



The Silver Lining

And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

June 1998

“WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE”

Sermon by Bro. Gary Brown, Forrest, IL

2 Kings 4:1-37 and Acts 3

We read about several things this morning. If we thought about them just as men—the way men would reason things out—the way as a mortal man, I would think about it and probably every one of us here today would think about it. Every one of us would say, “That is impossible!”

What does the Bible say about that? It says, “...with God all things are possible.” (Mark 10:27). So there are lots of things that we would look at in life and say, “Well, I can’t do that; that is impossible for me to do.” I felt like that. I suppose many of us have felt like that.

Back to what we read in Second Kings, those things, we would have all said, are impossible. That cannot happen, but with God and a faith in God, a trust in God and following God’s direction, it did happen.

So when we sit around God’s Word, and here we read about another account in the beginning of this chapter about a lame man that was healed. We would say, “That is impossible.” Would we all say that? Yes! Men can’t do those things, that is right. Man can’t, but with God it is all possible.

What did he teach them later on? We went on and read later that we should repent and be converted. Some of us, and probably I said that, and maybe every one of us said that. Maybe there is someone today that is saying, “I can’t do that; that is impossible.” But with God, it is possible!

It is in His power and in His command. He can do that. He can work with you. He can work with me as impossible as that seems. But He can work with us as people, individuals and humans that live upon this earth today. He can work with us. What does that mean? That means that it takes something from

us, too. It is not just latching onto His coat, so to speak, and just letting Him drag us everywhere He wants us to go. It is us making an effort.

Think about the two incidents that we read about in Second Kings. There were instructions. The woman with the oil. I’m not sure how much oil she actually had and I am not sure how much she ended up with, but I think the principal is there and I think we understood enough to know that she did not have very much, and she ended up with just pots and pots and pots full!

Think about this woman now because the Prophet Elisha had told her, “Go gather all these” (I’m not sure the word he used, but I’ll call them pots), “go borrow all the pots that you can from all your neighbors.” Now what do you suppose her neighbors were saying at this point? “What are you going to do with all those things? How do you expect to use all those things? What are you going to do with all of them?”

“Well, I don’t know. This man of God told me I should go borrow a lot of these pots.” Then he told her to start pouring the oil in. “I don’t have much here; just this little bit. What are all these pots for?” Then she filled them all up! It took faith on her part. It took actions on her part. It took her to believe the instructions that she had received.

With the woman of Shunem, the same thing. When she was told that she was going to have a child, she didn’t believe it. She had the child. Then it took faith to believe that this Prophet Elisha could somehow help her when her son was (as we would call it, I suppose) dead.

When we find ourselves dead in sin, it takes actions on our part. It takes faith on our part. It takes the belief that God can take care of it because, I suppose, most of us have

found God as our King and Jesus as our Saviour. God is our Father, is what I wanted to say, the One who just knows us and sees us all. Jesus is our Saviour Who shed His blood.

We found ourselves lost in sin and we couldn’t do it ourselves. We weren’t going anywhere ourselves. I could not make myself good enough because we are human and humans are not perfect. But God can work and God can use those that have a simple, humble faith in Him and are willing to follow His instructions while they are upon this earth.

We read about Peter and John here putting themselves as servants of God and following Him. They went into the temple at the hour of prayer. They were putting themselves in the right place at the right time. They were wanting to be God’s people and wanting to worship Him. They were wanting to do what He had instructed them to do and the things that were right for them to do that they might continue to be His people, and that they might continue to draw closer to Him. They

Sermon continued on page 45

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

June 1998

Resisting Secularist Influences

Since the beginning of Christianity, there have been philosophies and falsehoods that have threatened the Truth. Although the Word of God is inerrant, various thought processes have arisen to challenge true doctrine. As Christians, we know that the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God (I Cor. 3:19), and we must continually guard against the forces that threaten the Truth.

Satan is a deceiver. He roars as a lion seeking whom he may devour (I Peter 5:8). To resist such a force, the believer in Christ is to be "sober" and "vigilant". He is to "resist steadfast in the faith" (I Peter 5:9).

The enemy's tools have multiplied in the past generation due especially to increased communication capabilities. These faster and more effective means of communication make the believer more vulnerable to non-Christian thoughts. The proliferation of publishing and broadcasting can exert enormous influence over the unsuspecting believer. With the onset of the Internet, the potential for influence is magnified almost beyond comprehension.

One way Satan sets a framework for his negative influences is by using the trait of individualism which tends to exalt oneself over the Word of God or over the church's interpretation of the Word. When this occurs, unity of the brotherhood is threatened. When absolute truth is denied, a breeding ground for relativism is born.

Relativism is a theory that holds there is no absolute truth. It asserts that meaning, truth and knowledge vary from person to person, culture to culture, and time to time. This, of course, is in diametric opposition to God's Word, which is truth (I Thess. 2:13), and is changeless.

Relativism can be ruinous, both for individuals and for society. It is especially injurious, and can cause havoc when it exerts influence among a body of believers in Christ.

In subtle ways, relativism and its collateral philosophies can seep unsuspectingly into the minds of God's people. If we are to resist relativism, we

must be able to recognize its many faces.

Secular humanism, related to relativism, is a worldview oriented to the secular rather than to the spiritual (or the supernatural). Concepts and behavior are rooted in this world, instead of in God's precepts. Ethics are seen from a human-centered outlook, rather than a God-centered one. For example, human cloning is often debated as a civil rights issue instead of a spiritual issue.

Individualism is also a trait that fits under the relativist umbrella. It is rooted in self-interest and self-centeredness. These instincts are naturally ingrained and can be a continuing battle for the true believer in Christ to overcome. Individualism sometimes shows its face when a soul arbitrarily exalts himself or herself to the point of dismissing sincere church guidance. Rather than submitting to a God-given authority, a soul tends to ignore it.

Another concept that promotes relativism is situation ethics, a philosophy that encourages every significant ethical decision to be made in the light of current circumstances. What to do or not do is determined by the present circumstances, rather than by the unchanging message of God and His Word. Situation ethics occurs when compelling "situations" cause a believer to leave the narrow way to adapt to a peculiar situation that has arisen. This exalts man's reasoning above God's standards.

Values clarification also fits under the umbrella of relativism. This outlook resists the absolutes of the Bible and asserts that values are individually "clarified"—that what might be seen as truth to one person may not be so to another person, and vice versa. "Truth" is seen as multidimensional and therefore is not really truth at all.

These relativist-oriented forces have exerted a significant influence over American life and are beginning to have a major impact within our brotherhood. The believer in Christ must resist influences that are inconsistent with, and destructive of, the Word's

teachings. We are to discern the spirits to determine what is true and what is false. Solomon prayed for an understanding heart so he could determine between good and bad (I Kings 3:9). The Church offers us help in avoiding false conclusions and beliefs.

In resisting relativist influences, we have the avenue of prayer. If we are fervent in prayer, we will be able to discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not (Malachi 3:18). This is critical in these trying times. The Bible teaches us to be "wise as serpents, and as harmless as doves" (Matt. 10:16). The believer needs to be informed concerning the anti-biblical influences that surround him.

There is a very significant requirement that precedes our ability to discern good or evil. The Apostle Paul taught the believer to "be not conformed to the world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2). For what purpose? "That ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect will of God."

If we are not conformed to the world, and our mind is transformed and renewed, we can see more clearly. We can discern between right and wrong and we can resist relativism and all its destructive influences. In doing so, our ability to overcome sin until the end will be greatly enhanced.

We, as a church body, are becoming more and more highly educated as the generations unfold. While knowledge can be very beneficial to society, the Word teaches that it "puffeth up" (I Cor. 8:1). Great care must be taken that all of us, whether students, parents, grandparents, etc., insure that we are both recognizing and avoiding the powerful forces of relativism that swirl around us. One of our founding church fathers once said, "A humble heart is an abode of God." If we can, by God's grace, remain humble in heart, God will surely direct us away from the onslaught of relativist falsehoods.



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

Two Thousand Years Ago...

...the early church in Rome was strikingly different from the pagan society that surrounded them. In his letter to the church, the apostle Paul commended the believers for their faith in Jesus Christ and their obedience to His teachings. Although he had never been to Rome he had heard of their witness everywhere he travelled.

...I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

ROMANS 1:8

Their primary distinction was the holiness in their life-style, the peace between one another and the love and compassion shown to their fellow man. They truly were the *salt of the earth* in a culture that was filled with every kind of wickedness, greed, evil, and depravity. Romans chapter one states that they were full of envy, murder, strife, sensuality, deceit and malice. They were gossips, God-haters, arrogant, boastful, faithless, heartless and ruthless. What a contrast was this peace-loving and kindhearted group of believers in their midst. Truly this could only be accomplished by the grace and power of God.

In Paul's letter to the believers in Rome, he encouraged them to "*follow after the things which make for peace and things wherewith one may edify another.*" He instructed them that the "*strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.*" Because of their steadfast faith in Christ and their obedience to His word, the church was filled with grace and power and joyfully lived above their circumstances, their hearts filled with hope. Toward the end of his letter to the church in Rome Paul encouraged the believers...

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

ROMANS 15:13

As we consider the example of early believers, we think of the church in America. In a society similar to ancient Rome we have countless opportunities to be a witness for Christ and to "*provoke one another unto love and good works*" (HEBREWS 10:24). In this context, provoke means to stimulate to action.

This was the vision of World Relief when it was formed. Believers found benefit in meeting together on a regular basis. This has provided an opportunity to encourage one another in a closer walk with Jesus Christ and to organize activities to meet needs in the church, our local communities and as far as possible.

Charity begins at home

On these pages devoted to the activities of the World Relief and Mission Committees, we try to keep our readers informed of work at home and abroad. God has opened the way for us to serve many people in various locations. However, it is evident that not everyone can travel to distant places or serve on work teams.

There are many ways that one can witness for his faith and Lord. Those of our faithful brethren and friends who do so much on a local level are witnessing for Christ in a way that is just as vital as going to other countries. We have asked a number of our local congregations to share with us the activities of their groups, not to boast, but to encourage. We recognize that if they did not patiently toil to prepare the necessary items, those who do travel would have nothing to distribute. We want our brethren to know how much their local activities mean to the program.

Sabetha-Bern, Kansas

Volunteers meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month during the afternoon and evening at the Fellowship Center from September through April.

The primary activities are making quilts and comforters. The quilts are donated to the Home or other organizations where they are usually sold at an auction. The comforters are given to a local organization where they are distributed to the needy in our five-county area.

Workers also make bibs for Lakeside Terrace, the handicapped facility in Sabetha. In the past, volunteers have made bibs for the nursing home, but they are now receiving them from another source. Other items made include wheelchair restraints and arm caddies.

Akron, Ohio

Networking, or telling others, has reaped many blessings, and we have received many donated items for the needy. Some of the things received are listed below:

- ◆ Talking to dentists and their assistants resulted in receiving dental and office equipment from dental offices.
- ◆ A medical supply company gave thousands of dollars worth of medical equipment, mattresses, gauze, etc.
- ◆ Sales people have donated dozens of rubber gloves from over stocked or oversized gloves that would have been discarded.
- ◆ Auxiliaries and their friends have donated beds, wheelchairs, etc.
- ◆ Retailers have donated toys, balls, and cash.

Most of the items were delivered to the Bluffton Distribution Center (BDC). Beans and other food were brought back for local distribution in the Akron area.

Special clothing project

This project began several years ago when a sister looked for fabrics at a Wadsworth, Ohio thrift store for the Akron World Relief Group. She told the

saleslady about our making drawstring bags for school and health kits. The thrift store owner offered to give our group used clothing. Here's how it works:

The store color codes all clothes received using a different color for each month. They receive the clothes on consignment for sales, sharing the proceeds. If not sold within three months, the clothes may be either taken back by the consignor or donated to the store. Clothing is put on special racks for us and two other groups. They rotate turns so that each group has a chance for first choice of the available clothes.

These donated clothes are then picked up and sorted by our group. At first they were taken to one of our Sunday School rooms in the church and sorted into groups for boxing by men, women, and children. Seasonal clothing was grouped together.

After a while, more sorting room was needed and the clothes were taken to a storage building for boxing. Two Rittman brothers donated the use of the storage facility. Presently the clothes are being taken directly to a home for processing. Their children help to transport the clothes to their home. Usually Akron sisters take turns helping her sort and pack the boxes each month.

Shipping boxes are donated by an Akron brother who works for a grocery store chain. The packed boxes are taken to the BDC for further distribution. From 8 to 22 boxes are packed monthly, which makes this a very worthwhile project. Also, one other Wadsworth store donates used children's clothing.

Other group projects

The Akron group is involved in preparing health and school kits, knotting blankets, making quilts, and other activities. A highlight is "Family Night" once a year where children and men join in the work. This has generated interest and enthusiasm for the work.

Rittman and Smithville, Ohio

The local groups are involved in many varied activities of service. Ongoing projects include:

- ◆ Sewing group activities.
- ◆ Clothing collection each year.
- ◆ Annual collection of medical equipment and supplies for Hospital

Lumiere in Haiti.

- ◆ Groups participate in meat canning projects by the Mennonite Central Committee annually.

- ◆ Groups help stuff envelopes for mailings from Christian Aid Ministries in Berlin, Ohio.

- ◆ Our local brethren participate in approved work team projects at home and abroad. Everyone who participates feels they receive a blessing.

Smithville Sunday School

Before Christmas, about 15 youth from Smithville's high school Sunday School class gathered at the Fellowship Hall to repair toys. The items had been donated

to a local charity, "People to People Ministries." The toys and games had to be checked to verify they weren't broken and were complete. Later, the students helped move the toys to the distribution area where needy families could choose gifts for their children.

Bible distribution

Our groups delivered 849 Bibles during the year from February 1997 to February 1998. 419 went to bus depots, and other public places. We place ads in free papers, but have not purchased advertising for the last two years.

Major house renovation

In the early Fall of 1997, we received a call from a young girl living in Rittman asking if our church might be able to help rebuild her mother's house in a nearby community. The house had been condemned by the city and vacant for several months.

The mother had previously hired a contractor to repair the house, but this firm bought some materials, tore the aluminum siding off the house and left. She had contacted about 20 churches in the area and found no one willing to

help. We were the last church she said she intended to call.

After looking at the house, talking to the city, and conferring with our local ministers, we agreed that we should try to make it livable again. We announced the project to the local churches and soon had many volunteers offering to help. The work included excavation, masonry foundation work, framing, roofing, plumbing, heating, electrical, insulation, drywall, cabinets, trim, concrete, vinyl, carpet, and plenty of cleaning.

Volunteers helped in every area, and many expressed interest in our church becoming involved in a local work

project. The house was torn down and hauled away on a Friday and was framed up on Saturday, plus the roof was shingled and the plumbing, heating, and electrical were roughed in.

Siding, drywall, cabinets, and trim followed the next Saturdays and evenings. In about three months, the house was approved by the city inspector. The family appreciated everything and offered

to help numerous times. They did their own interior painting.

The complete project involved approximately 50-60 volunteers and much donated material. All involved had a good feeling of being able to share some of our resources with those in need. Neighbors on the same street shared words of support and helped financially.

Request for more information

We thank those churches that have shared their experiences. May all praise, honor and glory go to our Lord Jesus Christ. We are very interested in reporting other local projects. Please send information from your congregation

to: GENE LEHMAN
16112 WEST STREET
REMINGTON, IN 47977
(219) 261-2842 FAX

And whatsoever ye do
in word or deed,
do all in the name
of the Lord Jesus.
Col. 3:17



- 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>1998</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>	<u>TOTAL — 15 YEARS</u>
May	2,625	18,106	430,304

* Repaired Bibles Shipped = 180

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

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

PLACEMENT OF POCKET TESTAMENTS

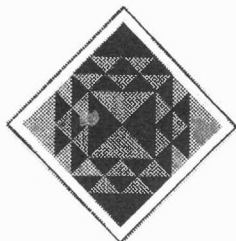
A very effective way of giving the pocket Testaments/Psalms/Proverbs (boxed), is to place the plastic box with label in hospitals, rest homes, motels, filling stations, stores, doctor, dentist, and eye doctor offices.

Be sure to ask permission to place the Testaments.

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

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

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



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The 22nd Annual
Gateway Woods Auction and Sale

Saturday, August 15, 1998

*Feel free to contact the Gateway
Woods office @ 219/627-2159 with any
questions!*

HUMAN SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP

Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home is offering two \$1,000.00 scholarships to students enrolled in undergraduate or post-graduate work leading to a degree in the human services field. The scholarships are available to any member of the Apostolic Christian Church or friend who attends on a regular basis. A description of the scholarship and an application are available by writing or calling Janel Ramseyer or Tim Sauder. Applications need to be returned by July 1, 1998.

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

Counselor Needed

Are you looking for a professionally and spiritually fulfilling career? Gateway Woods, a Christian residential childcare facility, has an immediate opening for a female counselor. A Bachelors degree in Social Work, Counseling or related field is required. A Masters degree is preferred. Responsibilities include individual and family counseling, case management and consultation with the treatment team.

For more information/application please contact:

Jeff Schumacher, MS
Senior Counselor
Gateway Woods
P.O. Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
219/627-2159

Phil Stettner
Counseling Elder
219/565-3499

A New Book Is Now Available

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tian Publications, 805 W. Cruger
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Perry A. Klopfenstein, Box 250,
Gridley, IL 61744.*

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.



Office Job Opportunity

Gateway Woods is currently looking for a brother or sister to assist our current office staff in Leo, IN. Our programs have been blessed with growth over the years and additional help is needed as we look to expand. Qualifications include a heart to serve, good interpersonal and organizational skills, and computer experience. Responsibilities will include secretarial and clerical help for our Foster Care department and various administrative tasks. This is a part-time position that will move to full-time.

For more information, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Tim Sauder
Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
219/627-2159 (office)
219/627-2606

Phil Stettner
Counseling Elder
219/565-3499

Alternate Houseparents Needed

We at Gateway Woods have enjoyed being fully staffed for some time now in the area of childcare staff. Todd and Carol Schrock have informed us that they will be leaving the Houseparent position in the fall of 1998. This will offer an opportunity for someone, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time on-going ministry with the rest of us at Gateway Woods. This position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below.

John Stoller
Child Care Supervisor
P.O. Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 627-2159

Phil Stettner, Counseling Elder
1780N 450E
Bluffton, IN 46714
(219) 565-3499

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The change of winter into the spring season is always a wonderful

reminder of new life in Christ Jesus. Nature itself exemplifies life springing forth from death even as new plant life comes from a seed that was dormant the whole winter. What a joy to have such a beautiful reminder of our spiritual birth!

Our residents enjoy being able to be out and about in warmer weather. At ACHH a nice sized group of residents, Activities Department staff and volunteers attended the May 2 Special Olympics here in Morton at the high school. We were blessed with a beautiful sunny day. Several medals were won and much excitement felt by every individual that attended.

We had two residents, Marjorie Feller and Alison Given, graduate from Schramm School in Pekin, IL.

Our first picnic of the year was spent at North Morton Park. Everyone truly enjoyed the evening.

Not only does the Activities Department facilitate the attendance of community outings, this department is also actively involved with evening recreational activities. These include a wide range of events from groups coming into the facility to entertain or sing, to a staff member spending time with an individual with activities that are for that individual's level of ability. We offer a wide variety of leisure activities planned to meet each resident's leisure needs. The spring and summer weather allows the 25 mile club to walk outdoors along with our bike riders. We now have "tumble forms", special adjustable seats for our immobile residents. One has even been attached to a bike! Both our mobile and immobile residents enjoy rides on our donated golf cart. Staff and residents spend time outdoors on the patios, swings and wheelchair swings. Through Horticulture Therapy, a group of residents are actively involved in sprucing up our south court yard with flower baskets.

We will miss two dearly loved residents that passed away in April. Anna Stichling had been the oldest resident at ACHH. She was almost 91 years old when she died. Anna had lived at ACHH since 1975. Vir-

CASSETTES FROM EUROPE

We still have a supply of the cassette tapes produced in Austria containing beloved hymns of our old Heft (Long Book).

All profits from the sale of these tapes go to Europe, where the money is distributed among our very needy brethren in the Eastern European countries of East Germany, Hungary, Romania and others.

The Heft or Long Book tapes were recorded by Bro. Josef Farkasch, who is a music professor near Salzburg, Austria. He plays the classical guitar and many other instruments on three tapes of songs from the Long Book. Some include singing.

The Heft (Long Book) tapes include three volumes. Volume I includes songs 1-11, 13-18; Volume II includes songs 12, 19-31; Volume III includes songs 33-48. Each tape costs \$8.00. For shipping costs on orders of 1-5 tapes, add \$.75 extra for each tape. On orders of 6 tapes or more, add only \$.30 extra for each tape. Make checks for Long Book Tape payable to the Long Book Tape Fund.

Long Book tapes may be ordered from:

Don and Lorna Schrock
100 Forest View Road
Morton, IL 61550
(309) 266-6810

Dennis and Beth Feucht
317 North Third
Morton, IL 61550
(309) 266-9498

ginia Reece was believed to have been one of the oldest living persons in Illinois and perhaps the nation with Down Syndrome. Virginia was 77 when she died. Virginia had lived at ACHH since 1972 and had few living relatives. Both ladies were delightful to have at our home and we are happy for them that the Lord has taken them to their Heavenly Home.

Birthdays for July are: ACHH - Randy Siebenthal (3), Gary Feller (5), Walter McKeever (16), Michael Oates (18), Daniel Zimmerman (18), Clark Lewis (24), Janet Giberson (29), Kristie Ramp (31); OAKWOOD - Chris Knapp (17), Todd Schneider

(29); LINDEN - Billie Tatum (1), Cindy Virkler (6), Michelle Maloney (19); and HAZELWOOD - Ed Getz (31).

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

Tim Sauder

I keep a Rolodex card file on my desk that includes all present and former Gateway Woods residents and foster children along with basic information like birth dates, admission and discharge dates, relatives, etc. After a child leaves our care, my secretary sends me, via our office e-mail system, information on where they have moved and the date of their departure. Once I've transferred that information to the file, I hit the "delete" icon on my computer screen. Delete and the message is gone at the speed of light. During the past year, each time I hit "delete" there is pain, emptiness, sometimes guilt and always questions. How can I just delete a child from my life, our program or our care? I can't. But other questions remain: How will Jesse handle his new foster home? Can Samantha and her parents get along? Can Penny make it on her own? Have we equipped them well for the next stage of their future? Will they remember us, our program, our Jesus? Will some other laborer in God's harvest build on the spiritual foundation we have laid in their short (12-18 month) stay? Or will Satan take those seeds and choke them out? All of these take us to prayer that God will continue the work even when it seems beyond our reach. "So neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase." (I Cor. 3:7) In addition to prayer, we are also motivated to continued involvement if we're able and allowed. Former residents often call, visit and write. Some are regular while some are on infrequent, hit or miss basis. Some call us only when things are going very well or when crisis occurs. Some just disappear. Some we have helped through

college and others we have helped out of debt or out of jail. But the prayers never stop for all of them.

At our recent Recognition Dinner where we express our appreciation for board members, staff and foster parents, there were some significant milestones acknowledged. Our fifteen foster families were honored, the most ever. The longest standing Houseparent couple in the history of our program, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda Fiechter (6 1/2 years), and most experienced Houseparent, Sis. Carol Schrock (8 1/2 years), were honored.

Sis. Carol, who also received our Proverbs 31 Award as a virtuous woman, came first as a single Assistant Houseparent and later after marrying Bro. Todd Schrock as a Houseparent. This is unprecedented longevity, not only at Gateway Woods, but also in the field of residential child care where the average is around two years on the job.

However, the inevitable is happening. The Schrock's have announced plans to leave in November and so we are seeking a couple to serve as Alternate Houseparents as a step toward regular Houseparents. Please consider this opening. Please pray that a brother and sister will respond to the Lord's call and to a child's needs. We also have other openings at this time, including female Counselor and Secretary. See ads in this issue.

Each summer we hire some extra help. This year Bro. Jeff Waibel (Bay City, MI) is our Volunteer Coordinator, Sis. Kim Plattner (Leo) will help with independent living training and children's activities and Sis. Holly Beer (Milford, IN) will help with curriculum development for our new on-grounds school. Our school has accomplished it's goal this semester of preparing and equipping all four of our students to return to public school in the fall.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL**

Molly Stickling

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will

not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6). This has been our theme verse for the preschool, and also for the month of May. It is sometimes amazing to us teachers just how much these little children remember from the Bible stories and Christian teachings we focus on. There is a certain tree that hangs over our playground, and on one particular day the children would not go near that tree. They kept calling it the "bad tree". When questioned about this, the children said it was a bad tree, because there was a reddish snake growing up it like the mean snake in the story of Adam and Eve. The word on the playground was to stay away from that tree, and the children did just that. The teacher went over the tree and found the "snake", which was actually a very thin vine growing up the tree. The teacher pointed and touched the vine to see if that was what the children were talking about. "Yes, Yes," they said, "Don't touch it!" Well, the teacher had already touched it just in time to be told by the other teacher that she had just touched poison oak! The teacher quickly went inside to wash her hands with a crowd of children following behind, proudly reminding her, "See, you shouldn't have touched that tree."

The end of our school year was a time of review of all that the children had learned. We also held our end of the year parent conferences. We value this opportunity to talk with the parents and show them their child's progress. It is encouraging to the teachers to hear parents say that their child says Bible verses or sings "Jesus Loves Me" while playing at home or riding in the car. We are thankful for each child that attends the preschool and their family, and it is our special prayer that God would bless them and touch their lives.

We will officially end this school year with our preschool graduation that will take place on Friday, May 29. It is truly a neat occasion when the children's parents and extended family come to listen to the children sing songs and recite poems that

they have practiced and spent time learning. All the children are very anxious for the graduation. One of our three-year-olds, who grew tired of practicing his poem said, "I've done practiced that enough."

We will begin our summer program on June 1. Our summer enrollment will significantly drop, but those attending will enjoy our summer theme of "Children Around the World." Swimming in the Alabama sunshine will also be a highlight for the children this summer.

We are thankful to tell you that Sis. Monica Steffen from Milford, IN will be moving to Alabama for a few months this summer. She will be helping out at the preschool with the children, so the other teachers may take some vacation time. We are grateful for her willingness to come and spend her summer here. We are still in need of a teacher for the upcoming school year. If you have any questions or are interested, please contact Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (205) 233-2035.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Joan Reinhard

"Spiritual Benchmarks" is the theme for our gathering planned for Memorial Day weekend. We look forward to singing and worshiping together with many of our brothers and sisters and friends. This weekend has become an annual event for us down here and we encourage anyone who would want to come to make plans early next year. All are welcome.

We want to extend our congratulations to Tommy and Dana (Thomas) Mayo on their wedding, and we wish the Lord's blessings on their marriage. Dana is the granddaughter of our Sis. Corrine Williams.

Graduation congratulations go to Melissa Lynn (Bro. Buddy and Sis. Clarann Lynn) and Steven Kyle (Bro. David and Sis. Barbara Coulter) as they complete high school this year. As they look to the future, our prayer is that they will both "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these

things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

We had visitors this month from Junction, OH and Nashville, TN and we appreciate them worshipping with us.

Father's Day is a time set aside to voice our appreciation of our fathers and thank God for them. We hope they know how much they are loved and needed. Many of us have had the privilege of having Christian fathers to show us the way to live here on earth and how to be ready for eternity. We are thankful for their care and example. We also want to use every day to show our appreciation and love to our Heavenly Father.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

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

Ephesians 4:32

It was a beautiful morning in Phoenix on April 25 when our Sunday School youth and staff invited the seniors to a pancake breakfast. What a joy to have yesterday's toddlers waiting tables, our teaching staff making the crepes and pancakes, while we enjoyed food and fellowship. May the Lord bless each one for his or her labor of love.

April 26 was our monthly church dinner and singing. Our appreciation to Sis. Marie Kieser and her committee for all the work each month to fellowship in His name.

Our graduates (listed in May issue) were honored May 2 at a reception. We pray each of you will be faithful to our God Almighty.

Bro. Al Langhofer was our visiting minister, having come for Bro. Cory's graduation.

Sis. Jeanne Metzger had hand surgery, Sis. Frances Martin had knee surgery, and Sis. Katherine Laukhuf had a cataract removed. Floran Klopfenstein had an outpatient medical procedure and Bro. Alvin Laukhuf was recently hospitalized. Your prayers are appreci-

ated for a number of members and friends in declining health.

In mid-May, a work group of brothers and sisters went to Mexico to do more work on the church. Bro. John Kaufman went to Tremonton, Utah to work on the cemetery project. His parents passed through the area years ago on their way to settle in Oregon.

Our dear Sis. Gladys Fisher will be 94 on June 26. She will get your note or card at: 8620 N. 65 Ave. #323, Glendale, AZ 85302.

Our churches need more God and less world to survive until we, our children, and grandchildren stand at Heaven's gate.

Where has your love for God gone?

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

It is the time of year when many have reached a milepost in their lives and will be moving on in new directions. May they all look to the Lord as their Shepherd and allow Him to guide their lives. In our area, April Furrer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena) has graduated from high school.

We are thankful that Sis. Elena Kornja is once again assembling with us after being hospitalized several days.

We celebrated with Bro. Henry Voltz and had a surprise 80th birthday party for him.

Ministering to us this last month were Bros. Greg Gramm and James Emch (both of Phoenix, AZ). May God bless them and their family for their service.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Catie Kaufman (Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline) will be graduating from high school tonight. Catie will be staying in Tucson and attending college locally, which is good news for our little church. We pray for God's direction as Catie begins her adult life. Our Sis. Martha Blessman has moved from her home at The Forum to another facility here

in Tucson. We are praying for Sis. Martha that the transition will be comfortable for her.

We are still having temperatures below normal for this time of year, but we know summer will eventually arrive in Tucson. It has really been a nice, long spring for which we are thankful.

We had our fellowship supper for the month of May and we will now be taking a short break. There will be no fellowship suppers for the months of June and July, and we will resume in August. This also applies to our Sunday School classes.

The results of our annual business meeting were as follows: replacing Bro. Steve Bauer as trustee will be Bro. Don Bauer; replacing Sis. Sandy Bauer in teaching the older elementary children will be Sis. Maria Bauer; and replacing Sis. Caroline Kaufman as the kitchen chairman will be Sis. Lucy Knapp. Our thanks and appreciation to Bro. Steve, Sis. Sandy and Sis. Caroline for their work in the jobs they are vacating. We pray the Lord will direct Bro. Don, Sis. Maria and Sis. Lucy as they begin their years of service.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Joshua Martinez

"Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers."

Proverbs 17:6

Greetings of love in our dear Saviour's name! This month we wish to thank all the dear fathers across the land for their love, faith, courage and Christian example. May God bless you for being wonderful shining lights to us throughout our lives.

We feel thankful for our ministering brothers and their efforts to bring forth the Word. May the Lord bless visiting Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) and his family for sharing with us in this manner.

Our dear Elder brothers gathered at Bluffton North, IN in February for their mid-winter Conference. We thank our Father for bestowing

guidance and heavenly wisdom in their seeking to preserve our precious faith. We wish to give loving thanks and appreciation to Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) for His messages and for assisting with our Communion service in April.

During Bro. Eugene's visit, we also heard the testimony of our new sister in Christ, Adela Chavez, who has joined us from the Ixtlan, Mexico congregation. It is so encouraging to see that the joy and the peace in serving our Lord transcends national and language barriers. We welcome Sis. Adela happily into our Altadena family and are so thankful that her daughter, Letty, continues to seek salvation through repentance.

We will miss Brian and June Crockett very much as they make a new home on the East Coast. Brian has accepted employment in New Castle, DE. We feel happy for the Philadelphia, PA congregation because they are getting a very special couple.

May God bless the mothers across the land who will be having their dear children at home all day for the summer. May God also bless and keep safe those who will be enjoying vacations this month. We extend a warm welcome to visit us should your travels bring you to Southern California. Have a happy month!

"To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."

Jude 25

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Rose Huette

To that fair celestial city
Would my spirit fain depart.
There to gather with the ransomed
Praising God with thankful heart.
There awaits for every victor,
On that shore, a crown of honor,
We behold in heaven's light
Jesus' countenance so bright.

Hymns of Zion #269

Holy Communion was held April

19 with Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Sis. Mary, Kansas City, MO) assisting Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Sis. Lois, Altadena, CA). It was a tremendous blessing to hear the beautiful story of Christ's love for us as we renewed our vows to Him.

Father's Day will soon be here. Let us pause to remember our fathers and all that they have done for us. Many of us were brought up in homes where God was the center of our family. May we thank the Lord for our Godly fathers who were/are the spiritual heads of the home, just as the Lord commands. May we also be thankful that we have a perfect Heavenly Father that we can always turn to with any question or care.

It is graduation time again and we want to congratulate those who have achieved this status. I mentioned in the May news that Sis. Yasmin and Bro. Phillip Petrovic have both graduated from high school, but failed to mention that Rachel Petrovic (Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian) is graduating from middle school. May God richly bless her as she continues with her schooling in high school.

ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA
Laura Baxter

"For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel."

I Cor. 4:15

As our nations celebrate the gift of earthly fathers, let us also be thankful for our spiritual fathers, God, our Heavenly Father, and also those who have mentored and disciplined us in our Christian walk. If they are standing in the Truth, God uses those faithful loving brethren to help guide His children, just as He used the apostle Paul in the Corinthian church.

We are thankful for our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) for ministering to us this month and also his spiritual and fatherly coun-

sel. We, too, thank Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) for ministering to us recently.

We welcome all visitors who are in the area to come and worship with us. Please contact Bro. Wayne Saddler (519) 662-6834 or Bro. Mike Ursu (519) 669-3515 for more information and directions.

COLORADO, DENVER

Yvonne Lehman

Things don't just happen by chance. He orders our life and directs our feet in the way He would have us go. We extend our thanks and appreciation to Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) for lending himself for instruction to our assembled flock on May 17. Bro. Nathan shared with the Denver congregation some knowledge on the early church history. We were reminded of the many believers who sacrificed their lives and desires for their faith's sake. The illustration was given how a believer was imprisoned for his faith, refusing his allegiance to the state religion. There were a hundred or so believers in prison. The authorities asked, "Who is the leader?" No one would say. "Is there an elder?" The authorities inquired more. After some time, the authorities found out who the minister was. The minister was then brought before the firing squad. The commander said, "You can renounce your religion or face the firing squad." The minister said, "Do what you want to do but I will not renounce my religion." The commander then asked him if he wanted to be blindfolded or not. Again, the minister said, "Do what you want to do." The commander asked him if he had any last words. The minister said yes. The minister replied that his last wish would be that the crook, whose bunk was next to the minister's bunk, would be given the minister's shoes. The commander was so stunned that he dropped his rifle and dismissed him. Some years later, the minister was in church meeting and greeting many brothers and sisters. A brother approached him and said,

"Greetings, Dear Brother." Exchange was made. "What is your name? Where are you from?" Etc. The brother replied, "I was the fellow prisoner who you offered your shoes to when you faced the executioner." Brother Nathan also shared with us how the prisoners were not allowed to talk to one another while working all day long but they learned to communicate with other believers in prison by humming church hymns. By this they were able to be encouraged and were sustained by others' prayers. Zion's Harp hymn #38 was a hymn they hummed to one another. Soon the authorities learned these songs and began to hum also. May we each be encouraged to serve Him more faithfully. May we not complain of our cross. May we be willing cross-bearers for what He has done for us.

On May 12, Bro. Mike Leman, along with a group of brothers in faith, traveled to Utah for restoration of Tremonton Cemetery. We are thankful their mission was accomplished and their labors fruitful.

On Saturday evening, May 16, we assembled together at the Lord's Table for Communion services. We thank Elder Bros. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS) and Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) for their labors.

"This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:21-23

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Cherie Galat

"Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law."

Proverbs 4:1-2

We thank all of our faithful fathers who have taught us the Way of Life. May we cling to His promises and do God's will. Above all, our Heavenly Father calls to each one to

listen, to repent and become His child.

Our dear visiting brethren shared with us out of God's Holy Word: Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Brian Webb (Fort Lauderdale, FL). We appreciate their labor of love.

What a joy it is when we witness the baptism of a soul! Our hearts rejoice with Sis. Ernestine Aberle (Bro. Ed) as we listened to her testimony and witnessed her baptism. May she find grace each day to live for Him.

Our congregation has been so blessed lately with an abundance of souls seeking out God in repentance. May He give guidance and grace to each one: Steven LaPlante (Bro. Leo and Sis. Sherri), Colleen Ryan (Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl), Shannan Bocchino (Carlo), Peter and Jill Welti, and Sue Balfe (Bro. Bob).

Bro. Brent and Sis. Naomi Walder were blessed with the birth of their first baby, Emily Kaylene, on April 19. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Kay Luginbuhl. May God give them the wisdom to teach her of His great love.

April 26 was the wedding day of Bro. Owen Bahler and Sis. Donna Webb. As they walk together on this pilgrim pathway, may they be a helpmate to each other and continue to seek God's direction in their lives.

We are thankful that Bro. Robert Luginbuhl (Sis. Martha) is doing better since his hospitalization. Our prayers are surely with him.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON

Henrietta Meyer

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Matthew 18:20

What a comfort this verse is; one Sunday we were not able to meet at the hotel, and another time most of

the congregation was out of town.

We are glad Ken and Roberta Belsley are again able to assemble with us after their recent hospital stays.

We are so thankful ministers give of themselves to come to minister to us. Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA). We are so thankful for brothers and their families' willingness to serve us. Other visitors this month were from Rockville, CT; Princeville and Washington, IL.

We are thankful many of you make the Washington, DC area part of your vacation plans. On Sunday, July 26, we will be unable to have the hotel. Many of us will be attending services in Philadelphia that day. If you will be in the area and need directions or a ride, please give one of us a call.

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. Song service begins at 10:15, worship service at 10:30. 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.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Nancy Rocke

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

Many of us were privileged to have godly mothers who taught us of God and read us Bible stories. This month as we remember Fa-

ther's Day, may we think first of our Heavenly Father who loved us so much He sent His Son.

Our great God, we praise Thee now,
Lauding Thee with exultation;
The whole earth before Thee bows
And adores Thy great creation.
As Thou, Lord, hast been of yore,
Thou wilt stay forever more.

Zion's Harp #101

Our congregation was blessed to have two visiting ministers. Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) willingly gave of themselves in the service of the Lord. May the Lord be their rich rewarder.

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

Psalms 127:3

Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy Sauder and Bro. Peter and Sis. Claudia Green are happy grandparents of a new grandson, Jackson, who was adopted by Doug and Suzanne Sauder.

Jennifer Sutter (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy) and Rob Morris (Russ and Beth) were united in marriage. May they look to the Lord for direction and wisdom as they begin this pathway of life as one.

We have three graduating from 8th grade: Greg Hejja (Bro. John and Sis. Caroline), Lee Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz), and Shymard Nickel. We also have one high school graduate, Christina Hejja (Bro. John and Sis. Caroline). We wish them God's blessings as they have reached this milestone in their lives and pray that they will seek the Lord's direction in their lives.

FLORIDA NORTH FT. MYERS

Anjie Baum

Our dear brothers recently prepared dinner for the women in our congregation in honor of Mother's Day. The sisters enjoyed delicious barbecue and fellowship while the brothers also cleaned up the mess!

We at Ft. Myers feel particularly blessed with our helpful, thoughtful brothers.

We would like to thank our Elder Bro. Doug Sabo for again visiting and ministering the Word to us this month.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Rachel Sabo - Melissa Sabo

Our prayers are with several in our church who have had surgery or been hospitalized. They are Bro. Glenn Blume, Bro. Terry Miller and Sis. Bertha Wengeir.

May 9 was our annual Sunday School picnic at Longwood Run Park. We enjoyed great food and fellowship. We want to thank the Sunday School teachers; they put a lot of time into it.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to express my gratitude for the many acts of kindness, cards, flowers, visits, and prayers during my surgery and recovery. May God bless you all.

Bro. Glenn Blume

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Keith and Carol Kaufman

Were half the breath oft vainly
spent,
To Heaven in supplication sent,
Our cheerful song would oft'ner be,
Hear what the Lord has done for me.
Hymns of Zion #202

Our Heavenly Father has blessed us richly during the past month. On April 19, Bro. Glen Price (Sarasota, FL) along with wife, Sis. Sandy, spent the day with us. He reminded us how easy it is to "go with the flow" whether it be in traffic, at work, or wherever we are. We must stop and look at our lives and make sure we are following God's Word and not the world. After we were reminded of how we should live, Bro. Tom Waldbeser exhorted us to prepare for Holy Communion. The following week, Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) were here

to share Communion with us. May the Lord richly bless each brother who comes to share God's Word with us.

We would like to thank Sis. Peggy Camp for being our correspondent the past few years.

We are so thankful God has brought new people to our little congregation. Bro. Clarence and Sis. Ruth Pfister recently moved here from Mansfield, OH. Sis. Ruth's health prevents her from assembling with us. Matt Rufener (Bro. Ike and Sis. Verna, Rittman, OH) has been transferred to South Carolina from Columbus. We are so thankful he puts forth the effort to travel several hours each Sunday to assemble with us.

We assemble the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. for song service. Anyone in the area, please call to make sure our plans haven't been changed. We appreciate all visitors. Our Sunday services begin at 10:20 and 12:30. The church is located at 6225 Campbellton - Fairburn Rd., Fairburn, GA. Take I-85 south to exit 13. Go west four miles. The church will be on your left. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554 or Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 for further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Carlene Jepson

It is truly a blessing and an encouragement to a small flock to have a full church with voices singing praises to our Heavenly Father! We are thankful that the Morton Sunday School made Belvidere a part of their weekend get-away.

Our thanks go to Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and his wife, Sis. Betty, for ministering to us and spending the day with us during the past month.

ILLINOIS

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Janice Horner - Carol Sauder

We were blessed to witness the baptisms of Sis. Myra Gudeman

(Bro. Dick and Sis. Jan) and Sis. Molly Hodel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine) on April 27. We welcome them into the "Family of God". We thank Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) for his selfless giving in sharing God's Holy Word with us on this special occasion.

On May 3, our Bible Class invited the Bible Classes from Tremont and Gridley, IL to spend the day with them in worship and fellowship. We thank Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) for coming and preaching God's Word to us that same Sunday.

Killian Tell was born May 8 to Bro. Brian and Sis. Roze Strassheim. His older brother, Sant, gladly welcomes him home, along with thankful grandparents, Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Strassheim and Bro. Miklos and Sis. Aranka Bozzay (Chicago, IL).

On May 16, we gathered together to solemnly remember our Lord's suffering and death as we partook of Holy Communion. It is so humbling to reflect on Christ's death and resurrection. Jesus makes it clear that He wants to be remembered, and Communion provides that very special time of remembrance of His body that was broken and His blood that was shed for our sins. We thank Elder Bros. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL), Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and our own shepherd, Elder Bro. Everett Hari, for leading us in our Communion service.

An all-church potluck and hymn sing was held on May 17. "In One Accord" was the name of the guest group who sang.

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

Exodus 20:12

One day in May and one day in June are set aside for remembrance of our mothers and fathers. Let us honour, cherish, and love them, not only on their special days, but all the days of our lives, thanking God for giving us such special gifts.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

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

Proverbs 4:1

How great the responsibility that is laid upon a father's shoulders! It is his responsibility to teach his children of the Lord and to be the "priest" of his home. He also needs to provide for his family, to correct and chasten his children when they need it, and to love his wife even as "Christ loved the Church". When most of us think of our fathers, it is with thankful hearts, for we know they took, and even now take, their responsibilities seriously. Let us thank God and our fathers on Father's Day for living what it means to be a father.

On April 29, David and Sis. Dawn Duckworth were blessed with the arrival of a baby girl, Alyssa Faith. She joins brothers, Tyler and Dallas, at home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Delores Duckworth and Mike Harris (Pennsylvania) and Sis. Linda Harris (Roanoke, IL). May God give the wisdom to David and Sis. Dawn to raise their children to love and fear Him.

We want to thank our visiting ministers this past month, Bros. Craig Martin and Walt Herrmann (both from Princeville, IL), for visiting us and sharing the Word of God.

ILLINOIS

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Samuel and Pamela Furrer

"The supreme test of any civilization is whether or not it can teach men to become good fathers."

—Margaret Mead, anthropologist

Fatherhood. It is a role held by young men and old men, rich men and poor men, the highly educated and the illiterate. Our media often shows us either the positive, nurturing father who is very comfortable with the role of loving and providing

for the varied needs of his children or the very negative "deadbeat dads" who provide little or nothing for their children. Fatherhood does include both of these examples, and myriad others. Frequently forgotten or overlooked are the substitute father figures. These men, whether older brothers, uncles, grandfathers, neighbors, teachers, coaches, or step-parents, fill a needed role in the lives of the four out of every ten boys and girls in our country who do not live with their father. Fathers of all ages are generally doing a good job in their role, but the problems produced by those who don't generally make the news. Father's Day is a good time for everyone, particularly fathers, to take a look at the importance of this overwhelmingly important job that requires no previous experience and no formal education or training, yet has an impact that lasts for generations. Simple, honest, and pure gestures often have great meaning to our children. Sure, children will always remember the big family trip to the ocean, but the day-to-day attitude, outlook, and example shown by their father will influence them for a lifetime. Fathers might ask themselves: "If I died today, what would my child(ren) remember about me?" It's likely that we could all use a little polish in our role.

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near."

Isaiah 55:6

A few years ago, Sis. Ila June and Jerry Hari moved to Urbana and began coming to our church. The following years held a tough battle with cancer for Jerry, and he had both good times and bad during that time. It was during this most recent battle that Jerry called on the Lord and expressed his need for salvation. Unfortunately, it was possible for him to come to church only a couple of times after that, and then his health declined even more. Late in the evening on May 12, Jerry's earthly struggles ended and he went on to eternal rest. The funeral and

burial were held in Cissna Park, Jerry's home before moving here. We offer our condolences to Sis. Ila June and the rest of the family. What a blessing that he sought the Lord while he still had time!

We were reminded of our blessings and how we take things for granted when we saw the many images of Ixtlan, Mexico and the work that is being done there. Our Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue Plattner shared their images of their recent trip to see her parents, Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold. While we take so many things such as good roads, steady jobs, and many modern conveniences for granted, the people in locations where these things are not the norm still have the same God to call on for help and guidance and enjoy the same blessings and promises. Seeing the hunger for the Word that was evident in the pictures shown was a humbling experience that should make us even more thankful for the ready access to the Word and the countless blessings we enjoy.

Our annual business meeting was held, and a number of people will be taking on new roles and responsibilities in God's house. Sis. Christine Ginzl will be teaching Sunday School, Sis. Heidi Hanson will assume a place on the kitchen committee, Bro. Dennis Mangers is our new trustee, and Bro. Chad Kupferschmid our new usher. We all appreciate the work that those who have left these positions did and wish the new people God's guidance and blessings.

The University of Illinois and Parkland College have held their graduations, which means we're losing several of our students. A nice day was enjoyed by the student group at their Senior Picnic, an annual farewell send-off for those leaving. Whether going on to jobs or further education, we thank them for choosing to spend time with us in Champaign-Urbana, wish them well in their future endeavors, and encourage them to come back to visit us often. Those graduating include Sis. Jill (Hodel) Carnahan of Champaign (formerly of Roanoke);

Bro. Thad Heinold and Sis. Christina Martin of Cissna Park; Bro. Kevin Meiss and David Banwart of Fairbury; Shanna Schaffer of Forrest; Bro. Tim Blunier of Goodfield; Kirk Wagenbach of Oakville, IA; Bros. Mike and Rick Kaisner and Bro. Aaron Klopfenstein of Peoria; Bro. Ben Luginbuhl and Sis. Gini (Knapp) Gerber of Roanoke; and Bros. Mike Rassi and Todd Sauder of Tremont. Bro. Todd Sauder will have more than a new job to occupy his time as he was recently engaged to Sis. Wendy Witzig of Morton. Many blessings to all!

We have one student in our church graduating from high school this year. Luke Plattner (Bro. Paul and Sis. Susan) is graduating from Danville High School. We congratulate Luke on his accomplishment and wish him well as he ventures forth to life beyond high school!

This past month has been a busy one with visitors to our church on both Sundays and Wednesday evenings. On the Sunday our students hosted College Weekend, greetings were given from 32 different churches! The topic for the weekend study was "Reflecting Christ to the Glory of God—Belief Made Practical". Ministering Bros. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), and Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) were here for College Weekend. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) assisted Bro. Dave with serving us Holy Communion. Others coming to minister and share time with us were Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Joe Braker (Morton, IL), and ministering Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) and John Zeller (Morton, IL). It was a pleasure and a blessing to have all of these people with us to help us learn more about God and how we may live our lives more fully for Him.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

This past month at our house we had a concrete patio poured in the backyard. Watching the construction process of this patio proved to be very interesting and educational for our family. The first step was leveling the ground. Then the forms had to be made by nailing a rather flexible strip of wood to stakes in the ground. The next day the concrete was "poured" inside the form and the reinforcement rods were set in place. The concrete itself had particles of fiberglass intermixed to enhance the strength of the patio. Next was the smoothing process. As I watched, it seemed like the workers would have it smoothed just right and then they would "mess it up" again and rework it. On the last day, the forms were removed and the dirt was replaced around the edges.

This month God has been setting forms in place for several individuals in our congregation. We want to congratulate Tim Metzger (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Mary), Candace Rinkenberg (Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon) and Chris Lau (Bro. Steve and Sis. Marlene) as they graduate from high school and pray that they can follow the Lord's direction for the future. Sis. Stephanie Elliot has completed a dietetic internship from Hines V.A. Hospital. We also congratulate Sis. Stephanie on this accomplishment, but will have to say good-bye as she returns to her home in Bluffton, IN.

We also bid a more final farewell to Sis. Marie Kulyan as she has gone on to claim the victory over the grave. Sis. Marie was better known to those in the Chicago congregation who have lived here for several years as she has spent her more recent days in a nursing home in the area and was unable to attend church with us any longer.

Bro. David and Sis. Becky Kiefer are thankful for the way God is forming their family with the addition of Megan Hope, born May 6. Thankful grandparents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay Cargill (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Robert and Sis. Delores Kiefer

(Oakville, IA), along with big sister, Rachel, are also quite happy. We pray for Bro. David and Sis. Becky as they lay the spiritual groundwork for baby Megan.

Our prayers have been with LaVirra Lehman (Eugene) as she has spent several weeks in the hospital.

A special thank you goes to our visiting ministers this month, many of whom were here for business travel. Bros. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) and Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) visited Chicago this month.

Our home Bro. Greg Rassi presented a topical Bible study about Jonah on April 29. We thank him for the time and energy it takes to prepare for a topic.

On April 24, we shared Holy Communion which was so meaningful with Easter still fresh on our minds.

Our spiritual walk and the events of our lives can be a lot like the construction of our concrete patio. In the beginning we must level the ground of our lives getting rid of the unwanted things. Then God puts the forms into place. He fills our forms with the Spirit. He reinforces us with His Word for added strength. Next is the smoothing process that sometimes seems to get "messed up" according to our viewpoint. Wherever you are in the process, may you be encouraged.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Beth Steffen - Darlene Walder

Life brings unexpected joys and sorrows and it is with thankfulness that we do not see into the future. Only our Heavenly Father has that power and He is capable of preparing a path for all of us and providing grace to see us through.

We rejoice with Bro. Earl and Sis. Mary Knapp at the birth of a precious little granddaughter, Carly KateLynn Vazis. She is the daughter to Sue and Micheal Vazis from Hamburg, IL. We also want to extend our sympathy to Sis. Mary and Bro. Earl at the passing of her

brother, Carl Ghoison. Our prayers are also said on behalf of Barb Knapp who has been in and out of the hospital for testing and treatments. She is the daughter of Bro. Earl and Sis. Mary and is from Arlington Heights, IL.

Often death comes when we are not ready to say good-bye to those we love. The pain of separation lingers on after everyone has gone home. We say farewell to a beloved uncle, Bro. Don Walder, from Rittman, OH. He leaves his beloved wife, Sis. Martha. His brothers from our congregation are Bro. Les and Sis. Dorothy Walder and Bro. Dale and Sis. Dorothy Walder. He also leaves sisters-in-law, Sis. Lucille, Sis. Leona, and Sis. Wilma from here. A friend, Willis Young, has closed the chapter of this life. He is the brother to Bro. Harry and Sis. Bonnie Young and Eugene Young: Then on May 12, we were saddened to hear the deaths of Bro. Alvin Hari and Jerry Hari. Bro. Alvin was suddenly stricken with a fatal illness and was gone all too quickly. He will be sadly missed by his faithful wife, Betty; and son, Marcus and Brooke Hari and family from Michigan; and daughter, Sis. Gail and Bro. Ron Romersberger, from Gridley, IL; and a brother, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Maxine Hari from our congregation. Jerry Hari has been given a new body in Heaven as he repented before his final days. He no longer is in pain from the cancer that he endured. He will be missed by his dear wife, Sis. Ila June, a daughter, Connie and Dominic Sanfilippo and family of Plainfield, and a brother, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carolyn Hari from our congregation. We also want to offer our condolences to our friend, Walt Sinn, in the passing of a sister, Sylvia Tyler.

Sis. Esther Vogel has been hospitalized. As we are faced with trials, may they make us more mellow and Christ-like. This poem can be an encouragement to everyone.

Oh, beautiful rose, please tell me,
For I would like to know,
Why I must crush your petals
That sweet perfume may flow.

Oh, life that is clothed in beauty,
Perhaps like that beautiful rose,
You will need to be crushed by
suffering
Ere you give your best; who knows?

A life that is crushed by sorrow
Can feel for another's grief,
And send out that sweet perfume of
love
That will bring some heart relief.

Oh, do not repine at your testing,
When called to pass under the rod,
It is that life might the sweeter be,
And comes from the Hand of God.

He knows how much we are needing,
Of sorrow, or suffering, to test,
And only gives to His children
The things that He knoweth are
best.

Then let us rejoice when He sendeth
Some sorrow or hardship that tries,
And be glad to be crushed as the
rose leaf,
That a sweeter perfume may arise.
—*Flora L. Osgood*

Our visiting ministers this month
have been Bros. Ken Schneider
(Remington, IN) and Kevin Knapp
(Bloomington, IL). They each were
used to the honor and praise of God.

On May 8, the Mother/Daughter
Dinner was held at our Fellowship
Hall with many women in atten-
dance. We were encouraged through
song to be down on our knees and to
encourage our daughters (and sons)
to do the same.

The month of May can bring great
anticipation for many people
whether you be a farmer waiting for
the perfect weather to put out your
crops, or gardeners ready to harvest
fresh produce from your garden or a
parent ready to see your child
graduate from high school. We cele-
brate with five young ladies ready to
leave their days in school and look
for new and different avenues of life.
They are Shonda Maul (Mike and
Kathy), Julie Rudin (Bro. Gerald
and Sis. Joan), Kim Young (Dave
and Barb), Sis. Erica Rudin (Bro.
Arlyn and Sis. LaNae) and Jennifer
Knapp (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay).

Also, Amber Walder (Bro. Dennis
and Sis. Sharon) is graduating from
college. We hope and pray that God
will protect and guide these girls
and give them courage.

"...I am come that they might
have life, and that they might have
it more abundantly."

John 10:10

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Missy Banwart - Sandy Steiner

We were again blessed with visit-
ing ministers this past month. Bros.
Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Ken-
neth Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Bill
Gerst (Alto, MI) shared the Word
with us. May God continue to in-
spire the words that they speak.

On April 26, Bro. Kim and Sis.
Carol Craig were blessed with a
daughter, Laura Elizabeth. She is
welcomed home by older siblings,
Joan, Ben, Kate, Brian, Daniel, and
Nathaniel. Thankful grandparents
are Bro. Dan and Sis. Verla Wiegand
(Goodfield, IL) and James and Elda
Mae Craig (Congerville).

Our prayers and sympathy are
with our Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Sis.
Gloria) on the death of his brother,
Bro. Don Walder (Rittman, OH).
May God comfort him and his fam-
ily.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Peggy Heiniger Norma Schambach

On April 25-26, we were privi-
leged to hear the testimony of our
Sis. Joni Schambach (Bro. Bob and
Sis. Jeanne) and witness her bap-
tism. We welcome her into our
church family circle. We pray God's
blessings on her all the days of her
life.

We were saddened to hear of the
death of Bro. Sam (Betty)
Bachtold's father, Carl Bachtold, of
Forrest, IL. May the family feel
God's comfort in the loss of their
dear father and grandfather.

Sis. Helen Banwart was called
from time into eternity on April 23.
We will miss her friendly smile.

Our hearts ache for Brooks and
Donna Boyce who lost three infant
sons. Their pain and disappoint-
ment is so great; may God help
them. Bro. Howie and Sis. Pat Schif-
ferer share the loss with their
daughter.

Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mans-
field, OH) came to share the Memo-
randum with us. We appreciate
their many loving exhortations.
Bro. Mike Baumann traveled with
him for the weekend. Also here was
Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City,
MI).

Our thoughts and prayers are
with Sis. Kay (Bro. Earl) Steffen
who underwent heart surgery in
Peoria. They were visiting their
children in Morton when she was
stricken. We pray for her returning
health and strength and for her fam-
ily who is caring for Mom and Dad.

Caleb Jay is the newest family
member of our ministering Bro. Ed
and Sis. Ramona Strahm. Monica
and Brady are thrilled with their
little brother who was born May 9.

Ministering Bro. Jeff Thames
(Washington, IL) spent May 15-16
presenting "Greater Love", an in-
depth study of marriage in the light
of God's Word. We learned so much
and realize we all have work to do.
God's view of marriage is so beauti-
ful and holy. May we strive to live up
to His expectations.

Newly elected Sunday School
teachers are Bros. Tim Kellenberger
and Les Schambach and Sis. Ly-
nette Buckheister. We prayerfully
support them and wish them God's
grace as they take on these new re-
sponsibilities.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Janet Zimmerman

"Rejoice with them that do re-
joice, and weep with them that
weep."

Romans 12:15

This month our church has many
reasons to rejoice and also reasons
to weep. The weekend of May 16, we
were privileged to hear the testimo-
nies and witness the baptisms of two

dear souls. Our new sister and brother in faith are Sis. Andrea Beutel (Bro. Dan Beutel and Janet Ulrich) and Bro. Christopher Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Kary). We were encouraged to hear them tell of their repentance and of God's grace that helped them overcome sin and the world. How thankful we are to have a Father who loves us and watches over us. With us for the weekend were Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN), and Bros. Glenn Riggenbach (Smithville, OH), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL). May God bless them and their families for their labors of love.

We sympathize with those who have experienced the loss of loved ones. On April 22, Bro. Vernon Blunier was suddenly called Home to meet his loving Saviour. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Katie, and his children and grandchildren. His children are Sis. Lola Stoller (Bro. Stan), Bro. Ted (Sis. Donna), Bro. Myron (Sis. Elaine) and Kawin, all of Eureka; stepsons John, Randy and Doug Olson (Minneapolis, MN) and stepdaughters Sharon Bridgeman, Maxine Larson and Sis. Diane Stewart (Minneapolis, MN). We also extend sympathy to his brothers, Henry, Bro. Lewis, Bro. Sam

(Eureka, IL), Bro. Harold (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Homer (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Ben (Champaign, IL). His sisters are Sis. Grace Strahm (Sabetha, KS), Sis. Genevieve (Eureka, IL) and Sis. Pearl Leman (Roanoke, IL). We will all miss Bro. Vernon but we know that he is now safe in the arms of Jesus.

We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Laura Kupferschmid at the death of her brother, Carl Bachtold (Forrest, IL). He died April 22.

"I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."
Luke 13:3

We are thankful for our friends who saw the need to repent and give their heart to Jesus. We rejoice with Christine Fehr (Robert), Jake and

Nathan Wiegand (Dale and Sis. Freidora) and Alissa Wiegand (Bro. Don and Sis. Jane). May God grant them grace to build on that firm foundation, Jesus Christ.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month: Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Mike Rinkenger (Congerville, IL), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Randy Mogler (Washington, IL). May God bless them for being with us.

We also appreciated the visit of Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) on a recent Wednesday evening. We are thankful we can meet in the middle of the week and be refreshed by God's Word.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Melba Mangold as she recently had open heart surgery. We pray God's healing hand upon her and also for Sis. Evie Gudeman (Bro. Don). Sis. Evie had two knee replacements. Our prayers are with Christine Fehr who has been in the hospital and undergone surgery. We are thankful she could return home. May God be with them as they recover from their surgeries.

Believing God has drawn them together, we were happy to hear the engagement announcement of Sis. Julie Schertz (Randy and Tereza) and Bro. Kevin Kupferschmid (Bro. Ed and Sis. Donna), all of Eureka. May God be with them as they make decisions and plan for their wedding.

We have twelve high school graduates this year. They are Aaron Anliker, Becky Blunier, Brent Blunier, Jenny Blunier, Sis. Janel Carr, Josh Gerber, Brian Leman, David Prather, Julie Rocke, Sis. Angie Schmidgall, Phil Wettstein and Sam Wettstein. We pray that they would seek God's council and direction as they make their choices, whether it be higher schooling or in the work place.

We welcome two families to our church from the Phoenix, AZ church. Bro. Jim and Sis. Lyola Ringger and their daughter, Sis. Barb Ringger, and Bro. Bill and Sis.

Sue Sanders and their children, Bro. Jason, Jonathon and Melinda. We are happy to have them join us and hope that they feel at home with us.

Soon we will commemorate Father's Day and our thoughts turn to the hymn entitled "Faith of our Fathers" in the Hymns of Zion. We thank our husbands and fathers today for their faith and Godly example.

Notes of Thanks:

We sincerely thank everyone for their prayers, deeds of kindness, and love shown to us during our time of sorrow. May God richly bless each of you.

The Vernon Blunier family.

We want to thank everyone that offered prayers on our behalf, for cards and gifts, and to those who came to visit Bro. Joel since his surgery and recovery. We trust God will richly bless each of you for these deeds of kindness.

Bro. Joel and Sis. Sonia Banwart

May God bless each one for your prayers, cards and gifts when I was sick. I really appreciated it. Thank you!

*In Christian Love,
Sis. Denise Knecht*

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

This month, we have a special day, Father's Day. We, that have lost our fathers, have precious memories of their love and understanding. Those who still have their fathers, appreciate their love and concern. We all know that the Heavenly Father loves all of us.

We are blessed with many high school graduates. They are: Sis. Lori Edelman (Bro. Walter and Sis. Rosetta), Christine Frank (Bill Frank, Larry and Connie Corey), Sis. Janelle Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary), Sis. Angela Herr (Bro. Gary and Cindy), Amanda Montgomery (Jack and Sylvia), Sis. Shay Steffen (Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay), Bro. Trent Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane), Bro. Jeffery Stoller (Bro. Dale

and Sis. Sandra), Lori Stoller (Richard and Karen), and Sis. Carol VanScoy (Caroline). College graduates are: Christine Slagel (Ron and Sis. June) and Bro. Kevin Meiss (Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane). We pray that God's blessings will remain with them.

Luke Fehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley) and Hilary Maede (Wallace and Gina) have announced their engagement. We pray that God will bless this couple.

Trevor Reece was born April 19 to Dayton and Teresa Steidinger. His brothers, Aaron and Ethan, welcome him home, along with his grandparents, Jim and Jean Quick of Canton and David and Deann Steidinger.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Shaena Dietz are first-time parents to Logan Michael born May 10 on Mother's Day. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Mardell Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Don and Sis. Leann Schambach (Elgin, IL).

Hospital patients were: John Roth (Martha), Aaron Fehr (Bro. John and Sis. Jennifer), Bro. Willis Nussbaum (Sis. Elna), and Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen). We are looking forward to see them out and about again.

We sympathize with Bro. Willis Bachtold (Sis. Elsie) in the loss of his sister, Sis. Lillian Bachtold, and brother, Carl Bachtold.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Mary Bachtold - Jean Knapp

"In days of youth seek ye the Lord, His love and truth with one accord, Go offer Him thy youthful days and walk within the Savior's ways." Tiffany Zimmerman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy), Carrie Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly), and T. Anne Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy) have recently answered the Lord's call to repentance. It is our prayer they will wholly submit their lives unto His will "and while the years draw on apace, they'll praise Him for His love and grace." (Hymns of Zion #135)

The arrival of baby girls have brightened the homes of two families. Bro. Roger, Sis. Sheila, Ashley, Abby and Joel Steidinger welcome Mariah Sue into their family circle. Loving grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie Kaeb (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger. First-time parents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Jolene Young, rejoice in the birth of Shelby Kay. Happy grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy Young.

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel..."

Mark 16:15

We thank Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Bros. Glen Braker and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) for bringing God's message to us.

April 24 marked the golden wedding anniversary of Bro. Lester and Sis. Edith Zimmerman. We rejoice with them as they reminisce over the 50 years God has granted them together.

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

This is our prayer for our high school graduates: Shawn Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne), Sis. Tami Brown (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane), Dustin Davis (Jay and Kay), Bro. Clint Dotterer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy), Lisa Dotterer (Bro. Wendell and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Rachel Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley), Scott Knapp (Dale and Barb), Melinda Metz (Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol), Sis. Rebecca Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida), Craig Schaffer (Bro. John and Sis. Sally), Abby Schlatter (Tom and Barb), Bros.

Matthew and Michael Schneider (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra), Ben Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill), Bro. Adam Zimmerman (Bro. Rod and Sis. Micki), Bro. Josh Zimmerman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeanette), and Bro. Todd Zimmerman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy). We also pray for their classmate, Kristi Pruitt (Ron and Vicki Schaffer), who was involved in a serious car accident during her sophomore year and has made much progress in her recovery.

May God grant hospital patients, Bro. Ben (Sis. Irene) Traub, Sis. Alisa (Bro. Allen) Ricketts, Bro. Elmer (Sis. Emma) Ifft, and Sis. Holly (Bro. Glen) Steidinger, an increased measure of health and strength according to His will.

Funeral services were held for Carl Bachtold on April 25. Our prayers of sympathy are with his wife, Sis. Dorothy, and family. He is survived by three daughters, Sis. Miriam (Bro. Ben) Metz (Francisville, IN), Sis. Roberta (Bro. Wayne) Broquard, Sis. Gloria (Bro. Wayne) Drayer; and three sons, Roger (Shirlene) of Fairbury, IL, Bro. Sam (Sis. Betty) of Elgin, IL, and Bro. Herb (Sis. Jan). Also surviving are three sisters, Sis. Laura Kupferschmid of Eureka, IL, Sis. Nettie Kyburz and Sis. Janita (Bro. Leroy) Koehl; and two brothers, Bro. Willis (Sis. Elsie) of Fairbury, IL and Bro. Elmer.

Death has touched others in our congregation. Dan (Mary) Bradley has experienced the loss of his mother, Ruth Wagner (Colfax, IL). We also sympathize with Bro. Homer (Sis. Virginia) Blunier in the sudden passing of his brother, Bro. Vernon Blunier (Eureka, IL). May God comfort the hearts of these loved ones during their time of sorrow.

Notes of Thanks:

Many thanks to our dear children, relatives and friends for gifts, cards and thoughts for our 50th anniversary. We are overwhelmed. God bless you.

Bro. Perry and Sis. Dorothy Zimmerman

A heartfelt thanks to all my relatives and many friends from various places for the cards, gifts, phone calls and especially the prayers since my accident and stay in the hospital in Sarasota. Everything was deeply appreciated. May God bless you all.

Bro. Clarence Koehl

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Jan Beer

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

John 13:35

Love shown to those in sorrow and illness:

"We wish to express our heartfelt thanks for all the love, prayers, cards, memorials, and other kind deeds shown during our sorrow at the passing of our mother, Ruth Rokey. May God richly bless all of you."

John and Linda Rokey, Eldora and Ray Olson, Vermeda and Duane Freidinger, Kenneth and Phyllis Rokey

"We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the prayers, visits and cards while Elmer was in the hospital and recovering at home. May God bless you all!"

Elmer and Minnie Grusy

Long-lasting love:

Bro. Bill and Sis. Clem (Knapp) Joos celebrated 64 years of marriage on April 14. Congratulations, Bro. Bill and Sis. Clem! Thank you for your testimony of faithfulness.

Love shown in service:

Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) served us from the pulpit on April 26. On May 17, Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Vern Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL) and Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) served us. Thank you, brothers, for your service on our behalf.

Love in action:

Our young group of believers prepared, served and cleaned up after

the church lunch on Mother's Day. Thank you for your love in action, dear sisters and brothers. You are loved.

Married love:

Sis. Missy Bauman and Bro. Greg Post became husband and wife on May 17. We wish you God's grace for a long and happy life together serving the Author of Love.

Opportunity to show love:

Several in our congregation have had serious illness, surgery or accidents. I hesitate to name individuals for fear of overlooking anyone. Perhaps this can be a challenge to each of us to search out those who are dealing with illness, sorrow or heartache and show love to them.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

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

Genesis 8:22

Across the nation, and here in Gridley, it has been seedtime, both on the surrounding farms, and in the village. It's normal to see farmers with gigantic implements quickly planting crops between rains; and in town one sees both men and women planting gardens, and flowers. It's a wonderful time of renewal.

With rain and sunshine comes growth. And with the growth of plants comes weeds. Weeds, if not consistently attended to, can disrupt growth. The cultivation of corn as well as pulling weeds after mowing the lawn are necessities for proper growth.

When weeds are removed, it improves the scenery, and presents a better image. Too, it gives evidence of a neatly cared-for lawn.

Spiritually, we all need to remove "weeds" from our spiritual garden. If we are careless, the weeds of ungodliness, and the appearance of evil, can sprout in our heart. Little

traits of affection for the things of the world can multiply to choke the true spirit of Christ in our hearts.

If we remove the spiritual weeds in our heart, the Holy Spirit can thrive, and God can be glorified. In humility, let us all pray for grace so the weeds of darkness can be removed.

May 24 was the wedding date of Sis. Kate Baner and Bro. David Ringger. Her parents are ministering Bro. Steve and Sis. Donnalou Baner. He is the son of Elder Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie Ringger. May God bless this union of hearts. We wish them many years of happiness in the Lord.

The Bible Class and high school age members, along with four teachers and their wives, returned from a week in Jamaica. They were accompanied by ministering Bro. Byron and Sis. Carol Stoller. The trip was made under the auspices of Work Projects. May God bless their efforts for the deaf village where they worked. We thank God for their safe return.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

Once again, our congregation has laid to rest several of our loved ones. It behooves each of us to live each day as the Lord would have us to live. We should be prompted to make Christ truly the Lord of our lives and not to shrink from telling others the wonderful Good News.

John Hirstein died suddenly at the age of 84. May the Lord comfort and bless his wife, Alice; his two sons, Roger and James; his four grandchildren; his six great-grandchildren; his two brothers, W. Sam and Edward; his three sisters, Sis. Edna Fite, Ann Rupprecht, and Samantha Meeker; and his other relatives and friends.

On May 1, Bro. William Getz, 97, died of a heart attack while mowing his lawn. May the Lord fill the void for his two daughters, Sis. Joan Oberlander and Sis. Eleanor Geyer; his sister, Ann Foster; his two brothers, Clyde and Bro. Harry; his

two grandchildren; his three step-grandchildren and his other relatives and friends.

Sis. Bertha Getz, age 93, died at the Apostolic Christian Restmor on May 9. May the Lord comfort her husband, Bro. Harry; her two sons, Glen and Roy; her three grandchildren; her seven great-grandchildren; and her other relatives and friends.

Baby Conner Alex arrived April 14 to bless the home of Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim Cantrall. Also welcoming him are his big brothers, Trevor and Christopher. His grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Jackie Babin and Donna Headley and Tom Cantrall.

Believing God has directed them, Sis. Wendy Witzig (Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy) and Bro. Todd Sauder (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky) of Tremont announced their engagement. May the Lord richly bless them as they make plans for their life together.

New Sunday School teachers were elected. They are Bro. Daren Metz and Sis. Kathy Tanner. We wish them God's wisdom as they undertake this responsibility. We would also like to thank and voice our appreciation of the retiring Sunday School teachers. They are Bro. Phil Witzig, Sis. Barb Kaiser and Sis. Cheryl Knobloch. Thank you for letting your talents be used in this service.

On May 6, a dinner was held honoring our graduating high school seniors. The monthly Family Worship service also addressed them although application could be made for the entire congregation. The graduates are Sara Bachman (Todd and Kathryn Grimm), Bro. Casey Getz (Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol), Paul Grimm (Bro. Mark and Sis. Becky), Bro. Tate Kaiser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly), Bro. Trent Kaufman (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Rhonda), Sis. Haley Kruse (Bro. Doug and Sis. Gerry), Mike Mayo (Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail), Brooke Miller (Bob and Linda), Bro. Joshua Rassi (Bro. Gary and Sis. Debbie), Summer Roeschley (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lynn), Bro. Daniel Wuthrich (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl), and Jesse Zeller (Bro. Jon and Sis. Christie).

We pray they will seek God's guidance in their lives.

On April 25, we gathered together for Holy Communion where we meditated on our Lord's gift to us; the opportunity for eternal life by paying the supreme sacrifice. We wish to thank visiting Elder Bros. Charles Hemmer (Peoria, IL) and Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) for assisting in this remembrance.

Also visiting us this month were Bros. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL). We wish to thank them and their families.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Peter and Mabel Weber

Most people are blind to the truth until they find it and then it makes all the sense in the world. This was the experience of four young men in their prime of life whom God called and who heeded His invitation. We thank Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) for assisting on May 2 with the testimonies of Sam Hoerr, Shane Robison, Trent Scholl and Andy Slotter as they gathered for the most important occasion of their lives. It was mentioned that they have a responsibility towards God to be a witness in their conduct, that the world has nothing to offer and there should be no desire to go back to the old sinful life but strive for a home in Heaven throughout eternity. We also must be careful not to believe "once saved, always saved" because our name can be blocked out of the Book of Life, but grow in grace. Affirm and do not swear and don't harm your fellowman and carry a gun but be careful to be a witness to Jesus. Love is not love until it is given away. Bro. Lavoyd mentioned on Sunday that the troubles of life will soon be over, but eternity is forever. Know enough to believe without questioning and grow in grace. We know God is the boss, but we don't act like it and let Him be Lord in our lives. It's time to wake up and quit fooling around with insignificant things. If you died now (not tomorrow), where would you spend eternity?

Bro. Randy Gasser and the Detroit Choir visited us on April 25-26. He mentioned that the anticipation we experience when driving to church is not measurable as it is of the Holy Ghost. Only in our faith do we greet with a holy kiss and then ask the name. Satan loves to get us hung up on mysteries, but if we had all the answers, where would the excitement be? We are not called to understanding, but to trusting. Power comes through weak brothers, who are ready in a spiritual sense, rather than by premeditation. Many things are not given to us to know because they are the wisdom of the world, but the wisdom of God is for us to be prepared. The moment we take the first tiny step in faith, things change and the natural man has access to spiritual powers...grace (Matthew 22). Talent, time and treasure should be our first fruits to God, achieving balance in our lives and yielding to Him and His agenda. Do not get caught up in negativism but believe all things work together for good to them who love God. Our actions and reactions impact the body of which we are a part and God called us to our unique vocation to make a difference. "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?" (Jeremiah 32:27). Thanks, Bro. Randy, for your clearly defined message and to the Detroit Choir for your uplifting song services.

In the Communion service on April 30 at the Skylines for the residents and those not able to partake of it at church, Bro. Ken Hoerr mentioned that in the Old Testament they had to bring sacrifices over and over, but now Jesus' sinless blood paid the price and He transfused it into us so that we may live if we are willing to believe.

With Mother's Day approaching, Bro. Mike Rieker's topic for our family night service in May was "The Blessings of a Godly Woman", based on I Peter 3:1-12. A Godly woman, with a righteous life for God by her very nature, has a tremendous impact as her agenda is love, coupled with fear. On Mother's Day we think of how things were and

how the family circle has changed.

"Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this." (Eccl. 7:10). The old days (around the turn of the century) were hard but we remember the good so much more than the bad. We need to think about what we are doing and saying and dwell with our wives with knowledge and love and look to no other. Wives are the weaker vessel and we must care for them, but they are strong in faith, not so much up and down, show intuition and are only physically weaker, not in conviction. Jesus changed the role of women by calling them heirs together of the grace of life. How can we appreciate the godly women in our life? Today they would be happy if we eschewed evil and did good, sought peace and ensued it. Bro. Rick Plattner added there is power in a good example. We have a great responsibility to pass on Godly order, dwell with knowledge, make the Word practical and cast a faithful shadow for those after us so they will say: those were the good old days!

Hearty congratulations to Nathan and Joanie Hoerr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia) for Chad James (#3); and Chip and Kim Hemmer (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marian) for Claire Elizabeth (#2).

We extend our sincere sympathy to the Geyer family who mourns the passing of Cora (80) on May 8 at Belwood.

Bros. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) and Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN) brought their ministries to our congregation on April 19 and May 10 and we thank them for inspiring messages.

Forty-eight singers participated in the annual choir presentation, which was attended by 256 guests. The proceeds will be used to support Faith, Hope and Love, the flower fund, Skylines and the Church charity funds. Many thanks to all who contributed to make this event such a joyful occasion to fellowship and praise the Lord.

Hospital patients were Phyllis

Bennett, Ann Leman, Sisters Karen Dunbar, Luci Endress, Lillian Koehl and Bro. Vic Stickling. Sis. Lillian has been at OSF for two months and needs our special prayers.

Soon the travel season will get under way again. Solomon maintained 1,400 chariots with 12,000 charioteers. There must have been roads to make wheeled traffic possible and probably some road services, especially through wadis and mountain passes. Isaiah may have had this in mind when he wrote "...go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people;...cast up the highway; gather out the stones..." (62:10). May the traveling mercies of the Lord protect all who will be taking to the roads this summer.

Note of Thanks:

A special thank you to all that remembered us with their cards, gifts and wishes of love for our 50th anniversary. May God bless each one of you.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Sheryl Martin

"Cause me to hear thy loving kindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust; cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee. Deliver me, O Lord, from mine enemies; I flee unto thee to hide me. Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God; thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness."

Psalms 143:8-10

Summertime is a time to draw very close to our Heavenly Father as we take a walk along the countryside in the warm summer evening with a sunset in the sky. So often clouds enhance the beauty of the sunset. As in our lives, some clouds or dark days make us stronger in the Lord. We depend more upon Him when these days come.

A precious little son, Daniel Marvin, was born to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Renae Herrmann on May 5. Dallas and Victoria welcome him

home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Bertha Jean Herrmann and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan Stieglitz (Leo, IN). As this couple raises their family in the fear of the Lord, may they keep their faith and trust in Jesus.

On April 26, Bro. Michael Stratton (Taylor, MO) and Sis. Lori Martin were united together in marriage. Bro. Michael is the son of Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Stratton (Taylor, MO) and Sis. Lori is the daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa Martin. May the peace and love of God reign in their hearts as they take this step of faith in the Lord. We will miss Sis. Lori as she leaves our congregation and makes her new home in Taylor.

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

One chapter will be closed and another one will be opened in the lives of our 8th graders and seniors as they graduate from school. May they look to the Lord for His guidance and direction as they face these new decisions in their lives. Our senior graduates are Ted Ehnle (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jane), Troy Endress (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Luann), Mitchell Hartzler (Bro. Al and Sis. Vicky), Aaron Menold (Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy) and Bro. Jason Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy).

Our 8th grade graduates are Rachel Baer (Ron and Sis. Deanne), Sarah Baer (Bro. Larry and Sis. Vera), Bethany Kieser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Kathy), Sarah Streitmatter (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet), Stephanie Regier (Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay), Jill Wagenbach (Kurt and Mary Beth), Jonathan Aupperle (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cindy), Ty Endress (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Luann), Brett Herrmann (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Lavonne), Michael Herrmann (Bro. Allen and Sis. Rose), Robert Herrmann (Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann), Beau Martin (Bro. Mike and Sis. Julie),

Bro. Andy Schick (Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie) and Jacob Streitmatter (Chuck and Linda).

May Sis. Dorothy Stoller feel God's nearness during the time of her recovery.

On May 17, we witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Kerry Baer (Ray Baer and Sis. Janna Lou Baer) and Sis. Esther Streitmatter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Lynn). May they be a light to those that they come in contact with as they put on the whole armour of God to stand against the wiles of the devil.

O Father hand, that guides me so
securely,
O Father eye, that watches over me,
O Father heart, that hears my
pray'r so surely,
And thinks of me in love and charity!
Conduct me further on my pilgrim
journey,
The narrow way that leads to
heav'n above;
And make me worthy of that life
eternal,
Alike in sore distress, in peace and
love.
Zion's Harp #180

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Lisa Leman - Boni Stoller

"Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers."
Proverbs 17:6

On this Father's Day, let us take the time to remember all the things that our fathers have done for us.

We are thankful for the ministers who came to share the Word of God with us this month. May God richly bless Bros. Victor Bauman (Smithville, OH), Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA).

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

child.
Gospel Hymns #622

Our hearts rejoiced to hear that Trisha Bates (Jim and Sis. Jan) is seeking the Lord in repentance. May God's grace enable her to anchor firmly to the rock of our salvation, Jesus Christ.

We pray for our hospital patients: Steven Fischer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Deb), Michael Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Boni) and Sis. Doris Bowald. May each of them feel God's healing power.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

"When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee."
Deuteronomy 8:10

We thank our visiting ministers for serving us this past month. They were Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), and Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) and Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH). May God richly bless them for their labor of love and may He bless the seed that has been sown that it may bear fruit in the days ahead.

We rejoice with the engagement of Bro. Todd Sauder (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky) to Sis. Wendy Witzig (Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy) of Morton, IL.

Also engaged is Richard Beutel of Stowe, VT (Bro. Al and Sis. Carol) to Naida Gillespie of Stowe, VT. They plan to be married July 11. We trust that the Lord will be with these couples as they travel life's road.

Hospitalized this month was Christine (Byrl) Austin and Bro. Curt (Sis. June) Zuercher. We pray God's healing power on all who are suffering bodily afflictions whether at home or in the hospital.

Our sympathy is extended to Della (Willard) Schweigert, Sheri (Chris) Allen and their families in

the death of Violet White, sister and grandmother of Della and Sheri.

"Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law."

Proverbs 4:1-2

We rejoice with Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth Kaiser in the birth of Jacob Daniel, born April 23. He was welcomed home by Levi, Jesse and Tori; also grandparents, Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann Steiner and Bro. Mel and Sis. Marlene Kaiser.

On May 1, Lydia Rose was born to Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Wagenbach. She was welcomed home by Paul, Gary, David, Holly, Lisa, Wendy, Emily and Mary.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Tammy Schaefer welcome Mary Beth, born May 9, into their home. Bro. Gene and Sis. Joyce Strunk (Morton, IL) and Bro. Maurice and Sis. Marjorie Schaefer are thankful and excited grandparents.

We wish God's blessings upon these families and may they look to Him for guidance and direction in raising their children.

April 18-19 was a special weekend for our congregation as we heard the testimonies of three precious souls who have turned their back to sin and unrighteousness. We welcome Sis. Jenny Sauder (Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice), Sis. Amber Stuber (Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth) and Sis. Kelly Koch (Bro. Dave and Sis. June) into our church family. We thank God continually for His grace that still abounds to call and convict souls unto everlasting life.

Note of Thanks:

The Brunner family would like to sincerely thank everyone for their kindness, sympathy, prayers, cards, memorials and food during the passing of their dear one, Lydia Brunner.

Sincerely, Elmer Brunner

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Sue Ruppert
Denise Romersberger

"For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you."

Philippians 1:23-24

What is the right age at which to die? None of us could give a quick, easy, or satisfying answer to that question. Even the answer "Never" is filled with problems. At night from beds of pain, many elderly people pray to die, knowing that each day brings with it many difficulties. Do they die too late? Time after time we hear of people in the prime of their life killed in tragic accidents or babies who die so young. Did they die too soon?

The Apostle Paul wrestled with the question of life and death; staying or leaving; Heaven or earth. He felt it was a "win-win" situation. If he were to continue living, he would continue to serve his Saviour, Jesus, using all his energies to tell the clear message of the Gospel as he did to the jailer in Philippi. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." (Acts 16:31). If he were to die, he knew that he would immediately be in Heaven, seeing with unveiled eyes his Lord, who first appeared to him on the road to Damascus.

We, like Paul, face a "win-win" situation. Until the day we go to Heaven, we worship, work, and witness, showing that to live is Jesus and to die is gain.

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers this month, due to various activities. Bros. Ken Wuethrich and Greg Stieglitz (both of Indianapolis, IN) joined us when their choir traveled to Washington to share an evening of song with us. Bros. Ted Hirstein and John Zeller (both of Morton, IL) joined us for two separate Bible Studies. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) came to assist with baptisms. Bros. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) and Gerald Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) also shared in the Word with us. We thank you all for your efforts!

Bro. Shea Ledford (Bro. Chris

and Sis. Stacy) and Bro. Tom Kellenberger (Bro. Ron and Sis. Carole) gave their testimonies and were baptized this past weekend. We wish our new brothers the grace of God as they continue to grow in the Lord.

Abram Levi is the fourth son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Shelle Schumacher. His grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Betty Schumacher, and Laura Durfey. Brothers, Andrew, Joshua, and Isaac welcomed him home.

A dinner in honor of Bro. Carl Wyss and his family was held to thank him for the many years of ministry that he gave to the Washington congregation. He has served us faithfully as he watched the church start as a small group, as the present church building was built, and as the congregation has grown in size. He has served as Deacon since 1990. We thank him for all he has done, and wish him the continued blessings of the Lord in this retirement phase of his life.

Several of our congregation have earned congratulations as they graduate. The high school graduates include Sis. Maria Kellenberger, Bro. Will Kellenberger, Bro. Billy Schick, and Shayne Fehr. Those graduating from college include Sis. Becky Hall, Bro. Tim Walder, Sis. Leslie Bucher, and Lynette Fritz. We wish these graduates the presence of our God as they go forth into new stages of life.

A new stage of life also awaits Bro. Ken and Sis. Laura Wagenbach as they leave the Washington congregation to make a new home in the Kiowa, KS area. They and their children, Rebekah, Clare, LaNae and Blake, will be missed by our church family. May the Lord go with you!

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Kim Maller

Trudy Eisenmann

It was a special evening reflecting on Jesus Christ at Communion services as Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN), Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) joined us in taking the cup and

breaking bread. Bro. Phil had also joined us in the reading of the Memorandum. Bros. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) also joined us this month. Thanks to all of you, as well as Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) in joining us for baptisms on May 17. We rejoice with Bro. Jeff Moser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda), Bro. Chet Baumgartner (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ruth), Sis. Robin Anderson (Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Sutter) and her husband, Bro. Harry Anderson (Harry and Ruth), Sis. Stefanie Dailey (Bro. Doug and Sis. Susan) and Bro. Kurt Klopfenstein (Bro. John and Sis. Linda) in finding peace with God and receiving baptism.

A reception was held in honor of Bro. Harry and Sis. Devona Longenberger for their 50th wedding anniversary!

Also rejoicing are Bro. Todd and Sis. Shelly Baller in the birth of their third girl on May 1. Kylie Shae joins her older sisters, Alexa and Whitney. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Sue Baller and Bro. Gary and Sis. Diann Tonner.

On May 9, a little boy was born to Bro. Alan and Sis. Joli Gerber. Anna, Erika, and Mark welcome their new brother, Daniel James. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Gerber and Bro. Dezso and Sis. Jolan Vidakovics of Hungary. What a joy!

Bro. Kurt Reimschisel has announced his plans to spend the rest of his engagement time with the Wichita, KS church where his fiancée, Sis. Katie Wirtz, resides. We wish you God's blessings and hope to see you with your new bride soon!

Our prayers are extended for those in need of medical treatment, including Bud Shady (father of Bro. Scot Shady), Bro. Lenard Bertsch (Sis. Wava), Sis. Gladys Lantz (Bro. Dan), Bro. Seth Gerber (Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb) and also Bro. Harold Geisel (Sis. Ellen).

Prayers are also extended on behalf of the families of Sis. Nellie

Birch, who joined her husband, Bro. Sam, in meeting her eternal reward; and also passing on was Sis. Hulda Fiechter whose husband, Bro. David, had been previously deceased. Our hearts were touched by their lives.

God bless all of you this summer as together we actively work to spread His kingdom into many hearts in a deeper and more meaningful way!

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Lori Steffen - Rhonda Maller

We were twice blessed with visiting ministers this past month. Our thanks go to Bros. Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene, Goodfield, IL) and Max Reimschisel (Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS) for sharing His Word with us. May we always pray and support these "watchmen on the wall".

Two young men have found the grace to come to the Cross in repentance. We are thankful and prayerful for Kelby Kershner (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki) and Krent Reinhard (Bro. Roger and Sis. Maureen).

Our congratulations to Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Tina Greenway who were united in Holy Matrimony on May 3. May God bless their walk together with joy and peace.

Bro. Aaron and Sis. Jaila Taylor are the happy new parents of their firstborn son, Avery Neal. Excited grandparents are Bro. Neal and Sis. Karen Gerber. Blessing number seven, Kailey Marie, was welcomed into the home of Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki Kershner. Kailey joins Kyann, Kellan, Kelby, Klayton, Kinsey and Korinn.

We rejoice that Taylor Maller (Bro. Ben and Sis. Jaime) was able to return home from the hospital after an extended visit. Our prayers are with Bro. Leonard Bertsch (Sis. Wava) who is recovering at home following surgery. We also lift up Sis. Sue Harris (Bro. Mark) and her family in prayer as she faces surgery. May God bless both Bro. Leonard and Sis. Sue with complete recovery.

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

Philippians 4:7

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Pam Huber

During this month, as so many young people graduate and move on to other avenues of life, we clearly see how quickly time does move. And how did we spend it? Let us remember the wisdom in Solomon's reflections on life as he wrote, "I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all." (Eccles. 9:11)

Pray for God's wisdom to make the most of the time He has given us.

Congratulations to our high school graduates this year: Sis. Andria Gudeman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Peg), Allison Gutwein (Sis. Melody), Sis. Alyssa Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy), Sis. Sandra Gutwein (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice), Sis. Rachel Huber (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki), Nicholas Leman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Pam), Sis. Amanda Ward (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandi) and Miranda Wuethrich (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy). We pray for God's grace and wisdom as you seek His direction for your lives.

Our Sis. Miriam Metz (Bro. Ben) laid her dear father to rest recently. Carl Bachtold was from Forrest, IL and we pray for the Lord's comfort and peace in their family.

Shelbi Shidler (Mike and Tracey) was in the hospital overnight for a tonsillectomy this past month. We are very thankful for God's healing hand on her and that she is home again with her family.

We are also very thankful for the visiting ministers this past month, Bros. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Will Schieler (Milford, IN). May God bless you for your labor of love.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Lynn Dotterer

We rejoice over the April 13 birth of Kara Ann Mustard, daughter of Brian and Deann Mustard. Big sister, Kaitlyn, is excited to have a little sister to love.

Our church family keeps growing and growing. This month we welcome Bro. Chris and Sis. Sara Frauhiger and their children from Detroit, MI.

On May 16, our church had our annual Spring Outreach Day. It was a blessing to be able to help others in need as Jesus commanded we do.

We thank Bro. Chris (Sis. Carla) Wuethrich for sharing God's Word with us this month.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Anna Marie Stoller

"What am I doing to preserve the faith for the future?" This is one of the statements from the Memorandum exhortation that was delivered to us by God's inspiration. Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) spent a weekend with our congregation to help with the Memorandum, and on Sunday our spiritual cups were filled to overflowing as the water of life flooded our hearts and minds. Ephesians 6 was meditated upon, where we were reminded to uphold the faith of our fathers.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God..." (Matthew 6:33). John Sawyer (John and Thelma), Jenny Massner (Bro. Randy and Mary Lynn), and Joel Troxel (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol) have begun the journey of seeking their soul's salvation. Our prayer is that each one might experience a deep repentance for their sins, establish a true transformation in their lives and enjoy a deep, lasting peace with God.

Sis. Lucille Nuestr submitted to surgery and is making a nice recovery. Bro. John Heiniger has spent many hours and days in the hospital but is now home. Sis. Mary Gudeman has been struggling with poor health at Parkview Haven. Our prayers ascend Heavenward for each of our loved ones during these difficult

times.

Morsels from the Master's table this month included Ezekiel 16:49, "this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness..." God's servant reminded us of the three P's that can detract us from our faithful walk with the Lord: Pride, Plenty and Pleasure.

Sis. Kerri Goodwin (Jerry and Chris), Bro. Lucas Frank (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan) and Bro. Eric Heinold (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy) have received college degrees. Sis. Kerri is getting married, Bro. Eric will be locally employed, but Bro. Lucas will be moving to Detroit for employment. Our loss is Detroit's gain, and our thoughts and prayers will be with Bro. Lucas as he adjusts to the many changes in his life. "You leave us to seek your employment my boy, By the world you have yet to be tried; But in the temptations and trials you meet, May your heart to the Saviour confide." (Brumley)

Sis. Michelle Stoller and Bro. Neil Stoller (Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie) are graduating from high school. "Hold fast to the right, Wherever your footsteps may roam, Oh forsake not the way of salvation, my boy [and girl], That you learned from your mother [and father] at home." (A.E. Brumley)

Recently a dear sister related this true story as we sat side by side at a singing. A brother in faith was serving our country during World War II. His sergeant ridiculed and mocked him because he prayed so much. When the troops came under fire by the enemy, this mocking sergeant knew there was a place of safety and that was as close as he could get to our brother who prayed so earnestly. One of this brother's favorite hymns became "Pray, pray though your eyes grow dim; go with your troubles straight to Him. Pray, pray for God understands. Have faith leaving all in His dear hands." (Tabernacle Hymns #40)

INDIANA, LAFAYETTE

Gordon Gerber

We greatly appreciate the efforts

of those ministers who visited us in this past month, including Bros. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) and Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN). There is a powerful reward awaiting those who faithfully speak, hear and do the Word.

On April 21, the Fellowship Center was open for the annual Purdue spring picnic, and over 65 people attended. This event centers on the fellowship that we all enjoy in Christ, and helps to build the bonds of faith, both to meet today's need and those in the years ahead. We believe that these evenings together are a positive influence on all who attend.

Our prayers go with those who have completed their school experience at Purdue and are entering their next phase of life. This includes Bro. Brian Blume, Bro. Lucas Frank, Sis. Erika Gerber, convert Lane Gerber, Sis. Kerri Goodwin, Sis. Marie Gutwein, Bro. Eric Heinold, Bro. Rob Honegger, Sis. Sharlin Huber, Bro. Phil Leman, Bro. Matt Pfister, Sis. Sara Steffen, Bro. Ned Stoller, Bro. and Sis. Joe and Tara Sprunger, and friend Bill Langhoffer. For those who are leaving the Lafayette area, may God bless you as you depart.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy Ringger and their family have relocated to Francesville, as Dale is taking new employment in that area. We will certainly miss their positive influence among us, and hope that they can find the time to make the short drive down to Lafayette for a visit. We wish them all of God's blessings in their new home.

This summer, services in Lafayette are scheduled on alternate Thursday evenings at the church. Planned dates are May 14, May 28, June 11, June 25, July 9 and July 23, with song service beginning at 7:30 p.m. Our first scheduled service for the fall semester is planned for August 27, Lord willing. If you plan to be in Lafayette over the summer break, or know of any new students planning to move to Lafayette for the fall semester, please call Bro. Neal Widmer at (765) 448-4709 for

more information. Our goal is to include everyone, because everyone is important to God.

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

We welcomed Bros. Bill Waibel and family (Bay City, MI), Ron Bollier and family (Indianapolis, IN), and Robert Meyer and Sis. Ann (Bluffton North, IN) this month. Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner and Sis. Maureen (Bluffton North, IN) were with us on Saturday evening, May 16, for the testimonies of Laura Fischer (Bro. Paul and Sis. Leanne) and Amanda Stieglitz (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda), and on Sunday for their baptisms. It was a joyful day. We thank all the visiting ministers for their service of love in Jesus name.

Elder Bro. David Bertsch and Sis. EmmaJean Stieglitz are able to attend church services again. We continue to pray for their healing as the process has been slow.

Our Spring Banquet was a "Garden Party" on May 9. The ladies gathered at the Fellowship Center for a buffet luncheon. The program started with planting seeds to nurturing and harvesting and made the beautiful application to our spiritual life. Thank you, sisters, for your efforts and the inspiration you presented.

Along with this theme, I do have an uplifting and joyful story. The latter half of March I traveled to Brazil to visit my niece and family. She, her husband and six children work in church planting with PAZ (Apostolic Christian Church Nazarene). In 1994, I was interested in having a salvation coloring book "He Is Risen" printed in Brazilian Portuguese. It had been translated by a teacher who taught in Brazil. In July 1994, our Vacation Bible School took on the project to raise the funds for the printing. Whatever they raised was matched and 10,000 copies were printed. Some copies were sent to PAZ. I took 300 with me when I went to visit. My first weekend was a visit to one of the river churches and we took 50 copies

along to distribute. There was a man from up river visiting that Sunday, because the business he came to the city of Belem to transact could not be completed until Monday. When he saw the coloring books, he related how several years ago, as they were passing the books out to the children, he asked for one and two weeks later he repented after reading the book. I also met the teacher who did the translation. I was overwhelmed at how the Lord brought us together, and to see fruit from one seed.

"...Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields: for they are white already to harvest."

John 4:35

INDIANA, MILFORD

Renee Beer - Linda Beer

Bro. Bill and Sis. Anne Troup are grandparents of Heather Faith Troup. Her parents are Tim and Angie of Eglin AFB, Florida. Sisters, Holly and Karlie, are happy for their new sister.

We appreciated the inspiring talk Bro. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) gave on tribulation. It was encouraging to again be reminded God is in control and His grace and strength will help us through whatever He asks us to bear. Christ suffered and yielded to His Father's will though it was not what He desired.

As we think of the eagle soaring through the air, we see her responsibility is to simply stretch out her wings. God supplies the wind to keep her afloat. If she assumes the right position, God will supply the power to keep her aloft. We need to trust and yield to our God, as the eagle does to the wind, that we can stay in His will.

We thank Bros. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) for sharing God's Word with us. Bro. Carroll recited the following:

I asked God to take away my pride. God said "No, that's not for me to take away. That's for you to give up."

I asked God to give me patience. God said, "No, patience is a by-product of tribulation. It's not granted, it's earned."

I asked God to give me happiness. God said, "No. I give my blessings but happiness is up to you."

I asked God to spare me pain. God said, "No. Suffering draws you out of a world of care and brings you closer to Me."

I asked God to help my spirit to grow. God said, "No. It's up to you to grow, but I'll prune you to make you more fruitful."

I asked God, "Do you love me?" God said, "Yes. I gave my Son Jesus who died and shed His blood that you could be in Heaven together with Him someday because you believe and obey."

I asked God to give me love to love others as much as He loves me. And God said, "Ah, finally you've gotten the idea."

—*unknown*

The engagement of Sis. Rachel Beer (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby) to Bro. Chris Laukhuf of Latty (Bro. John and Sis. Marcia) was announced. We pray their life will be filled with God's many blessings and that He will always be the third partner of their union.

We offer our congratulations to our high school and college graduates - Mary Cockburn (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue), Kim Troup (Bro. Bill and Sis. Anne), Rob Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy), Clint Steffen (Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen), Jeff Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat), Bro. Marc Beer (Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy), Shane Beer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie) and Sonya Beer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda). We pray each of these graduates will look to God to direct their future. Sis. Rachel Beer (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby) graduated from dental hygiene school.

God gives His best to those who leave the choice with Him.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Patti Bahler

Our thoughts will especially be with our fathers this month, as June

21 has been set aside to honor our fathers. I read this story recently, and it caused me to search my own heart.

A father started for his office early one morning after a light fall of snow. Turning, he saw his two-year-old boy endeavoring to put his tiny feet in his great footprints. The little fellow shouted, "Go on, I'se comin' papa, I'se comin' right in ure tracks." He caught the boy in his arms and carried him to his mother, and started again for his office. His habit had been to stop on the way at a tavern for a glass of liquor. As he stood upon the threshold that morning, he seemed to hear a sweet voice say, "Go on, I'se comin' papa, I'se comin' right in ure tracks." He stopped, he hesitated, and he looked the future squarely in the face. "I cannot afford to make any tracks I would be ashamed or sorry to have my boy walk in," he said decidedly, and turned away.

Father, mother, brother, sister, friend, are your tracks true? Are they straight? Can you turn to any walking behind you and say, "Follow me as I follow Christ?"

A special thank you to Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) for sharing in our Communion service. On April 19, we were blessed to gather together to remember the Lord's sacrifice on the cross. May it renew our spiritual energy and inspire us to a closer walk with the Lord.

Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) also shared God's Word with us this month. We thank each ministering brother for sharing the gospel message with our congregation.

Elder Bro. Ladislov Augustinov from our church in Arad, Romania shared an evening with the Remington-Wolcott churches on April 29. He spoke of the difficulty of life in their homeland and thanked each one who helps in some way to send help to those who need it so desperately.

Congratulations to our high school graduates this year: Jenny Bahler (Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette), Bro. Justin Clark (Bro. Ron and Sis. Brenda) and Bro. Paul Virkler (Bro.

Stan and Sis. Beth). We wish them God's blessings. May they seek His will in the choices they must make.

We are thankful Sis. Velma Wilson has recovered quickly from her knee surgery this month.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Jennifer Mangold - Sue Beebe

King of my life, I crown Thee now,
Thine shall the glory be;
Lest I forget Thy thorn-crowned
brow,
Lead me to Calvary.
Lest I forget Gethsemane;
Lest I forget Thine agony;
Lest I forget Thy love for me,
Lead me to Calvary.

Hymns of Zion #182

Once again we were lead to Calvary as we contemplated what our Lord has done for us, and realized anew our own unworthiness. We then partook of Holy Communion served by our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer.

May I be willing, Lord,
To bear daily my cross for Thee;
Even Thy cup of grief to share,
Thou hast borne all for me.

Hymns of Zion #182

Thank you to the Milford congregation for including us in a topical Bible Study by Bro. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) on April 25. The sharing of his experience with a disability helped us see how God leads us in times of trouble. Sometimes we can give to others, and other times we must be willing to allow others to give to us, which is often difficult to do.

I read this week that a child's perception of God is usually strongly linked to what he sees in his parents, especially his father. We should never take lightly the tremendous responsibility we have, first of all to be a good example, for little eyes are watching, and children are imitators, whether it be of the good or the not so good.

Luke 12:15 tells us to be on guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abun-

dance of possessions. More important than the things we are gathering up for ourselves today is, what of eternal importance will we leave behind when we are gone?

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Jesse Beer, April 22, and Bro. Nelson Beer, April 26, both of Milford, IN. We thank you and may "Grace be with you, mercy, and peace from God, the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ." (II John 1:3)

Our prayers are with our graduates who are making important choices which will profoundly affect their lives. Graduating from college are Bill Langhofer (Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla), Micah Frank (Bro. Tom and Sis. Carolyn), and Mark Beebe (Bro. Robert and Sis. Sue). Our high school graduate is Keyna Langhofer (Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla).

May each one never forget that the best help and counsel for any of life's problems is found in the Lord.

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."

Isaiah 30:21

"Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Isaiah 40:30-31

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Cheryl Bucher - Hope Bucher

As we feel the warm sun and the fresh spring air and watch flowers blooming everywhere, we are reminded of the blessing of new starts and beginnings. We rejoice with Bro. Brandon Moser (Bro. Andy and Sis. Diane) and Sis. Christine Lester (Bro. Ed and Sis. Caroline) (all of Valpo) as they make their new beginning as one in the Lord. They were united in marriage on May 3

and we wish them lifelong blessings.

We enjoyed our yearly spring program together and were encouraged by the beautiful singing of a special Valpo Sunday School choir, the Harold and Violet Meyer family (Sis. Beth Heinold's family), and a group of ladies from Francesville. Thank you to those who participated. The spring luncheon was also held this month at Parkview Haven and was in honor of National Nursing Home Week. It was put on by the Valparaiso volunteers. A short program was enjoyed by many.

Many attended our Mother-Daughter Luncheon held to recognize and honor our mothers and grandmothers for the lessons they have taught us. Our theme was "Mother-Teacher of the Heart". We thank our dear mothers for the time, energy and efforts they have given to teach us all the important things in life, but most of all we thank them for being godly examples.

We would also like to extend a sincere thank you to Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) for sharing with us on Brandon and Christine's wedding day. We also enjoyed the ministry of Bro. Steve Frauhofer (Bluffton North, IN) this month and thank him for his service.

Our dear Bro. Roy Frieden (Sis. Aldine) is now receiving rehabilitative therapy at St. Anthony's Hospital following his recent fall. Please join us as we continue to pray for this dear couple and their family.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Beckie Lehman - Jody Bahler

We were blessed to have with us Bros. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) and Ben Manz (Junction, OH) on two separate Sundays. Many thanks to these brothers for their service to us and to the Lord.

As we celebrate Father's Day this month, we want to thank our fathers and forefathers for their dedication and example towards us, their children, and for the precious Faith that has been passed down

through time. Even above that, we must remember to thank our Heavenly Father for the priceless gift of salvation.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Judy Gehring - Karla Gerst

Should I restrain the Spirit's course
For fear of man so feeble?
Though Satan's hosts are raging
here,
Should I not be more faithful?
Awed by a mortal's frown, shall I
Conceal the Word of God Most High?
Zion's Harp #113

So often it seems that we take for granted the blessing of the inspired Word! May we bear in mind that not everyone in the world today hears the truth preached without fear or favor of man. We should always be thankful that God has provided brothers who are willing to share His Holy Word with us in all of It's truth and power.

We are thankful that we were able to have visiting ministers with us this past month. Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) shared the inspired Word with our congregation. May God bless these brothers for their efforts in His service.

This time of year always brings a measure of excitement for those who will be graduating from high school. Our graduates this year are Clay Buster (Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid), Jesse Gerst (Randy and Sis. Juanita) and Dallas Massner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail). May they remember to seek God's will as they plan for the future.

It seems as though we always know of a brother or a sister locally or in another one of our congregations who is passing through a time of illness or trial. May we never forget to take that extra time to bring their needs before God in prayer. Sometimes praying for others brings our own small needs — or wants — into the proper perspective!

IOWA, ELGIN
Heidi Butikofer
Gloria Frieden

"If ye then being evil know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"

Matthew 7:11

As we are thankful for our earthly fathers, may we also remember our Heavenly Father who knows our needs, even more than we ourselves.

There are many blessings we are thanking our Heavenly Father for. We rejoice with Greg Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet) as he has found peace with God and man. May he continue in the way with grace and peace from God above.

On April 26, Jeff and Tammy Callahan welcomed Austin Thomas into their hearts and home. Big sister and brother, Ashley and Alex, are enjoying their new little brother. Happy grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Cheryl Moore (Elgin, IA) and Tom and Lavonne Callahan (Lansing, IA).

When of this blest bread they had
partaken,
And brought thanks unto their God
above,
Having been unto this feast invited,
And found worthy of His grace and
love,
He the cup into His hands did
gather,
Giving thanks unto His heav'nly
Father,
Said to His disciples: "Drink this
wine,
As a token of my blood divine."
Zion's Harp #26

We would like to extend our thanks to Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm (both of West Bend, IA) in Communion service. We would like to thank these brothers for unselfishly giving of themselves on our behalf as we remember our Lord's death and agony on the cross so many years ago. May we keep the

faith and journey on towards that common goal where we shall partake of the Great Supper in Heaven.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Laura Funk

Greetings of love from Garden Grove!

Visiting ministers this month include Bros. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Rex Frieden and Charles Marti (both of Lamar, MO). We are thankful these brothers are willing to lend themselves in the service of the Lord.

Graduating from college this year is Dave Clark, and from high school is Katie Clark (children of Sis. Willa Clark and Don Clark). We pray for the Lord's guidance in their lives as they embark upon the next step.

My garden is located close to a corn field. I diligently planted the seeds hoping for an abundant crop. I checked our garden yesterday and found the leaves on the green beans are brown and dried up. I then realized the corn had been sprayed a few days ago and the spray had drifted to the garden. I had to stop and think how the seeds of God's love and plan of salvation are planted and struggle to grow and survive and Satan comes along and "sprays" his wickedness around and the seeds wither and die.

"...Behold, a sower went forth to sow; And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundred fold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold."

Matthew 13:3-8

IOWA, IOWA CITY**Sharon Gerst**

Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) came to help Bro. Joe Gerst with Communion on April 25. We appreciated Bro. Ed and his wife, Sis. Joan, taking time out of their busy lives to come and help us remember Christ's suffering and His shed blood. We also want to thank Bro. Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL) for coming to help minister God's Word.

The time has come once again for the Iowa City reunion. Invitations were sent out several weeks ago. However, because there have been so many different people who have spent some time here in the Iowa City area, we regret if we have overlooked anyone. If you would like to come and join us for the reunion on June 27-28, please contact Bro. Brad and Sis. Joyce Eland for the details. Also, on the invitation sent out, the address was incorrect. Below is the correct address:

2696 Anchorage Rd. NE
Solon, IA 52333
(319) 644-2711

IOWA, LESTER**Cindy Leuthold - Sue Warner**

As we think of Father's Day and pause to be thankful for our fathers, so are we grateful for our spiritual fathers who are an example to us. We had a blessed weekend of fellowship as the Agenda Committee met here for the weekend. We enjoyed having Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) in our midst and thank them for laboring on our behalf. We also are grateful to Elder Bros. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Art Nohl (Morris, MN) who also served us and were with us as we voted on Bro. Rodney Bajema as our new minister. We offer our heartfelt prayers for Bro. Rodney and Sis. Twyla for God's nearness and leading. May God richly bless all of our ministering brethren and their wives and families.

I embrace, O Lord, Thy servants,
Joined to them in love so fervent,
Asking, Lord, that from Thy face
They receive a thousand blessings;
In Thy ways, Thy strength
possessing,
Lead them in Thy light and grace.
Hymns of Zion #189

We are rejoicing with Carol Moliator (Bob) as she has begun her repentance. May God be near her and grant her much grace.

The engagement of Bro. Virgil Knobloch (Sis. Laurretta and the late Bro. Orvie) and Sis. Katrina Walter (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen, Silverton, OR) was announced. Bro. Virgil now lives in Pulaski, IA. We congratulate them and look forward to having Sis. Katrina in our area at times.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Janet Knobloch (Bro. Roger) on the death of her mother, Sis. Esther Banwart (West Bend, IA).

Bro. Jerome and Sis. Jana Metzger were blessed with a precious new baby on April 29. Little Brady Lee is lovingly welcomed by siblings, Kayla and Grant, and grandparents, Bro. Eugene and Sis. Delores Metzger and Bro. Lloyd and the late Sis. Edith Massner (Burlington, IA). We pray for all parents that they will have the grace to be a light and an example to their children and to teach them of the true way.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who suffer bodily afflictions. Young Sam Meyer was a hospital patient. Sis. Estelle Leuthold, Sis. Julie Metzger (Bro. Blair) and Matthew Feucht (Ron and Sis. Sandy) were surgical patients. Bros. Denis Meyer (Sis. Jill), Eli Metzger (Sis. Alice) and Lawrence Wulf are all undergoing treatment for cancer. We pray God will strengthen each one and grant healing where it is His will.

"Flourishing youth, Thou our hope and our fond expectation..."
Hymns of Zion #168

We have a large number of college and high school graduates in our

congregation and we have such high hopes and expectations for each one of them. We pray that they will seek God's guidance in their lives so that they will have a promise of a bright future wherever their steps take them.

Our high school graduates are: Wayne Meyer (Bro. George and Sis. Charlyn), Brian Metzger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb), Brett Metzger (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joleen), Nathan DeHaan (Bro. Tim and Lois), Steve Warner (Elder Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther), Katie Kellenberger (Bro. Verlyn and Sis. Linda), Michelle VanWyhe (Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan), Katie Metzger (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Harriet), Andrea Gerber (Mr. and Mrs. Jim Gerber), Jeff Metzger (Keith and Mary), Scott Metzger (Bro. Mark and Sis. Audrey), Andrew Peterson (Bro. Larry and Sis. Emily), Troy Metzger (Bro. William and Sis. Charlotte), Betsy Doorneweerd (Bro. Butch and Sis. Marlys), Lori Metzger (Charles and Linda), Julie Leuthold (Bro. Robert and Sis. Cindy), JoAnn Meyer (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla), Rick Metzger (Bro. Ray and Kathy).

College graduates are: Reed Metzger (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joleen), Stacy Metzger (Bro. William and Sis. Charlotte), Sherri Doorneweerd (Bro. Butch and Sis. Marlys), Jesse TeSlaa (Gary TeSlaa and Ronda Thielen), Dustin Knobloch (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma), Emily Kellenberger (Bro. Verlyn and Sis. Linda), Laura Metzger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Beth), Sis. Carolyn Knobloch (Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva) and Kari (Metzger) Oelkers and her husband, Darin.

We pray that God will bless each one.

Notes of Thanks:

Thanking all who remembered me in prayer, cards, and gifts. God bless all.

Sis. Frieda Gerber

I wish to thank everyone for the cards, gifts and good wishes I received for my 80th birthday. God bless you all.

Sis. Emily Leuthold

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

Something wonderful has happened this month in the life of Ben Lanz. Ben and his four sisters, Heidi, Kelli, Renee and Molly, welcome home their new baby brother, Ross Richard. Also thankful for the safe arrival of their sixth little bundle from Heaven are their parents, Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya Lanz. May the Lord be their strength and guide as they strive to raise their growing family. Rejoicing also in this blessed event are little Ross's grandparents, Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz and Bro. Richard and Sis. Dorothy Taeger (Burlington, IA).

Our thoughts are with our high school graduates this month. They include Kara Kuntz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Beverly), Christin Gerst (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Joleen), Chris Ann Bonnesen (Joe and Sis. Carol), Sis. Natalie Wiegand (Bro. Brian and Sis. Cindy), Ryan Frank (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy), Brent Frank (Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina), Jeremy Steiner (Bro. John and Sis. Carol), Brian Schmidgall (Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie) and David Lanz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet). May the Lord be near each one of them as they strive to make decisions for their life's work.

We recently had our Sunday School election. Those elected to serve were Bros. Troy Massner (Sis. Joni) and Fred Gerst (Sis. Susan), and Sisters Kim Massner (Bro. Todd) and Karen Eberhardt (Bro. Brent). May the Lord give them each guidance and direction as they strive to teach our precious children. We're also thankful to those who've completed their terms. May the Lord bless them for their labors.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to sincerely thank all who remembered me with prayers, cards, telephone calls, gifts and flowers during my recent surgery and recuperation. May God bless each one of you. Our trials are truly

all well meant.

Sis. Phyllis Siegle

IOWA, PULASKI
Lisa Knecht

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

Zion's Harp #236

Our Pulaski congregation had great reasons to thank the Lord the weekend Eugene and Lana Joos were brought into the sheepfold. Parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Christy Joos and Philip and Cathy Garrett. We surely pray for them a growing faith and increasing love for our Heavenly Father and Lord Jesus Christ as they walk together in His service. We appreciate all those who shared this weekend with us, especially Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Sis. Dona, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA). We also wish to extend a warm thank you to Bro. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL) for ministering God's Word to us earlier this month. We are grateful for the efforts made on our behalf.

Our church was quite happy to hear the engagement of Bro. Virgil Knobloch to Sis. Katrina Walter from Silverton, OR. Parents are Sis. Lauretta Knobloch and the late Bro. Orvie (Lester, IA) and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter (Silverton, OR). May they continue to follow the Lord's direction during this special time of engagement.

We congratulate our graduates this year: high school -Andrew Joos (Bro. Ron and Sis. Christy); eighth grade -Esther Schaer (Don and Sis. Sue Ann), Adam Townsend (Danny and Sis. Lynn), and Kristen Wuthrich (Bro. Kenneth and Lora). Our prayers are with them as they begin another step in life.

It is with much gratitude we acknowledge our God-fearing fathers, whether they remain here on earth or have gone on to meet their Creator. How thankful we are that the faith of our fathers is truly living

still!

IOWA, WEST BEND
Berniece Banwart
Eunice Fehr

The weekend of April 19 we were thankful to have Elder Bro. Andrew (Sis. Roberta) Stoller and Bro. Glenn (Sis. Louise) Riggensbach from Smithville, OH with us to share God's Word. On Sunday evening, Elder Bro. Andrew along with Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm served us Holy Communion. We thank these dear brothers who so willingly give of their time to serve us. May we show our appreciation by obedience to God's precious Word.

What a wonderful feeling to have peace with God and man. Our dear converts, Kendra Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene) and Breann Messner (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Audrey) have experienced this peace and we are happy and thankful for them. We are looking forward to their testimonies in July.

God has again called loved ones Home. Sis. Esther Banwart died April 14. Survivors are her husband, Bro. Walter; a son, Dean (Irene), of West Bend; and a daughter, Sis. Janet Knobloch (Bro. Roger), of Rock Rapids, IA. Her sisters, Edna I. Banwart of West Bend and Anna Metzger of Cedar Rapids, IA; 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren will also miss her.

The death angel has called a third time in five months in the Wirtz family. Paul Wirtz (Beverly) of Crystal Lake, IA died on April 20. His brother, Bro. Verner Wirtz (Sis. Betty), a sister, Lydia Edwards, and sisters-in-law, Sis. Hulda Wirtz and Lucille Wirtz, along with many nieces and nephews in our congregation mourn their loss. We extend our sympathy to all these loved ones and pray that God will comfort them.

Our hospital patients this month have been Sis. Elma Mogler, Sis. Edna I. Banwart, Lydia Edwards, Bro. Elmer Fehr (Sis. Matilda) and Sis. Katie Ludwig. At this time, Sis. Katie is still hospitalized but we

pray she can soon be home again.

Congratulation and best wishes go out to Samantha Schneider and Brant Besonen as they are planning an August wedding. Samantha is the daughter of Bro. Gary and Sis. Sue and Brant is the son of Dan and Ethel Besonen of Madison, MN. May they look to God for direction in their wedding plans and life ahead.

We congratulate our high school graduates. They are LaRae Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene), Matthew Banwart (Mike and Marilyn), Jill Bruellman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Deb), Nick Bruellman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa), Quinn Dahlhauser (Bro. Ken and Sis. Ellen), Brennen Fehr (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy), Sis. Christy Gress (Bro. Cloyce and Sis. Carol), Clinton Metzger (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley), Amy Mogler (Eric and Diana), April Rongved (Bruce Rongved and Julie and Kevin Jordan), Sis. Rachel Schmidt (Bro. John and Sis. Paula), Jamie Wickman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marvella) and Luke Wirtz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila). Our prayers go with these young people that they will ask for God's guidance as they plan for their future.

As Father's Day approaches, may we appreciate the special relationship we share with our fathers. Some of us have fathers and grandfathers who have passed onto eternity but we can still reflect on the lessons they taught us by their examples, the love they gave and their sincere prayers for their families. May we faithfully trust in our Heavenly Father who loves and cares for us. May we feed on His Word to guide us and obediently serve Him.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Willis Ehnle

Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Gramm visited us on the weekend of May 17. Their daughter, Sally, her husband, Joel Kaufman, with their five children, came with them. Sally is one of our former kindergarten teachers. Sally and her family live near the ocean in Toyama Prefecture by the Sea of Japan.

That Sunday morning the sermon was on "Stand and Speak", based on Jeremiah 26:2, "Stand in the court of the Lord's house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah." For the New Testament reading the scriptures opened to Acts 3 where Peter stood and spoke, "Repent ye therefore and be converted."

Speaking of repentance, it is to be preached among all nations. Luke 24:47, "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations." It is not just the Gospel that is to be preached but repentance also. We ask for your prayers that we can stand and speak at our station here in Japan, and that all of God's children can stand and speak for God at their station in life.

KANSAS, BERN

Holly Meyer

Lori Baumgartner

In the affluent times in which we live we often feel that we are bombarded by worldly influences. So many times it appears that the odds are against us, and we feel discouraged wondering if we will be overcomers. Yet we find such hope and encouragement from reading in God's Word of the great faith of our "Spiritual Fathers". We read that the Israelites became very faint-hearted after hearing the spies' fearful report of men as giants living in the land that God had promised them. Only two spies, Joshua and Caleb, had the faith to believe that the Lord would be with them and with His help they would overtake the enemy. (Numbers 13 and 14). May we remember their example as we are faced with many giants in our world today. Our God is faithful, if we are faithful!

On Father's Day, June 21, we will give special recognition to our fathers. We definitely appreciate them and the role that they serve as spiritual leaders in our homes.

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

Joshua 24:15

May we remember to support them and to encourage them to be as steadfast and as wise as Joshua amid the challenging secular forces that push against our families.

It is beautiful to see the evidence of God working in the hearts of two converted souls. The engagement of Bro. Adrian Strahm and Sis. Harriet Orcsik of our Detroit, MI congregation was recently made known to us. Bro. Adrian's parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia Strahm and Sis. Harriet's parents are Bro. John and Sis. Esther Orcsik (Detroit, MI). May they continue to feel the Lord's direction as they make plans for establishing a home together.

We are thankful to report that retired minister, Bro. Harvey Grimm (Sis. Marie), is home following his heart surgery. May he feel the Lord's nearness as he continues to recover.

The weekend of April 25-26, our congregation hosted the Annual Kansas Youth Fellowship Weekend for our 6th-8th graders. We appreciated having ministering Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) here to speak to the Sunday School and minister to us. May the Lord bless his efforts.

We rejoice with Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie Strahm upon hearing that they have been blessed with a new little grandson. Caleb Jay was born to Bro. Edwin and Sis. Ramona Strahm (Elgin, IL).

We extend our best wishes and congratulations to those who are graduating from various schools. Graduating from high school are Troy Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan), Jamie Menold (Bro. James and Sis. Louise), Emma Mejving (foreign exchange student), Rebekah Rokey (Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy), Benjamin Strahm (Elwin and Mary), Gina Strahm (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan), Bro. Lesly Strahm (Bro. Dale and Sis. Shelby), Anthony Esslinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerdie), Cara Hartter (Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn), Matthew Hundley (John and Sis. Margaret), Thatcher Reist (Dave and Marci), and Bro. Clinton Strahm (Bro. Curtis and Sis. Ellen).

Completing their college degrees

are Matt Meyer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet), Bro. Trent Menold (Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey), and Yalana Edelman (Michael). We pray that each graduate will seek the Lord's direction upon seeking further education or employment.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Joleen Sinn

"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour; other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours."

John 4:35-38

As we watch the farmer laboring in his field, this passage comes to mind. The farmer does not only labor for his family but for many that he will never see. As we go on our daily journey, are we being a light and planting the seed that God has given us and entrusted to us to plant, or are we too busy with our daily cares that we only stop to think of what God has given us when we kneel to pray at the end of the day? May God give us the strength to serve Him joyously every minute of every day.

On April 18-19, we had our annual invite a friend weekend. It is always a blessing to meet new people and to renew friendships made in the past. Praise God for our Christian fellowship!

We rejoiced to have Bro. Jeff, Sis. Brenda Thames and their family (Washington, IL) spend the weekend of April 26 with us. We want to thank him for his labors on our behalf. May God bless them as they go about His work.

As school ends, we look forward to Bible School. We ask for God's

blessing as we plant seeds in some hearts and nurture others. Only God knows what these dear ones need. May God's Word be our guide as we spend some special time with these young souls.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

Luke 22:19-20

We praise God every day for the plan of salvation! In His wisdom and great love for us, He created the sacrament of Communion to remind us of His everlasting love. We were privileged to partake of Communion this month. We thank Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS) for administering Communion.

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

I Cor. 15:55-57

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of our Sis. Marie Schurter who was laid to rest this month. May they find comfort in God's everlasting promises.

We pray that the Lord will heal our hospital patients according to His will. Sis. Alice Tanner is recuperating at home. Bro. Gary Willson had surgery and is scheduled to be released shortly.

We appreciate all those who helped support our rest home services this month. The fellowship is always a blessing.

The wheat fields in our area are ripening fast. They are a beauty to behold as they wave in the breeze.

Lord willing, most of the wheat in this area is usually cut by the end of June and the cycle starts again for another year. We pray that the Lord will bless all with a safe and bountiful harvest!

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

Exodus 20:12

Each year we set aside a special day to honor our fathers and mothers. Our Heavenly Father considered this important enough to include it in His commandments that we might remember to honor them always.

We feel blessed to announce that we have a new family in our congregation. Bro. Ken and Sis. Laura Wagenbach and their four children believe that the Lord has led them to our rural area to settle. Our prayer is that they feel God's love as we welcome them to our small congregation.

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Julie Bahr

Layke Mason Edelman is the name chosen for the new little son of Bro. Victor and Sis. Hope Edelman, born on April 28. Our love and congratulations are extended to Layke's family. Grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Jeanie Edelman and Ed and Mary Lawton of Lebo, KS. Great-grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten Strahm (Sabetha).

A Father! If a father is going to build a relationship of trust with his children, he must first build it on God's Word and not on human wisdom. First, teach them God's divine plan of salvation. For when the storms of life come to pound your relationship, will there be anything left to survive? Fathers, don't forget to hug! There is something special about dad's arms. Mother's arms are comforting, but dad's arms are secure. Our children, and our grown parents, are NEVER too old to be hugged or held. This Father's Day,

tell them "They're loved!"

KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger
Brenda Grimm

We appreciated all our visitors this month and especially ministering Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO), and Bros. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Galen Rokey and Darryl Stoller (Bern, KS).

Mother's Day was a special day for three mothers as their daughters were baptized. We pray for God's protection on Sisters Carrie Aberle (Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia), Kara Grimm (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene) and Rita Hartter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth). May they always be a bright and shining light that others may see the way.

God's blessings are extended to Bro. Kent and Sis. Molly (Wulf) Grimm who were married on May 3 in Morris, MN. A wedding reception was held for them in Sabetha on May 17.

Bro. Harlan and Sis. Florence Meyer are thankful for the addition of a new grandson. Bro. Edwin and Sis. Ramona Strahm (Elgin, IL) welcomed a son, Caleb Jay, on May 9.

Congratulations to our high school graduates who include Luann Aberle (Bro. Fred and Sis. Charlotte), Bro. Kyle Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen), Bro. Eric Hertzell (Bro. Gerry and Sis. Ellen), Jaron Kellenberger (Bro. Jay and Sis. Marilyn), and Rachel Krogmann (Frank and Sis. Julie). Our prayers are with each one as they take on jobs or seek higher education.

Bro. Stan and Sis. Marilyn Wiegand and Naomi, age 2, welcomed Joel Ray to their family circle on May 16. Bro. Doug and Sis. Betty Metzger and Bro. Elton and Sis. Loretta Wiegand (Eureka, IL) are thankful for their new grandson.

Katy Ann Edelman will get a lot of attention from her sisters and brothers, Emily, Elizabeth, Christina, Wil, Ben and James. She was born on May 17 to Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Edelman. Clif and

Sis. Barbara Edelman and Elvin and Beverly Goodman are the happy grandparents.

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

April 25 was the wedding date for Kathleen Funk and Christopher Setser. Our prayers and best wishes go out for them to establish a Christian home.

On the evening of May 9, mothers and daughters with a Wichita Apostolic heritage gathered at the church for the annual Mother-Daughter banquet. The event was hosted by Sis. Carol Carter and Sis. Kathleen Gallatin. They were assisted by their daughters, Cheryl Toews and Sis. Sara Schrader.

Several of our loved ones are reaching milestones in their life. Shwanda Reimschisel (Bro. Max and Sis. Judy) is graduating from high school and plans to continue working at the Cottonwood Nursing Home in Augusta. Glenda Funk (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Sally) is graduating from the Wichita Area Vo Tech School as a dental assistant. Bro. Derek Funk (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Sally) is leaving us for a few years as he seeks to continue his education in the military. He will report to Ft. Jackson, NC on May 18. Again, it is our desire that these young people find fulfillment in their choices and that they will seek God's will in their decisions.

Bro. Virgil Barth shared with me how he has been uplifted by the many prayers for his health needs. He is thankful for every prayer and concern and he feels they have reached Heaven.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Doug and Rebecca Germann

We appreciate the many visitors who came to the Bluegrass State the past few weeks. Our faith was encouraged with visits by four visiting ministers. On the weekend of March 22, Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park, IL) was with us. On April 5, we were served by Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke,

IL). In May, Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) came for the weekend and Bro. Duane Kilgus (Sis. Arlene, Fairbury, IL) came another weekend. Many thanks to these families for lending themselves in the Lord's vineyard.

Our graduate from high school this year is Jonathon Huber (Ben and June, Winchester, KY). May God bless you, Jonathon, as you enter this new phase of life. We are thankful for the beautiful Spring weather we have had and anticipate the arrival of summer. The four seasons parallel our spiritual walk so beautifully. While reading Farmer Boy, by Laura Ingalls Wilder, I was amazed at the spiritual lesson that I gained from her writing: "There was no time to lose, no time to waste in rest or play. The life of the earth comes up with a rush in the springtime. All the wild seeds of weed and thistle, the sprouts of vine and bush and tree, are trying to take the fields. Farmers must fight them with harrow and plow and hoe; they must plant the good seeds quickly. Almanzo was a little soldier in this great battle. From dawn to dark he worked, from dark to dawn he slept, then he was up again and working."

I had to think of how this resembles our Christian life and the struggles we have as we "contend" for the faith. Can we take liberties and walk with the world while we fight the battle of faith? The Word of God says in I Cor. 6:12, "All things are lawful, but not all things are expedient..." How very true. In the beautiful hymn #185, Zion's Harp, verse 7 says the same:

We must not pause to dally
 With child's play by the way!
 Our powers we must rally;
 Sloth follows on delay.
 Pay no attention here.
 On then! All ease now spurning,
 Away from vain thoughts turning,
 For danger' always near!

Beloved, as brethren in the Lord's vineyard, may we be up and doing His Holy will in the time allotted us on earth. May we forsake all that would bind us to this earth and do

our part to fulfill God's Word. God gives us the tools we need to battle the weeds of life—it is up to us to use them.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Kristen Plattner
Michelle Oesch

Faith of our fathers! living still
 In spite of dungeon, fire and sword,
 O how our hearts beat high with joy
 Whene'er we hear that glorious
 word!

Faith of our fathers! we will love
 Both friend and foe in all our strife;
 And preach thee, too, as love knows
 how,

By kindly words and virtuous life.
 Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
 We will be true to Thee to death!

We are thankful for those who lovingly stand guard and work to preserve the faith of our fathers. Elder Bro. Mark Bahr came and assisted Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen in bringing us the Memorandum. We appreciate their loving efforts and may we heed the Word so their accounting of our souls would not be with sorrow.

Nothing Really Ever Dies

Nothing really ever dies
 That is not born anew,
 The miracles of nature
 All tell us this is true.
 The flowers sleeping peacefully
 Beneath the winter's snow
 Awaken from their icy grave
 When spring winds start to blow.
 And little brooks and singing
 streams,
 Icebound beneath the snow,
 Begin to babble merrily
 Beneath the sun's warm glow.
 And all around on every side
 New life and joy appear
 To tell us nothing ever dies
 And we should have no fear,
 For death is just a detour
 Along life's wending way
 That leads God's chosen children
 To a bright and glorious day.

—Helen Steiner Rice

We want to remember Sis. Christine and Sis. Margaret

Wingeier with love and sympathy in the loss of their dear sister, Sis. Hulda Fiechter (Bluffton, IN).

It is so easy to get busy with the cares of this life and the many responsibilities it brings. It is encouraging when we can stop and reflect on life and the whole purpose for our being. At our Mother's Day banquet we had "Share-Time" and those who wanted to shared something from their hearts. We had some tears and some smiles, from the littlest to the oldest. We thank all who shared. On the same thought, we wish to thank all those who took time and effort to prepare a few songs to share with Detroit at the benefit dinner recently for Woodhaven.

As Father's Day nears, may we remember to lift up our earthly fathers in prayer that they may feel God's loving strength as they care for their families.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our gratitude to all who thought of us and remembered us with cards, flowers, and loving prayers in the loss of our dear sister, Sis. Hulda Fiechter.

Sis. Christine & Sis. Margaret Wingeier

The following news was accidentally omitted from the April issue:

We are thankful for those who have begun their walk to serve and worship the Lord. Brent Steiner (Sis. Andrea) and Brian Knupstrup (Charles and MaryAnn) have both shared their desire to serve their Creator. We have thankful hearts that the Lord continues to beckon souls to Him. He promises rest for our souls in the hectic pace of our world today. "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:29-30).

Our congratulations go to Brent and Sis. Andrea Steiner who have been blessed with little Jacob Andrew. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Carole Steiner and Robert and Martha Maag. Also celebrating

becoming grandparents again are Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen. Little Ethan Aaron was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna Steffen (Washington, IL). May God richly bless them as they care for these precious little ones and bring them up in His nurture and admonition.

In the hospital recently was Laurie Blough (Gary) for surgery. We pray the Lord will grant continued healing.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Rhonda Knochel
Peggy Jackson

Father's Day - what a special time to let Dad know that you love him. Have you told him yet? For some of us, our fathers are celebrating Father's Day with the Heavenly Father, for others, our dads are only names in our lives, but I venture to guess that many more of us are privileged to share this wonderful time with our dads. As I reflected upon the love of a father, I realized that often their love isn't expressed as often in words as it is in action. Sometimes it takes growing up to realize ALL of the times he did show his love. The security we felt when his big hand held our tiny ones, or the gentle firmness during those "teaching/learning moments" or the physically or emotionally exhausting days at work all told us that he cared for us. The most important expression of love by our earthly dads was when they taught us of Jesus' love. Somehow, it seems much easier to understand the love of the Heavenly Father when it is tenderly taught both in word and in action by our earthly fathers. Many studies have shown that your view of God is directly related to your view of your dad. What an awesome responsibility to our brothers in the Lord. We thank God for each of you who are willing to raise the banner with Joshua and say "...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15). It is your leadership, dear brothers, upon which rests the hope of the future church - our children.

What a wonderful month we had here in Bay City. The Lord really encouraged us. Bro. Bob Grew (Darrell Grew and Cindy Grew) and Sis. Kayleen Ramseyer (Bro. Neil and Sis. Sharon) believe that it is God's will for their lives that they become husband and wife in Him. Our congratulations and sincere prayers are with them as they plan their new life together.

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

Romans 5:1

Sarah Knochel (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kay) and Janelle Ramseyer (Bro. Neil and Sis. Sharon) have both professed peace with God. (I apologize, Janelle, for not getting this in last month.) We anticipate their testimonies and baptisms in the coming months.

We were very honored to host the World Relief National Board Meeting here in Bay City. It is always a wonderful experience to understand just a little more about the things our church is doing across this country and in other countries. Due to the meeting taking place over the weekend, we had several ministering brothers stay for Sunday. Although not all of them ministered to the church, we appreciate each one's willingness to serve if called upon. These brothers are: Elder Bros. Marvin Lemman (Bradford, IL) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Bros. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH). Once again, we thank these brothers for their faithfulness.

Several in our congregation were hospitalized this month. They are: Sis. Inez Grew (Delor), Sis. Marian Knochel (Bro. Floyd) and Sis. Mary Ramseyer (Bro. Earl). We are very thankful that God, in His mercy, has touched each one and we pray that they are restored to full health.

Our community lost a dear friend this past month. Luella Hoyle passed away leaving behind many friends and family who loved her. Our sincerest sympathy is extended

to her family and pray that God will be with them at this time.

May God richly bless you in the month ahead.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Kristie Meyer
Manuela Denes**

As we all know how busy life can be, I find that I wait until the last minute to write the Silver Lining. With a busy household, it seems I have so little time to have it completely quiet to be able to meditate on the Word and have the frame of mind to write it, but I always receive a blessing.

It is a beautiful Sunday morning and the house is peaceful—what better way to start a Sabbath Day and write the Silver Lining.

Todd and Jennifer Moilanen are the thankful parents of Chase Andrew, born March 30, as are grandparents, Tom and Kay Moilanen, Chuck Andrews and the late Alice Andrews.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. David Metz as his grandfather, Carl Bachtold (Fairbury, IL), passed away.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Ann Tachar, Bro. Bill Kujawa and Bro. Pat Allen. Bro. Pat is still recovering at home. May God grant him and his wife, Jeanie, the strength they need and to take one day at a time. Life being so uncertain, can we say we are spiritually prepared for any trial that comes our way?

Our congratulations are extended to Andy Schiffer (Bro. Tom and Sis. Karen, Elgin, IL) as he graduated with a Bachelor Degree from the University of Michigan. Also we congratulate Bro. Jason Rauhe (Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay) as he graduated from Michigan State University with a Master's Degree in Accounting.

Sis. Harriet Orcsik (Bro. John and Sis. Eszter) has announced her engagement to Bro. Adrian Strahm (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia, Bern, KS). We rejoice with them and wish them God's blessings as they plan a September wedding.

On May 2, what a blessing we had with Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) as we shared Communion. Remembering the Lord's death and His suffering and then rejoicing in His resurrection is such a humbling experience.

As a member of the choir, I count it such a blessing to be able to travel and worship with other churches and to sing God's praises. We were privileged to travel to Peoria, IL and what a blessing it was. Greeting brothers and sisters we never met and yet having the common bond of the love of our Saviour in our hearts.

On May 17, we held the 10th Benefit dinner for Woodhaven. The combined efforts of our church here in Detroit, Alto, Toledo and Bay City churches makes it a special event and blessing to all. May God bless all who participated in this event. Also on the same day a ground-breaking ceremony was held for the Woodpointe apartments adjacent to Woodhaven Assisted Living.

We extend a warm welcome to Dayton Kaisner (Fairbury, IL) as he is doing an internship in construction management. We welcome back Bro. Ted Orcsik (Bro. John and Sis. Eszter), as he was in Columbus, OH and is worshipping with us once again. We also welcome back to our congregation, Sis. Dorothy Reineck.

We are instructed by God to have faith and not to worry. As humans, we worry about this and that. For example, a short person cannot by any amount of anxiety, make himself an inch taller, so let us do less worrying and more praying with the result that faith will bring us through.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Delores Sauder

We are thankful we had the privilege to have visiting ministers who shared God's Word with us. They were Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN), Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL).

We had voting for Sunday School teachers. Bro. Duane Rocke was

elected with Bro. Anthony Fehr and Sis. Rachel Kent as substitutes. May they share with the children what God has shared with them.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Maxine Larson and Sis. Diane Stewart (Bro. Dave) in the death of their stepfather, Bro. Vernon Blunier (Eureka, IL).

Sis. Vera Schmidt and Sis. Esther Lienemann have had surgery again and are at home recuperating.

As the school year comes to a close, we look forward to fellowshiping with those who stop and worship with us on their vacation.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Dianne Kellenberger
Nancy Wulf**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Hymns of Zion #95

We praise God for faithful brethren willing to come and share the pulpit with our own ministering brothers. They are Bros. David Graf (Akron, OH), Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS), Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), and Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN).

We praise God for directing the hearts of His children as they take the second most important step in life. May 3 was the wedding day for Bro. Kent and Sis. Molly Grimm. Their parents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce Wulf and Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene Grimm (Sabetha, KS).

We praise God that He is still calling souls to repentance, as Rose Schott (Terry) has finally answered the call. Her beloved parents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Anna Nohl.

We praise God for our "Flourishing youth, Thou our hope and our fond expectation..." Our high school graduates are Coby Backman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Cathy), Sis. Lanette Feuchtenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gwen), Emily Koehl (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon), Mitchell Koehl (Bro.

Randy and Sis. Shirley), Stacy Luthi (Bro. Aldean and Sis. Char), David Messner (Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy), Leah Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl), Mark Reuter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn), Rachel Schmidgall (Bro. Tom and Sis. Ruth), Sis. Ginny Wulf (Bro. Dave and Sis. Nancy), and Sis. Rhonda Wulf (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda).

Graduating from technical college are Kevin Joos (Bro. Harv and Sis. Deb) and Bro. Andrew Messner (Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy). Graduating with Bachelor degrees are Sis. Karla Schmidgall (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby), Sis. Holly Feuchtenberger (Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane), Bro. Ryan Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl), Bro. Kurt Domnick (Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma), Sis. Dixie and Bro. Micah Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel).

"Our heavenly home is bright and fair..." Bro. Gottlieb Joos (the late Sis. Edith) passed away on May 17. Our love and sympathy are extended to his children, Sis. Marilyn, Bro. Harv (Sis. Deb), Gary (Laurie), Bro. Dennis, Kathy (Nolan) Kloehn, and his grandchildren.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Doris Koehl and Sis. Esther Koehl. We pray God will lend His healing powers as He wills.

We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to retiring Elder Bro. Leo Moser, for lending his spiritual guidance during those times when we were in need. Our prayer is that God will ever bless him and Sis. Leona for all his years of service in the ministry.

We welcome Bro. Matt Feucht (Bro. Randy and Sis. Carol, Roanoke, IL) who will be among us from May to August as he takes a summer job in the area. We sang farewell to Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle Leuthold, Ashley and Monica, as they have returned to Lester, IA after working here for the winter months. Folks will continue to come and go, but how sweet to enjoy their fellowship while they are here.

Note of Thanks:

We thank all of you dear mem-

bers, friends, and family for your help, your gifts, and your kind expressions of love during our recent move. It was deeply appreciated.

*Bro. Harold and Sis. Ann Meiss
Washington, IL*

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Carol Ann Messner
Becky Braulick**

Greetings!

O, Spirit of God's strength and might,
Create in us new life and light;
O, join us all in heart and mind,
That access to God's throne we find
Within Thy light!
Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee
Through Thy blest Sacrament,
which we
Partook, that joined in heart and hand;
To Zion's realm and holy land
We journey on.
Zion's Harp #200

Again, we were privileged to partake of Holy Communion and we wish to extend a sincere thank you to Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Sis. Joan, Oakville, IA) for assisting our Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn) in bringing to us this blessed event.

This past month we voted for Sunday School teachers and for Silver Lining correspondent. Sis. Carol Ann Messner was elected as Silver Lining correspondent. Sunday School teachers elected to share God's teachings are Bro. Ed Stoll, Bro. Kenneth Messner and Sis. Becky Braulick. May the Lord be near to guide them as they fulfill their duties.

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

Proverbs 4:1

As Father's Day approaches, we know it brings responsibilities, but it can also be rewarding. Fathers must not only provide for the physical needs of their families, but God commands fathers to instruct and guide their children in spiritual ar-

as that will have eternal consequences. Children learn far more from that which is visible than that which is spoken. Fathers, be encouraged through the grace of God to take time to truly "bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

III John 2

Our hospital/surgical patients this past month were Sis. Gerry Messner (Bro. Harold), Sis. Geri Messner (Bro. Marvin) and Sis. Sophie Miller. Our thoughts and prayers are with them through the trying hours of recuperation that are ahead of them. May God bless them and keep them in His tender care.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Brent Kellenberger

Summer employment is bringing two students to our community. We are looking forward to having Bro. Tim Lehman and Sis. Marla Stoller (Bern, KS) worship and fellowship with us. May God bless you both in your endeavors throughout this summer.

We rejoice with Bro. Scott Aberle and Sis. Dorine Kurkowski (Detroit, MI) as they plan on becoming one in Christ. Their wedding is set for July 19. We are looking forward to having them assemble with us in the future.

Our high school graduate this year is Bro. Galen Kellenberger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen). We pray that he will continue to seek God's guidance as he continues his education at Kansas State University this fall.

As usual, it appears that summer will be very busy for many of us. We pray that God will once more grant us safety and protection throughout this season. May we never lose sight of our Saviour's example. It is essential that we not only read the Word, but that we think about how it ap-

plies to us as individuals. "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." (I Peter 1:15-16). We truly need to strive for holiness in every aspect of our lives.

With summer here, some of us will find ourselves with more "spare" time than we normally have. It is important to remember that every moment of our lives is God's time, and we need to seek His guidance in using it. Are we doing things for others and God, or for ourselves? In all that we do we need to ask, "What is my motive?"

MISSOURI, LAMAR Carolyn Banwart Martha Kellenberger

We felt privileged to have Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) with us as we partook of Holy Communion. Also visiting this month was Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO). We thank them and pray that God will bless their endeavors.

Congratulations to our two high school graduates. They are Jason Banwart (Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Ulista Banwart (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Carolyn). As they make their way as adults, it is our prayer that God will bless and direct them.

Sis. Janice Frieden spent some time in the hospital, but is now home and doing well. As I write this, our Sis. Hilda Stefan (Bro. William) is in the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family as they go through this difficult time.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS Betsy Schrenk

A beautiful analogy was given to us from the pulpit this past month, which I will try to relate.

How pleasant it is to be out walking and to catch the scent of a lilac bush. We look to see the beautiful purple or white blossoms from which the wonderful scent is coming.

As Christians, our lives should

affect those around us just as if we were emitting a sweet smell as does the lilac. Our presence should have a positive influence on those with whom we come into contact.

Our church was blessed by being served Holy Communion the first weekend of May. Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) with Communion on Saturday evening and with reading the Memorandum on Sunday afternoon.

We had our annual business meeting on that Saturday afternoon. Our Sunday School teachers remain the same: Sis. Joyce Martin for the primary class and Bro. Doug Mangers for the older class. As we have large age spans in each class, it is challenging for our teachers. God bless them for their fine efforts. Sis. Joyce has been our secretary/treasurer for a number of years, and we appreciate her faithful service.

After holding Sunday School in our dining room since we started assembling in our church in March 1992, we have decided to finish the basement. The children and teachers will appreciate having permanent rooms.

Other visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN). We thank them and their families for the efforts and sacrifices made to come and serve us.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Tina Sutter

Bro. Michael Stratton and Sis. Lori Martin joined hearts and hands in marriage on April 26. May God bless their lives together.

"And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they twain shall be one flesh...What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Matthew 19:5-6

We are thankful for Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) who willingly professed the Word of God.

"And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm."

Matthew 8:24-26

When the disciples came to Jesus, He didn't say if you would just row a little harder, or just give up, jump overboard you are going to die anyway. He didn't say there is no storm, it is all in your head. He said, don't be afraid, I am here.

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Anna Mellnitz**

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

On May 9-10, we had eight young brothers from LaCrosse and Remington, IN and Junction and Latty, OH visiting our congregation. We had a potluck supper and singing, after we heard some wonderful singing from the brothers.

We would like to express our sympathy to Sis. Rachel Snyder for the passing away of her sister, Bula Clifford, on May 1. We want to express our sympathy to Sis. Loretta Graves and her family for the passing away of retired minister, Bro. Floyd Graves Sr., on May 6. Visiting ministers who came to his funeral were Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman and Bro. Everett Gerber.

Bro. Ted Herzig had his eyes operated on May 13.

"That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the

world, that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:15-16

**OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser**

The marriage engagement was announced of Bro. Joe Miller (Bro. Randy and Sis. Carolyn) to Sis. Carla Stoller (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joyce, Rittman, OH). We wish them God's blessings as they serve the Lord together.

Communion was served to us by our Elder Bro. Gene Pamer with Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) assisting. We appreciated Bro. Aaron staying over and giving us inspirational messages on Sunday.

We also appreciated the visit of Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) who came on Sunday afternoon, May 3, when the announcement was made of the duties of the ministry being given to Bro. Steve Pamer. We wish Bro. Steve and Sis. Arliss the Lord's blessings in their new responsibilities.

We also enjoyed visiting ministers the past month: Bros. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) and Earl Beery (Rittman, OH).

Our graduates from high school at this time are: Ben Henico (Bro. and Sis. Greg Henico) has had two years of carpenter training in vocational class and will continue working for Graf Builders. Sis. Michelle Steidl (Bro. and Sis. Don Steidl) has a Certificate of Diversified Medical Technologies and has been a Medical Assistant in the doctor's office and plans to continue there. Gina and Marissa Soto (daughters of Sis. Susie Soto) plan to go to Akron University.

**OHIO, COLUMBUS
Nancy Banks**

"For we walk by faith, not by sight."

II Corinthians 5:7

It is with this faith that our dear

Bro. Ted Orcsik has returned to the Detroit, MI area after living in Columbus for approximately six years. Our little church is saddened by his departure, but pray that the Lord's will be done and that Bro. Ted will be richly blessed as his life takes on new directions.

As June swiftly approaches, we want to congratulate our graduates as they also begin a new path down life's winding road. Will Sauder (Bro. William and Sis. Becky) is graduating from high school and will be attending college at Ohio State in the fall. Sis. Emily Banks (Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy) is graduating from Mansfield Med Central School of Nursing with her R.N. diploma. We wish our graduates the very best.

We gathered for the serving of Holy Communion on Saturday, May 16. With us for the weekend were Elder Bros. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Gene Pamer (Akron, OH). We are so thankful for these blessed and refreshing weekends and appreciate the Elders' labors of love. The following day, a church dinner was held for Bro. Bryan and Sis. Kara Stoller and their son, Derek, as they prepare to return to Fairbury, IL as soon as Bro. Bryan graduates from school. It will be so hard to bid them farewell as they leave. Bro. Ted and Bro. Bryan and Sis. Kara have been with us through the entire rebuilding and renovation period and have spent many hours working and planning with us concerning the future of our little church. There are so many wonderful memories...we wish them God's guidance and blessings as they establish their new homes. We will miss them so much.

We were pleased to have Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Don Manz (Junction, OH) and their families with us for church services. We appreciate the efforts of those who travel to be with us.

May the Lord be with you all.

OHIO, JUNCTION**Sandra Manz**

Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz were privileged to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary along with their 14 children, 68 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Our congregation has greatly appreciated the faith, dedication and stability of this dear couple. Sis. Evelyn's brother, Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Sis. Sue, Mansfield, OH), was among the many visitors that weekend, and we appreciate his service on the pulpit.

We were happy to hear the engagement announcement of our Bro. Corbin Schlatter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila) to Sis. Audrey Baltic of Rittman, OH (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty, Lexington, KY). May the Lord draw their hearts together during this time of engagement.

Jordan Miller (Randy and Sis. Shirley) underwent serious surgery, but the results were encouraging and we were relieved to see him back in church.

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

Proverbs 4:1

There are an untold number of verses in the book of Proverbs with words of fatherly wisdom. The depth of Solomon's understanding and knowledge should come as no surprise, since he received wisdom as a direct request from the Father of all wisdom. As we approach the day that our nation celebrates as Father's Day, we trust that our fathers will first look to the Scriptures for help and guidance to raise their children in love and Godly fear. May God's blessings be on you.

Note of Thanks:

Thanks to everyone who helped us remember our 50th wedding anniversary. We appreciate all the efforts, your expressions of love and good wishes, the cards, the gifts, and your prayers. The Lord has been good to us. May God bless you richly and lead us all safely on.

Humbly, Eli and Evelyn Manz

OHIO, LATTY**Kathy Sinn****Heidi Hackenjoss**

God's Spirit again was present with us as we gathered to hear the testimony of His work in the lives of two converts. Eric and Sherri Rager were given the words to speak of changes in their lives through the leading and guiding of this Holy Spirit. We trust that this Spirit will be ever near their side as they continue to grow in the Lord. May His hand of blessing rest upon them and Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) who assisted Elder Bro. Ray with these testimonies.

Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) also gathered with us during the month. We pray that these brethren will continue to teach the truth. And that we all live "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)

Our congregation was blessed with three baby boys! Zachary Walter was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene Sinn. Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee Sinn and Bro. Daniel and Sis. Delores Reinhard (Garden Grove, IA) are his grandparents. Abram Jesse, who was born to Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cherry Klopfenstein, was welcomed home by his sister, Angela. Abram is the first grandson for Bro. Merle and Sis. Bev Rocke (Philadelphia, PA). Abram's paternal grandparents, Bro. Raymond and Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein, are also pleased with another grandson. Bro. Lee and Sis. Desma Klopfenstein also welcome Jared Alan, who was born November 28, into their family circle. Jared's siblings, Timna, Abel, Beth and Becca, are also thrilled with another playmate. His grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Ellen Klopfenstein and Larry and Linda Davis. To raise these precious bundles in the fear of the Lord is to be the main objective of these families.

We continue to remember Sis.

Dorothy Stoller (Bro. Wayne) in prayer as she has undergone surgery. May the Lord sustain her courage and strengthen her as she goes through a time of recovery. We look forward to her being able to assemble with us.

Alan Grant (Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria) also was hospitalized during the past month. His injuries were the results of a car accident. As God mends his physical body, may He also mend Alan's spiritual heartache. We pray that God's will is accomplished through this time in Alan's life.

Charles Yoh from our congregation has also suffered a broken hip. Especially because of his high age, this will be an extra trial. Our prayers are for the Lord's will to be done for Charles as he gains strength.

Another soul has experienced the conviction of her sins and has come in repentance. Jenni Ross has made a beginning in the Lord. With the help of His grace each day, may she build a firm foundation.

The marriage engagement of Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Bro. John and Sis. Marcia) and Sis. Rachel Beer (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN) was announced to the church on May 10. May Chris and Rachel, along with their families, feel the guiding of the Spirit as they plan for the future together.

As Father's Day approaches, we reminisce about the many things which are being or have been supplied by our earthly fathers. We spend time, money and effort to recompense and thank them for their time, money and effort. Do we also recompense and thank our Heavenly Father what He has given for us? Are we giving our life as God gave the life of His Son? Or do we continue to ask for more? In God's Word, He tells us that "your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." (Matthew 6:32). With more trust in the Heavenly Father, may we continue to strive daily toward that Heavenly Home.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Cari Mann

"The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

Numbers 6:26

What a blessing it was to hear that our friend, Jared Hill (Bro. Chip and Sis. Seda), has found peace with God and man. As he now looks forward to that blessed day of baptism, may he ever continue to look to the Lord for his strength and guidance.

"Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands, that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;...Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

1 Peter 3:1,7

May 10 was the day that we witnessed the marriage of Sis. Stephany Keever (Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev) to Bro. Eric Maibach (Jeff and Elsie, Rittman, OH). Although Stephany will now be assembling with the Rittman congregation and the distance between us is not very great, she will always be close in our hearts and prayers. May they ever feel God's love drawing them closer to Him and to each other.

"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;"

1 Timothy 1:12

Bro. Glenn Riggenbach (Smithville, OH) joined us for the wedding. We also enjoyed a visit from Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL). May God bless both of these brothers and their families for their faithfulness in serving us.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord,

which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."

Psalms 121

Several of our older members have been hospitalized for one reason or another this month. We know that these steadfast examples look unto the Lord for all their help and strength. We pray that all those who were hospitalized or are about to be hospitalized will feel our love and prayers surrounding them at all times.

A Christian's demise
Leads to Paradise.

After days of tribulation
He will find his full salvation.
Death the way supplies
Unto Paradise.

Hymns of Zion #248

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Connie Domka (Bro. Fred) in the passing of her mother, Sis. Joyce Hartzler (Bro. Dale, Rittman, OH). We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Connie's brothers and sisters, Bro. Wayne (Sis. Camille) of Rittman, OH; Bro. Larry (Sis. LouAnn) and Sis. Amy (Bro. Steve) Dotterer, both of Smithville, OH; and Karen (Ron) Laparro of Columbus, OH. We are thankful that Sis. Joyce is no longer suffering, but we will miss her frequent visits to Mansfield. May all of her family feel our loving sympathy and prayers.

One of the greatest gifts I ever had,
Came from God - I call him Dad.

How many of you are fortunate to have an earthly father who tries his best to set a Godly example in your

home? How many of us when we think of our Heavenly Father, do we think of Him having the same characteristics that our earthly father has? My earthly father is loving, patient, kind, not easily angered, and best of all, a God-fearing man. How easy it is for me to picture my Heavenly Father having these same characteristics. And I do know that He does possess all the good qualities that I can think of. How often though must I admit that I have grieved my Heavenly Father even as I grieved my earthly father in times past. As this day to celebrate our fathers here on earth approaches, let us each strive to please our Heavenly Father as we would strive to please our earthly father. This year, let us take the time to thank our fathers for all they have done for us and then let us take an extra moment to thank our Father in Heaven for all that He has done for us, including giving us the man that we call "Dad".

OHIO, RITTMAN

Carla Stoller - Lucy Gasser

Each of us has memories of the unique facets of our parents' personalities. Two families have special reasons for reflecting on this, as each had a parent "called Home" this month. Both families will be comforted knowing that all pain is left behind.

Bro. Don Walder quietly left all that is life on earth for his Heavenly reward. Though he suffered much in life, his wife, Sis. Martha, was thankful for a mercifully painless death. May she and their daughters be comforted by the memories of what was important to him. Six daughters survive. They are Sis. Sharon Rupp (Bro. Jim), Sis. Marian Stoller (Bro. Joe), Sis. Lois Gasser (Bro. Virgil), Sis. Joanne Stoller (Bro. Rob), Sis. Arliss Pamer (Bro. Steve, Akron, OH), and Sis. Donna Gasser (Bro. Neil). Also surviving are grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; two sisters, Sis. Lillian Maibach (Bro. Andy) and Sis. Delores Maibach (Bro. Jack); and four brothers from Illinois.

Sis. Joyce Hartzler (Bro. Dale) passed away after a short illness. Her children gathered with her on Mother's Day knowing it would be her last on earth. Besides Bro. Dale, she is survived by three daughters and two sons. They are Sis. Connie Domka (Bro. Fred, Mansfield, OH), Karen Laparo (Ron, Gahanna, OH), Bro. Larry (Sis. LuAnn, Smithville, OH), Bro. Wayne (Sis. Camille), and Sis. Amy Dotterer (Bro. Steve, Smithville, OH). She had 16 grandchildren. Her parents, Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Mary Stoller, mourn her death. Two sisters, Sis. Linda and Sis. Judy Stoller, and one brother, Bro. Harlan Stoller (Sis. Jeanne), also survive.

Two families welcomed sons into their homes. Matthew Philip was born to Bro. Phil and Sis. Michelle Schar. Grandparents are Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar, and Gary and Mary Bowman. Ralph and Cheryl Beery have brought 10-month-old Mark Edward into their home, making Tyler a big brother. Grandparents are Sis. Ruth Beery, and Mr. and Mrs. Milan Labik.

We ask God's blessing on the lives of this year's graduates. High school graduates are: Shawn Acker (Boyd and Barbara), Elaine Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty, Lexington, KY), Julie Bauman (Sis. Nancy Bauman and Dale Bauman), Matthew Bauman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha), Nathan Bauman (Daryl and Ivy), Rebecca Beery (Bro. Stan and Sis. Karen), Jennifer Dotterer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mardel), Jodi Dotterer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn), Katrina Gasser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane), Eric Hartzler (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan), Jill Ingold (Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie), Rachel Miller (Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene), Alicia Murray (Gary and Sis. Susan), Jason Pelfrey (Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth), Michelle Plahuta (Dave and Sue), Laura Steiner (Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat), Kristin Walley (Carl and Kathy), and Ryan Winkler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Margaret).

Family and friends accompanied Bro. Eric Maibach (Jeff and Elsie) to Mansfield to witness his marriage vows to Sis. Stephany Keever (Bro.

Clair and Sis. Bev).

Tonia Hartzler (Bro. Dick and Sis. Karen) and Kevin Hanshaw (Cheryl Hanshaw, and Rusty and Hope Hanshaw) chose May 16 as their wedding day.

We ask God's blessing on both these young couples.

This month we have several engagements to report. Bro. Tony Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeanette) is engaged to Sis. Cherie Maibach (Jeff and Elsie). Sis. Carla Stoller (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joyce) and Bro. Joe Miller (Bro. Randy and Sis. Carolyn, Akron, OH) are planning their future together. Sis. Audrey Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty, Lexington, KY) and Bro. Corbin Schlatter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila, Junction, OH) have announced their wedding plans. All these couples are planning August weddings. May they continue to seek God's guidance all their lives.

Hospital patients recently were Bill Young, Sis. Marge Weber and Sis. Lucy Gasser. Bill Young has found grace to repent. May he continue to trust God for help as he faces treatment and pain in his illness. Pray God grant him peace.

Faithfully bringing God's Word to us were recent visiting ministers, Bros. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) and Bill Brake (Sardis, OH).

Note of Thanks:

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all across the land who remembered us with phone calls, cards, visits, and prayers when God called our loved one Home. May God bless you.

Least Ones in Faith,
The Donald Walder family

OHIO, SARDIS Joy Indermuhle

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

I Corinthians 11:26

On May 2 we had the privilege to, once again, partake of the Lord's Supper. Elder Bro. Bob Walder

(Congerville, IL) was here to aide our Elder Bro. Ken with serving us Communion. We thank him for coming and for sharing the Word with us on Sunday.

We wish to congratulate Bro. Bob and Sis. Karen Indermuhle on the birth of another grandson. Cory James was born to their children, Jim and Carol Brown, on May 2. May God's wisdom be with Cory's parents and grandparents as they seek to raise him according to the Word of God.

We as a brotherhood appreciate the times we can gather to do service for the Lord. May 9 was our annual church work day and many were able to come do miscellaneous work on the church and Fellowship Center. Among those that gathered was Bro. Glen Rufener (Rittman, OH) who came to do some work for us on the brick facing of the Fellowship Center. We appreciate the time he took to come and thank him for the work he did.

Amanda Alrutz (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet Indermuhle) had surgery on a broken ankle sustained in a car accident. We are thankful that this was the extent of her injuries and are glad she is up and about, albeit on crutches, and is still able to assemble with us.

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

Our graduates this year are: 8th grade - Jami Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry); high school - Amanda Alrutz (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet Indermuhle) and Bro. Matt Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam). We pray they will allow the Lord to direct them along life's path, knowing that His ways are best. Congratulations to each one.

"Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old."

Proverbs 23:22

We appreciate the instruction we received from our parents during our childhood and the advice we might receive as adults. May we take the opportunity of Father's Day to thank our earthly fathers for taking time with us when we were children and may we always thank our Heavenly Father for His great love and mercy.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Edith Miller - Ruth Gasser

"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works..."

Psalm 139:14

Two families in our congregation have been blessed by the miracle of new life. Bro. Steve and Sis. Amy Dotterer received Erika Lynn on April 26. One sister, Haley, and grandparents, Keith and Sis. Linda Dotterer and Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce Hartzler (Rittman, OH) also welcomed her. Todd Michael Ramsier joined the family circle of Curt and Heather and big brother, Ty, on May 8. Bro. Dave and Sis. Dottie Ramsier are the grateful grandparents. May God give to these parents strength and wisdom in rearing their children.

The Lord has revealed the blessing of family to another couple, whose engagement was made known to us. Bro. Garth Gucker and Sis. Sheila Hartzler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Gloria) have felt the Lord's leading and are planning a July wedding. May He richly bless them at this special time with His direction.

Three-year-old Logan Carraway and Sis. Marge Zollinger (Bro. John) have been hospitalized this past month. Logan (son of Melaney) had surgery and will need months of casts and further treatment. We are thankful that Sis. Marge has been able to assemble with us again after medical treatment. May the Lord extend His hand of healing where there is still need.

"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom and the man that getteth

understanding."

Proverbs 3:13

We have a large number of high school graduates this year. This is indeed an important milestone. We wish them well, and hope they will be able to apply true wisdom from the "Book of books" to the knowledge they have already attained. Graduates are: Bradley Beery (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl), Kevin Gasser (Ed and Joan), Amanda Gerber (Ricki), Bradley Maibach (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Barbara), Sis. Dawn Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois), Amber Miller (Bro. Max and Sis. Diane), Darla Nieman (Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay), Jenny Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Janice), Mary Beth Rufener (Bro. John W. and Sis. Emily), Andrew Saurer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue), Sheri Steiner (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue), and Arlene Troyer.

We always appreciate visitors, especially when they bring us the Word of Life. Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) recently encouraged us to look steadfastly to the unchanging Word of God.

We share in the sorrow of Bro. Larry Hartzler (Sis. LuAnn) and Sis. Amy Dotterer (Bro. Steve) in the loss of their mother. Sis. Joyce Hartzler (Bro. Dale, Rittman, OH) was called to her Heavenly Home after a brief illness. May God comfort the dear ones who remain.

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

Hymns of Zion #165

OHIO, TOLEDO

Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter

We were privileged to partake of Holy Communion on May 2. As we remember our Lord's great love for us, our love for each other is renewed and encouraged. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) assisted Bro. Walt Rager with this service. We were also blessed with

wise and loving instruction when Bro. Bill spent an evening with us to share the results of the deliberations from the mid-winter Elder Conference.

Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) also visited recently. May our love for God be evident in our obedience to the spoken Word brought forth by our ministering brothers.

On May 10, Wyatt Gavin was welcomed into the family of Jesse and Gina Beard. Happy grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Geralyn Beard. We pray that God will help Jesse and Gina to "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

Several students have graduated from local colleges and universities. We wish God's blessings to Michael Beard (Bro. Dave and Sis. Geralyn), Tiffany Gasser (Rittman), Sis. Sheila Hartzler (Smithville), Dan Manz (Junction), Melissa Schlatter (Junction), and Tammy Tierney (Latty) as they walk the paths ahead of them.

Sis. Sarah Beard (Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee) graduated from high school. As school gives way to full employment, may she always feel the guidance of God's hand.

Our sympathy is extended to Dave and Sis. Connie Sancraint and their family in the death of Dave's mother. May the Holy Spirit, the only true Comforter, be with them and ease the ache in their hearts.

Bob and Dorothy Stevens recently observed their 50th wedding anniversary. We rejoice with them in reaching this milestone and wish them many more years of God's blessings together.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Mary Berg - Louisa Gallup

Greetings everyone!

As it goes in small congregations sometimes, we have no news this month. Except to let our visitors know how much we appreciate them! Our special thanks to the ministers and their families who visited Portland this past month:

Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), and Bros. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) and Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele), all from Silverton, OR. Please know we do not take your visits for granted, but truly are thankful for the efforts made on our behalf.

We wish everyone a beautiful spring month and as always, encourage visitors to come our way.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

In June we have a Sunday established to give special attention or perhaps memory to our earthly fathers. It is well that we do, as the benefits of a loving father should not be forgotten. Nor should we ever underestimate the eternal benefits of a loving, God-fearing father who willingly and humbly takes on his responsibilities and duties as the Spiritual leader and example of the home. Let's remember to pray for and encourage not only our own fathers, but our husbands, sons and other dedicated fathers we meet every day that are striving to be the type of father that follows our Holy Bible's precious teachings.

We especially remember and sympathize with the Lawrence and Alice Gehring family this Father's Day as it is their first without their dear father. Bro. Lawrence passed away May 2, at the age of 83. He leaves his wife, Alice Montandon Gehring; and nine children: Warren, Mark and Carol, Dan, Anita and Roy Scharer, Colleen and Mike Sullivan, Arnold, Phillip and Betty Jo, and Byron and Jasna. Twenty-five grandchildren and one great-grandchild also will be missing their Grandpa. "L W" as he was more often called, is also survived by one brother, Harvey, and three sisters, Virginnia, Almeda and Miriam, all of Silverton. Bro. Lawrence, whose great joy was to be baptized a little more than a year ago, loved to come to church but was unable much of the time due to his declining health. How often we would hear the telephone ring just prior to the church service and notice the brothers with duties with the sound equipment

scurry to connect the lines so Bro. Lawrence could listen in at home over his telephone. Personally, I will always remember Bro. "L W" for his strong faith of his whole lifetime, his positive attitude and his love and joy in his own family.

The Gehring family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks for all that remembered them with their cards, prayers and deeds of kindness.

On Sunday, April 26, we were pleased to hear of the engagement of our Sis. Katrina Walter and Bro. Virgil Knobloch. Sis. Katrina's parents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Walter of Silverton and Bro. Virgil's parents are Sis. Lauretta and the late Bro. Orvie Knobloch of Lester, IA. A July 19 wedding date is being planned. Many prayers go with them as they make their plans to marry and establish a Christian home together in Pulaski, IA.

Two surgical patients, Marissa Kuenzi (Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary) and Bro. Carl Schmid (Trudy), are much improved. We are so thankful and pray that they will feel the prayers of the congregation and the nearness of the Lord through their recovery.

Visiting ministers this past month include Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), and Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL). We thank God that we have the privilege of travel and that we can find like-mind in faith in our visitors and when we travel.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

I John 4:11

Faith Clough and Rachel Rader are graduating from high school this year and Bro. David Eric Roberts is graduating from Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. We trust and pray the Lord will guide and direct them all to make plans and decisions for the benefit of their spiritual welfare first and then, with the Lord's help,

plan for additional schooling or an acceptable and successful career in their worldly endeavors.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Gwen Leuthold

During the month of June, a day is set aside where we honor our earthly fathers. In God's Word, He teaches us to honor our fathers not only on this day, but every day. Our fathers are very special people who guide us, provide for us, love us and are a huge role model in our lives. We thank God for our fathers, and pray that He will bless their lives.

This past month, we welcomed Elder Bros. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) and ministering Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH). Many other visitors worshipped with us as well. We thank all who came to be with us and hope you will visit again soon.

"...That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood; this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

I Corinthians 11:23-25

On May 17, we remembered the Lord's suffering and death by sharing Holy Communion. It was a very special time and one which drew us closer to our Lord and Saviour and to each other.

This past month also, we officially welcomed Bro. Mike Fritz, his wife, Sis. Monica, and their eight children, Sis. Cheree, Ezra, Jordan, Mieke, Milea, Obed, Selena and Simeon, to the Nashville area and to our church congregation from the Francesville, IN congregation. Bro. Mike was transferred with his job. We wholeheartedly welcome Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica and their fam-

ily and wish them God's blessings as they set up their new home in Nashville.

If you are in the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. Our upcoming services are scheduled for: July 5 (Congerville, IL); July 19 (Francesville, IN); August 9 (Goodfield, IL); August 23 (Princeville, IL); September 6 (LaCrosse, IN); and September 20 (Junction, OH). Please contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 353-8835; or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940 if you plan to worship with us or would like to meet with us for a tape service.

"The greatest gift a father can give to his children is himself."

TEXAS, CENTRAL Dan and Pam Sauder

We have enjoyed many visitors over the past months. Some have shared stories of their time spent in Texas in the service of their country and how their faith sustained them. Others, who were not converted at the time they were stationed here, also cherished the fellowship of those who gathered to worship.

It is humbling to reflect on the many who sacrificed to help keep our country free, and how God has blessed us with freedom and goodness.

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord,

He is trampling out the vintage,
where the grapes of wrath are
stored,

He has loosed the fateful lightning
of his terrible swift sword,
His truth is marching on.

Battle Hymn of the Republic

The Word has also reminded us of our battle of faith and our duties as soldiers of the Cross. Visiting ministers this month include Bros. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS), Richard Aberle (Altadena, CA) and Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL).

We welcome to our fellowship Bro. Benji Zeller, who recently found employment in Austin. Also, we're happy to have Bro. Nathan Huber worship with us this summer as he is in college co-op employment in Houston.

Central Texas services are held on all Sundays except the first Sunday of the month. The third Sunday we meet in the San Antonio area. The last Sunday we meet at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home at Round Top. The remainder of the month we meet in Austin at the Omni Hotel at I-35 and Hwy. 290.

For your benefit, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102; Brian and Terri Kaisner (512) 338-4222; Bro. David and Sis. Shella Brummitt (512) 360-3379; Sis. Dorothy Martin (210) 658-1968; and Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Sauder (210) 566-2118.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz Melva Messner

Thou art with us, where two or
three
In holy union gather,
And pray in faith, from doubting
free,

Unto the heavenly Father.
For Thou Thyself art present, Lord,
Where brethren meet in one accord,
And blessed hours are given,
A foretaste of that heritage,
Beyond our earthly pilgrimage,
Awaiting us in heaven.

Zion's Harp #204

Many of our winter residents and visitors have returned to their homes in the northern states. We were happy to hear some of them say they plan to come to Zapata for a short time this summer. We miss them and hope they remember us.

Bro. John Perdelwitz was a patient in the hospital this month for a few days. We are glad he is home again.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you for your love and kindness extended the past few months. Your prayers were especially appreciated at the time of Cornelius' death and during my recovery.

*In Christian love,
Your least sister in faith,
Sis. Delores Messerli and family*



Sermon continued from page 2

wanted to be close to Him so they were going to the temple at the hour of prayer.

Isn't that for all of us who want to be close to God? We want to be in His house. We want to be close to Him so we come together to worship Him. Today, we have drawn together. It is the Lord's day here, the day of worship and to draw together so we can sing, pray and read together and think together a little bit about what God has opened up to us.

If the Holy Spirit will be here in our midst, we hope and trust as we have prayed, to speak to every one of you through one simple voice and simple readings that we had together with the Word of God and the Spirit here to interpret and apply it to all our hearts.

As men, we would reason that out and say it is impossible, but with God, it is possible!

Then there was this lame man who was there by the gate and we read about his being healed. I don't know how much to make of some of these things, or how much it all means. Peter was talking to this lame man, and he looked up to them expecting to receive something. As I understand it, the custom was or what he probably would have expected would have been money at that point. One who was lame and destitute, that would have been a way for people to help him. That would have been a way for people to share of what they had for him to help him out. Sure.

But Peter and John came along and that isn't what they shared. They shared more than that, didn't they? They shared something far more valuable than that to this man. It wasn't just a temporary fix, or something that just temporarily would help him out.

"Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee:" is what Peter is saying unto him, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." (Acts 3:6). Then he took and stretched out his hand to him. Now what is this lame man thinking at this point as Peter instructed him? He talked to him and he had the opportunity to stand up and walk.

"I am stretching out my hand. Here is the help." Is he going to believe it? Is he going to put his hand out so that he can be helped up?

I know I found myself in a spiritual condition like that once. God was reaching out and He was telling me, "There is help." He has probably told us many times and instructed us many times. Probably just most every time we sat under the sound of God's Word, we could hear that, if we wanted to. It was there. He reached out His hand probably many times to us, but how about those times when we didn't put out our hand and accept the help?

But here is this lame man. "And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength." (Acts 3:7). Probably most of us, many of us anyhow, just don't really realize what that means right there, when it says, "...immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength."

It takes some personal experience—and some of us have probably had that—that if you do not use your muscles or legs, as this man who was not walking, you do not just stand up and take off walking and praising God. It says, "...walking, and leaping, and praising God." (Acts 3:8). Some of us know that humanly that is impossible. You do not do it that quickly when you have not used your legs for that period of time.

But God healed him in that way, and God worked another miracle—worked it in a physical way. He will work for us physically, and He will work for us spiritually. God will do that for us in the spirit when we say, "There is no way I can be of a spiritual mind right away. There are too many things in my life."

But when you put your hand in God's hand when God has told you to come, "I am going to help you and I will offer you everything you need by the name of Jesus Christ," you can be healed. Then He stretches out His hand. Put your hand in His hand and follow Him and walk with Him and immediately we can do

things that we would have thought were totally impossible!

Do you know what? Just like that, "All the people saw him walking and praising God: And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him." (Acts 3:9-10). There have been and there will be as long as God carries and continues His work, there will be people that will notice God's work, when we as individuals trust as much as this lame man did.

There will be many souls that notice God is working because they recognize that it is a work of God, not a work of man. That will always be impressive to all people who walk upon this earth. I think to every one of us especially and I just wonder if it is not to most all human beings. I won't just say everyone (and I am not even sure if I know what the right words are), but I don't know if there are many individuals that would not recognize a work of God when that is what it really is. I am sure every one of us would. Every one of us know when God works.

We can see it to recognize that He can work with us, too. Not only just to repent and be converted, He works with us after that. He continues to help, to lift up, to grant unto us and help in those times of need. He continues to give us direction and guidance. He continues to lead us upon the paths that are right and true. Sometimes it is through the shadow of the valley of death. Sometimes it is beside the still waters, but He is leading us!

He is the Chief Shepherd and He knows what is best for us. Are we willing to follow? Sometimes it is on pastures that aren't so lush and prosperous. This just came up. I don't know why I am thinking like that this morning. I started some of the twenty-third Psalm. Could you understand what I was talking about?

If you let sheep out on something where there is too much to eat, they will eat too much. A good shepherd

Sermon continued on next page

Sermon continued from page 45

watches things like that. Sometimes you don't take them to just the places that are the most lush things to eat, so you don't overfeed them. I am only talking about sheep that I know of here upon this earth, because it is God and Jesus who know the best for us as His sheep while we are living.

Did anybody ever fall into the trap where you really wanted to just understand the whole Bible all at once? I want to understand it all, and that is a good desire to have. Remember, if we are like sheep, it is only going to be given to us in just the right amounts in the right time.

Now I am wondering if this would happen and if we could take too much of it at once, would we over eat? Do you know what happens to a sheep that over eats? They can't digest it all and it works wrong in their digestive system. Do you know what ends up happening when they do this? There is a wrong kind of bacteria that grows and eventually, they die.

God knows what is best for us while we live. He wants what is best for us. I find myself just like some of those sheep; I would like to eat and eat and eat more and more. I am talking about spiritual things, just like they would like to eat and gulp down a whole bucket full of corn. We don't like to do the same with God's Word, but if it causes us to die, then that is not really so good for us, is it?

God knows what is best for you and He knows what is best for me. We come here to God's house and it is important that we come and place ourself in God's house to worship Him. We are given the right amounts of Godly food in the right time that we continue to walk and follow Him as our Chief Shepherd.

In the Bible here, what comes next is a sub-topic called, "Peter's Second Sermon". What was the sermon that he preached first? That there is help from God. Are we going to take it maybe? What did it say to you when we read here about the lame man? Now it says, it is the second sermon. They are wondering what is happening and the people around are wondering what has happened. They are attracted and

their attention is there with them. It would certainly get our attention, too, wouldn't it?

What does God have to do to get our attention today? What does God have to work in lives, hearts and souls and around us to get our attention? Sometimes we see that there are things that really happen that are tragic. Sometimes there are things that happen that are really miracles! But what does God have to do to get our attention?

Hopefully, we want to give Him our attention. It doesn't just take so much but as we come here to God's house, are we wanting to look to His Word? Are we wanting to hear what He has to say? Do you want to hear what the Bible said this morning? I don't care if you don't listen to me. I don't care if you hear a word I say, but what did the Bible say?

Think about what we read. I did not pick out the Scriptures we had this morning. Think about these things and how they fit together about what we read. I wouldn't have known where to find those stories about the woman and the oil and the woman of Shunem. I wouldn't have known where to find them. I could not have picked them out.

I would not have chosen to read here, but this is what God had for us this morning and how He put it all together, so what is He trying to say to me? What is He trying to say to you? What does it mean to you this morning when we come and read from God's Word?

Peter said, "Why are you looking at me? Why are you looking at us?" is what he said. It isn't man that did this. He said, "We did not do this!" He said, "...why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?" (Acts 3:12).

Now he is going to tell the people how it all works. "The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go." (Acts 3:13). It is not by us that this work is accomplished, but it is God above. It is in the power of God that these things are done. It

is in God's hands for all of this to be accomplished.

It is that same God that sent the Lord Jesus Christ and that is the message that they brought. Every time we gather together around this Holy Word, the Bible, we want to spread the Gospel of Good News that Jesus Christ came upon the earth to die and shed His blood for mankind, and that is us...every one of us this morning... you and me.

He died for us. He shed His blood. I know we hear that a lot and I hope we continue to hear it a lot because isn't that really the main focal point of the Bible and of our living upon this earth? There are lots of things that we can do and lots of things that we can be involved in. Lots of us have different kinds of jobs or occupations. Lots of us have different things to do whether it be school that occupies our time, children, or our homes. All those things can just take up the whole day if we let them.

Are we really thinking about God and about Jesus Christ while we live? Are we thinking about living for Him? Working for Him? Helping others? Isn't that how Jesus lived? Are we looking at life like, "I'm going to enjoy life and I am living life for me."? Do you know if it is even possible or wonder for a child of God to live like that?

When we look at ourselves, are we living like Jesus lived? What did He do for Himself while He lived in total submission and subjection to God, His Father, while He was upon this earth? Were there things that He did that were to benefit Himself? Or was He thinking about those that were around Him trying to help somebody else, trying to help out others? Was He mindful of those that were less fortunate in many other ways, the sick and the feeble? Think about it.

How am I living my life? How are you living yours and how am I doing mine? Because as much as I could talk this morning, we could go through a Bible study for hours on all these things, but if you don't feel it in your heart, I doubt if I will convince you to be different.

So may God speak to us, instruct us, show us how we are going to live

and how He wants us to live, and then may He help us to live that way. May He help us to follow that way...to live according to His will and His ways. Even when it looks like it is impossible, to know that with Him it is possible.

Peter went on then to talk some more about Jesus and how He had died and how those there had denied Him. I am paraphrasing, of course, as there are many verses that spoke of this of how they had the Prince of life, I think they called Him here, and how they rejected Him, denied Him and eventually, as we know, put Him to death. That is what they had desired for Him.

We have been reminded, at least a couple of times lately, of God and His kingdom and His glory. Are we wanting to be subject to that? There is really a teaching there for us—for me. Am I really wanting to be subject to Him and follow Him? Am I really wanting to do what He wants?

Everybody here lives in the United States of America. Without going up and down the rows, I would say virtually everybody here is a citizen of this country. Does that make us subject of this country? I think there is kind of a difference. We can be a citizen here but if I just go about doing whatever I want and however I feel and just bend things to work and if I don't get caught, it is okay. Am I really a subject of this country and supporting this country? Or am I just living here as a citizen? Now what do you want to be in the Kingdom of God?

He went on talking about Christ and what He said. Again I go back to the verse as Peter said it, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that

your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." (Acts 3:19-21).

Jesus came just for that one reason, that everyone that lives upon this earth, that comes under the sound of the Word, that hears the Word of Truth that we have before us, would have the opportunity to repent and be converted and that we can become God's people. That is what He seeks for us today and that is the hand that He is extending out to us today, that is His help that He would give unto us.

Jesus shed His blood for every one of us. He promised us His grace and His Holy Spirit while we live, that we might remain true and faithful if we give our life to Him. He promises us His help.

Isn't it just hard to understand how He promises us so much? He promises us everything we need to be His if we will just put ourselves to hold onto His hand and allow Him to lift us up, heal us, take us, mold us, shape us and convert us. How long does it take to find out we cannot convert ourselves or truly change ourselves so that all is right? But God can do it!

One more of those miracles! One more of those things that men would say it is impossible, but with God it is possible.

He can work those things so our sins may be blotted out. "And he

shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you." (Acts 3:20). If I am not mistaken, probably Peter and John here are talking to the Israelite people because he talked to them about how they crucified Jesus. Jesus was preached to them and they had the prophesy that Jesus was going to come. They knew He was going to come but they didn't see it. They didn't understand or couldn't comprehend it for whatever reason.

We know and we understand and are told in the Bible that Jesus is going to come again. I hope that every one of us understand what that means for us, when Jesus comes again. When is that time and when is it going to be? But when it happens, no more opportunity to repent, to be converted, or to have our sins blotted out.

It is just made real clear in God's Word that that is the way it is for us. So where do we stand today? How do we stand with God? How do we stand with our Lord and Saviour and how are we really wanting to be one of His people? Are we really wanting to be one of His kingdom? Are we really wanting to be a subject of His that when He comes to call His kingdom home, we will be a subject to His kingdom, and be ready and waiting to go with Him?

Just like all those accounts we read this morning, you might think that is impossible for you. I wonder if it is impossible for me, but it is not you and it is not me that are going to work that. With God, all those things are possible.



Shall You? Shall I?

Someone will enter the pearly gate
 By and by, by and by,
 Taste of the glories that there await,
 Shall you? Shall I?
 Shall you? Shall I?
 Someone will travel the streets of gold,
 Beautiful visions will there behold;
 Feast of the pleasures so long foretold;
 Shall you? Shall I?
 Shall you? Shall I?

Someone will gladly his cross lay down
 By and by, by and by,
 Faithful approved, shall receive a crown,
 Shall you? Shall I?
 Shall you? Shall I?
 Someone the glorious King will see,
 Ever from sorrow of earth be free,
 Happy with Him thro' eternity;
 Shall you? Shall I?
 Shall you? Shall I?

Someone will knock when the door is shut
 By and by, by and by,
 Hear a voice saying, "I know you not,"
 Shall you? Shall I?
 Shall you? Shall I?
 Someone will call and shall not be heard,
 Vainly will strive when the door is barred
 Someone will fail of the saint's reward:
 Shall you? Shall I?
 Shall you? Shall I?

Someone will sing the triumphant song
 By and by, by and by,
 Join the praise with the blood-bought throng,
 Shall you? Shall I?
 Shall you? Shall I?
 Someone will greet on the golden shore
 Loved ones of earth who have gone before,
 Safe in the glory forevermore:
 Shall you? Shall I?
 Shall you? Shall I?

HYMNS OF ZION #86



Because strait is the gate, and
 narrow is the way, which leadeth
 unto life, and few there be that find it.

MATTHEW 7:14

Enter In at the Strait Gate

Then said one unto him,
 Lord, are there few that
 be saved? And he said unto
 them, Strive to enter in at the
 strait gate: for many, I say
 unto you, will seek to enter
 in, and shall not be able.

When once the master of
 the house is risen up, and hath
 shut to the door, and ye be-
 gin to stand without, and to
 knock at the door, saying,

Lord, Lord, open unto us;
 and he shall answer and say
 unto you, I know you not
 whence ye are:

Then shall ye begin to say,
 We have eaten and drunk in
 thy presence, and thou hast
 taught in our streets.

But he shall say, I tell you,
 I know you not whence ye
 are; depart from me, all ye
 workers of iniquity.

LUKE 13

Let The Lower Lights Be Burning

Brightly beams our Father's mercy, from His Lighthouse evermore, But to us He gives the keeping, of the lights along the shore.

In our faith we are blessed with a fellowship that has been uplifting to many. When we are down and about out, we have a much harder time communicating with others. It is fortunate that the Lord has told us that He will hear our groaning and even every thought that can be brought together from our soul.

There is a fellowship, a friend that can come in that time of need and lift the spirits of the sad and lonely through a special gift, a letter, a hug of faith, a special handshake, and even a beautiful smile. We all have experienced a time when we could say, "I felt the prayers of those I love." It is that special communication that we often refer to as, "Let the Lower Lights Keep Burning." This series of articles will, by the Grace of God, reflect on the trials of faith and how the lower lights have in love covered the hurt and agony of many brethren.

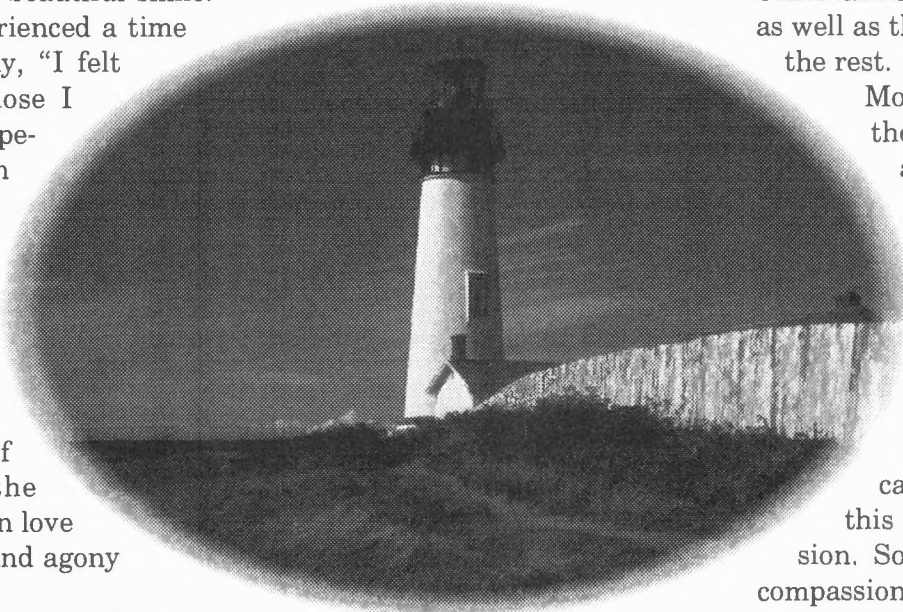
There was a special trial that a family was going through and the Lord drew the hearts of the family close together as they shared the hurt and agony. Only by the courage and love, shown by faithful brethren, did the afflicted meet the onslaught of the fiery darts from Satan. At a time like this, discouragement and depression can set into the soul of man and Satan can triumph over our faith.

It was a special blessing that was brought forth when this letter came to the hurt brethren. It was a letter of love sent by a dear one in faith, who shall be remembered forever by those who were hurt.

Just a little something...

Just a little something to let you know you are appreciated for all you do and you are not a failure!! We know that there seems to be one thing after another right now and then that song comes to mind, "Heavens Sounding Sweeter All The Time." I believe God's allowing all these things to draw us closer to Him.

I think if we had all the money in the World, then I know my heart would be set more upon earthly



things and not trusting totally in God. I also thought today, as we would never forsake our own children, God will never forsake us, His children, if our hearts are right and trusting in Him and not ourselves. Things will work out one way or another.

We have so much to be thankful for... a beautiful day, our health, nice homes, food to eat and most of all, a Father who is going to provide! "In one way or other, the Lord will provide."

I don't know if you have this tape of hymns, but I hope you enjoy it and find courage again!

We love you,

The timeliness of that letter and many others helped the brethren through that trial. Letters of love like that one have been shared by brethren across the land.

We don't need to go to foreign lands or march in rallies to let our little light shine. We just need to be compassionate and realize that the recipient of our love does not need a well groomed oration, but rather needs to know that someone, somewhere, believes in them. It is that belief that builds courage; and time, as well as the Grace of God, will do the rest.

Most everyone knows that the prayer of the righteous availeth much. Maybe we can not write our thoughts on paper, however we can pray by our bedside for those that need special prayer. Even holding up the name of a loved one before God can avail much. To do this we must have compassion. Some have a special gift of compassion, while others have to work a little harder to express love, however no one is void of love. After an expression of love in one way or the other, we find that that love returns to us many fold.

*A smile will beget a smile
as well as a frown will
take everyone down.*

So when life seems dark and dreary, don't lose courage, for there is someone who needs you and if you can arise to the occasion, by the Grace of God, you will both help a brother or loved one, while at the same time you will see the "spiritual bread of love" that you cast upon the waters return to you many fold.



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

Excerpts from the diary of Elder Henry Geistlich of Switzerland who visited the existing American churches in 1866.

Friday, June 29. Roanoke, IL: Today Bro. Jos. Bella and myself visited the church house, where Bro. Bella was teaching school. Today for the first time I saw a snake, which crawled out of the grass. For some time I watched Bro. Bella teaching his scholars.

He complained to me of the domineering actions of some of the brethren toward him. They were brethren of foreign birth. They also complained the same. Therefore, I did not feel as good here as at other places. Yet there is the same God and the same Saviour and the same pure Spirit in all the faithful on earth. There should be and is. Yet there appears a difference in the habits and customs of the various nationalities which cannot quite agree with each other. So this difference that appears to be here between them that came from the old country and the Americans who were here longer. At first it does not seem to go in unity, being very sorry that there is disunity among the dear brethren on account of this. I am hoping, however, that the Lord will direct their actions in such a manner that it will be for the best. In my coming here, I felt somewhat burdened, but afterward it was better, the Lord taking the burden from my heart and giving me His blessing and joy in our assembly.

Illinois is a fertile and productive state where much wheat, oats, barley, potatoes and fruit are grown. Here I saw the most excellent fruit trees and gardens, but it seems to be a hot and feverish region. The new soil, which is broken up, seems to smell bad. There is also a new settlement being made, 60 miles from here along a railroad. This no doubt is Fairbury, where the Bros. Virkler (Joseph and his son, and brother-in-law) have bought much land, building houses and then selling to other brothers. They are trying to establish a settlement and church there. Bro. B. and Bro. J. said to me today that they almost have made up their minds to settle there. The land costs from \$22.00 to \$25.00 per acre, which is much cheaper than where Bro. Weyeneth lives. They think the brethren who come from Europe would be better off to buy there.

Saturday, June 30: I am at Roanoke with Bro. Weyeneth. Today he took us to Metamora, where we visited with several brethren among whom were brethren J. Brau from Bern, Switzerland. We stayed overnight there.

Sunday, July 1. Metamora, IL: Today there was church at the home of Bro. Peter Engel. A large barn was our place for assembling. In the forenoon there were 53 rigs in the yard and in the afternoon still more. It looked as if a party of artillery had camped, there being many unbelievers with us. While I was looking at this with astonishment, a brother said, "See, brother, all that you see here is work and inconvenience for us. You in Europe do not have the inconvenience because you live closer together."

Monday, July 2. Metamora, IL: Last night we stayed with Sister Krahanbuhl. I also talked with the expelled K.S. and his wife. All I could do was to advise them to humble themselves, otherwise, there is no help for them. I was doing all that was possible and committed them unto the mercy of God. This all I kept in my heart as we find of Mary.

Tuesday, July 3. Metamora, IL: Today I wrote a letter home to my dear ones, which was forwarded on Wednesday. We drove from Metamora to Morton. Several brothers accompanied us, including the brothers Forster and Fahr from Eglisau, Switzerland. We arrived at the village of Washington, where we stopped. We then went out to Brother Ackerman's who lives near Morton. In the evening there was church there. The Ackermans showed much love toward us, their household reminding me of Abraham and Lot. This brother has a very large business, many horses and cattle and about 900 acres of land, his activity being in much the same proportion that we find of those fathers of old. The brethren live near a large oak timber.

Wednesday, July 4. Morton, IL: Today we went from Bro. Ackerman's home to Morton, where in the afternoon we had church in a wagon factory. For our text we read in Hebrews, Chapter 12, verse 12 which says "Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down and the weak knees." Today I also saw brother Carl Hurlmann, who used to be a

servant from Fritz Lithu, in Seefeld, Zurich, Switzerland. I was also surprised as I saw Bro. F.M. and others coming to church, riding on horses. It seems to me that the brethren here are not as humble as at home by us. I found that they must watch out lest they rise too high, both as to soul and body.

Thursday, July 5. Dillon, IL (near Tremont): Today we went to Dillon where Bro. Michael Reuter and Bro. Geo. Welk live. In the evening we had church at Bro. Welk's. Bro. Reuter lives on a nice place next to a woods. This is beautiful region, being very fertile. Here grapes grow in abundance. This place would suit me the best of any place I have seen so far, if I had to live here. We also visited an English brother, who was on his death bed, suffering from cancer. I was delighted in the friendliness of this brother, who patiently bears his pain and is glad to leave this earth to be with Christ. From here we went to Peoria where we boarded a train for Burlington, IA.

Friday, July 6. Burlington, IA: Last night we stayed in Burlington. At 5 a.m. we boarded a train for Ottumwa where we took a stagecoach to Bloomfield, arriving there at 7 o'clock in the evening. We still had seven miles to go to the brethren, where we intended to stay for the night. We were able to hire a coach to take us. On the way, darkness overtook us, and our drivers got lost. This is a very rough and unsettled region. On the way we sometimes feared that our rig would upset. Whenever we would see a light in a log cabin, we would stop and inquire about the name of the brethren whom we were trying to find. At last we reached our destination, which was a miserable log house. At that we were glad as it was getting late. One interesting thing I saw this evening was what seemed like many thousand fire sparks jumping around on the earth. There are called fireflies or firebugs; they hop up from the earth throwing a flash into the air that looks like fire. This all is part of nature's play.

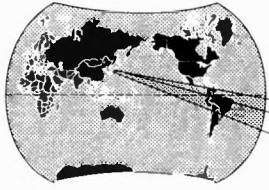
By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

The Geistlich Diary Continues

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



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"A Father's Responsibility"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

I was once told by a brother that my first responsibility is to provide for my family. There is scripture for that, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." (I Timothy 5:8). We fathers do have the responsibility to provide for our families the necessities of life as recorded in I Timothy 6:8, "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." The Bible does teach the work ethic and we are not to be lazy.

The Bible also says something about our relationship to our children, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4). The Book of Proverbs also has many exhortations about children needing discipline but Ephesians reminds us that such discipline should not be to vent our own frustration at not being able to control our chil-

dren, but that it should be done in a way that does not provoke them to wrath. That's a tall order.

Some fathers in some countries or in some circumstances, may not be able to find work no matter how much they want to work and earn money for their family. That willingness to work is precious and important. Those who have extra should assist such until they can again earn their own way and help others. "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them; for this is the law and the prophets." Likewise, if we do our very best to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and they decide otherwise, we must commit them to the Lord while continuing to pray for them and continuing to love them very much. To lose our joy in the Lord over the situation doesn't help anything or anybody. We should try to remain an

example which teaches that God's way is still the best and happiest way to live, and offers eternal life besides.

Another responsibility is to our wives. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." (Ephesians 5:25). This means we are to be willing to die for our wives. A harsh voice throws them off kilter. We should praise our wives for all their good points and thank them for marrying us. We should remember anniversaries and thank our wives for every meal they make for us. They aren't working for their health, they are working for us and our families. Wherever there is an opportunity, work together with your wife, and with your children, if they are still at home. I also feel overwhelmed by my responsibilities but it is good for us. We tend to be too self-centered. Have a wonderful Father's Day.

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Sardis, OH - 1848

pictured 1970

Tucked almost unnoticed between the banks of the Ohio River and the hills to the immediate west is the small hamlet of Sardis, Ohio. It was founded just five years prior to brethren moving there from Switzerland.

In 1848 a number of brethren boarded a flat boat for a journey down the Ohio River, which was considered a throughway to the West. Why the brethren stopped at Sardis is not known for sure, but we can believe it was the hand of God.

Pictured above is the Sardis church as it looked in the 1970's. This building was built in the 1870's after fire destroyed the first building on the same site. It was elevated and a basement added in the 1890's. In 1966 extensive remodeling took place, which included a new entrance to the church. The old Sardis church serves as a Fellowship Center today since a new edifice was built in 1987. To the right of the building, the third stone back, is the grave of Elder Isaac Gehring (1819-1896).

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