thanksgiving with us all year through.

This past month we welcomed Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL). In part of the morning service, Bro. John talked about following Jesus, and how this is contrary to what we see taught in the world around us. The world tells us to be our own person and to do our own thing. Jesus, however, simply tells us to follow Him; if we do, our lives will glorify Him, and we will be blessed. May we that are on the path continue to follow Jesus, and may those who have not made the choice to follow him, find grace to repent to begin their journey heavenward. We extend a special thanks to our ministers, their families, and our other visitors from Fairbury, Goodfield, and Eureka, IL for traveling and taking time to worship with us. May God shower His blessings upon all of you.

If anyone is interested in worshipping with us, we meet for services on the first and third Sundays of each month. The other Sundays we would be glad to meet for a tape service if we know of your intended

visit to Nashville. Please contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940; Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 851-8864; or Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean Hohulin (423) 376-9153 (Knoxville, TN area) if you plan to worship with us.

TEXAS, CENTRAL AREA Lois Gray

Therefore thank we Thee, dear
Father
That Thou art with us each day;
For Thy good and blessed counsel,
And Thy help upon our way.

Unto Thee we draw in chorus,
Praying that we may be blest;
Guard us on our pilgrim journey,
Grant us joy and peace and rest!
Zion's Harp #49

This month's visiting ministers included Bros. Myron Knobloch (Sis. Beth, Lester, IA), Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN). We greatly appreciate their labors of love.

Our worship services are held at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. We meet in Austin at the Omni Hotel at I-35 and Hwy 71 except for the first Sunday of the month, when there are no services, and the last Sunday when services are held at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home in Round Top. Please note that beginning in January, services on the third Sunday will be held in San Antonio. Contacts are Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102; Brian and Terri Kaisner (512) 338-4222; Bro. David and Sis. Shella Brummitt (512) 360-3379; and Sis. Dorothy Martin (210) 658-1968. Please call ahead to confirm our schedule. We heartily welcome visitors.

TEXAS, DALLAS Dee Rapp

About a year ago I encouraged you to read your Bible from Genesis to Revelation in an attempt to find as many of the 300 plus names for God and try to alphabetize them. I sincerely hope you took up the challenge!

To help you, following is a complete list, except for the letters Q, X, and Z which I could not find.

- A - Abba Father (Romans 8:15)
- B - Baali (Hosea 2:16)
- C - Commander (Isaiah 55:4)
- D - Dayspring (Luke 1:78)
- E - Eternal Life (I John 1:2)
- F - Fountain of Living Waters (Jeremiah 2:13)
- G - God of Jacob (II Samuel 23:1)
- H - Hiding Place (Psalm 32:7)
- I - Ishi (Hosea 2:16)
- J - Jealous (Exodus 34:14)
- K - King of Salem (Hebrews 7:2)
- L - Lawgiver (James 4:12)
- M - Mighty God of Jacob (Genesis 49:24)
- N - Nazarene (Matthew 2:23)
- O - Our Passover (I Corinthians 5:7)
- P - Power (Mark 14:62)
- Q - ???
- R - Rock (I Corinthians 10:4)
- S - Son of the Blessed (Mark 14:61)
- T - The True God (Jeremiah 10:10)
- U - Understanding (Proverbs 8:14)
- V - Vine (True) (John 15:1)
- W - Witness (Revelation 3:14)
- X - ???
- Y - YHWH (probably pronounced "Yahweh", the most significant name for God in the Old Testament)
- Z - ???

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

Central Texas services will always be held the LAST Sunday of each month at the home of Bro. Bill Zeltwanger in Roundtop. The remaining Sundays will be held at the Omni Hotel in Austin at the inter-

Silver Threads



It is the duty of nations as well as of men to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord.

We know that by His divine law, nations, like individuals, are subject to punishments and chastisements in this world. May we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins; to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people?

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.

Abraham Lincoln
1863

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

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz
Melva Messner

Our attendance was small this

summer but we felt a good blessing when we opened the doors of the church and gathered together. We knew that although we were few in number, the Lord was with us. We are now looking forward to our many winter residents and visitors coming to spend some time in Zapata.

Thy word, O Lord, Draws us

together
In mutual fellowship to stand;
It kindles in our hearts forever
The flame of faith and love's sweet
band
The word of grace, which brought
salvation
And fellowship with Thy great
throng,
Who praise the Lamb with harp and
song,
Extend to all the invitation.
Zion's Harp #13



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

Update on Burn Victim from Ukraine

In the February issue of *The Silver Lining*, we reported a tragic fire which occurred in Ukraine, resulting in the death of a father of 14 children, and severe injuries to several children.

One of their sons, Sergaii Predji, was brought to the USA through the efforts of his aunt, Paulina Magda, of Cleveland, OH, working in conjunction with our own brethren and other concerned individuals. Paulina went to Ukraine in the Spring, and assisted in bringing the unfortunate young man to this country. He arrived on May 7 for a 6 month visit. Because of his run-down health condition at the time of his arrival, it was necessary to build him up and clear up the infections that covered most of his wounds.

A number of doctors from the central Ohio region have contributed their services, and arrangements were made with a hospital in the Cleveland area to provide the free use of their facilities, surgical supplies, and needed medications.

As of this writing, several surgeries have been performed on him. As an outpatient, he experiences some pain and discomfort following each procedure. Both hands were badly burned and several fingers on his right hand need to undergo physical therapy to make them mobile and useful again.

The doctors report that he is responding well to their efforts, and is in good spirits, but the 6 month stay is not enough because additional surgeries are needed until all is healed. It will be necessary to apply for a visa extension for additional time.

Other members of the family at home are doing fairly well. The burn wounds are healed, but scars remain. Doctors in Hungary have treated other children who suffered burns in this incident. The mother has serious problems with her burned feet, and may need corrective surgeries. Relatives and neighbors are taking care of the family in Ukraine.

Let us remember Bro. Sergaii, as well as the rest of his family. Although scars remain, both on the flesh and memory, God is able to provide in a marvelous way to bring about healing. Several teams of workers from Hungary went to help rebuild the home that was damaged by the explosion. Most of the funds for this were provided by the Hungarians.

It is estimated that the medical costs for this young brother would have approached \$250,000, but with the volunteer services of the doctors and the hospitals, the miraculous grace of God has once again been demonstrated. As of this writing, generous funds have been received to provide for the immediate needs of the family. May God bless and reward all who came to the support of this hard-hit family.

Anyone wishing to send a card or word of encouragement may write:

Sergaii Predji
c/o Magda Family
10401 Linnet Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44111

Sermon continued from page 2

We are the temple of God. We represent Jesus Christ, brothers and sisters, in our everyday walk of life. Paul told those believers, "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." (I Cor. 3:17).

Yes, we take care of that body. How do we take care of it not just in a physical sense? As we take care of it, what comes into our minds? What are the steps that we take each day? Do we walk in the footsteps of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ so we have the fruit of the Spirit in our life each day? The fruit of the Spirit is evident in our life when we come in contact with people. Do we continue to look to the Word of God that we are fulfilling His will and not our own will?

We are not influenced by the numbers that are about us. Because numbers don't always mean fruit. We saw that in the Old Testament reading in Chronicles when all those prophets and the king did not want to hear what the true man of God had to say. They wanted to hear what those prophets had to say that should go up to Ramoth-gilead. That is what they wanted to hear. They wanted to hear that they were going to win. Those many, many prophets all said, "Go." Micaiah said different. We know that happened. Ahab did not live. He should have listened.

I think all of us, whether we are young people here in college or whether we are middle-aged or older brothers and sisters in the faith, we come to points in our life that we have to stand up for Jesus Christ. Sometimes it may mean we stand alone.

God is not expecting us to make a big spectacle or a big show. We do not want to be like the Pharisees. But yet, in an appropriate and sincere spirit, we have to stand up for what is right in God's Word, not being ashamed of the gospel and not being deceived.

"If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God." (I Cor. 3:18-19). That's the problem that we are in today. We live in a day and time when there is a tremendous amount of education that has been exposed to mankind. That is well and good in the various vocations that we fulfill.

But we also realize that there is a lot of things out there that we become

exposed to that are not good. Just because the majority does it, that doesn't mean that it is right. So, we follow. We do not want to be like (I'm not sure what they are called) the lemmings that are in the Arctic area. For a certain period of time, they go by the hundreds, one follows after the other, and they all fall over a cliff into the ocean and die.

A number of years ago out in the Western states there was a huge amount of wild mustangs. They don't know what got into the leader, but he headed for the cliffs. They all followed one another. They all fell off and all died. Just because everybody is going in one direction, doesn't mean that it is right!

We want to follow Jesus Christ. We live in a day and time in which a lot of people are marching the wrong way. We should not be ashamed that we are out of step with the world. We do not want to be in step with the world. We want to be in step with Jesus Christ—He is our Lord and our Saviour! We are not going to fall off a cliff if we are following Jesus Christ. He is going to lead us to Heaven. He is going to lead us to His eternal kingdom!

This morning, if we have friends of the truth that are with us and have not answered that call, God is asking you, "Who are you following? Who are you serving? Come, follow, taste and see the riches, the beauty and the glory that awaits the believers of Jesus Christ!"

"Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours;...And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's." (I Cor. 3:21,23). That's the relationship that we have—we are Christ's and Christ is God's.

Christ came into the world to die and shed His blood for our sins. What does God ask us to do? He is asking us to follow and to serve. Can we repay Him? No, we can't repay Him; there is no way. But we know what He did. He taught us how to serve. He taught us how to serve and how to live. Are we following that? Are we serving Him?

In the fourth chapter, we read together, "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." (I Cor. 4:1-2). That is what God is asking us, that we be faithful...that we be an overcomer

of sin and unrighteousness...that we not be deceived or not be enticed into sin, but that we be faithful in our calling.

What is that calling? To those of us who have stood in the waters of baptism, we vowed that we would be faithful and true to our dying day. If we aren't faithful, we know what happens. God is displeased.

We see husbands and wives that vow and become married. They say they are going to be faithful and true to each other. What happens? When there is unfaithfulness in the marriage, there is heartache. There is hurt. There is sadness. It pains not just those two people and the family involved, but it pains many others. I think in our walk as children of God, as stewards of God, that we need to be faithful and live true to our God each day.

That is what Paul is saying here. "But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God." (I Cor. 4:3-5).

As Paul was writing to the believers at Corinth, he was giving them the responsibility. That is what we have today, as the children of God, responsibility. How many of you have ever told someone and given them some responsibility, and they have not fulfilled that responsibility?

If any of you have worked for someone, we know once you take and agree to do something, that is a responsibility that you have. You go to work for someone and there is a job responsibility. You fulfill those job responsibilities. They may change. Management may change. But we must fulfill the job responsibility or we do not end up maintaining that job.

We give people responsibilities. How do we feel when we give some people responsibilities and they don't fulfill those responsibilities? We tell them to do it again. Did you ever hear someone say, "That person is not re-

Sermon continued on page 46

Sermon continued from page 45

sponsible?"

Maybe you are planning something. You say, "Who is going to do this and who is going to do that?" By your dedication, you have proven unto others that you are responsible. So, responsibilities are given. There is nothing more discouraging than to say, "We are not going to give it to that person; they are not responsible. We don't know if we give that assignment whether they will show up or not." We have a very dim view of irresponsible people. We have high expectations.

So it is as we work and labor in the service of God. The responsibilities that God has given unto us, when we stand in the waters of baptism and vow that we are going to be faithful and true to God, we are accepting the responsibility that we are going to carry on the message of salvation until Jesus Christ comes again.

We are a part of a chain. We are an important link. That is the responsibility that every single one of us have. You say, "Well, I don't have much responsibility. I am not an officer in the church. I am not a preacher. I am not an elder." That doesn't make us greater, but, yes, there is responsibilities given unto us, but a minister or an elder does not make a church. All of us together have responsibilities, not only in making a church function, but in our daily walk of life that we be good stewards and we accept the responsibility that is given unto us.

That responsibility is that we be faithful, true and are an overcomer of sin and unrighteousness. We need to be considerate of others and don't offend our brother or sister. We need to be sensitive to everyone's needs. That is all part of our responsibility. Let alone coming to church and supporting the church, not just with dollars and cents, but supporting the church in prayer.

Do you pray for your ministers every Sunday? Do you pray for them during the week that the Word of God might come forth and that the message will remain pure? Do you pray that the people be inspired when they leave church on a Sunday afternoon and that in the weeks ahead of them they will go forth and be faithful, recognizing the work that is out there?

That is all responsibilities that every single one of us have. We cannot say, "I am not important." If God has called you and you have stood in the

waters of baptism and have said that you will serve Him until your dying day, that is a responsibility that we have taken upon ourselves. Is it a responsibility that is impossible to fulfill? No, we can fulfill it.

We see people sometimes in the workplace that take on responsibilities that are too much for them. We hear about job burn-out. How does it happen? People take on too much responsibility. It overwhelms them. It is more than the mind or the body can endure. There are limitations that we have in our physical body.

As children of God, we have the promise in His Word that He is not going to give unto us anything greater than we are able to bear. We can accept the responsibility we have to be one of His children. By being faithful and true and supportive to one another and recognizing that we are part of the body of Christ. We are not an individual out here all alone. Autonomy does not work in the body of Christ.

We must remember this responsibility and the affiliation now that we have with the Apostolic Christian Church. It's not that the Apostolic Christian Church is the only church in the world, but this is where is found our salvation and the brotherhood. We support one another.

We encourage one another as a body of believers. We know that if one member suffers, we all suffer if we are really a part of that body. That is all part of the responsibility that we have as the children of God. Are we accepting that responsibility, brothers and sisters?

Then, what about the individual that hasn't answered the call of God? We don't want to sound negative this morning, dear friends, but what kind of responsibilities do you have? Satan has not given you any responsibilities.

For no responsibilities, we also know what the ultimate end is for the individual that doesn't take responsibility of their soul—that is eternal destruction and damnation. That's very negative, we know. We hate to even talk about that this morning, but we have to be realistic; it is all part of life.

We just beseech you, dear friends, this morning, that God who has the gift of His Son Jesus Christ for the sin that is in your life, regardless of what it is, there is nothing that cannot be

covered by the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

We don't want you to continue to go through life, not sure of where you are going, or not sure who you are following. We can tell you this day for sure, just as those wild mustangs ended up going down a cliff and plunging to their death, anyone who is not following God, but is following Satan and the power of darkness is going to plunge into the depths of hell. God does not want that.

It is His will that all be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. So, this morning, we just ask that you come and taste and see. We realize that, yes, as a child of God, there is that responsibility. We do not want to portray a message this morning that is impossible.

It is a joy to serve the Lord! We can read in Nehemiah that the joy of the Lord is our strength. The hope that we have is where our strength comes from in the service of God, and the peace that we have in our hearts as we praise God. That is what the Apostle Paul said to the believers at Corinth, "...and then shall every man have praise of God." (I Cor. 4:5)

As we look further in this chapter, he was talking to them concerning the differences they had one with another. He talked about them becoming fools for Christ's sake and being wise in Christ.

"We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised." (I Cor. 4:10). Paul was making a comparison as far as the various walks that they had. We should not be ashamed to serve Jesus Christ.

"Even unto this present hour we both hunger and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace;" (I Cor. 4:11). That was the Apostle Paul as he went about and had the responsibility for these churches, and he was not always accepted. We have never been chased out of a city, as the Apostle Paul was. We have never been beaten for our faith. I think we need to recognize that we really have it easy.

That's probably the problem with the Christians today and even the church today. There isn't the persecution. Sure, people may say, "So you are a Christian, well, that is odd. Why do you want to believe that? You are

only going through life once. Is it really necessary to walk down the straight and narrow way? Is it really necessary to live a life of self-denial? There are better ways to be a Christian than walking in that way. God is a God of love. There are no restrictions. You can do what you want to."

Yes, maybe perhaps we might be questioned in that sense. But in a physical sense, I don't think that there is any of us here in this room that even come close to having the persecution that the Apostle Paul had. Yet, he endured. Why? Because of the love that he had toward God.

If the Apostle Paul endured, why can't you and I, brothers and sisters? You know, it says in the Bible, "But godliness with contentment is great gain." (I Tim. 6:6). We see a lot of discontentment that the devil likes to plant in people's minds today. Since people are not persecuted in a physical sense, then we see the devil come and tries to tear down the church and tries to tear down the structures of families in the spirit of discontent.

We live in a very, very fast-pace society here in the United States of America. We have so many things that we can have in an instant. Communication and technology are growing in a rapid, rapid pace in a way we can't really comprehend. We can read about how quickly knowledge is doubling in this world, and it is at a very, very alarming rate.

We are a part of it when we are exposed to it, but where is our priority? We are on a different plane, spiritually, aren't we? We don't want to be caught up in the rat-race of life, because in the rat-race of life, nobody is going to win.

In the Christian race, all believers of Jesus Christ, if we go at God's pace, are going to win. So, we really have two races before us. Maybe the rat-race is not appropriate terminology, but it just comes to my mind. Let us be in the Christian's race, going at Christ's pace in His service.

Paul was writing to those believers

and as he concludes this chapter, he says, "I beseech you, be ye followers of me. I am not going to be with you forever." He talked about who he sent, "For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church." (I Cor. 4:16-17).

Then he expressed a concern. "Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you." (I Cor. 4:18). I am really not sure what he means here by "puffed up". Maybe they were vain. Maybe they were thinking a lot of themselves.

Today, we might say, we can have a lot of pride when we are puffed up. Who puffs us up? None other than Satan. Let's not be deceived. Let's not be puffed up. But let us be adorned with the cloak of humility in His service, even as Paul was concerned about those who were puffed up.

"But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power. For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power." (I Cor. 4:19-20). So, this morning, we have come to share God's Word. We have come to share God's Word and that is where the power is...the power that propels us on...the power that gives us strength. The key is prayer and God's Word. We must maintain that power through His Word and through His service as we have opportunities and responsibilities.

There are challenges before us. Are they impossible? None of them are impossible. We can all be very well-functioning children of God if we let His power work within us, not letting the vanities of this life and time puff us up and not letting our own personal goals, our own personal agendas in which we are thinking about ourselves. That is not going to get us anywhere.

Let's let the Spirit of God work within us. That is why we came to

church today—to hear the power of God. We came to church so that we can continue our destination. I will go home this afternoon, back to Kansas. To get us there, it would be a long walk, four hundred thirty and some miles. I don't think we could make it by nightfall. I'm certainly not a marathon runner. I don't have time to calculate how fast I could go.

But we have a vehicle..a vehicle that has an engine and power. I have the keys in my pocket. I know how to turn it on. I also know along the way (as we have made the trip back and forth over the years to Illinois quite a few times), where the gas stations are. There are ones that are open late at night. I know where to fill it up. Don't ask my family—there have been a couple of times that I have run out, but that wasn't on this route.

Anyway, my point is, God gives us the knowledge. We depend on the power to get us home today. We are here on this earth and our goal is we are headed to Heaven. How many miles is it? I don't know. I can't tell you. It seems like a long journey if we try to do it by ourselves from now to our death and until God calls us Home. But the power, just as the key, is Jesus Christ and prayer; the power is His Word.

We have come together today to fill up on fuel. We know that we can only go so long. Just as when we drive that vehicle, we can only go so many miles and we have to stop and fill it up. So it is also in our walk of faith. We can go only so long and then we have to come and hear the Word of God. We need to be around people that are brothers and sisters. We need to be refueled and recharged. We do not want to run out of gas or we won't reach our destination.

Let us be thankful that we have come together today and have been exposed to His Word and His power. It will give us strength that will give us the courage that we can go on until He calls us Home in death.



Faith of our Fathers

In the "Faith of our Fathers" written page, we have journeyed through the many persecutions of the Orthodox Believer. This Orthodox faith, sometimes referred to as the true faith, the faith of the Apostles, or the orthodox faith of the Body of Christ, has remained steadfast through time. This steadfast belief in Jesus Christ and adherence to all His teachings, which are clearly written in our King James Bibles of today, has brought about a conflict in the hearts of men because of the various levels of faith and understanding. The world is almost always convicted by the truth, even unto anger and hatred, which are self-indicting.

Men of the world would follow the pomp of the church leaders of that time and of course we can not sit in judgment of them for any reason, in particular because they did not have the written Word freely accessible as we do today. However, through the ages God always planted the truth in His special remnant of people, which is referred to as the orthodox church or the true believer in Christ. It is this truth that shall be handed down to our children and the friends of the faith as we leave it for them.

The Roman government was one of the best organized governments of the past. It was strong and had a presence throughout the world of that time period. It stands to reason that by all standards of measurement, it should have gotten larger and better. Why then did Rome fall? Did it not fall because of the diversity of cause? Did it not fall because of jealousy and the desire for power? Did it not fall because of the pride that enveloped the leaders? Because of the falling away of the moral standard and the pride of the leaders, the people eventually fell away? We are very aware of the fact that the rise and fall of all governments has been the doing of the Lord God, Jehovah. When pride enters into the lifestyle of leaders of the people, they tend to diminish in their trust in the Lord. It is written in the word, "...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." James 4:6

The martyrs of the faith knew like no others that they could not send out mixed signals concerning their faith in the Lord. They were focused on

unity and pleasing the Lord for fear of not making it to Heaven. It is hard for us to comprehend the severity of persecution the faithful had to go through because of the easy lifestyle and freedoms that we have. In the same breath, we thank God for these blessings which we do not deserve. There was very little question on unity in 1000 AD because there was no organization. Death as a martyr was the unifying force for the true believer. If one was fortunate or unfortunate enough to escape the martyrs lot, they were steadfast in faith because the world around them was becoming so wicked. There was variance in the early church history and brethren then as now had to combat the "gay" clothing and unchaste look. Lifestyle to Paul was very important as we see it written in James and Titus and other places in the Bible. In fact, Paul made no distinction between doctrine and life style in Titus 2.

The martyrs of the faith knew like no others that they could not send out mixed signals concerning their faith in the Lord.

Is there persecution of the true church today? We can without reservation agree that there are brethren who have been persecuted to some degree, however there is no martyrdom in our faith because the Lord has seen fit to surround His bride with a measure of protection. Are we like Job about to be tested, either as a church or individually? No one knows what God has in store for us in the future, however we must prepare ourselves for an eventual trial of our faith lest we be caught unawares.

Each century that passed from 1000 AD brought new and severe trials of the faith for our forefathers. The many martyrs that met the Lord upon the field of shed blood did not diminish. Times became more modern with new and more sophisticated ways of persecuting for the same reason of the past. One such incident occurred when a handful of men were called before the magistrate and questioned concerning their faith in the Lord. As they spoke, the conviction of truth pierced the hearts of the questioners and they became angry to the

point of scourging the poor men. After the trial of scourging, they were sent out into the bitter cold of that winter day. No one would offer them any help. No one showed any sympathy for them and they froze to death from exposure. Another incident was a terrible act of the unrighteous, putting a large group of believers into a boat and floating it into the river of icy water. Upon reaching the center of the river, the boat was sunk and all the occupants, men, women and children succumbed to the cold water, which brought on a slow death of freezing. Had the Lord forsaken them? They did not believe He had, for they rejoiced in the fact that they would meet Him and by grace they did withstand the trial set before them.

During the years proceeding the Reformation of Luther, in which time the people arose across Europe in a wave of conviction for the ways of the Lord and His saving power, there is an account of a trial that summarizes the joy mingled with sorrow experienced by the believers of that day. The "sin" that they were condemned for was believing by faith and then being baptized through their faith in God and His precious teachings.

The date was 1550 AD. Four brethren were apprehended because of the proclamation of their faith, which angered the authorities. Govert, a pious believer, Gillis, Anneken, wife of the Emperor, and Mariken, a seventy-five year old woman, were all led before the magistrate for their proclamation and practicing of the teaching of repentance. When they were brought before the council, and questioned concerning their faith, they made a frank and unfeigned confession of it. The bailiff then said: "You stand here to defend yourselves?" They were accused, falsely, asked for an explanation and then accused for coming across defensive when they came forward with the truth!

Govert said: "As regards to my faith, I have freely confessed it, and shall turn to no other; though it cost my life, I will adhere to it."

Forthwith the imperial edict was read to them, and the bailiff asked them whether they understood its contents.

Goverst said: "God has com-

manded us through Christ, as is recorded in the sixteenth chapter of Mark, that all who believe and are baptized shall be saved, and that those who do not believe shall be damned; but the emperor, in his blind judgment, has commanded that whoever is baptized upon his faith, shall be put to death without mercy. These two commands militate against each other; one of the two we must forsake; but everyone ought to know that we must keep the command of God; for though Satan teaches that we are heretics, yet we do not act contrary to the Word of God."

When they were led to the tribunal, Govert said to the priests: "Take off your long robes, put on sack cloth, put ashes on your heads, and repent, like those of Nineveh."

In the court the bailiff asked him whether he desired no favor.

He replied: "I will not ask for your favor; for what I cannot do without, the most high God will give me."

The bailiff said also to Anneken: "Do you not desire a favor, before sentence is passed upon you?"

She answered: "I shall ask favor of God, my refuge."

Mariken, an old woman of seventy-five years, was asked whether she would confess her sins to the priest.

She replied: "I am sorry that I ever confessed my sins to the mortal ears of the priests."

Seeing some brethren, Govert turned his face and joyfully comforted them, saying among other things: "I pray God, that you may be thus imprisoned for His glory, as I now am."

The bailiff very fiercely said: "Be still, for your preaching is of no account here."

"My lord bailiff," said he, "I speak only five or six words, which God has given me to speak, does this give you so much pain?" And when the people murmured on this account, he said: "This has been witnessed from the time of righteous Abel, that the righteous have suffered reproach; hence be not astonished." The two servants that stood by him said: "You must not speak; the bailiff will not have it; hence be still."

Immediately God closed his mouth, which grieved many. Gillis was not questioned, and he said nothing at all; but they were led back to prison, where they rejoiced together, and said: Saligh is den man, en goet ge-

heeten; and also the forty-first Psalm. The bailiff then came into prison, and asked Govert, whether he had considered the matter, to which he replied: "Unless you repent, the punishment of God shall come upon you." The bailiff looked out of the window and said: "Will God damn all this multitude of people?"

Govert replied: "I have spoken the Word of God to you; but I hope there are still people here who fear God."

The bailiff then turned to Anneken, and asked her what she had to say to it.

She replied: "Lord bailiff, twice I have been greatly honored in this city, namely, when I was married, and when my husband became emperor; but I never had a joy that did not perish, as I now have."

On his way to death, Govert delivered an excellent admonition, reproving the wicked railing, and said: "Be it known to you, that we do not die for theft, murder or heresy, but because we seek an inheritance with God, and live according to His Word."

The executioner commanded him silence, but he said: "Leave God be with me for a little while; repent, for your life is short."

A brother then said: "God will strengthen you."

"Oh yes," said he, "the power of His Spirit is not weakening in me."

The monk attempted to speak to Mariken, but Govert said: "Get you hence, deceiver, to your own people; for we have no need of you."

Entering the ring, Govert said to the gild-brothers: "How you stand here with sticks and staves? Thus stood the Jews when they brought Christ to death; if we had been afraid of this, we would have fled in time."

They then knelt down together, and prayed; whereupon they kissed each other. Anneken immediately commenced to sing: "In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust." (Ps. 71:1). The servants told her to be still; but Govert said: "No, sister, sing on" and helped her sing. Enraged at this, the bailiff called to him a servant and whispered something in his ear. The latter went to the assistant of the executioner, who, upon receiving the order, immediately put a gag on Govert; but the latter held his teeth so firmly closed, that the gag did not hinder him much, and he laughingly said: "I could easily sing with the gag

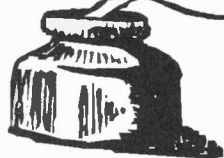
on; but Paul says 'Sing in your heart to God.'" (Eph. 5:19)

The executioner, in order to put her to shame, made Anneken stand in her bare chemise. A servant asked Gillis whether he did not see some of his people. Gillis said: "Do you know of nothing else to torment us with?" "What does he say?" asked Govert. "He inquires for our fellow brethren," replied Gillis. Govert said: "Though I could count twenty, I would not mention a single one. You think that by killing us you can suppress the Word of God; but of those that hear and see this, hundreds shall yet come forth." Standing at the stake, he said: "Amend your ways and repent; for after this there will be no more time for repentance." A servant who had a bottle of wine, asked them whether they wished to drink. Govert said: "We have no desire for your insipid wine; for our Father shall give us new wine in His eternal kingdom." (Matt. 26:29). When it was thought that the old woman had been strangled at the stake, she began to sing a hymn in honor of her Bridegroom, which when Anneken heard it, she, from ardent love, sang with her. When they all stood at their stakes, each with a strap around the neck, they smiled at and nodded to one another, thus affectionately saluting and comforting each other, and commending their souls into the hands of God, they fell asleep in the Lord, and were burned.

Is there faith amongst us like unto this excerpt from history? We shall not know until we are tested. Will we be ready for the test when it comes? Will we be in humble communion with God, so God will freely grant His Grace?

We shall stand on solid ground if we let the Holy Ghost lead us, adhere to the doctrine of Christ, and live in harmony with the faithful orthodox brethren. We, as believers, must be careful of justifying our opinions and considering what feels good to us to be God's will. God's will may not feel good at all for the present, however as the believers of this age, we must hold fast to that which is good and holy.





REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

IX -

Renewed Opportunities In Cities

When the faith of our fathers came to America, it became primarily rural because a high percentage of the membership was engaged in farming.

But the church was not exclusively rural because some of the early congregations were established in cities such as Mansfield and Toledo, Ohio; Peoria, Illinois; Union City, New Jersey; and Portland, Oregon.

In those days, the nation itself was culturally rural, and the population consisted of a high percentage of farmers. During the 20th century, this has declined steadily (and dramatically) to where by the late 1990's the rural population is but a shadow of what it formerly was. The church population has followed this trend, but not as significantly.

One thing is certain. With respect to occupation, our members have largely evolved from farming to non-farming. While many remain as farmers, urban occupations are now significantly dominant. Even in our small town congregations, the percentage of farmers has declined.

In the post World War II years, the migration of the rural population into cities accelerated significantly and our members followed this pattern.

New churches were formed in bigger towns and cities. Our brethren did not aggressively seek to "evangelize" large population centers, but as people of our faith moved into cities, worship services were held. Ministers from established churches traveled to lead these services. After a few years, when sufficient interest and stability became evident, a permanent congregation was created followed by the selection of a local minister (or ministers), and eventually a building.

Worship services began in Tucson,

Arizona in 1945. They were conducted by Elder Bro. Ernest Graf, Sr., of Akron, Ohio. He traveled widely in service to the church.

On February 9, 1948, worship services were first held in Detroit, Michigan at the home of Bro. Ben C. Maibach, Jr. His father, Ben C. Maibach, Sr., a son of Elder Bro. Gottlieb Maibach (who served at Pulaski, Iowa and Bay City, Michigan), lived in Detroit and wished for a local church. A congregation was eventually established.

After the war, more and more people (of our faith) began visiting warmer climates. Consequently, worship services were held in Sarasota, Florida (1948) and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida (1950), and



church buildings eventually were constructed. Services in the North Ft. Myers, Florida area began in 1979.

The list of churches established in cities demonstrates the differing economic opportunities sought by our brethren: Urbana, Illinois (1963), Indianapolis, Indiana (1963), Minneapolis, Minnesota (1962), Regina, Canada (early 1960's), Lexington, Kentucky (1968), Bloomington, Illinois (1969), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1974), Kansas City, Missouri (1974), Denver, Colorado (1980), Atlanta, Georgia (1981), Columbus, Ohio (1981), and St. Louis, Missouri (1981).

Not only did occupational change instigate gravitation (into cities), but a rise in educational levels also affected the church. The need for education and training saw many young people entering college and other learning institutions.

Economic reality dictated that education be sought. To minister to the needs of those attending universities,

etc., and to exert a doctrinal presence over them, "Bible studies" were commenced on college campuses—and they exist to this day.

These mid-week meetings allow young members and friends to worship God under the auspices of our church. Ministers have made many sacrifices (willingly) in this behalf over the years. The Ministers Book published in 1996 listed regular worship services at the University of Illinois, Illinois State University, Purdue University, the University of Iowa, and Kansas State University. Ball State University (in Indiana) also has services for students.

Since the mid-1920's, the major area of church growth has been in cities. Since that time, all the new congregations have been started in metropolitan areas with the exception of Bradford and Washington, Illinois, and Garden Grove, Iowa.

In spite of this trend, our Apostolic Christian Church cannot necessarily be categorized as rural or urban. Such terms in America today are almost becoming outdated since modes of transportation and communication have diminished such categories.

Our presence in cities should not diminish our witness and devotion. While occupations have changed dramatically compared to a few generations ago, and many of our brethren have moved into the larger population areas, it is comforting to know that Scriptural truths and the eternal ways of God are changeless, and the sense of brotherhood in an urban setting remains as viable as that in a rural area.

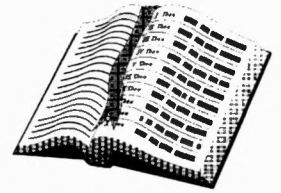
Let's hope that new churches will continue to be established, both rural and urban, in many areas, and that a great ingathering take place to the honor and glory of God.

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein
Next Issue: "Preserving the Faith"



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



希望の光

“God is the Potter”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

“I was shocked,” said Mr. Furuya, my English student, in regard to the fact that Moses told Pharaoh that the oldest sons of the Egyptians would die and they really did. He said, “I have lots of respect for Moses and don’t understand why he killed all those people and then shortly afterwards, in the Ten Commandments, taught that we should not kill.”

I told him that Moses didn’t do it—God did it. That started me to thinking about what God did on some occasions, as recorded in the Old Testament. We can always say that God punishes sin, but that is not the whole answer because some innocent people must have suffered, too. I conclude that there are some things that happened in the Old Testament, and perhaps in our own lives, too, that can only be explained by acknowledging that God is the Potter and we are the clay.

It is written in Isaiah 64:8,

“But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.” We must remember this truth and not try to figure out too many things which are out of our control. Human beings, you and I, simply do not see things as God sees them. We operate within our own realm and within our own parameters. We are not sitting on the circle of the earth as God is; our vision is limited. Isaiah 40:22, “It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers.” Jesus taught us that we are of much greater value than the fowls of the air, or grasshoppers, but we are insignificant compared to God. We can only look up to Him in awe and wonder, and in admiration with respect.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 9:20-21, “Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast

thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay?” Sometimes we struggle with things we don’t understand, or things that don’t seem fair according to our standards, but we might as well give up on understanding some things and simply commit it all into the hands of the Potter, the Creator of all. May we humbly rest in the teachings and promises recorded in the New Testament—how thankful we are for the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ, for His atonement on our behalf, and for His resurrection. We also are very thankful for, and rejoice in, the teachings of the Apostles. For the most part, we can relate to and understand those teachings and examples of conduct, perhaps because God became man in the Person of Jesus Christ and dwelt among us. “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.” (John 1:14)

We must rest in peace. God is the Potter, we are the clay.

希望の光



Burlington, IA -1958

Because of the large number of brethren who lived in the Burlington area during a growth period of the Oakville Church, it was deemed a necessity to purchase a two story church building. The Burlington Church was dedicated about 23 years after the first mid-week services began there. A new church building erected and dedicated to the Lord in 1976, gave new enthusiasm and growth to the precious Burlington congregation.

THE SILVER LINING
RR2 Box 50 Roanoke, IL 61561

2nd Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Roanoke, IL
and
additional offices
USPS 496780

*****CAR-RT-SORT**R-001
GREGG0270 RP S 1 2
GORDON GREENBANK
10680 STEINER RD # 24
RITTMAN OH 44270 9518

