

The Silver Lining



Fear ye not, neither be ye afraid.

July

“ETERNITY IS FOREVER”

Sermon by Bro. Dwight Stoller, Latty, OH

Jeremiah 30:1-9 and Revelations 12:7-17

When we read a book, typically most often the events are in chronological order, especially if it is a historical book. What we read in chapter three usually happened later in time than in chapter one. Not everything written in the Bible is that way.

I'm not going to claim in any way, shape or form that Revelation is my area of expertise, because it's not. I believe that there are some passages which can have multiple interpretations. In this issue of war in Heaven, it could possibly refer to more than one time.

We know that Satan was in Heaven once before and that he was an angel and he was proud. God threw him out of Heaven, "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven." (Revelation 12:7-8). There is also war now.

It strikes me in verse twelve. "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." (Revelation 12:12).

What is a short time? It depends on the situation, doesn't it? I think time is kind of an almost mysterious thing. We have had three or four funerals in Latty in the last three weeks. I say three or four because we had a double funeral, a husband and wife, on Friday. Both were elderly in age. But, you know, at a time when you lay somebody to rest is when you reflect upon time.

Time is kind of an expanse. It is a period during which actions take place or something occurs. If you ever think about time, in one sense we could consider it our most limited resource. If you ever think about it, you can't buy time. You can't trade anyone for time. You can't barter for time. Every day God gives us twenty-four precious hours

and it will be consumed. When that day is gone, it's gone for good and we can't recover it.

Time is like we can picture that hourglass with little grains of sand in it that fall through. Once they flow through that little hourglass, they are never recovered. You can't put them back. It's like the second hand on this little clock on the pulpit here that continues to move. Every second that goes past is gone forever. It will never ever be recovered.

So every one of us have some supply of time; some supply of little grains of sand that is falling through the glass. You know, the thing is that none of us know what our supply is. None of us can see our own hourglass and know how much time we have.

We buried my forty-eight year old brother last November who died of cancer. A few years ago, no one would have imagined that he had that little amount of sand left in his glass. That little amount of opportunity to live as we know life. Most all of us are assuming that we will live the rest of this day and tomorrow. The average American lives seventy some years for a male, and I don't know what it is for a female. We will live with the assumption that we have this time.

A little analogy that helps me is I remember way back in Geometry class in high school, or maybe we even learned this in junior high, I don't remember, but we learned about this concept of points and lines and a ray. We learned that a point in Geometry class is something that is so infinitely small that you can't measure it and it has no mass.

You can't say, "Well, this point is this wide, because theoretically it is just there. It's infinitely small." I remember when we learned that a ray is a line that starts at this point and it goes on, and that ray can have infinite length. I can't quite comprehend infinite, but it means it never ends. You also can't measure it, because it's too big and never ends.

We will at times do planning and will plot things on a time line. Usually the fine is maybe this long on a marker board or this long on a piece of paper. We usually divide it up. So maybe we'll have a year here, or this is a century or this is a decade. We use that to compare when this happened compared to when this happened, or how long ago did this happen.

When I think of our life and I think of eternity, I think of that ray. I think you know—this may sound absurd—but it is not an exaggeration. Because if eternity is something that is unending, there is going to be eternal life, and there is going to be eternal damnation. In my lifetime, even if God does give me seventy, eighty or ninety or whatever years of life, is like that little point on the end of that ray.

In so many million years downstream in eternity, which is this unending line, and if we have a memory and if we have the ability to look back, this lifetime is going to be like that little blip on the end of that line.

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

July 1998

Technology and the Internet - I

"Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought many inventions" (Eccles. 7:29). It is quite obvious that there have been many inventions that have brought significant changes in our lives, and as in the days of Noah, many of these changes have not been good. "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great...and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5).

Technology has brought significant change to our lives, and the rate of change is increasing rapidly. We often wonder, and to an extent fear, what impact this will have on our faith. The next two editorials will briefly explore some of the benefits and concerns that technology has brought to our lives.

The Internet is a world wide connection of computers that can give the operator of a computer access to information from sources throughout the world. Any computer, any place in the world, can be connected to the Internet once it has been registered with a central agency and has been given a "unique address". This collection of computers provides storage for information that can be transferred from one computer to another by using phone and communication lines. An individual who has a personal computer can access the Internet via a phone line using a device called a modem.

The World Wide Web (WWW) is a software technology that allows access to pictures, video, sound and text stored on the Internet. This software enables a computer owner to access information from virtually any place in the world.

Electronic mail (E mail) is similar to the standard postal service mail we all use today. The primary difference between E mail and standard mail is the means of delivery. E mail is transported electronically over the Internet instead of over the highway by truck or airway by plane. E mail can be delivered almost instantly and to numerous recipients at the same time.

"Chat Rooms" are a form of electronic

communication that use typed messages which appear immediately on the computer of another individual or group of individuals. Much like short wave radios, chat rooms allow instant communication over the Internet. Messages may be accompanied by a video camera picture of those who use this means of communication.

The advanced technology and reduced cost has made it possible for many individuals and businesses to have access to almost unlimited information. There are many benefits that this new technology and the Internet have already brought, and the potential for future benefits is enormous. The Internet or the WWW can be used by schools, businesses and individuals in a variety of ways to improve our lives. Devices that enable many handicapped individuals to live a much more normal life, medical and surgical advances, and expanded educational opportunities are only a few of the advantages.

Technology also provides an opportunity for those of like mind and faith to draw closer together through improved communication. Brethren who are somewhat isolated because of work or other circumstances could be in close and frequent contact with other brethren through this medium. It could provide an opportunity to broadcast E mail messages to friends and members, thereby keeping all of us better informed of opportunities to help each other. While this can be a blessing, we must be very careful because it could also lead to communication with those of another faith and increase the possibility of doctrinal confusion.

In addition to improved communication among brethren, the Internet and related technologies will also increase the opportunities for brothers to work at and from their own homes. This has the potential to reverse the trend started during the Industrial Revolution which required men to leave home to work among worldly people in factories and offices. Many children have no opportunity to know what their father does at work nor

do most families have an opportunity to work together. Working at home may allow us to once again work as a family unit as was common in the agricultural era.

Increased business travel in recent years has become a problem for some families. With some fathers being gone several nights per week, additional stress is placed on the mother as she tries to fill the role of both parents. The improved technologies could reduce the need to travel.

Undoubtedly the future will bring additional, significant changes in technology and this will bring with it many opportunities and concerns. Although improved technology can be very useful if Godly standards are adhered to, we must be careful that we heed the scriptural warning that men can become "...vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened" (Ro. 1:21). With vanity comes self-exaltation. If advanced technology leads to the false belief that man is in control of his destiny, will the Lord again look down upon the earth and see the attitude of man as it was at the time of the building of the Tower of Babel and say "...this they begin to do, and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do" (Gen. 11:6)? God is in control and determines how much knowledge man can gain. However, man may be tempted to try to go farther than he should, thus risking the wrath of God.

The Children of God would do well to be aware of potential problems brought on by technology. Some who become overly involved in the Internet have developed behavior similar to addiction. This behavior is often related to the dangers of pornography, profanity, games and communication with strangers that could lead to unwholesome relationships. The scripture advises us to "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners" (I Cor. 15:33).

The next article will cover additional topics of concern about technology and the Internet.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

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

Brethren Visit Europe for Church Dedication

Interaction and cooperation between the brethren in the USA and Europe continue to increase. Each time we visit them, our respect for our European brethren increases. The European Board functions under the direction of both the World Relief and Mission Committees.

A new congregation in Germany

After World War II many brothers served in the military based in the picturesque town of Schwäbisch Hall. We have had a church in this area since the days of Bro. Froehlich.

Several years ago, a group of believers gathered together to form an assembly in Oehringen which lies in the same part of southern Germany. Surrounded by rolling hills, this picturesque region is always a lovely place to visit or to live.

For several years the group rented a facility in which to worship, but for various reasons there came a time when it no longer suited their needs. They explored various options, some of which were shared with and considered by the Mission Committee.

Last year a building which served as a church for another group of people was available for purchase, and the congregation decided that this would indeed meet their needs. To support the purchase of this building, the Mission Committee agreed to send the sum of \$40,000 to assist this effort. The Oehringen congregation has expressed gratitude for this gift many times. The local elder is Bro. Hans Heer, who is well known among those who have visited Europe.

An invitation to the dedication

The Mission Committee received a formal invitation from the Oehringen congregation to attend dedication services for the new building. The date scheduled was May 24, 1998.

Approval was given for Bro. Wayne Anliker and his wife, Sis. Judy to represent the Mission Committee at this service. Also accompanying by personal invitation were Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna Lehman (Wolcott, IN)

and Bro. Kurt Munsel (Bay City, MI). The group arrived at the airport at Frankfurt, Germany on Friday, May 22. They were met by Elder Bro. Ernst Pfister and taken to Breidenbach.

Breidenbach, Germany

After arriving at Pfisters' home, they had lunch, and rested a bit in the afternoon to compensate for the 7 hour difference in time. In the evening, the youth group orchestra played for about one half hour. It is no exaggeration to say that tears filled every eye. Following this, there were services in the evening. Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker spoke in English, translated to German by Bro. Martin Hildebrandt, one of their ministers



Church in Oehringen

The dedication in Oehringen

After breakfast on Saturday, the group consisting of the five Americans, Bro. Ernst and Sis. Elisabeth Pfister, and Bro. Martin Hildebrandt, set forth for Oehringen. Because there was time, they took the scenic route along the Rhine river, and saw a number of historic sites. Arriving at Heer's home in good time, the group enjoyed a singing in the evening.

On Sunday morning, the dedication service was conducted by Bro. Ernst Pfister. This was followed by several hours of fellowship on the church property.

The afternoon service was conducted by Bro. Wayne with translation by Bro. Martin Hildebrandt. Evening found everyone with hearts full of gratitude and blessings, and bodies weary with the events of the day.

The further journey

On Monday, June 25, the group visited with the Klein family in Strasbourg, France. It is not possible in these short columns to express the spirit of brotherly kinship everyone felt. Historic sites, particularly those pertaining to Bro. Samuel Froehlich were visited.

In the course of the time between May 24 and May 31, the group visited the following churches:

- Schutterzell, Germany
- Balingen, Germany – Wed. evening
- Vienna, Austria
- Linz, Austria – Sunday, May 31

Each place visited brought increased love and respect for the local brethren. Our prayer is that God will bless the efforts. If anyone wants a more detailed report, please contact one of the brothers who made the trip.



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

What Can I Do To Help a Child?



The World Relief Committee was approached in 1996 concerning a need in Haiti to help fund education for children who otherwise could not afford to go to school. The World Relief Committee and the Mission Committee approved the idea of a Child Sponsorship Board being formed. The purpose of the Board was to organize a program offering members and friends of the Apostolic Christian Church the opportunity to sponsor a child in a foreign land and have direct communication with that child. In January of 1997, this new board began meeting on a monthly basis to ask for God's direction and to work out details on how this could be accomplished.

Sponsorship program established

In February of 1997, four brothers traveled to Haiti, visited several schools, and talked with many people concerning this need. Communication soon began between the Sponsorship Board and school leaders in Haiti, CCCD in Jamaica, and the Mission Committee for Ixtlan, Mexico. Programs are being set up for each of these countries whereby funds can be sent through



Apostolic Christian World Relief to help with educational needs. It was decided that a small "pilot program" would run for approximately one year to make sure all the details could be worked out before an announcement was made to the entire church body. That pilot program began in early 1997 and was successful. This opportunity is now being extended to all members and friends.

Accountability is important

We have several goals for all of the children who enter this program. They should keep their grades up, attend school and church on a regular basis, and write to their sponsors periodically.

They are also encouraged to pray for their sponsors. In order for the Child Sponsorship Board to make sure that the child is meeting all of these criteria, we depend on the teachers in Haiti, Mexico and Jamaica. Therefore, we ask that all correspondence go through the World Relief Child Sponsorship office.

New brochure being developed

A brochure will soon be available to all of the Apostolic Christian churches briefly explaining the program. Anyone interested in more detailed information will be able to fill out the application.

Generally, to sponsor a child will cost between \$21.00 - \$30.00 per month (12 months per year). To sponsor an entire Haitian school, which has no individually sponsored children, is currently \$1,050.00 annually. Many Apostolic Christian brethren and friends currently sponsor a child through MEBSh in Haiti.

If interested, those individuals can switch and begin sending their sponsorship money through the World Relief Child Sponsorship office and still keep the same child. Anyone wishing information on this can contact the Child Sponsorship office.



We need your prayers

With any new project there is a continual need for God's guidance, wisdom and protection. We ask that you keep this project in your prayers as we strive to serve the Lord in this new area. The Apostolic Christian World Relief Child Sponsorship Board can be reached at the address or phone below. Please feel free to contact the board with any concerns or questions you may have. Thank you for your prayers.



Child Sponsorship Program

P.O. Box 36
MORTON, IL 61550-0036
(309) 266-6080 PHONE
(309) 266-5281 FAX

- 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**

1998	MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	TOTAL — 15 YEARS
June	1,665	19,771	431,969

* 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 -

**EDUCATION
COORDINATOR NEEDED**

Five years ago I left a job in which I took home grading every night and still was never done. I spent long hours and exhausting efforts trying to think of ways to reach students who did not want to be in my classes and whose parents did little to support the work of their children's teachers. I kept wishing I could take some of my students home with me and teach them the important things they needed to learn—not just when to use a comma or how to avoid splitting an infinitive, but how to take responsibility for the choices they were making and how to see beyond themselves enough to get along with others. God has given me the opportunity to work for an organization whose motto is "Turning Lives Around." Working at Gateway Woods has been a great blessing. Cooperating with other believers in work that has eternal significance—what could be a better way to spend our time?

My work as Education Coordinator keeps me in close contact with educators in the public schools. I can be the third party who is willing to do something to encourage students to follow their teachers' direction. I also get to work with my Brothers and Sisters who have invested their

lives in houseparenting the children entrusted to their care. And for a couple of hours each school day, I get to work directly with the students whose lives we are trying to help turn around. Seeing their growth and learning has been very rewarding. Our new on-grounds school has given me more opportunities to learn this year. Developing curriculum and working with school officials to establish credit for our students has been challenging and rewarding.

Here are a few of the rewards I have been allowed to experience:

— Receiving Robert's final report card—at the beginning of this school year Robert thought he should not be required to do extra study in the classes he got D's in because his report card was "better than he had ever had before." On his final report card he had achieved honor roll grades.

— Watching Alex's growth in our on-grounds school—Alex not only made a great academic improvement; he learned how important it is to choose good friends and set a good example rather than following peers.

— Listening to a teacher tell me how much Heather has improved after being in our remedial math program during the summer.

— Finding that the public school in Leo will cooperate with us in obtaining textbooks, accept

Counselors Needed

Are you looking for a professionally and spiritually fulfilling career? Gateway Woods, a Christian residential childcare facility, has immediate openings for a male and 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

**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.

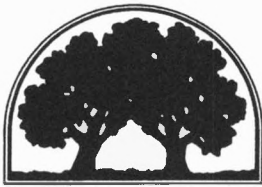
The hotline will not provide diagnosis or treatment.

credits we issue, and provide for students who finish their last semester in Gateway Woods School.

Not all our students have such great success stories, but I have found that God uses even difficult situations to teach us and to bring us closer to His plan for us. I have learned a great deal through my work here at Gateway Woods. It would be nice to stay here forever, but God has called me to new challenges. Besides, I think it's time to give someone else the chance to experience these blessings. We are looking for a certified teacher with teaching experience. Teachers, are you ready for an adventure? Do you want your work to count for eternity? Would you like to work with dedicated, professional Christians with the common goal of helping others? Maybe being Education Coordinator at Gateway Woods will be God's way of blessing you. Won't you ask Him? For more information, please call one of the brothers listed below.

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

Phil Stettner, Counseling Elder
(219) 565-3499



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 full time position.

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

Summer is here. The people in the group homes are preparing for

the warm summer months. We have been planting flower gardens, grilling out, planning dinners and activities with friends, outings in the community such as attending local festivals, goofy golf, and walks or bike rides in the neighborhood or on trails. One of the favorite activities for our people is planning mini vacations. Our people are able to select from several different mini vacations that we offer. Two staff members will go with 4-6 people for two days and one night. Some of our favorite places include Chicago, St. Louis, Galena, Springfield and Bloomington. The ladies may select the shopping trips and the men typically choose a ball game. Along with these activities, most of our trips seem to include various sight seeing opportunities. We all enjoy a night in the hotel with a swimming pool. Of course, the road trip is packed full of fun with various games and food. Another summertime favorite is Independence Day. When we think of Independence Day and remember that it took an army to free our country, we are grateful for all those who fought for us. BUT, we can also remember that it only took Jesus for each of us to receive freedom that will last an eternity. To celebrate this exciting time, Linden Estates invites the other homes for an evening of fireworks and games. Have a wonderful July 4th!

Birthdays for August are: ACHH - Dan McDonough (2), Eric Ringwald (4), Susie Landis (5), Martha Clymer (6), Nancy Eschmann (12), Shirley Pfeifer (23), Barbara Perkins (30), Christopher Loughe (31). LINDEN - Steve Holmes (18). 200 E. HAZELWOOD - Wayne Leman (12).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Denise Klopfenstein

Are you walking in freedom today? Freedom is something we in the United States rejoice in as we celebrate Independence Day. To have the liberty to speak, write, worship, travel, and work as we choose

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

is a wonderful thing. But how much more wonderful is the spiritual freedom we have in Jesus Christ! Many of the children and families that we work with are bound by rebellion, disobedience, anxiety, deception, fear, depression, selfishness, idolatry, anger, and bitterness. We have the great privilege of sharing the truth that brings freedom.

Because of Christ's sacrifice, we can be set free from the condemnation and power of sin in our lives, and we have the freedom to live in love, service, obedience, respect, trust, truthfulness, and forgiveness. "There is therefore now no condem-

GATEWAY WOODS

Saturday, August 15, 1998

EVENT TIMETABLE

7:00 AM
Meals Begin
Bake Sale
Pre-priced Crafts Sale

8:30 AM
Gateway Woods' Songs
Devotions

9:00 AM
Quilt & China Auction
Craft & Art Auction
Craft & Antique Auction
Silent Auction

10:00 AM
Children's Activities

12:00 NOON
Specialty Items Auction

1:00 PM
Children's Activities



NEW THIS YEAR

We're adding a Kids' Corner to our Auction! Children who want to take part in the Auction will be able to purchase pre-priced items such as recreation equipment and toys. Bring your piggy banks!



We are also excited to have two new food booths this year, offering Strawberry Shortcake and hot pretzels!



SPECIALTY ITEMS

1998 Buick Century
Swing Set-free delivery within 100 miles
3 Days at River Valley Ranch-Sardis, OH

ALSO AVAILABLE:

Oak filing cabinets
Lawn tools
Lead crystal decanter & glasses
Samantha Doll-American Girls Collection



BEANIE BABIES!!!!

1997 Teenie Beans-Full Set
1998 Teenie Beans-Full Set
Plus more than 60 Beanie Babies,
including 10 retired Beans!

GATEWAY WOODS

Apostolic Christian Childrens' Home
P.O. Box 151
Leo, Indiana 46765
219/627-2159

*All items are new, except for our quality antiques.
MasterCard and Visa accepted.*

GATEWAY WOODS is located ten miles northeast of Fort Wayne. Take State Road 1 to Leo. Go one mile east on Leo-Grabill Road to Klopfenstein Road, then north 1/4 mile. Watch for our signs!

22ND ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION

nation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:1)

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." (Galatians 5:1)

We are excited to welcome Bro. Jeff Waibel (Bay City) and Sisters Kim Plattner (Leo) and Holly Beer (Milford) who will be working with us this summer. Their work in various capacities will enable us to effectively utilize volunteers, teach independent living skills to our older teens, give remedial education to many of our children who struggle with academics, and further develop the curriculum for our on-grounds school. Our summer employees provide a "shot in the arm" of enthusiasm and energy which always makes the summer months more enjoyable.

We have been blessed by the willing service of several volunteers over the past month. Our thanks go to Sisters Laura Steiner, Laura Seigle, Luci Koch, Carol Sauder, and Carrie Sauder, and Brothers Josh Steffen, Adam Merkle, Bryan Kellenberger, Arlan Miller, Rob Honegger, and Nick Zaugg, as well as to Bro. Doug Wagenbach and his family. If you are interested in volunteering during the summer months, please contact Jeff Waibel at (219) 627-2159.

This month we have said good-byes to Alex F. and Kristen S. as they move on to new chapters in their lives. We pray for God's blessing on their lives, and trust that the life changes they have made during their time here will continue into the future.

An expression of thanks is due to our outgoing board members, Bro. Sam Bachtold (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Bill Eisenmann (Latty, OH). We are grateful for the wisdom and variety of skills and experiences each board member brings to this organization. Their willingness to serve for a five year term is a blessing to us. We look

forward to working with new board members, Bro. Eldon Steidinger (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Russell Manz (Junction, OH).

Sis. Sandy Leman has recently made known her intentions of leaving her current position as Education Coordinator in late August in order to pursue a career in the medical field. Her departure will create another staff opening. If you have a teaching degree and would enjoy the challenge of working with our treatment team to meet the educational needs of the children in our residential program as well as overseeing a tutoring program and our small on-grounds school, please consider asking the Lord if He wants to use you in this way. We also currently have needs for a female Counselor, a Secretary, and an Alternate Houseparent couple. We trust God to meet all of our staffing needs, and appreciate the prayers of many supporters as we anticipate how He will bring about His will in these situations. Please see ads in this issue for further information. Summer brings anticipation of our annual auction, which will take place on Saturday, August 15th. This event is made possible by many volunteers who make items, cook and serve a variety of delicious food, serve as auctioneers, help display quilts and craft items, and much more. If you would like to volunteer your time to help with the auction, please contact your local Gateway Woods representative or call the Gateway Woods office at (219) 627-2159.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Margo Stettner

Do you ever have a day where you just need a lift? Well, the other day, completely out of the blue, Tyler said "Miss Margo, I love you this much" as he held his arms out wide. Then he said the same thing to Miss Louise. Although it was just a little thing, it made my day. Let's remember to encourage those we see each day. It can make such a difference.

Summer is officially here! We've had a lot of hot days so the kids jump

at every chance to swim in the kiddie pools. We've also had the opportunity to take two special trips—to the local duck pond and a petting zoo. What a blessing it is to enjoy God's wonderful creation!

We are currently in the process of restructuring the preschool a little bit. If you know of anyone who has a computer that they are not using and would like to donate it, please contact the preschool at (205) 233-0591. God bless you in advance for your efforts.

As many of you know, we are still in need of a teacher for this coming school year. Teaching at the preschool has been a real blessing for me. If you are interested in teaching, please prayerfully consider the preschool. Questions and inquiries should be directed to Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (205) 232-2035.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Joan Reinhard

We had a very blessed weekend on Memorial Day weekend and we would like to extend a thank you to each one who came. We had a small crowd this year with about 225 people attending and approximately 20 churches represented. The smaller crowd actually lent itself to more time for fellowship and encouraged new and old friendships to flourish. The weekend seemed to be an encouragement to all and a challenge to consider the "Spiritual Benchmarks" in our lives. Thank you especially to our speakers: Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL), Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Bud Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), and Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) for their participation in the weekend. We'll look forward to next year!

Our prayers are with Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore as his half-sister passed away this month. She had been sick, but it can still be hard to accept the finality of death when it comes.

The Apostolic Christian Preschool has a need for some comput-

ers. Anyone who has a good, working computer he or she would like to donate, please call the Preschool at (256) 233-0591 or Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (256) 232-2035.

Anyone interested in a teaching position at the Apostolic Christian Preschool here in Athens, please call Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (256) 232-2035.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God..."

III John 11

On May 20, our business meeting filled the following offices: Trustee Chairman - Bro. Charles Kieser; Sunday School Assistant Superintendent - Bro. Herb Knochel, Jr.; Song Leader - Bro. Jim Meiss and Bro. Randy Wuethrich; Ushers - Bro. Jeremy Ebert and Bro. Scott Klopfenstein; Lunch fund Treasurer - Bro. John and Sis. Wilma Pulfer; Congregational Room Coordinator - Bro. Scott Baum and Bro. Todd Baum.

We give our thanks and our appreciation to those who served this past year: Bro. John Gerber, Bro. Mick Hill, Bro. Jacob Hoerr, Bro. John Dotterer, Bro. Herb Knochel, Jr., Bro. Ray Blunier, Bro. Brandon Labudde, Bro. Charles and Sis. Marie Kieser, Bro. Randy Wuethrich and Bro. Wes Kieser.

In mid-May, a work team went to Ixtlan, Mexico to complete work on the church building.

A group of brothers from several states went to Tremonton, Utah in May to restore and repair the Salt Creek Cemetery. A few settlers built a church there in 1907. The earliest graves were for babies and children with Apostolic Christian surnames. Soon adult graves were added, a total of 90 in May '98. The city newspaper gave recognition to our brothers and our Apostolic Christian churches for their work and respect paid to Tremonton's early settlers. Bro. John Kaufman has

more interesting information, including names and history of our early Utah church. (We've known there was a Jacob Hoerr in early Utah days among many other names.)

"I am satisfied that yours must be an excellent religion to have produced a life of such exemplary virtue and correctness. For it is in our own lives, and not from our words, that our religion must be judged." (Thomas Jefferson - 1816)

The great-granddaughter of a Tremonton pioneer penned a note of thanks to our brothers and felt the above message was most worthy.

"Trust in the Lord, and do good." (Psalm 37:3). Sis. Martha Elsasser lived her life doing for others. We are still awestruck, for death came quickly, but what a beautiful final chapter on June 1 in Peoria, IL.

Sis. Martha and Sis. Jan flew to Illinois for a niece/cousin's wedding and Elsasser-Endress family reunions. After weeks of enjoying family and friends, Sis. Martha was hospitalized on May 31 and went to Heaven on June 1. Funeral services were June 3 at the Princeville Apostolic Christian Church. Burial was in Swan Lake Cemetery, Peoria, IL beside her husband, Philip. Our sympathy to daughters, Sis. Jan and Phyllis, and her many relatives. Sis. Martha will be sorely missed.

What better way to preserve our church's traditions for our young members than joining the invitation that Sabetha-Bern, KS extended. Our thanks to all.

Sis. Willow Beres went to Ixtlan, Mexico to assist Sis. Jan Heinold with numerous church activities.

Bro. Loren Knapp was our visiting minister on May 18 while returning from Tremonton, UT to Tucson.

Jerry and Sis. June Tooley are happy first-time grandparents. Keegan Lynn was born May 27 to Stefanie and Doug Rose. May God bless our new family.

Our Father Who art in Heaven, we thank Thee for hearing our multitude of prayer requests. Our hos-

pital patients were: Sis. LaVina Dotterer had heart surgery, Sis. Kelly Freed had surgery, Sis. Verene Sutton had major surgery, Sis. Linda Yackley had knee surgery, and Sis. Jeanne Metzger had surgery.

We have a lengthy list of dear ones in frail health who also need your prayers, but our beloved child, Mary Beth Sutton's cancer does not respond to treatment. The Sutton family needs our prayers and loving care.

Wanted: Respect for the customs and traditions of the Apostolic Christian Church of America as the Elder Body explained from the '97 Conference.

Vacation Bible School was June 15-19. VBS is a joyous learning, singing time for the children.

The Bible class and adults heard sermons from Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN), James Emch (Phoenix) and Marshall Heinold (Ixtlan, Mexico). Our hearty thanks to each brother and sister who labored for our Lord.

Best wishes to college graduates, Sis. Beth Dotterer and Ann Kieser. Share God's love.

Note of Thanks:

Words fail to properly convey our thankfulness for your prayerful support and many gifts of love given in memory of our dear Mother, Martha Elsasser. We know Mom would have certainly been humbled by all the love shown at this time and during the many years she lived in Phoenix. May God richly bless each of you.

Jan and Phyllis Elsasser

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

This reporter neglected to mention that Bro. Terry Koehl (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary) also graduated from high school in June. He is continuing his education and working part-time.

Our annual Corn-on-the-Cob Picnic is planned for the afternoon and evening of Saturday, August 22, at Thumb Butte Park. Anyone visiting in our area is welcome to come. For

more details, you can call one of our correspondents listed in the church and ministers' directory.

Our ministering brothers last month included Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Bros. Greg Gramm and Bill Dotterer (both of Phoenix). We wish them and their families God's richest blessings for their love and service.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Our Sis. Joan Knapp fell and broke her ankle and is hospitalized as of this writing. She is expected to come home in the next day or two and will be recovering from surgery on her ankle for the next few months. We ask the Lord's blessings on Sis. Joan and Bro. Loren during this frustrating time of recovery. We are thankful her injury wasn't more serious.

We are looking forward to Vacation Bible School next week. Our theme this year will be "How Great Thou Art". Our numbers will be small but the enthusiasm should be as big as ever.

Our weather has finally reached "normal" levels. Our daytime highs are in the high 90's and overnight lows are in the low 60's.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Joshua Martinez

"Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied."

I Samuel 17:45

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour! Our Heavenly Father is our shield and refuge. David defeated the mighty Goliath armed only with his confidence in God, a sling and five smooth stones. May God grant us David's faith and courage to meet the challenges, giant

and small, in our daily Christian walk.

We were richly blessed this month to have Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) with us. We thank him for coming and serving us from God's Word.

This month we rejoiced with our three graduating high school students: Lindsey Aberle (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sandy), Jason Cser (Bro. Laszlo and Sis. Maria) and Theresa Luginbuhl (Bro. Tom and Sis. Heidi). We would also like to congratulate Sis. Carol Graf (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marilyn) on completing a Master's degree in English Literature. As they make plans for their future, may they seek God's will and allow Him to direct their paths.

In this month of July, we celebrate our freedom from tyranny and oppression. May we likewise feel thankful for our Saviour's shed blood, which helps mankind gain freedom from Satan's shackles. May we always be joyfully thankful for His unspeakable gift and the abundant life we enjoy because of His sacrifice.

We enjoyed the fellowship of our many visitors this month. We extend a warm and sunny invitation to any and all who will be traveling to Southern California this summer. Have a happy month!

"After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward."

Genesis 15:1

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Rose Huette

My country tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
of thee I sing.

Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims pride,
From every mountain side,
Let freedom ring.

Our Father's God is Hee,

Author of Liberty,
to Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright,

With freedom's holy light,
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God our King.

Gospel Hymns #138

As it will soon be Independence Day, let us take time to remember the birth of our nation and thank our Lord for the freedom we have in this land, that we may continue to serve our God freely and to lead quiet and peaceable lives.

A reception and dinner was held recently for Bro. Victor and Sis. Peggy Jevremov. It was a beautiful time of rejoicing. They recently returned from a trip to Israel and Hungary and had a wonderful time. They took lots of pictures and promised to share them with us. Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle (Altadena, CA), along with many others from Altadena, were also here for the reception. We appreciate Bro. John's service from the pulpit.

Our annual business meeting and election for Sunday School teachers was held recently. Bro. Leonard Locher is replacing Bro. Joe Kaplar who has completed his term. Bros. Dennis Fulop and Victor Jevremov will continue as trustees. We thank Bro. Joe Kaplar for his service and wish all the trustees God's guidance and blessings.

Bro. Victor Jevremov will remain Sunday School superintendent and teach the Bible class. Sis. Lillian Wagenbach and Sis. Yasmin Petrovic will continue as teachers also. May God guide them in teaching His love.

With sadness we extend our heartfelt sympathy and comfort to Sis. Peggy Jevremov (Bro. Victor) on the sudden loss of her sister-in-law, Sis. Karen Schulz (Bro. Gary), from Burlington, IA. She was so young and will be greatly missed by her husband and 8 children, and all the rest of her family and friends. May our benevolent God be their comfort and provide for them through this sad time.

**ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA
Marisa Wirz**

"Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined."

Psalms 50:2

On June 13, we had a very blessed day. Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Mark Bahr served us Holy Communion. It was also a very special day for our congregation as our Bro. Mike Ursu (Sis. Barbara) was elected with the Lord's direction, to be our minister. We certainly want to extend our love and prayerful support to Bro. Mike, Sis. Barbara and their family.

Seirra Rose has joined the family of Bro. Clint, Sis. Maggie and Tristian Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) on May 30. Happy grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher.

We are very thankful to have Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard added to our small congregation.

We appreciate the visit of God's humble servants: Bros. Glenn Rigenbach (Smithville, OH) and William Gerst (Alto, MI) and Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI).

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) 669-8515 for more information and directions.

**COLORADO, DENVER
Yvonne Lehman**

Who's your Whosoever? Bro. Randy Mogler visited our congregation on May 24 along with his wife, Sis. Evie, and asked the challenging question. He read from Luke 21 about the poor widow woman casting in thither two mites. "...and he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all:" (vs. 3), "...for all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had." (vs. 4). The woman gave her all. She trusts her

life and her lifeblood to the Higher Power. To her Whosoever. Who is your Whosoever that you trust your life and lifeblood to?

What He says in His Word will occur. In a twinkling of an eye we will be caught up. There will be no time to make things right. In the length of time of a flash of lightening will He come. What are our kingdom values in our heart? God draws nigh to those who are of a broken spirit. We will find Him when we seek and submit with all our heart. Do we have faith enough to remove a mountain? Ask the Lord to help you over it to the other side to overcome the mountain in your life. No pit is so deep but God is deeper still. Review your standing in Jesus and His Spirit today. His grace is sufficient for you. He did not say that it was, or that it will be, but at the very moment that you need His grace, it is sufficient for you.

We were also reminded that to glorify God is to draw someone to that force and give positive attention to God.

We were privileged to be nourished by the Lord through Bro. Brace Wieland (Leo, IN). Bro. Brace challenged us with the question, "What is it God has asked you to do?" God works wherever He finds you to humbly be of service. Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness. The little things are often in what God says, "This is how I want them done." We must exercise patience in our lives. God wants us to be faithful.

What is God doing in your life? He did not call you to idleness. Where are your abilities to help what God wants done. God needs you and God needs me. God loves us. He's not impatient with us but He loves and needs us. He has chosen us to serve Him. Have faith that God will provide.

We are so glad to have Bradley Langhofer with us for several weeks as he is here for Veterinary Technical Training in an externship. Bradley comes to us from South Bend, IN. Welcome to Denver, Bradley.

Sis. Yvonne Lehman was voted to serve as Sunday School teacher. Our thanks and appreciation to Sis. Sarah Lasnier who served so willingly prior to this change.

We are looking forward to many visitors who have vacation plans in Colorado this summer. This is a wonderful blessing for us!

As I write this article, this coming Sunday is Father's Day. We who have been so richly blessed to have Godly Christian fathers must give thanks to our Heavenly Father for this tremendous blessing in our lives. We heard the illustration of the 8-year-old blind girl who was the only one at home at the time of a fire in her home. The firemen were called and the neighbors came and called for her to jump from the fire. Her mother came also and called for her to jump to safety. She would not take that leap...until she heard her father's voice saying to her, "Jump to Daddy." She immediately jumped into her father's outstretched arms of safety without even thinking.

The greatest gift our fathers have ever given is to introduce us, their children, to the greatest love of all. The love of the Heavenly Father. I will always be grateful for all that my father has given.

"...he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord..."

Genesis 18:19

**CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Cherie Galat**

"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."

Luke 22:19

What can compare to the holy quietness we experienced as the brethren sat together in heavenly places? Recently our brethren shared in the peace and joy of Holy Communion and remembered His great suffering and sacrifice. Elder

Bros. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) assisted our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan. That same weekend we listened to the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Jayne Bahler. It certainly is a joy to welcome more souls into the household of faith. May God give them the grace to shine as examples and reflect His love.

We also appreciate the labors of other ministering brethren who visited our congregation. May God continue to use Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) as mouthpieces to declare God's teachings and instruction unto us.

Our Young Group recently visited the Sabetha and Bern, KS churches over the Memorial Day weekend. Words can hardly express the wonderful fellowship, love and spiritual uplift that we experience on weekends such as these.

We welcome Sis. Macy Mayo (Morton, IL) and Crystal Knobloch (Bradford, IL) and bid a fond farewell to Sis. Sarah Schneider (Forrest, IL) as she returns home. It surely is a blessing to get more acquainted and share in fellowship with those from our various churches.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carole Gerber were blessed with a new bundle of joy and happiness. Chad Jeffrey, born on June 5, is the baby brother to Thomas, Josie and Brian. Grandparents are Bro. Everett Gerber and Bro. Ken and Sis. Aline Bahler.

April 25 was the wedding day of Michael Murphy (John Murphy and Pat Murphy) and Darcey Moser (Bro. Roger and Sis. Joan). May God guide their steps as they walk as one.

Congratulations to our high school graduates: Heidi Carlson (Bro. Wally and Sis. Judy), Todd Evans (John and Mary), Jennifer Goric (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Lou), Alan Hoffman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Joan), Suzanne Hoffman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella), Thomas LaPlante (Bro. Leo and Sis. Sherri), Adam Luginbuhl (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma), Kirby Reutter (Bro.

Duane and Sis. Kay), Betsy Ryan (Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl), Carla Virkler (Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy), Scott Virkler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy) and Jonathan Zahner (Bro. Warren and Sis. Bonnie). May each one of them look to Him for their future plans in life.

Our prayers are with Bro. Fred Zahner (Sis. Leah) as he recovers after his recent hospitalization.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

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

Hymns of Zion #156

Our thoughts, prayers and love go with Bro. Ken, Sis. Jill and Julia Martin as they relocate to the Indianapolis, IN area.

Our ministers this month were Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman and Bro. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL). We appreciate the time all the ministers and their families give to our congregation. Other visitors this month were from Kansas City, MO; Bradford, Forrest, and Princeville, IL.

When Elder Bro. Ed was here, he shared the Memorandum with us. How thankful we are the Church follows the Bible, even to writing letters to the churches.

Along with tourists, summer also brings interns to Washington, DC. This year we have the opportunity to get better acquainted with Adam Hermann from Morton, 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 West-

park (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 or Bro. Barry Steffen (410) 569-3635.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Nancy Rocke

“But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

II Timothy 4:5-8

Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Phoenix, AZ) spent a weekend with us. May the Lord bless him for his labor of love. Our congregation gets small during the summer as many of our members go north on vacation. We appreciate those who come to visit us.

Our prayers are with Sis. Joyce Banwart and Elder Bro. Bud (Sis. Billie) Klopfenstein who haven't assembled with us for several weeks. May they feel the Lord's nearness and we hope they can assemble with us soon.

FLORIDA NORTH FT. MYERS Anjie Baum

“The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.”

Psalm 113:4

We will soon be celebrating our nation's independence. Our freedom to go to church, carry our Bibles with us, and to meet in fellowship is such a blessing to us. Clearly the evil one is hard at work. The United States of America, founded as "One Nation Under God", has become a nation of idolatry — lovers of self rather than lovers of God. Christians are slowly losing our voices in our nation's government, but the Lord always provides us with hope. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (II Chron. 7:14). This Fourth of July as we thank our God for the freedom and blessings we so enjoy, let us also pray for healing in our land.

We would like to thank our visiting ministers this month, Bros. Glenn Price and Jeff Streitmatter (both from Sarasota, FL).

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

Many from church enjoyed the Sunday School trip to MOSI (Museum of Science and Industry) in Tampa on May 31.

Congratulations to Bro. Mark Koehl (Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol) on his college graduation. He received his Pharm D from Nova Southeastern.

Our Elder Bro. Doug Sabo was hospitalized this month. He was in for some tests, and we were glad to hear everything came out all right.

Bro. Gordy and Sis. Marilyn Bryant recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 29. We surprised them at our monthly potluck. They spend so much of their time doing for others, that it was nice to see them on the receiving end. May the Lord richly bless their marriage for many years to come.

**GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Keith and Carol Kaufman**

Greetings to all! As we think back to the day America became free from England, let us ponder what Jesus has done that we might be free from sin. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." (Romans 6:16-18). Are we living in righteousness that those round about us ask us of our joy and the hope that is within us?

We are so thankful for the brothers and sisters across the land who give their support to our small congregation. Ministering Bros. Dave Obergfel (Peoria, IL), Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Vic Beer (North Ft. Myers, FL) were with us this past month. May God richly reward each one and their wives for taking time to come and minister to us. Each brother and sister who stops in has been a ministering spirit unto us and we thank you.

Our prayers are with Erica Stoller (Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda) as she has completed high school and is making plans to go to college in Rome, GA.

I recently read I Corinthians 12:14-31, where Paul writes about how necessary each member is to the whole body. When we became a member of the body of Christ, we vowed to stay true and faithful to Him and to remain where we found our salvation. Are we doing that?

As August approaches, so does the Brotherhood Conference. Our dear Elder Brothers, our prayers are with you! May the Lord's Spirit be amongst you that His perfect will may be done.

As always, we invite visitors to take time to not only worship with us on Sunday, but to fellowship on Saturday evening as well. Please call

and let us know of your plans.

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Hymns of Zion #156

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. We assemble the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Anyone in the area, please call to make sure our plans haven't changed. Please contact one of the following brothers for further information: Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554; John Brewer (770) 502-8629; or Keith Kaufman (404) 243-6232.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE**Carlene Jepson**

The Lord has blessed us abundantly in this country and it is a great opportunity when we can travel to distant lands to help with the needs of others. We are thankful that Sis. Sheila McCoy, Alisha McCoy, Angela Mueller and Austin Mueller were able to participate on a work team in Jamaica and that they have returned home safely.

Our best wishes go to Bro. Thad Heinold and Sis. Elizabeth Laubscher who were joined in Holy Matrimony on May 31. Their parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Heinold and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Laubscher, both of Cissna Park, IL. We also welcome them to our congregation as they begin their life together and make their home in the Milwaukee, WI area.

Congratulations go to Ryan Mueller and Tammy Howard who were married on June 6. Their parents are Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene Mueller and Tim and Mary Howard (Clinton, WI) May they look to the Lord in all their decisions as they make their home in the Beloit, WI area.

Our sympathy goes to Jerry and Sis. Sandy Darlington and their

family at the loss of their uncle and our dear friend, Dale Martin, who was killed in a car accident on June 10.

We will miss Bro. Jeff Strunk who is being transferred to the Elgin, IA area. May the Lord be with him as he makes that his new home. We are grateful for his dedication to our church and service in Sunday School.

We welcome Bro. Ted and Sis. Heidi Schock and their girls, Naomi, Hannah, and Aubrey, to our congregation. May the Lord be with Bro. Ted as he starts his medical practice in Rockford. We also welcome Betty Lindwall who is also from Rockford and has recently started assembling with us.

“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.”

Acts 3:19

There is joy in Heaven among the angels of God when a sinner turns in repentance and we also are thankful our friend, George Eason, of Rockford is seeking the Lord in humble repentance. May God grant him the grace to do the works meet for repentance and, in His own time, the peace that passeth all understanding.

We had the privilege last month of hearing the Memorandum from the Elder Body. Sharing this with us were Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL). Also visiting us and sharing the Word during the previous month was Bro. Garth Steffen (Portland, OR).

Our children had a fun-filled week at Vacation Bible School during the week of June 15. Our special thanks to Bros. Dean Steffen and Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) who spoke to our Bible Class students.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Carol Sauder - Janice Horner

Our 1998 Vacation Bible School was held during the week of June 8-12, using the Ten Commandments as an outline for the following topics:

Monday - "God First". Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) reminded us to put God first in our lives, before any and all worldly possessions, and never take for granted our heritage in growing up in Christian homes.

Tuesday - "The Tongue". Bro. Marshall Heinold (Ixtilan, Mexico) spoke to us about the evils of telling lies and taking God's name in vain. We should be willing to use our mouths to confess the Lord Jesus Christ to others; simply living a good life may not be enough to attract unbelievers to the Gospel.

Wednesday - "Holiness and Honor". Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) reminded us to keep Sunday holy and use it as a day of rest from normal work. Honor your parents, and don't expect your children to love God more than you do.

Thursday - "Murder and Mayhem". Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL) told us that the Bible makes no provision for killing another person, even though our society permits abortion, euthanasia, and other forms of mercy killing. He explained the concepts from three perspectives (God's law, man's view, and God's sovereignty), and reminded us of the sanctity of marriage.

Friday - "Dangerous Desire". Bro. Bruce Wieland (Leo, IN) taught us not to rob others or God of time. Coveting has both good and evil sides; we are to "covet the best gifts" according to scripture but not to covet wealth, position, or goods of another person. God asks us simply to be faithful, to continue patiently in well-doing, and to serve Him with reverence and Godly fear.

The week of Vacation Bible School was an opportunity for spiritual renewal for our congregation. A sincere "thank you" to everyone who helped make the week a success.

As VBS was ending, we saw the evidence of God working powerfully in the hearts of three souls. Julie Gudeman (Bro. Richard and Sis. Jan), Aaron Kachelmuss (Sis. Ann), and Karen Kieser (Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura) answered Jesus' call to repentance. May their foundation ever be firm to resist the persistence of Satan, and may many more join them in their Heavenly goals. "Jesus now is calling you, calling you to come..." (Zion's Harp #52)

Bro. Tom and Sis. Jay Martin's daughter, Lisa, married Joe Kniep from Benson, IL on May 30. Tim Virgil (Bro. Steve and Sis. Bev) and Trish Beadles (Roger and Vivian, Ellery, IL) began married life on June 6. And June 14 marked the beginning of life as one in the Lord for Bro. Larry Fischer (Sis. Wilma, Roanoke, IL) and Sis. Pam Vail. We wish all couples many years of joy as they join their lives together. May they take the necessary maintenance steps in their relationship to make sure that they are giving courteous attention and thanks to each other, to God, and to others.

Sincere thanks to our visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) visited us for testimonies and baptisms on May 30-31, and Bro. Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) came for a wedding on June 14.

Our congregation rejoiced to receive a new brother and sister in the Lord. Matt and Barb Loy gave testimonies of their conversion experience and were then baptized into the death of Christ and arose to new lives in Christ. May they be useful in bringing glory to God and in serving others.

God has called another brother from our congregation to begin preaching the wonderful Word of Life. On May 30, Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara) was given final approval and sincere prayerful support by our congregation. We are very thankful Bro. Mark and Sis. Sara were willing to accept this responsibility and high calling, and grateful to Almighty God for enabling him to preach His Word. May they feel the comfort and inspira-

tion of the Holy Spirit, and the combined prayers of all who will be blessed by Bro. Mark's ministry.

Mark and Wendy Heiniger were thrilled to look upon their newborn son, Austin Alan, born May 29. First-time grandparents, and just as thrilled, are Steve and Cathy Bland (Normal, IL) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Kayleen Heiniger. Little Austin has been on many prayer lists as he has undergone two heart surgeries to correct several birth defects. Special thanks from his family for all who continue to keep Austin in their thoughts and prayers.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

Brightly beams our Father's mercy
From His lighthouse evermore,
But to us He gives the keeping
of the lights along the shore.

Let the lower lights be burning!
Send a gleam across the wave!
Some poor fainting, struggling
seaman

You may rescue, you may save.
Tabernacle Hymns #306

Phillip Bliss wrote this hymn shortly after hearing the following story told by Dwight L. Moody to the congregation that Phillip was attending.

"On a dark stormy night, when the waves rolled like mountains and not a star was to be seen, a boat, rocking and plunging, neared the Cleveland harbor. 'Are you sure this is Cleveland?' asked the captain, seeing only one light from the lighthouse.

'Quite sure, sir,' replied the pilot.

'Where are the lower lights?'

'Gone out, sir.'

'Can you make the harbor?'

'We must, or perish, sir!'

With a strong hand and a brave heart the old pilot turned the wheel. But, alas, in the darkness he missed the channel, and with a crash upon the rocks the boat was shattered, and many a life was lost in a watery grave."

Brethren, let us always keep the "lower lights" of our Church burning brightly so that no struggling soul may miss the safe harbor. And as we celebrate Independence Day, let us especially thank God that we have a government that allows us to keep our "lower lights" burning as brightly as we wish.

Sis. Amy Joos has seen the beam from the Lighthouse, Jesus, and turned her "ship of faith" toward the heavenly harbor. She was proved and baptized on June 13-14. Parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Becky Joos. By God's grace, may Sis. Amy bring her "ship of faith" to a good and blessed end.

Sis. Diana Elsasser and Bro. Dean Feucht (Lester, IA) were united in marriage on May 31. Parents are Sis. Vi Elsasser and Sis. Emma Feucht (Lester, IA). May God bless their union and draw them ever closer to Him as they continue on the path of life.

We do pray a special blessing from the Lord upon those who have been selected to teach in Sunday School. Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel) and Sis. Kim Joos will take the places of Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa) and Sis. Becky Endress (Bro. Larry), who are retiring. We thank those who are retiring for their years of service in planting the seed of the Word in the hearts of our children. May God bless them for their labors and give His wisdom to those who will be teaching our children.

Our prayers are with Sis. Hilda Dietz and Bro. John Endress at this time of sorrow. Their sister, Sis. Martha Elsasser (Phoenix, AZ), has passed away recently. May the Holy Spirit of God comfort their hearts.

Our many visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bros. Larry Barr (Fort Scott, KS), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Brace Wieland (Leo, IN), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA). We thank them for visiting and invite them to come back soon.

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Samuel and Pamela Furrer

Psalm 34:4 says: "I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." This portion of scripture was recently read over our pulpit, and the ministering brother made an interesting illustration related to it. Within the past few years, we've all become acquainted with the customized impersonalized greetings and directions from automated telephone answering systems. God is receiving more calls than anyone could imagine, yet He is not like an automated telephone answering system saying that if we have this need, punch 1; if we have another need, punch 2, and so on. God is always there, both listening and responding to us. Whether in time of fear, distress, joy, or meditation, God is there for us to call upon for help and guidance. We might remember this illustration the next time we get caught in the seemingly endless loop of options offered to us when we get a machine instead of a real person on the other end of the line. It may not get a real person to answer, but it will give us something to think on and smile about while listening to options or melodic tunes!

"We never know the love of the parent until we become parents ourselves."

—Henry Ward Beecher

John and Mary (Schmidgall) Tewell have become parents with the birth of daughter, Mallory Nicole, on May 21. Mallory and her parents live just south of Urbana at 405 N. Pine, Villa Grove, IL 61956. We look forward to having Mallory as an addition to our church family, and we wish her parents all the love, patience, and direction necessary to bring up a child.

In late May, Greg Johnson gave a testimony of his conversion experience and was baptized. Greg is originally from the Peoria area and is a

student at the University of Illinois. Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) was present to help Elder Bro. David Wiegand on that weekend. We welcome our new brother in faith!

Engagements and weddings have been a recurring theme in our student group. Bro. Thad Heinold and Sis. Elizabeth Laubscher (both of Cissna Park, IL) were married on May 31. Bro. Ryan Weiss (Elgin, IL) was engaged to be married to Sis. Becky Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL). Both are students here. We wish these couples many blessings.

"This Little Light of Mine" was the theme of this year's Vacation Bible School. The students met each evening for a week in June for singing, learning, making crafts, and enjoying time with one another. Each year, VBS students are made aware of a mission-related need and they make contributions of money and/or supplies needed by a selected organization. This year, the collection went to help meet the needs of young mothers and their babies in our community. The week concluded with a very nice little program featuring songs about light. The week's activities were coordinated by a few people who put a great deal of effort into coming up with songs, stories, and interesting crafts for the children, as well as getting a number of student volunteers to assist. The efforts of all these people are surely appreciated!

Visiting ministers were Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) and Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL). Bro. Wes was with us for the reading of the Memorandum. We thank these brothers for being with us.

Reminder: The annual New Student Welcome Day and picnic will be held on Sunday, August 30. All new students and their families are invited to attend church and the afternoon picnic on that day. If no one here is aware of a student's plans for coming here in the fall or if more information is needed, contact Bro. Neil Banwart at 811 W. Oregon, #4, Urbana, IL 61801; (217) 367-6779.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

When I read that the theme for this patriotic month was encouragement, my thoughts went to the song, "Battle Hymn of the Republic". I have memories of singing this song in a mass choir in high school. The harmonies and crescendo finish were very moving to me then, but as I have opportunity to listen to it often in the car on one of my daughter's children's tapes, I listen more closely to the words. In this day when the faith that our nation was built upon seems to be waning, these words encourage me that our God is in control.

Battle Hymn of the Republic

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 hath loosed the fateful lightning
of His terrible swift sword,
His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch-fires
of a hundred circling camps;
They have builded Him an altar in
the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by
the dim and flaring lamps,
His day is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet
that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men
before His judgement seat.
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer
Him! Be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was
born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that
transfigures you and me;
As He died to make men holy let us
die to make men free,
While God is marching on.

Chorus:

Glory, Glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

—Julia Ward Howe

Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn Wegman have brought a bundle of encouragement to our congregation this month. On May 20, Philip Wesley was added to the Wegman family. Big brother, Brett, grandparents, Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally Haerr (Taylor, MO), Bro. Sam and Sis. Rosemary Wegman (Oakville, IA), and great-grandmother, Sis. Evelyn Wysong (Sabetha, KS), are very glad to welcome little Philip to the family.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi are excited to welcome their first grandchild to their family. Little Carl Elias Rassi was born June 13 to Bro. Matthew and Sis. Bridget Rassi (Philadelphia, PA).

On May 31, the married couples were encouraged by the wedding service of Sis. Caesy O'Shea (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean) and Bro. Zach Sauder (Bro. Ed and Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL). Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) shared the day with us.

Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) was also with us on May 24. We want to extend our appreciation to all three of these brothers for sharing the Word of God with us.

In a church where we say "farewell" to nearly as many people as we say "welcome", it is very encouraging to welcome eight newcomers. Bro. Vince Schlatter (Latty, OH), Bro. Rick Kaisner (Peoria, IL), Bro. Colin Endress (St. Louis, MO), Sis. Janna Gehring (Princeville, IL), Sis. Sarah Aberle (Altadena, CA), Bro. Aaron and Sis. Jill Carnahan (Champaign, IL), and Sis. Molly Stickling (Peoria, IL) are all recent newcomers to Chicago and will be fellowshiping with us. We hope to encourage each of them as they make Chicago their home whether long or short term.

Encouragement certainly takes on many faces and we want to encourage Bro. Glen and Sis. Nancy Pfeifer in the form of our prayer support as they grieve the loss of Sis. Nancy's father, John Roth (Fairbury, IL).

June 14 was our annual Sunday school picnic. We were blessed by

good weather, plenty of good food, and an enthusiastic group of Sunday School students who shared a program with us. Listening to our children sing what they have learned in Sunday School is another way I am reminded that "His truth is marching on."

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Darlene Walder - Beth Steffen

"Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way: Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart; for consider how great things he hath done for you."

I Samuel 12:23-24

We just completed two weeks of Vacation Bible School here in Cissna Park. What a blessing to teach young, tender hearts more about Jesus. Our theme song was "I Need Jesus", page 17 in the Tabernacle Hymns. "I need Jesus every day. Need Him in the sunshine hour, need Him when the stormclouds lower; Everyday along my way, yes, I need Jesus." May we all remember to pray for our youth that they may see the need for Jesus in each of their lives and come to recognize what great things He has done.

We are grateful to the following ministers who came to talk to our Bible class and young group during four nights during VBS. They were Bros. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), and Ed Alt (Cissna Park). May God bless the efforts of these ministers and each one who took the time to attend. Other visiting ministers this month we appreciated were Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) and Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL).

Our Bible Class attended ACYF on June 7 in Bloomington. We want to thank everyone who had a part in making this day of fellowship possible.

"Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh..."

Matthew 19:6

Sis. Elizabeth Laubscher (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria) and Bro. Thad Heinold (Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol) were united as one in Christ on May 31. We pray God's nearness and blessings on this couple as they make their home in the Belvidere area. We will miss them in our Cissna Park church.

We rejoice over the engagement of Sis. Becky Rinkenberger and Bro. Ryan Weiss. Parents of this couple are Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally Rinkenberger and Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen Weiss (Elgin, IL). We wish this couple much joy as they plan for their upcoming marriage.

"For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him."

I Samuel 1:27

God has certainly heard the prayers of Sis. Sylvia and Bro. Walt Laubscher. God opened up the way for little Matthew Adam to be adopted into their home. Also thankful for answered prayers are new grandparents, Bro. Max and Sis. Donna Yergler, as Ryan Darren has been adopted to their son, Bro. Darren and Sis. Marie Yergler of Gridley. We pray these little boys will grow up to love and serve God even as Samuel did in his younger years.

"But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create..."

Isaiah 65:18

Rejoicing over the wonder of God's creation in the form of a new son are Bro. Eric and Sis. LouAnn Kaeb. Welcoming baby Anthony Lee home are Chad, Trent, Teresa, Katrina and Stephany. Grandparents are Sis. Mary Lou and Bro. Elmer Kaeb and Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta Schneider (Remington, IN).

"And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name re-

ceiveth me."

Matthew 18:5

Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Heinold received, loved and cared for two little foster boys and now the time has come for them to move on. We sure pray for "Bud" and Devin that God will keep them safe in His care and also for Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol and their family as they adjust to this change.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Revelation 21:4

Our prayers are certainly with those in our congregation who have suffered the loss of loved ones. Sis. Clara Hofer's brother, Henry Schumacher, passed away on May 26. Sis. Kathy Stock's brother, Dale Martin (Elgin, IL), was killed in a car accident. Also two in our local congregation went on Home. Sis. Esther Vogel passed away June 3 and Walt Sinn on June 4. We extend our sympathy to the families. We will miss both of these dear ones but are thankful they both had a hope in the Lord.

Note of Thanks:

We sincerely want to thank everyone for the kind expression of sympathy, prayers, cards and letters, visits, flowers, phone calls, and memorials, since the death of John Edelman. We are grateful for your continued prayers, love, and support these past months.

The Lord called our dear son to his Heavenly Home and He has provided for us fully ever since. We couldn't make it through without our faith, our church family, and all of your prayers. May God bless you all richly.

"Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name..."

In loving memory of John:

"We shall sleep, but not forever in the lone and silent grave. Blessed be

the Lord that taketh, blessed be the Lord that gave." (Hymns of Zion #125)

"And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof." (Zechariah 8:5)

The Family of John Edelman

After reading the above thank you submitted by John's mother, I thought this poem seems fitting entitled "We Need Each Other".

God has made us dependent on each other.

Even though He is with us and in us. He does not want us to walk alone.

We need each other to grow in grace, to be supported in prayer, to express the Father's love, to feel the Spirit's comfort and to know the Shepherd's care.

We need each other to be formed in character, to be encouraged in our fight of faith and to preserve until that day when all our needs shall be overcome.

—Roy Lessin

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Sandy Steiner - Missy Banwart

We are very thankful to have three new converts. Doug Schrock (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet), Brian Zobrist (Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnn), and Curt Wiegand (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue) have turned to the Lord in repentance. We pray they will feel God's nearness and grace.

This union of our hearts
Shall stand through grace in Jesus;
We walk the path of life,
While cheer and trust increases.
Where God in truth abides,
Where two join hand and heart,
We find a threefold cord,
Not lightly rent apart.

Zion's Harp #79

June 7 was a special day for Sis. Beth Knapp (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy) and Bro. Dean Blunier (Bro. Sam and Sis. Liz, Eureka, IL) as they became one in the Lord. We

pray God will bless their life together. We thank Elder Bros. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) for being with us for the day.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Hilda Fehr as she spent some time in the hospital. We're thankful she is home and doing better.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Peggy Heiniger
Norma Schambach**

Congratulations to our high school graduates: Bethany Bachtold (Bro. Sam and Sis. Betty), Jenny Feucht (Chuck and Carolyn), Andrea Kellenberger (Bro. Tim and Sis. Marcia), Bryan Kellenberger (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Debbie), Ben Martin (Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean), Emily Schambach (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gayle), Mark Schambach (Bro. Les and Sis. Allison), Twyla Schambach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy) and Aron Schifferer (Wayne and Joyce). These young people worked hard and knew their names would be called on graduation day. When we graduate this life, will our names be called to enter into Heaven?

Bro. Ryan Weiss (Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Becky Rinkenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally) of Cissna Park, IL were announced to be married. We look forward to their August wedding and wish them God's blessings as they plan their future as one in the Lord.

We rejoice and are thankful that Doug Schlatter has answered the call to repentance. He has been assembling with us while attending school, and has now found employment in our area. His parents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila from Junction, OH.

With saddened hearts we bid farewell to Bro. Eric and Sis. Erica Schambach and their children as they leave us and go to live and worship in the Denver area. May God go with them and direct their paths.

Our congregation extends its sympathy to the Martin family at the tragic death of their brother,

Dale. He was killed in a car accident on June 10. He was the youngest of nine children: Evelyn Yergler, Sis. Kathy Stock, Sis. Betty Metz, Ed, Carl, and Tom, John (Ella), and Bro. Dave (Sis. Jean). God alone can comfort the sorrowing heart.

Once again we have been richly fed and want to thank our visiting ministers for coming and sharing with us: Bros. Garth Steffen (Portland, OR), Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), Dean Steffen and Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR).

A Tribute to Dad

God took the strength of a
mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arms of might,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight.
Then God combined these qualities
And when there was nothing more
to add,
He knew His masterpiece was
completed,
And so He called it...Dad!
—author unknown

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Janet Zimmerman

"I will love thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies."

Psalms 18:1-3

Vacation Bible School was held the first two weeks in June. May God bless each one that took part and may the memories remain deep in each child's heart.

The week of June 15, Vacation Bible School was held for our Bible Class students at Washington. We thank them for inviting us and for the ministering brothers that spoke

to them each night. We pray that God's seed be planted in each heart that some day it might spring forth and bear fruit of repentance.

Jedd Richard is the new baby born on June 1 to thankful parents, Bro. Rod and Sis. Cindy Kupferschmid. Happy to have a brother to play with and love are sisters, Rebecca and Rachel. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid and Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl (Roanoke, IL).

We rejoice with Bro. Brad Rocke (LaCrosse, IN) and Sis. Julie Frank (LaCrosse, IN) who announced their engagement on May 31. Bro. Brad is formerly from Eureka. His parents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth and Sis. Julie's parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan.

On Sunday, June 7, Bro. Dean Blunier (Bro. Sam and Sis. Liz) and Sis. Beth Knapp (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy) of Congerville were joined in Holy Matrimony. May God bless their union and be their guide throughout their lives. We extend a warm welcome to Sis. Beth to our congregation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Bro. Clarence Wenger who died on May 29. We extend our sympathy to his sisters, Sis. Wilma Fischer (Roanoke, IL), Sis. Aldine Wackerle, Sis. Laura Wenger and Sis. Edna Wiegand (all of Forrest, IL). We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Willis and Bro. Melvin Stoller at the loss of their brother, Clarence, of Pekin. He died June 5. May God comfort these families that have experienced the loss of their loved ones.

On Sunday, June 14, we were privileged to have ministering Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) with us for the day. Our hearts were inspired and encouraged as we were fed by God's Spirit and Holy Word. May God bless Bro. Earl and Sis. Suzanne and their family for being with us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Leroy Stoller who has been in the hospital and had back surgery; and also with Bro. Roger Blunier who spent time in the hospital recently.

We have so much to be thankful for living in this free land of America and even more the freedom to worship as we choose. With thankful hearts we remember the great price that Christ paid for each of us that bought our freedom there upon the cross. The hymn, "Christ My All", is very fitting as we think of our freedoms that we have, because of Christ.

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

Oh, Lord who art above,
Thou author of this love!
Thou lamb of God!
With Thy most precious blood,
that pure and cleansing flood,
hast Thou my freedom bought;
upon the cross.

Zion's Harp #202

Notes of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and those who came to visit me when I was in the hospital and during my stay at the Home. May God bless each one for their deeds of kindness.

Sis. Salome Schumacher

I would like to thank all those who remembered me on my 94th birthday with cards, flowers, candy and money. Your love and generosity is greatly appreciated. May God bless each of you.

Sis. Evalina Sinn

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY **Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel**

"In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

Judges 17:6

Recently we were reminded to be careful of adopting this "I can do my own thing" attitude, spoken of in Judges, which is so prevalent in the world today. We were exhorted to be

watchful as history shows that whenever God's chosen people adopted this attitude, God was displeased and they suffered the consequences. This thought seemed to fit in well with this month's theme of "encouraging our brethren" and also with the following piece that was given to me recently:

FOR THOSE WHO SAY, "I DON'T SEE ANY HARM IN IT."

1. Is the dust of worldliness in your eyes?
2. Would you accept it for your deathbed solace?
3. Is it consistent with, "The world is crucified unto me and I unto the world"?
4. Can you commune with God as freely after indulging in it?
5. Can you look to God for a blessing in the midst of it?
6. How will it appear at the Judgment Seat of Christ at His coming?

If your answers are negative, it must be wrong, and you'd be wise to take another course!

Our congregation was greatly encouraged by the visit of Bro. Mike and Sis. Florina Baumann (Mansfield, OH) the weekend of May 16-17. Bro. Mike shared his testimony of persecution and escape from a foreign land with many of us on Saturday night. He also ministered to us on Sunday. Truly we were all humbled as we heard first-hand what other believers have to endure. In this land of freedom, we have so little to complain about and so much to thank God for! Let's remember this as we celebrate Independence Day this year.

Other brothers serving us on the pulpit this month were Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL). We appreciate your labors in our behalf.

"Flourishing youth, Thou our hope and our fond expectation..." (Zion's Harp #168). We rejoiced together on June 13 and 14 to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Sis. Karla Kieser (Bro. Carl

and Sis. Becky) and Sis. Kari Kainner (Robert and Cherie). May God bless them with His rich grace in a life of faithfulness to Him.

Angela Fehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley) and Brian Veatch exchanged marriage vows on June 6. Also on June 6 was the wedding of Kim Steidinger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Darlene) and Andy Travis of Fairbury (Martin Travis and Cheryl Travis). We wish both couples much joy in their lives together.

In sorrow and pain
Thy trust do retain
In Jesus the merciful Saviour.
Zion's Harp #46

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Marguerite Lorch (Bro. Ben) and Ron Hartman (Caroline). We pray for the Lord's healing hand.

May the Lord comfort Martha Roth who lost her dear husband, John, 88, on May 26. Also surviving are daughters, Sis. Nancy (Bro. Glen) Pfeifer (Chicago) and Corinne (William) Zbinden of Cropsey; two sons, J. Lincoln Roth of Fairbury and Samuel Roth of Mission, KS; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Sis. Katharine Fehr was taken suddenly from life on June 7. She was 79. Surviving her are three sisters, Sis. Velma Jean Ifft (Bro. Harvey), Sis. Virginia Blunier (Bro. Homer), all of Forrest; and Sis. Joyce Gasser (Bro. Paul) of Akron, OH; one brother, Melvin Huber (Katherine) of Brazil and a number of nieces and nephews. For many years, Sis. Katharine has been the church historian and compiled our church directory. We will certainly miss her among us as a willing laborer for the Lord.

Following is a poem, written by a sister in faith, which was given to Sis. Katharine's family after her death:

SUMMONED BY THE MASTER
Again the Master's voice was heard -
@TABS = "Child of mine, come home;
Your earthly toils are ended;
You need life's path no longer roam.

Your earthly mission is finished;
Your earthly race is run
Come and receive your due reward
And hear the words: Well done!"

The pleasant voice we'll no more hear
In this earthly vale and time,
Nor see the sweet and friendly smile
That graced her face sublime.
The silent lips in spirit speak -
Weep not; Rejoice! Rejoice!
For God has riches rare for all
Who hearken to His voice.

Eye hath not seen, nor ear yet heard
Of beauties and blessings and rest
A life of bliss with no griefs and cares
To the faithful who've loved God the best.
She loved the Lord with all her heart,
With strength and mind and soul.
'Twas evident for all to see
As daily her life did unfold.

Amid life's sorrows, griefs and pain
She served unto the end
Without complaint or thought of self,
Serving mankind - thus her Friend.
God has released our loved one now
From life's prison house of pain
With promise sweet - "Lo, all things new
Now your eternal gain!"
—C.N.

Note of Thanks:

Our deep and sincere thanks and appreciation to all for your prayers and many kind and loving deeds rendered in behalf of our dear sister, Katharine Fehr, during her recent illness and sudden passing from us. May God richly bless each one of you who so lovingly expressed your care and concern in any way.

The family of Sis. Katharine Fehr

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Mary Bachtold - Jean Knapp

Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly;
Call aloud and spare them not!
Zion's Harp #112

We are thankful for ministering

Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), and Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) who lovingly brought us the gospel of salvation during this past month. We also appreciate Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL), Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) and John Rowell (Burlington, IA) for their efforts in teaching our children during our Vacation Bible School.

Bro. Les and Sis. Ruth Roth observed their 50th wedding anniversary on June 6. God has been with them through the years as they experienced joys as well as sorrows. May they continue to feel His nearness.

Exchanging wedding vows on June 7 were Sis. Kendra Steffen (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janice) and Bro. Joe Ramsier (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terri, Rittman, OH). We pray the Lord will bless them as they establish their home in Rittman, OH.

Putting their trust in the Lord, Bro. Jason Dotterer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Lynn Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly) have announced their engagement. As they make wedding plans, may they continue to look to Him for guidance.

After spending time in the hospital, we are thankful Bro. Karl (Sis. Bethany) Edelman and Bro. Duane (Sis. Janny) Schneider are able to assemble with us again.

We extend sympathy to those in our congregation who have recently experienced the loss of loved ones. Sis. Aldine Wackerle, Sis. Laura Wenger and Sis. Edna (Bro. Paul) Wiegand will miss their brother, Bro. Clarence Wenger (Eureka, IL). Sorrowing the sudden passing of their sister, Sis. Katharine Fehr (Fairbury, IL), are Sis. Velma Jean (Bro. Harvey) Ifft and Sis. Virginia (Bro. Homer) Blunier.

Much planning is being done as we prepare to host the upcoming Brotherhood Conference. Most im-

portantly, let us diligently pray for our Elder brothers that the Spirit may have its free course in directing them as they address the many issues facing the church today.

Note of Thanks:

Bro. Les and Sis. Ruth Roth wish to thank all who made their 50th wedding anniversary very special with their cards, gifts and love. It was a very memorable occasion. May God bless each one.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Jan Beer

en-cour'age: put heart or courage into; inspire with spirit or hope; stimulate; help forward; foster. "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do." (I Thess. 5:11). Have you encouraged someone today? Sometimes it doesn't take much effort to impart great encouragement. Monday morning my "poor" attitude changed completely when I heard a man whistling cheerfully as I walked into my workplace. When I told him I appreciated his cheerfulness on a Monday morning, he gave me a big grin that fostered a better attitude in me for the rest of the day!

We desire to "help forward" the many young people in our congregation who have graduated from eighth grade, high school or college in the last month. May God grant you the courage to follow Him, and He will give you great success.

Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship Day was held on the campus of IL State University on June 7. We pray that the young folks attending were "stimulated" to seek God's will for their lives.

The annual father/son campout was held at Bro. Daniel Wiegand's pond June 19-20. What an ideal setting for fathers to "foster" their relationship with their sons!

Bros. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) encouraged us from the pulpit when they visited the Goodfield congregation on May 30. Thank you, Brothers, for your service to us.

The week of June 8, Bros. Jeff Thames, Marshall Heindold and Ron Messner "inspired our hearts with hope" as they delivered messages to us for Vacation Bible School. Each evening was ended with a special singing group delivering a musical message to us. We heartily thank each participant for your encouragement.

On Wednesday evening, June 17, the Memorandum was read to us to encourage us in our daily walk of faith.

Our Sis. Jill Zimmerman and Bro. Luke Rocke became husband and wife on June 14. Their parents are Sis. Inge and Dean Zimmerman and Sis. Connie and Bro. Mark Rocke. As you establish your household, we pray God's richest blessings upon you.

It is a rare person who would not appreciate a little encouragement along the way — let's be especially aware of the sick among us or those who have met with accident recently. Make it your goal today to "brighten the corner where you are".

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

Psalms 33:12

As we commemorated our nation's Independence Day on July 4, we had many reasons to thank God for the Christian influence that still persists in our land.

As the pledge of allegiance is recited, it still contains the phrase that we are one nation "under God". Some of our coins still reflect the motto, "In God We Trust." We should remember, too, that our legislative bodies begin each session with prayer. Our presidents, and other elected officials, take their oath over a Bible.

A great treasure for the believer here in America is freedom of assembly and worship. We as a church have been blessed by a nation that has encouraged people (at least in

the past) to worship according to the dictates of their conscience.

I can well remember in my youth, and subsequently, the dear ministers who prayed to God, thanking Him that we could assemble together "unhindered from without". That phrase was accurately descriptive!

So, our prayers should ascend daily with thanksgiving that we can worship freely; and live out our faith without interference from secular authorities.

We are happy to report the marriage of Bro. Joel Gramm and Sis. Jessica Zimmerman. He is the son of Bro. Mike and Sis. Rosie Gramm. Her parents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Linda Zimmerman. May God bless their union of hearts, and grant them much happiness.

At our annual business meeting on June 3, several offices were filled. Bros. Roger Wiegand and Darin Yergler were selected as Sunday School teachers. Also chosen were Sisters Jodie Schlipf, Gail Romersberger, Jeanette Lavallier and Karen Schrock.

Bro. Mark Steffen is a new trustee. Bro. Brian Stoller will serve as an usher.

Vacation Bible School was held during June 8-12. The theme was "Warriors For The Lord". Guest speakers were Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton, IN), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Dave Oberffel (Peoria, IL).

Sis. Nola Gramm was hospitalized for surgery this past month.

Our congregation offers its sympathy to Bro. Mike Prevo over the passing of his mother.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney

Cheryl Wuthrich

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Stacey Stoller welcome their first child, Madison Leigh, into their hearts. She was born on May 26. Her loving grandparents are John and Ella Martin (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Barb Stoller (Morton, IL). We wish them God's wisdom to direct their

child.

June 1-5 was a blessed week as our congregation gathered together every evening for Vacation Bible School. Speakers for the High School Bible Class were Bros. Lynn Stoller (Gridley, IL), Bill Hart (Goodfield, IL), and Jerry Kaiser (Tremont, IL), plus Bros. Dennis Mott and Ken Baum of Morton. The theme for the adult Vacation Bible School was "Parables For Christian Living" and focused on Forgiveness, Greed, Contentment, Perseverance and Preparedness. Speakers for the adult sessions were Bros. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL), Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington-Normal, IL). We wish to thank all of the speakers, teachers, craft helpers and everyone else who participated to make the week of Vacation Bible School so special.

We would also like to thank the other visiting ministers we had throughout the month. They were Bros. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL).

The annual Sunday School picnic was held June 14 at the Fellowship Hall. There was blessed fellowship and delicious food. We all enjoyed a short program where songs and memory verses were shared.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank everyone who supported us in so many ways after the tragic death of Carol's Mom and during Carol's transplant and subsequent weeks of recovery. The many acts of kindness, cards and prayerful support meant more to us than words will ever be able to convey. May God bless each one for their part in helping us to make it through a very trying time in our lives.

Bro. Stan and Sis. Carol Schick and family

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

Intra- and intercongregational happenings usually are interesting

and newsy; summarized sermons for those who did not hear them and a wider subscription audience are equally important.

Jeremiah 18 was Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer's text on June 7. Some people only pray when there are difficulties in life, which is appropriate, but we also want to give thanks to the Lord in good times. The children of Israel were down on their roller-coaster walk of life. When we are at the low points of our lives, He takes us to a place where we can be lifted up. The potter makes the consistency of water and clay just right and puts it on the wheel. God is the potter, we the clay. He adds the Word of Life, which is the water. Are we as clay in the potter's hand? The first vessel was marred. That's us, born in sin with no good in us. Then the Lord came and threw the old life away and made another vessel as it seemed good. We came from dust and return to dust, but God turns the wheel and shapes it. God takes out the parts that mar the vessel, and shapes it. The potter has full control and can make many types of vessels. We are all different but made by the Master Potter, Jesus Christ. Do you resist being a cup and rather would be a vase? Then He bakes the vessel, takes it out of the fire to finish it and puts it back into the fire some more to be hardened and made strong to stand the test of time. Today we are tested by Satan, but greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world. The Master Potter has full control. Will you let Him do His work and be a vessel in the Potter's hand?

We love to praise God when things go our way...how about when they go against us? Bro. Rick Plattner meditated on I Peter 5 on June 3. Elders feed the flock and give direction; what is our duty? What are we doing for the church to preserve it and contend for the faith? Are we just going along for the ride or watch and preserve the old landmarks and follow those who have left us good examples? Money doesn't drive the pulpit. Do you pray for the ministers? If the church does

not pray for the ministers and support them, where will we go? Let's not change the way of salvation and move the door, but repent and be baptized. Let's not have the Devil remove the word "repentance", but cast our cares upon Him for He cares for you...the God of the universe.

Summer Vacation Bible School was June 8-12 and attended by 160 students from kindergarten and up. Our monthly family night service was delayed from the first Wednesday to June 10 to permit the upper grades to hear Elder Bro. Earl Ringger's (Gridley, IL) message, "In the World, but not of the World". The world can be defined as the works of the flesh detailed in Galatians 5:19-21. "If we do these things, we shall not inherit the kingdom of God." If we are not in the world, we are in the Spirit of God and surrendered to Him. But He does not force us to listen to Him; it is up to us. Bro. Earl cited a number of biblical examples of being in the world, not of it: Noah obeyed God, prepared for water (which he had never experienced before) and built an ark for himself and his family. We cannot trust our own understanding and also must build an ark for our families to escape the world. When there was strife between the herdsmen of Abraham and Lot, Lot pitched towards Sodom and Abraham took what was left. Are we at peace, or full of strife? In the story of Esther, Mordecai, Haman and king Ahasuerus, Esther and Mordecai were in, but not of, the world. Haman was eventually hung on the gallows he had intended for Mordecai.

David came to Goliath in the name of the Lord and beheaded him. Service-oriented Daniel was confronted by the 120 princes of King Darius. As Darius could not alter the laws of worship, Daniel was put into the den of lions from which he emerged the next morning to trade places with the princes and their families, who perished. Paul states he has no confidence in the flesh but can do all things through God. Don't have a competitive spirit, but serve

God. It is a matter of love against hate, Devil versus God. Who do we want to be with in eternity? Stuck with the world in hell or be with God, and the people of these examples, forever?

Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) were our guest ministers for the June 14 wedding day of Sis. Jill Meister and Bro. Jesse Schroeder (Roanoke, IL). Bro. Wayne's text was Jeremiah 33 and Acts 19. God has given us all we need and we want to rely on the Spirit of God in all things. Walking with God starts with repentance and seeking God's help, Whose mercy endures forever. When the burdens of the heart are lifted, the process of conversion goes on to baptism and the Holy Spirit allows us to be close to Him. Christ healed the sick, so we know God's power has no limit. In the end is the Judgment Day, when we will be glad we did not waste our time. We can't measure the host of Heaven. Are our ways higher than His? Do pieces of silver mean more than the peace of God? Bro. Steve added that "I am, that I am" is the only certainty and "the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom." The sons of Sceva (Acts 19:14) looked for the wrong thing; we must look for the right one. Bro. Jaye read Psalm 145 for the wedding sermon, reminding Jill and Jesse to draw upon the support group God has blessed them with. Be courteous and compassionate, the family that prays together stays together, encourage each other to pray and repent when necessary, be content and satisfied and say often, "I love you." Most effective communication is non-verbal (55% of all communications). Saints are saints because they lead sacrificial lives and have salvation. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer mentioned that the basic ingredients are prayer and the love of God, maintain peace by prayer, make your home a fit dwelling place for God and a light in a sinful and dark world. The grandfather of the bride, retired Elder Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville, IL), had a

loving closing prayer.

A busload and several cars traveled to the annual Tennessee Sing on Memorial Day and the combined efforts of various brethren and 250 singers made this event again a blessed and uplifting occasion of worship and praise.

Emma Lorraine was born to Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Amy Ginzel on June 2 in Kansas City. Our sincere congratulations to the happy parents and grandparents, Bro. Michael and Sis. Carol Rieker and Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Ginzel.

Our hospital patients were Bros. Larry Riggenbach and Howard Musselman and Sisters Carol Rieker, Elsie Stickling and Hilda Yentes. Sis. Lillian Koehl, who has been in Intensive Care at OSF over three months, is showing some improvement and her family wishes to thank all for their loving support expressed in many different ways.

While waiting recently to board a feeder airplane at Missoula, MT, the announcement was made that the flight had just been canceled due to mechanical problems. The stranded passengers hastily tried to get on the next Northwest Airlines flight; as it was already fully booked, we had to go on standby. When the ticketed passengers were on board that flight, the standbys were reviewed. Three different Webers were among them and jumped to their feet when that name was called. Thanks to no-shows, all could be accommodated. God has not revealed His selection process for eternity after the requirements of salvation have been fulfilled; we are saved by His mercy. How wonderful it will be to experience... "Yes, my name's written there, on that page white and fair..." and have a place in Heaven.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone in the Peoria Church for all the nice cards, gifts and flowers you sent me during my hospital stay and recovery at home. Most importantly, I want to thank you for your prayers. May God bless you.

The Todd Hoerr Family

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Sheryl Martin

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

I Peter 2:9

A precious little son, Reid Madison, was born to first-time parents, Bro. Darwin and Sis. Robin Stahl, on June 12. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen Steiner and Sis. Charlotte Stahl (Bradford, IL). As this couple raises their child in the fear of the Lord, may the love and peace of God continue to grow in their hearts.

A new home has been established as our friends, Beth Ehnle and Russ Koehl, were united together in marriage on June 13. Beth is the daughter of Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jane Ehnle and Russ is the son of Bro. Ken and Sis. Karen Koehl (Morris, MN). May they look to God for His guidance and direction as they journey on in life.

Our prayers are with Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Sis. Emily), Bro. Howard Herrmann (Sis. Maryann) and Bro. Walter Joos (Sis. Janet). May they feel the nearness of God during the time of their recovery.

When a soul is taken from us, it leaves an emptiness in our homes. Our dear Sis. Martha Elsasser passed from life to eternity on June 1. We wish to extend our sympathy to her daughters, Sis. Jan (Phoenix, AZ) and Phyllis (Denver, CO); and family, Sis. Hilda Dietz (Bradford), Sis. Lucille Knobloch, and Bro. John Endress (Bradford). May they feel the comforting and strengthening hand of God in the days to come. Sis. Martha lived in the Princeville area most of her life but has been living in Phoenix, AZ for the past 11 years.

We are thankful a dear couple, Scott and Dawn Atkins, have made a beginning in the Lord through repentance. May they feel the love and prayers of the congregation as they make this change in their lives. This

is a true example how a shining light can draw those who are not of the faith.

Note of Thanks:

Words fail to properly convey our thankfulness for your prayerful support and many gifts of love given in memory of our dear mother, Martha Elsasser. We know Mom would have certainly been humbled by all the love shown at this time. May God richly bless each of you.

Jan and Phyllis Elsasser

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Lisa Leman - Boni Stoller

Greetings of love to our brethren across the land! What a blessed privilege it is to live in a land of so many freedoms. Freedom to travel from one church to another, visiting brothers and sisters. Freedom of speech to hold open services and to write and publish our newsletters. But even more important than the freedoms we have in this land of ours, is the freedom we can have from sin and Satan through the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We had several visiting ministers this month. We thank Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) and Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and their wives for sharing the Word with us.

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

Proverbs 18:22.

We have had a busy month of weddings. On May 31 in Chicago, Bro. Zach Sauder took as his helpmate, Sis. Casey O'Shea. Parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Bonnie Sauder and Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean O'Shea (Chicago, IL).

June 7 was the wedding day for Bro. Scott Yordy and Sis. Mandy Luginbuhl. Happy parents are Bro. Rob and Sis. Gina Luginbuhl and Larry and Edie Yordy, all of Roanoke.

Bro. Jesse Schroeder and Sis. Jill Meister became husband and wife on June 14. Bro. Skip and Sis. Pat

Meister (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel Schroeder are the happy parents.

Also on June 14, Bro. Larry Fischer and Sis. Pam Vail were united as one at our Bloomington church. Bro. Larry's mother is Sis. Wilma Fischer of our Roanoke congregation. May God richly bless each of these couples as they establish their new homes. May they always keep Him as the head of their household.

Sunday, June 7, our 8th grade through high school Bible Class students participated in the all Illinois Youth Fellowship Day at ISU in Bloomington. We pray that the words they heard will stay with them throughout their lives.

Our summer vacation Bible School for all ages was held June 8-12. We appreciate so much the ministers who shared the Word with the high school students and adults. They are Bro. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL), Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL). God bless you for your efforts on our behalf.

Our prayers have been and are still with those of our church family in hospitals. May God's healing hand touch Alice Fehr and Bro. Bob Hohulin. We are so thankful to hear that after many complications and several surgeries, little Steven Fischer, son of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Debbie Fischer, is finally home after nine weeks in the hospital. We look forward to seeing his "whole body" smiles in church soon.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

Bro. Greg Post and Sis. Missy Bauman were united in marriage on May 17. We wish them the Lord's blessings in this lifetime commitment. He is the son of Bro. Gary and Sis. Kathy Post. Her parents are Bro. Les and Sis. Helen Bauman (Goodfield, IL).

We want to thank the following brothers for sharing God's Word with us: Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL),

Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN). May God richly reward these faithful servants for their efforts.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris Baer on the death of his mother, Marie Baer. May our dear Lord, who knows all our cares and sorrows, comfort their hearts.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

We are reminded in July of our nation's blessings, including our independence and freedom from tyranny. The freedom to travel to and fro, and worship according to the dictates of our conscience is a gift of God's providence. In like manner, we are humbly grateful for the freedom from Satan and sin through the gift of God for our salvation through Jesus Christ.

We are grateful for the many prayers in behalf of our Bro. Kevin Hofstetter who had heart surgery and is now recovering.

Our hearts rejoiced the weekend of May 29-30 when we welcomed Sis. LeAnn Aberle (wife of Steve Aberle) and Bro. Luke Baker and Sis. Brittany Baker (children of Joe and Sis. Karen) into our family of faith. Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) was here to assist with the testimonies and baptisms.

Other brethren who visited and fed us spiritually were Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), and Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL) and Marshall Heinold (Ixtlan, Mexico).

Adding to our growth this month was the birth of a little daughter to Bro. Chris and Sis. Stacey Ledford. Tru Serenity is welcomed home by four brothers and five sisters. Abram Levi also joined three brothers in the home of Bro. Greg and Sis. Shelle Schumacher. We are prayerful that these little ones will grow in their love for the Lord.

We had our Vacation Bible School in June for our Sunday School children. May the Word they heard and the love and fellowship they felt always guide them on the path that

leads to Heaven.

Our beloved one, Carl Stickling, who resided for many years at the home of Bro. Don and Sis. Marie Wagenbach, is in failing health and now resides at the Peoria Home on Skyline Drive.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Kim Maller

Trudy Eisenmann

As the heat of summer is upon us, we reflect on many things that summer can bring our way. One of which is our Vacation Bible School. Our theme this year was "Count Your Blessings". The children learned memory verses, made new friends, did good deeds for others, and learned new songs that were enjoyed by all when they put on a program for us on Friday night.

We also enjoyed three weddings and three new births. First the weddings: Sis. Gwen Gerber (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay) married Bro. Jason Craighead (Bro. Mike and Sis. Kay) on May 24; Bro. Kirt Reimschisel (Bro. Robert and Sis. Louise) married Sis. Katie Wirtz from Wichita, KS (Bro. Michael and Sis. Lila) on May 31; Sis. Amy Lantz (Bro. Daniel Jr. and Sis. Charlene) married Bro. Klint Moser (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jean) on June 14. We pray that as you set up your homes, you keep God at the forefront of your hearts and minds.

As for our new births...Bro. Gary and Sis. Trisha Steffen were happy to have a little girl, Dharma Renea, on June 8. Grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lucinda Steffen and Don and Carol Lough. On May 17, Luke Harold was born to Ray and Deb Steffen. Sis. Marie Steffen is a happier grandmother once again. On May 18, Lucas James was born to Jim and Sis. Pam Agler. Grandparents are Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger and DeWayne and Diane Agler. We later learned that little Lucas Agler had to be returned to the hospital for a brief stay and is now home doing well. Congratulations to all of you and may health and happiness stay in your way.

In the hospital we had Bro.

Harold Geisel (Sis. Ellen), Lindsey Grube (Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Vicki), Sis. Josephine Schwartz, Bro. Clarren Gehring (Sis. Joyce), and Bro. Ralph Schwartz (Sis. Leona).

Our congregation in Bluffton laid two dear souls to rest this past month. Bro. Herman Bertsch (Sis. Effie) has gone Home. Remaining here with Sis. Effie are their three sons, Samuel, Herman and Homer, and one daughter, Sarah. Bro. Herman had four brothers and two sisters who we also extend our sympathy to: Bro. Laurin, Bro. Leonard, Bro. Walter and Bro. Oscar, Sis. Gladys Lantz (Bro. Daniel) and Sis. Beulah Schwartz (Bro. Howard).

Bro. Alvin Gerber (Sis. Helen) went to be with the Lord also after an extended illness. Remaining on earth with his wife, Sis. Helen, are two daughters, Sis. Mary K. Gerber (Bro. Leon) and Sis. Jeanne Rinkenger (Bro. Jim), and two sons, Bro. Jay (Sis. Deb) and Bro. Mark (Sis. Barb) Gerber. Other family members are Bro. Sylvan, Bro. Floyd (Sis. Gladys), Bro. Gaius, Bro. Edward (Sis. Vi) of Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Sis. Helen Gerber, Sis. Minnie Aschliman (Bro. Homer), Sis. Anna Isch, Sis. Leona Schwartz (Bro. Ralph), Sis. Alice Schwartz (Bro. Ervin), Sis. Sarah Kipfer (Bro. Art), and Sis. Josephine Schwartz. As you mourn these two dear souls, we pray God will be your Comforter.

Also mourning a loss at this time is Bro. Leonard Grandlienard (Sis. Lucille), as his brother, Dale Grandlienard, has passed away. Sis. Deb Gerber (Bro. Jay) is suffering a double loss as the above mentioned Bro. Alvin Gerber is her father-in-law. She has also lost her very own father, Tom Freiburger. Let's pull together to lift all these family members up in hopes to ease their grief. Many prayers have already been answered for Bro. Jay and Sis. Deb Gerber's family, as their son, Bryan, has given his heart to the Lord. So in this month of sadness, God is still faithful and is continuing to call sinners into His fold. "Rejoice, and again I say rejoice."

In Bluffton we have been blessed

with three new attendees, Sis. Raechel Clough, and two convert sisters, Faith and Hope Clough, all from Philadelphia, PA. We welcome you to Bluffton where we hope you will feel accepted and loved.

On June 6, Bro. Roy and Sis. Vergene Reinhard celebrated 50 years of marriage. What a testimony of faith this couple has set before us. Congratulations!

Visiting our congregation this past month were Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), and Bros. Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Dave Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) and Bob Meyer, Jr. Thank you for lending yourselves to us and take our love and greetings back with you to your home churches.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Lori Steffen - Rhonda Maller

Bros. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton), Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton), Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn, Junction, OH) and Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN) visited our congregation this month. We're always thankful to have visiting ministers willing to share the Word with us. We were exhorted to focus our attention on being the best examples as Christians that we can be. Do we honor our Lord by our lifestyle?

What a joy to announce "new names written down in glory"! Vince Pfister (Al and Becky) and Lindsey Reinhard (Bro. Clem and Sis. Joni) have begun repenting. We pray that they will feel God's Spirit leading them.

June 14 was the wedding day for Sis. Amy Lantz (Bro. Junior and Sis. Charlene) and Bro. Klint Moser (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jean) of the Bluffton congregation. May God guide them as they begin their life together.

What joy a baby brings to a family! Maggie Elizabeth was born on April 23 to Bro. Chris and Sis. Kim Jutte. She joins big brother, Reid. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Jo Gerber.

We have had several loved ones struggling with physical ailments. Sis. Susan Harris (Bro. Mark), Bro.

Dick Troxel (Sis. Patty), Bro. Claren Gehring (Sis. Joyce), Bro. Jeff Bertsch (Sis. Kathy), Bro. Linus Gerber (Sis. Nancy), and Gyrkin Schwartz (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Robin) have been in our thoughts and prayers. May each one feel God's presence as they endure their individual problems and may each one also experience God's healing touch. God is always faithful. May we all find grace to trust Him! "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 Vacation Bible School was held from June 8-19 this year. It was such a joy to work with 470 students and feel God's presence as together we learned about "Counting our Blessings". We all have so much to be thankful for and we pray that each one involved will be just a little more thankful as we strive onward to the Kingdom.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Lily Pelsy

"And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever."

Isaiah 32:17

We are rejoicing because two young adults have found peace with God and man. Josh Overmyer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Tianne) has many reasons to thank God in his new life. Kayla Wuethrich (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy) rejoices in her salvation.

Bro. Ben Cook (Sis. Debbie) and Sis. Deana Overmyer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet) were united as one in the Lord. May God be glorified through this union.

May God comfort Bro. Brad and Sis. Nancy Wuethrich in the loss of their son, Patrick. Our sympathy extends to his brothers, Travis (Angie), Cameron, Wesley, his sister, Sis. Melissa, and grandmothers, Sis. Barb Wuethrich and Jeanette Wheeldon.

May the Lord continue to comfort

Sis. Marian Gutwein in the death of her grandson, David Hertzler.

We hope Bro. Phil Sauder can again worship with us, after spending much time in the hospital.

We thank Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) for coming to share God's Holy Word with us.

God has blessed us with a beautiful heritage. We thank Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman and Ordained Deacon Bro. Steve Gutwein for sharing thoughts from the Memorandum.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Lynn Dotterer

May 31 was the day chosen to celebrate our seniors who are graduating from high school. A special breakfast was served to honor them. The seniors include Daniel Bucher (Bro. Ardie and Sis. LeAnn), Dan Schafer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Laretta) and Bryce Guingrich (Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy).

The angels in Heaven are rejoicing over Emily Bollier (Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie) and Hannah Lee (Sis. Kathy) who have given their lives to the Lord. As their church family, we are rejoicing also.

With much sadness, we say goodbye to two families. Bro. Chuck and Sis. Ann Hart are moving to Morton, IL. Bro. Brent and Sis. Cheryl Nussbaum and family are moving to Bloomington, IL. We will miss them both.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Anna Marie Stoller

"If Eve had only listened to God instead of Satan...God had a beautiful plan..." Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) brought the Word of Life to us on a recent Sunday. Another brother prayed that we might be victors, not victims, of the cares of life.

Bro. John Heiniger's book of life has been closed, his race is won. Sis. Lucille, his wife, and his children, David and Joan Cambern, will miss the loving devotion that Bro. John

gave them. Our whole congregation joins in love, prayer and sympathy for this dear family.

The four R's of marriage - respect, responsibility, romance, and repentance - are terms that are becoming meaningful to Sis. Julie Frank (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan) and Bro. Brad Rocke (Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth, Eureka, IL) as their engagement has been announced. Julie and Brad's testimony reveals God has worked a miracle and given them a peaceful confidence that they should spend their lives together as husband and wife. We praise God for the joy brought into the lives of these two families and our congregation.

Sis. Kerri Goodwin (Jerry and Chris) and Bro. Glen Gudeman (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary) became one in the Lord. Bros. Larry Weninger (Latty, OH) and Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) were visiting ministers on this beautiful wedding day.

The speaking efforts of Bros. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Duane Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) were deeply appreciated during the 1998 Vacation Bible School. To those brothers and sisters who teach Sunday School, we give you special thanks for all the effort you put forth during VBS. Mostly, we thank and praise God for each of our dear children who were attentive during classes. We love each of you!

New Sunday School teachers have been announced for the next term. Sis. Evie Heinold, Bro. Joe Feller and Bro. Steve Stoller will appreciate the prayerful support of the church as they labor for the Lord.

INDIANA, LAFAYETTE

Gordon Gerber

For this summer session, we are holding church services every other Thursday evening at the Fellowship center. This past month we had Bros. Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN) and Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) bring the Word to us. We want to thank these brothers for their

labors.

We also want to recognize the officers that have faithfully served in the Purdue Youth group in the past year. These are Bro. Joel Baumgartner, Bro. Joe Sprunger, Sis. Sara Steffen and Sis. Tara Beyerly. Incoming officers for the next school year include Bro. Kevin Kipfer, Bro. Lon Vogt, Sis. Sarah Gutwein, and Sis. Amber Ward. Thank you previous officers, and welcome new officers.

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. Neil Widmer (765) 448-4709 for more information. May God be glorified in your life.

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

Congratulations to our High School graduates, Todd Klopfenstein (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Chris) and Chris Baumgartner (Bro. Bill and Sis. Jan). We wish them the Lord's blessings and guidance in their lives.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) who shared some of his experiences overseas during and following the presentation of the European slides. We are thankful to both for their love and sharing spirit.

We just completed a week of Vacation Bible School which mentally transported the children to Israel. Each day the classes visited a different village: Bethany, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Capernaum and Jerusalem. So when the week ended, the teachers in each village had taught all the children. We are looking forward to their program tonight, and pray that fruit may abound from the week's effort.

Independence is total dependence on Jesus Christ.

"...For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lust of the flesh,....those that were clean escaped from them

who live in error. While they promised them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption; for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage." (II Peter 2:18-19)

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness, but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (II Peter 3:9)

"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord." (II Peter 1:2)

INDIANA, MILFORD Linda Beer - Renee Beer

We rejoice with Martin and Lorene Stookey as they celebrated 50 years of marriage. May they continue to feel God's blessings.

Our thoughts are with Sis. Rachel Beer (Bro. Sam) and Sis. Esther Getz as they have spent time in the hospital. We pray that God will continue to heal and restore as only He can.

We were so thankful for Bros. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH), Bob Meyer, Jr. (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN), and Vic Beer (Sis. Dorothy, North Ft. Myers, FL) spending a Sunday with us allowing God to teach us through them.

The week of June 8 was a special blessing to us as we enjoyed learning about "A Shelter in the Time of Storm" at our Vacation Bible School. Many thanks to all who helped make this week possible. We appreciated the following ministers laboring on our behalf: Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) spoke on "A Time of Storm"; Bro. Jim Rinkenger (Bluffton, IN) spoke on "Looking for the Lighthouse"; Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) spoke on "What Kind of Shelter are You Building"; and Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) finished the week by speaking on "Safe in the Arms of Jesus". We also enjoyed listening to the singing groups that came each night and the many visitors that joined us for the week. The chorus of our theme song reminded us that

"Jesus is a rock in a weary land. A shelter in the time of storm."

We are thankful that Sonya Beer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda) is seeking her shelter in true repentance. We rejoice with the angels in Heaven as another sinner repents.

INDIANA, REMINGTON Patti Bahler

"God's Perfect Plan or Satan's Counterfeit" was the theme for this year's Vacation Bible School June 1-5. We are thankful for the timely messages we heard throughout the week. A special thank you to Bros. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN). It is our prayer that the Lord will bless the week by touching hearts and bringing forth fruit from seeds that were planted.

Other ministers that shared with us throughout the month were Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) who spoke to us about "Prayer" for our evening Bible topic, Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler. Their efforts were a blessing and greatly appreciated.

We read in Jeremiah 30:17, "For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord." We are thankful the Lord has restored health to Bro. Walt Bahler and Jon Scheitlin (Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori) who both spent some time in the hospital this month. We are also thankful Sis. Norma Warner is recovering well after surgery. We pray the Lord continue to renew strength in the days ahead. One of Sis. Norma's favorite Bible verses is found in Isaiah 41 and goes well with the theme on the front cover this month. "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee."

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank everyone for the cards and gifts on my 60th birthday. Also a special thank you to our children for their love shown to us. May God richly bless each one.

In His love, Sis. Loretta Schneider

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Jennifer Mangold

Sue Beebe

"A Shelter in the Time of Storm" was the theme for our Vacation Bible School which we shared with our brethren in Milford.

On Monday evening, Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) said a storm can be:

S - Sudden

T - Turbulent

O - can Overtake us

R - Real

M - Mild or Mighty

The reality of this definition was impressed upon us Thursday evening, as minutes after we were assembled together, the tornado siren sounded and we were ushered to the church basement. A comment was made that what better place could we be? Thankfully, we were protected from the force of the storm and were able to reassemble to consider the question "What Kind of Shelter Are You Building?", with our speaker, Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL). If we are building the proper shelter, we do not need to fear, "For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion; in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me upon a rock." (Psalm 27:5)

Other topics and speakers during the week were "Looking for the Lighthouse", Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN); and "Safe in the Arms of Jesus", Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI).

We were given many good teachings each evening and are grateful to these brothers for the hours they spent on our behalf. Our hearts were also uplifted each evening by the many beautiful hymns which were sung by groups from Francesville, Bluffton, Latty, Milford, and South Bend.

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing."

I Cor. 13:1,2

Many brethren and friends gathered together to rejoice with Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer as they celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary recently.

We thank our visiting ministers, Bros. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), for sharing the Bread of Life with us. As a small congregation, we appreciate all who travel to fellowship with us and are uplifted in spirit as we commune with one another.

Blest be the tie which binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Hymns of Zion #156

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Cheryl Bucher - Hope Bucher

Walk by faith, not by sight;
this is truly the Lord's delight.
However, this is not an easy thing to do;
for every time the blues come, our faith goes too!
Time and time again
our Father has brought us through,
Yet when another trial comes,
we feel there is no hope or clue.
Why does it take a lifetime of sorrow
in this world of trouble and woe,
to realize our Father has a loving,
kind heart
for His children on earth below?
The answer to this question is a
mystery indeed!
But the glory will be revealed,
when at last His face we'll see!
For now we know in part
and we see but a poor reflection
of this life which is to come,
and the power of His resurrection.

But this one thing we do know,
that faith is the substance of things hoped for—@TABS = the evidence of things not seen!

The Valparaiso congregation enjoyed having Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL) and Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Sis. Ethel, Champaign, IL) to read the Memorandum and then serve us Holy Communion. Our hearts are touched by the sacrifice and love allowed us, as undeserving men and women. As I walk longer with Christ, the more my eyes are opened by His tremendous love for me and mankind in general.

Bro. Todd Feller (Sis. Karen, La-Crosse, IN) also joined us recently and shared the Word with us. Bro. Todd has come so often and so willingly. We know God will richly reward his kindness to us.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Jody Bahler - Beckie Lehman

We are thankful amidst our busy summer schedules that we have the blessing of gathering on Sundays to hear the Word spoken in quietness. We thank Bros. Tom Troxel (La-Crosse, IN), Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) and Dan Beer (Milford, IN) for sharing the Word with us this past month. God bless them for their willing service.

Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) spoke to us one evening asking "Is prayer worthwhile?". We were blessed to be reminded of the power of prayer. As Christians, prayer is one of the most important avenues of communication with our Heavenly Father. We are grateful to Bro. John for sharing this topic with us.

Our church enjoyed the presence of many guests over Memorial Day weekend. We were all encouraged to invite friends or families to visit. We had a full church on Sunday with guests from many of our churches. What a blessing to make new friendships and renew the old.

High School graduates this month were Tiffany Schwab (Bro. John and Sis. Wendy), Brianna Furrer (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene), Sis.

Bobbi Ann Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann), Bro. Kent Bahler (Sis. Elaine) and Bro. Nick Waibel. We rejoice with each one and wish them God's blessings and direction as they make important decisions in their lives.

Our prayers were with little Kaleb Wagenbach as he underwent surgery to remove his tonsils this past month. We are glad that his recovery went well and he is full of energy once again. We pray for a swift recovery for Bro. Gerry Waibel, who has a broken leg.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Judy Gehring - Karla Gerst

Greetings of love and peace from Burlington! It seems that this month our little congregation has once again been drawn closer together through joy and sorrow. We rejoice with a new lamb, Sis. Pauline Heiniger, as she was able to be baptized into the fold this month. It is always an encouragement to see how God can still work in the lives of our dear ones. As long as there is life, there is hope for the soul. May we never forget to pray for all of the unconverted.

We want to extend our sympathy and prayers to Sis. Charity Scheitlin in the loss of her brother. We also were deeply saddened by the passing of Sis. Karen Schulz. We wish much grace and strength to her husband, Bro. Gary Schulz (son of Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy Schulz, Oakville), and her children, Sis. Julie, Philip, Sis. Brenda, Laurie, Matthew, Jacob, Andrew, and Zachary. Our love and prayers are with the entire family including her parents, Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz (Oakville), and her brothers and sisters, Sis. Kathy, Bro. Ken, Bro. Keith, Sis. Joni Massner, Bro. Tom, Bro. Ron and their families (all of Oakville). May we always draw comfort from the hope of salvation and the prayers of the brotherhood.

Blest are they who in the Saviour,
Die consoled in peace and joy,
Who their time and all their talents
For the Master did employ.

They shall rest from care and
sorrow,
From the burdens of the day,
And their works do follow after,
In that bright eternal day.

Chorus: We shall sleep, but not
forever,

There will be a glorious dawn;
We shall meet to part, no, never,
On the resurrection morn!

Hymns of Zion #125

We were thankful to have numerous visitors with us this past month.

Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville) shared the Word with us as well as Bros. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Mark Kiefer (Denver, CO), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), and John Steiner (Oakville). May we always remember to pray for the Word and the messengers.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

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

Psalms 127:3

We welcome two new babies to our small flock here at Elgin.

Tom and Darla Butikofer, Sydney and Valarie feel blessed to have Luke Thomas enter their family circle. Luke arrived May 19 and is also welcomed by his grandparents, Bro. Al and Sis. Laverne Butikofer and Paul and Bertha Schachmann.

Bro. Scott and Sis. Leona Fehr are thankful for the safe arrival of their daughter, Kari Ella, on June 7. Grandparents for Kari are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Glennagene Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Gene and the late Sis. Ella Mae Schmidt (Winthrop, MN).

As we welcome these two newborns into our church family, we also welcome two new babes in Christ into the fold. They are Bro. Greg and Sis. Darla Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet). May God grant them much grace to remain true and faithful till life's end.

Sis. Ruth Schupbach recently spent a few days in the hospital and

we are thankful that she is now gaining strength following her hip surgery.

Visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. Fred Eberhardt and Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA) and Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA). May God richly bless each one for serving us from God's precious Word of Life.

We are thankful for the safe return of those who recently spent a few days in Haiti. Some tasks accomplished on this mission included painting the buildings at the Paul Grove Compound in Puits Sales and constructing school desks, beds, playground equipment, and tables for the schools at Zabo and Puits Sales. Also, about 150 elementary Haitian children were interviewed in preparation for the new World Relief Child Sponsorship Program. Those going from here and finding it a rewarding and memorable experience include Bro. Tim Butikofer (Sis. Kathy) and his two daughters, Amy and Meg; Jim Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. Laverne); Bob and Brian Frieden (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan); and Sis. Melisa Butikofer (Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy) and her roommate, Sis. Carrie Gress (West Bend, IA). Also sharing in this experience were other brethren from our congregations at Detroit, MI and Oakville, IA.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Laura Funk

We bid farewell to Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard. They have relocated to Kitchener, Canada. They will be greatly missed, and we wish them God's nearness.

We enjoyed a blessed weekend when all the Iowa single groups gathered at Garden Grove for a weekend of fellowship and singing.

We gathered together Saturday, June 6, with Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) for the reading of the Memorandum. On Sunday,

June 7, we partook of Holy Communion with Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO). We thank these Elder brothers for putting forth a special effort to serve us, as Elder Bro. Ed Lanz had planned to be with us. We were reminded that God's timetable is far superior to man's. God chose to take Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan's daughter to His Heavenly Kingdom that week. We pray for God's continued comforting hand over the Schulz and Lanz families.

Also visiting us were Bros. DeWayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) and Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS). We thank these brothers for lending themselves on our behalf.

Here in Garden Grove, it is our responsibility to clean the Lord's House after we serve church lunch. I was at church cleaning and grumbling! I had so much work at home and getting company also. I'll just clean church real quick—skip the "corners and the not-so-dirty spots". Then I stopped. I was cleaning the Lord's House! My thoughts continued...my body is a temple of the Lord. Is that how I am keeping my spiritual life? Just keeping the middle clean and not the edges and corners? Letting the dirt and filth of Satan lurk in the corners? I felt chastised and cleaned more diligently.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Sharon Gerst

God has again spoken to us through His servants. This month our visiting ministers were Bros. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL). We would like to thank both of these brothers and their families for making the effort to come and worship with us.

Our high school graduates this year were Chris Landherr (Ron and Audrey) and Stephanie Reker (Bro. Roger and Sis. Rhonda). May they both look to God for His guidance and direction in their lives.

The annual Sunday School picnic was held on the first Sunday in June. What a blessing and encouragement children can be! Also, it is

good to be reminded of the responsibility we have. It has been said that the best way to teach a child is to be a good example of what we want them to learn. Therefore, all of us must be careful to show our future church, the children, an obedient walk of faith.

This month our friend David Simmons' niece, Jessica Simmons, was diagnosed with cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy treatments. We request your prayers for this little girl's recovery and for the Simmons family.

IOWA, LESTER

Sue Warner - Cindy Leuthold

We were so richly blessed to have visiting ministers with us this past month. Our appreciation is extended to Bros. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Robert Stoller (Lamar, MO) and Brad Funk (Garden Grove, IA) for bringing their families and sharing God's Word with us.

It is with joy and gladness that Jane Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie) has found peace with God and man. She now awaits baptism in the near future.

Best wishes are extended to four couples who have recently been married. Our congratulations to Bro. Dean and Sis. Diana (Elsasser) Feucht who were married in Bradford, IL on May 31; and also to Bro. Derek and Sis. Connie (Hartter) Knobloch who exchanged wedding vows in Sabetha, KS on June 7. Craig Knobloch and Virginia Linney were married in Fort Dodge, IA on June 6 and will be making their home in Houston, TX. Craig is the son of Bro. Chuck and Sis. Coralee Knobloch. May 29 was the wedding day for Justin Metzger and Jodi Snyder. They will be living in Rosedale, MN where he will be attending college. Justin's parents are Bro. Art and Sis. Kris Metzger. May God be with each of these dear ones as they begin their married lives together.

Hospitalized this month were Madeline Meyer (Bro. Brad and Sis.

Trinda), Sis. Zelma Knobloch, Bro. Howard Mogler (Sis. Lollie), Bro. Lawrence Wulf, Sis. Charlyn Meyer (Bro. George) and Bro. Larry Peterson (Sis. Emily). All have thankfully been able to return to their homes.

Sincere sympathy goes out to Ed and Judy Martin and their families following the sudden loss of Ed's brother, Dale Martin, of Elgin, IL. May God's endless mercy and His nearness give them comfort at this difficult time.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Melody Steiner Debra Wagenbach

"Not now but in the coming years...sometime we'll understand." (Hymns of Zion #165). Our hearts were saddened at the untimely passing of our dear Sis. Karen Schulz (Bro. Gary, Burlington, IA). Our sincere sympathy and our prayers continue for her loved ones, Bro. Gary and children; her parents, Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz; Bro. Gary's parents, Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy Schulz; her brothers and sisters, Sis. Kathy Frank (Bro. Curt), Bro. Kenny Lanz (Sis. Janet), Bro. Keith Lanz (Sis. Tonya), Sis. Joni Massner (Bro. Troy), Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary), and Bro. Ron Lanz (Sis. Timna); and also to Bro. Gary's family, Bro. Roger and Sis. June Schulz.

Our best wishes are extended to Daniel Frank (Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina) and Amanda Mark (Mr. and Mrs. Steven Mark) on their June 13 marriage. May God bless their marriage and may they look to Him for direction and guidance in their daily walk of life.

Bro. Gerry Hertz (Sabetha, KS) was recently in our area on business and spent a Wednesday evening with us. May God reward him for his willingness to serve.

IOWA, PULASKI Lisa Knecht

I Owe The Lord A Morning Song
I owe the Lord a morning song

of gratitude and praise,
For the kind mercy He has shown
In lengthening out my days.

He kept me safe another night;
I see another day:
Now may His Spirit, as the light,
Direct me in His way.

Keep me from danger and from sin;
Help me Thy will to do,
So that my heart be pure within;
And I Thy goodness know.

Keep me till Thou wilt call me hence,
Where never night can be;
And save me, Lord, for Jesus' sake,
He shed His blood for me.

Hymns of Zion #203

What a beautiful way to start the day whether stating these words in prayer or singing them in the hymn. We have such meaningful hymns; they are often sermons in themselves.

Our congregation wishes to thank our visiting ministers this past month, Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA). We never grow tired of hearing God's teachings.

We are appreciative of the Bible Classes and teachers from Bern, KS and Lamar, MO who spent the weekend of June 13-14 with us. We enjoyed our time together and pray these friendships will flourish in the days ahead.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Eunice Fehr

Berniece Banwart

We want to thank Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) and their family for spending a Sunday with us and willingly sharing God's Word with us.

We had our annual Sunday School election the first week in June. We want to thank Sis. Sue Schneider (Bro. Gary), Bro. Manuel Gerber (Sis. Mary) and Bro. Jim Fehr (Sis. Sharon) who have fulfilled their 6-year term in Sunday School. Sis. Karol Banwart (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis) replaces Sis.

Sue in teaching 4th grade. Bro. Dennis Fehr (Sis. Judy) replaces Bro. Manuel in 9th and 10th grade and Bro. David Bruellman (Sis. Yvonne) replaces Bro. Jim in the 11th and 12th grade. Much time and responsibility goes along with teaching our youth. May all our teachers feel God's nearness and direction as they strive to teach the students of God's plan of salvation.

We are thankful another soul has turned his life over to the Lord and now has been announced as having peace with God and man. We rejoice with Jaylin Dahlhauser (Bro. Ken and Sis. Ellen) and look forward to his testimony and baptism in the near future.

The weekend of June 13-14 we traveled by bus with the Bible Class to the Morris, MN congregation where they hosted the annual youth fellowship gathering. A blessed weekend was shared by students and teachers. We thank the Morris congregation for everything. A lot of planning goes into this weekend and we appreciate the students' cooperation so that it can be carried out in Godly order.

Believing it is God's will that they should be joined in marriage, Bro. Matthew Fehr (Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Rachel Schmidt (Bro. John and Sis. Paula) have announced their engagement. They have chosen July 5 as their wedding day.

From time to time some of our loved ones must spend time in hospitals. We are glad Sis. Darlene Metzger and Sis. Katie Ludwig have been released. Sis. Katie is now residing at the West Bend Care Center and appreciates mail and visits from loved ones. Louis Schafer also spent time in the hospital.

We extend our sympathy to Louis Schafer on the death of his sister, Elizabeth Ostwald, Whittemore, IA.

God has blessed three young families with the gift of a new life. May He grant much wisdom in caring for these little ones.

Jamie and Carmen Moser are new parents of Laura Jewel born May 8. Jim and Mary Moser and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Helen Anliker

are the happy grandparents.

Bro. Marc and Sis. Jami Banwart are also first-time parents of Tayla Rose born May 22. Grandparents are Don and Jane Banwart and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Audrey Messner. Bro. Harold and Sis. Geraldine Messner (Winthrop, MN), Roy and Sis. Evelyn Metzger (Pulaski, IA) and Fred and Iva Banwart also welcome this great-grandchild.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Lonnie Fehr and Taylor are happy with the arrival of Adam Jay born June 3. Bro. Melvin and Sis. Glenagene Fehr and Bro. Silas and Sis. Della Metzger are thankful grandparents. Sis. Nima Fehr is the great-grandmother.

Happy Living

If you concentrate on living
In a happy, peaceful way,
You will see more skies of sunshine
Than you will the skies of gray.

If you strive to help another
With a burden or a need,
You will find your own day brighter
By the kind and thoughtful deed.

If you stop to help your brother
When misfortune comes his way;
Then the load itself seems lighter,
And your cares will melt away.

If another's heart is weary,
You can comfort with a smile;
Words of cheer might give him
courage,
Strength to face another trial.

If you show these acts of kindness,
With a helping hand to lend,
You will seldom be unhappy,
You will never lack a friend.

—*Faye Dalton*

JAPAN, SHIODA

Willis Ehnle

On Sunday, June 7, Bro. Akito Inoue and Bro. Willis Ehnle exchanged churches, as they usually do once every two months. It is good to keep in touch with the believers and friends in both churches. That evening we were able to have a fish fry by a fishing pond near Tokyo, where Bro. Akito and his family could also attend. It is pretty well in

the mountains, west of Tokyo, and is close to nature. There were twelve adults and four children in attendance. All the children were Americans, two Klaus children and two Aberle children.

One sermon we had recently was on "Do not Seek Things for Yourself." What we should seek for is, "The Kingdom of God, and His righteousness." (Matthew 6:33). The Old Testament scripture reading was Jeremiah, chapter 45, which includes, "And seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not." (vs. 5).

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

Greetings from Tokyo! At this time, we're in the middle of the rainy season, following a very wet and cloudy winter and spring, so sunny days have been few this year. However, this gives us a good opportunity to remember the command to "rejoice in the Lord always" because of the "joy of our salvation" regardless of outside circumstances.

Our church is enthusiastically planning and anticipating many summer events, which Lord willing, we hope to enjoy. These include our annual summer "Shuyokai" (Fellowship Meeting) in the mountains in late July, a 3-day summer Sunday School camp in early August, and expected fellowship with several visiting brothers and sisters from America. It is a joy to anticipate plans in which we can "have a good time in a good way" as our Elder Bro. Willis often states.

The Aberle family—Bro. Andy, Sis. Chris, Drew and Ben, are missed by all as they are back in America until late August. We do hope and pray they have a blessed and refreshing visit there.

Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Gramm (Leo, IN) came to Japan to see Art's daughter, Sally (Joel Kaufman) and family. They couldn't be with us on a Sunday, but we scheduled a little singing on a Tuesday evening with them, which was a rare, special treat!

Bro. Andrew Klaus' cousin's

friend, Carolyn Betzler (Sonora, CA), has come to live with the Klauses for six months (June-Dec.). Her help and cheerfulness is greatly appreciated.

In tonight's Bible reading, the words of Jonathan spoken to David when they had to part from one another really struck me. "Go in peace, for as much as we have sworn both of us in the name of the Lord, saying, the Lord be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever." (I Samuel 20:42). In spite of terrible, unfair circumstances, what a wonderful attitude, what precious faith Jonathan had.

KANSAS, BERN

Lori Baumgartner Holly Meyer

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing."

Psalm 100:1-2

What joyful singing filled our congregation on Memorial Day Weekend as young brothers and sisters from coast to coast met here in the heartland to worship our Lord and Saviour and fellowship together. We enjoyed their presence and hope the weekend was a blessing to all.

Bro. Mark Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ) not only spent that particular weekend here, but is planning on staying here all summer as he has found construction work in the area. We welcome him and look forward to getting to know him a little better.

We are rejoicing with David Edelman (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marlene) as he has taken that most important step in life and is repenting for his sins. Our prayer is that he can establish a firm foundation in the solid rock of Jesus Christ!

Bro. Wilhelm Metzger has required some more hospitalization this past month. May we encourage him and others who may be struggling with their health.

Our high school students have been busy this month as they were

invited to Sabetha to hear ministering Bro. Mike Bauman (Mansfield, OH). They also spent the weekend of June 13-14 in Pulaski, IA. We thank these congregations for their efforts in ministering to our youth.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Joleen Sinn

We thank the Lord for a beautiful week of Bible School. It is such a refreshing time for children and teachers both. May the lessons taught be implanted deep in these young hearts so that as the Lord wills they may bear fruit. We ended our week with a program and picnic at Gunn Park.

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

Luke 15:10

We rejoice with Joel Sinn (Bro. Dave and Sis. Joleen) as he surrenders his life to our Heavenly Father. Our prayers go with him as he travels the narrow road of life.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies... Give her the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates."

Proverbs 31:10,31

This is one of the most beautiful chapters I've ever read concerning a Godly woman, and the verses between the two above complete a picture of a number of dear older sisters in our Faith, one of whom fell asleep in the arms of the Lord she loved and faithfully served for 54 of the 96 years God allotted her on earth. Sis. Rachel Kraft was an inspiration to old and young alike, and, if I could ask one heartfelt prayer, it would be that God would grant that we of this younger generation be given the grace to be as

faithful, loving, kind and giving as Sis. Rachel and our other dear older sisters in faith, who are a living testimony of an abiding faith.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the adults and children who helped with and attended Bible School on a Saturday in May. It was a little windy and warm, but where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is a great blessing for everyone, and we all were richly blessed.

We have several loved ones who were hospital patients this past month: Sis. Alice Tanner, who is again able to be at home; Glen Piper, who is also home again; and Sis. Kathryn Miller, who is at this time in ICU in Enid, OK. We are thankful for those who are again able to be in our midst, and prayerful for Sis. Kathryn, that God will watch over her and grant her His healing strength.

We truly appreciate having visitors stop through as we are a small congregation, and one weekend this month several young brothers and friends were here for the weekend. We enjoyed the fellowship so much and invite them to come back anytime and anyone else who might be traveling in our vicinity.

July 4 is a time of celebration for our nation in remembrance of the freedom we fought for so that we might live as we wish and worship as we please. How grateful we are for this precious country! But have you ever thought how much more we should celebrate every day the freedom from sin that our Lord Jesus Christ bought for us with His lifeblood, that we might live forever with Him in all eternity? May we never forget how truly blessed we are!

KANSAS, SABETHA

**Brenda Grimm
Mary Kay Wenger**

The theme for this month, "Fear ye not, neither be afraid", so timely corresponds with the recent tornado that swept through downtown Sabetha. We can be very thankful that God spared lives, as there were no reported serious injuries or deaths

from the storm. Even though several businesses were damaged, we were very fortunate it was down only a short time and did not destroy more.

Even as there are storms in our life, if we rely on God's mercy and help, He can spare us from much evil now and everlasting destruction.

"I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me."

Proverbs 8:17

We rejoice with John Hartter (Bro. Timothy and Sis. Charleen) as he has turned his heart to the Lord in his youth.

On June 7, Sis. Connie Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene) and Bro. Derek Knoblock (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma, Lester, IA) were united in Holy Matrimony. May God always be the center of their home as they look to Him for counsel. Visiting ministers here for the wedding include Elder Bros. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), and Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA).

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held Sunday evening, June 7. All those that attended enjoyed an evening of fellowship.

We want to thank Bro. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) for his willingness to be with us this past month and bring forth God's Word.

May 2 was the 50th wedding anniversary of Bro. Oliver and Sis. Marie Weiss. May God continue to bless them as He certainly has in the past.

Our prayers are extended to Bro. Donald Strahm as he spent time in the hospital.

Congratulations are extended to Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen Beyer on their new little grandson, Braden Wayne, born May 19 to Bro. Keith and Sis. Alisa Beyer of Detroit, MI. Our prayers are also with Bro. Keith as he has been given a new responsibility of ministering God's Word. May God grant him much grace as he is used in His service.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton, IN) brought us the message on May 31. Bro. Steve and many relatives and friends were present for the wedding of Bro. Kirt Reimschisel and Sis. Katie Wert. This young couple had many witnesses to their pledges for a God-fearing marriage.

The annual business meeting was held in May. Among the forthcoming changes was the election of Bro. Cory Metzger as Sunday School superintendent as well as the high school class teacher. He replaces Bro. John Schrader who previously accepted those duties. Also, next fall, Sis. Sally Funk will replace me as an elementary grade teacher.

Happily, we can report that Mike Bowers is employed in Wichita and we look forward to having him worship with us. Also, Rick Aberle, Sabetha, is serving an apprenticeship at Kock Industries this summer. We are pleased to have him assemble with us.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Doug and Rebecca Germann

Once again, we wish to thank our many visitors who came to share a weekend with us here in Lexington. Our visiting minister was Bro. Ken Schneider (Sis. Loretta) from Remington, IN. Many thanks for your labors, Bro. Ken.

We also want to wish God's blessings upon the Baltic family as Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty's daughter, Sis. Audrey, was announced to Bro. Corban Schlatter from Junction, OH. May God richly bless them as they plan their future with God's direction.

In addition, services for July 19 will not be at the Comfort Inn as regularly scheduled. We will be meeting at the home of Bro. Lester Huber in Winchester. If you would like further information, call one of the local brothers. Meeting time will be the same and this change in location will only be for the weekend of the 19th.

During our family devotions, we were studying about the life of King

Saul and how he had such a good beginning, but a tragic end. What was his greatest sin? Perhaps we could sum it up in disobedience. The tragedy in King Saul's life was that he was also the individual who was to lead the people. How sad when we see or read in history where an entire church apostatized because its leaders failed to hold up the standard of the Word of God. The walls of separation between the church and the world have crumbled and drift sets in with compromise. But in the end, God said to Samuel and He says to us, how long can we mourn for this loss of leadership in Saul! God commanded Samuel to find another faithful leader, young David. So it is with us, we cannot mourn for the drift in our day and time, but rather rise up and press onward with renewed vision for the future!

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Kristen Plattner
Michelle Oesch

Let us never forget what was signed on July 4, 1776, in the city of Philadelphia: the Declaration of Independence. It marked the birth of this nation under God. As citizens of the United States of America, where would we be today if there had not been those who counted the cost of freedom and willingly paid for it? Someone has said "To be born free is a privilege, to die free is an awesome responsibility." Freedom is never free. It is always purchased at a great cost. Salvation is free, but not cheap. God paid the price when He sent His Son to shed His blood and die for all mankind.

Thomas Payne in 1776 said, "What we obtain too cheaply, we esteem too lightly; it is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a price upon its goods, and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated."

To our graduates, may you seek the Lord for new directions, important decisions, and farsighted visions. We congratulate Shanna and Andrea Rairigh (Gregg and Sis.

Rhonda) on their graduation from high school, Jenny Grile (Allen) on her graduation from nursing school, and Sis. Melanie Kaeb on her master's degree. Also, we are thankful to have Rich Stouffer (Dave and Bonnie) back among us after completing four years serving our country in the Marines and Brett Plattner who is home from college for the summer.

We will have fond memories of the few short years we shared with Brent and Sis. Andrea Steiner in Alto. We will miss them both and their little son Jacob and wish them God's blessings as they make their new home in Ohio.

South Bend's young group came and spent an enjoyable Memorial Day weekend. Spiritual strength is found when we come together and share the common bond and unity of our Lord and His love. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20)

The Word of God gives life, hope and strength in a dying world. Fathers need to continue to feast on the Lord's Word daily, to find His perspective on the daily responsibilities of the family. In Colossians 3:18-21 we find wise words written as much for today as when Paul wrote them centuries ago.

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things; for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged."

Three families have been blessed with new little ones. First-time parents are Rob and Rachel Cadwalader at the birth of little Alex Robert. Excited grandparents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Cathy Schrenk and Tom and Cathy Deason. Little Dylan Chase is a new blessing in the home of Gordon and Trisha Blough and big brothers, Eric, Gavin and Conner, welcomed him home. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Elouise Blough and Roger and Mozelle Jackson. Also rejoicing in

being first-time parents are Dave and Julie Stouffer at the arrival of little Sydney Rose. Excited grandparents are Dave and Bonnie Stouffer and Jim and Rose Hutt. We pray a special prayer for these families that they can raise their children in the Lord in a world that is daily straying further from His will.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Rhonda Knochel
Peggy Jackson

July 4th often brings such a thrill to my heart as I contemplate the country that the Lord has blessed us with. Even in its current state of sin and unrighteousness, we still have many freedoms that others in faraway parts of the world can only dream of. With the thought of our freedom also comes the thought of freedom that we can experience when we have committed our lives to the Lord in repentance and conversion. There is no greater peace than to know that you have been saved by the blood of the Lamb. Many men lost their lives many years ago to guarantee personal liberties, but it was through the blood of one man, Jesus Christ, that the entire world can know true freedom and peace regardless of life's circumstances. Do you know Jesus as your Saviour? Have you allowed Him to free you from Satan's grip? We can only pray that you have.

We here in Bay City have been richly blessed over the last week. On June 13-14, we gathered to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Josh Steffan (Bro. Derrell and Sis. Sue) and Sis. Marcie Cowan (Stacy). What a time of refreshing it was to hear of God's work in their lives and to contemplate our own salvation. Elder Bro. Andy Virkler was joined by Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) in labors of the weekend. We thank Bro. Charles and his wife for being with us.

Beginning Monday, June 15, we also received the blessing of Vacation Bible School and the many wonderful teachings that came in the week. Each night we had a visiting

minister come to speak on one of God's precious gifts to us. These brothers were: Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), Bro. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI), and Elder Bro. Marvin Lemman (Bradford, IL). We cannot thank these dear brothers enough for the time, effort and energy they put out on our behalf. It was truly a wonderful week.

We also had several in our congregation who experienced the frailty of the body during this month. They are: Sis. Shirley Wright (Bro. Gary), Sis. Barb Knochel, Sis. Loretta Mosher (Bro. Winsor), Sis. Mary Ramseyer (Bro. Earl), Sis. Helen Meylan (Bro. Henry) and our Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Sis. Maxine). Our sincere prayer is that each one continues to feel the healing hand of the great Physician as well as the comfort and peace of knowing that He's always with them.

June also saw the graduation from high school for some of our young people. They include: Chad Barratt, Bro. Jonathan Jacobs, Sarah Knochel, Trisha Knochel, Jodi McNally, Adam Ramseyer and Mark Ramseyer. Congratulations to each of you as you begin a new era in your life and may it be that each of you seek the Lord's guidance in the years ahead.

May God bless you all in the month ahead.

Note of Thanks:

It was a joy and blessing to us sharing your presence, love and memories in Zapata on our 50th anniversary and at a later date with family, friends and relatives in Bay City. We were touched by your many acts of kindness in remembering us with lovely cards, gifts, phone calls and floral arrangements. A special thanks to all and to our dear family and friends for their efforts and love involved in making it so special. God bless you always.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Margaret Schlatter

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Manuela Denes - Kristie Meyer

Summer has finally arrived! What I've noticed this year, even more than in years past, is the tremendous variety of beautiful flowers in so many brilliant colors. The days are warm and long and I feel truly blessed and fortunate to be able to enjoy each one as it comes.

We have many things to be thankful for here in our Detroit congregation. After much prayer and thought, the Lord has seen to our growing church and its future by calling Bro. Keith Beyer into the ministry. "And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." (Jeremiah 3:15). May the Lord grant him grace in this very important undertaking. Bro. Keith and Sis. Alisa have the prayerful support of all of us who worship together.

Little Auburn has welcomed her new brother, Braden Wayne, home. Thankful parents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Alisa Beyer and grandparents are Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr and Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen Beyer (Sabetha, KS).

A warm welcome is extended to Bro. Lucas Frank, originally from LaCrosse, IN, as he has accepted a full-time position here in Detroit.

As we know, June is not only for weddings but also graduations. Congratulations and many blessed hopes for the future go out to our college graduate, Bro. Jason Rauhe (Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay) and to our high school graduates: Bro. Scott Bahr (Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn), Sis. Heather Hitz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy) and Jon Meyer (Bro. Mark and Sis. Kristie).

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Delores Sauder

"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 high school graduate is Aric

Bergstrom (Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie). We with him God's blessings as he takes the next step on life's journey.

Those who attended college here and graduated are Bro. Kurtis Dominick (Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma, Morris), Sis. Karla Schmidgall (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby, Morris), and Bro. Micah Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel, Morris). Dallas Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sheryl, Lester) graduated last semester. To our dismay, they have all returned to their home area for employment but hope they will visit us often.

We enjoyed Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner's (Princeville, IL) presence and comments at our June Bible Study on "A Disciple". We were encouraged to grow in knowledge and understanding to become better disciples.

Many of us enjoyed a blessed evening in Winthrop on June 12, as Bro. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) shared with us the results of having a strong faith. May God richly bless him.

We thank and ask God's blessing for our Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) for ministering God's Word to us.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Nancy Wulf

Dianne Kellenberger

We were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of our new brothers and sister in faith: Kevin Joos (Bro. Harv and Sis. Debra) and Trevor and Jodi Schmidgall. We welcome them into the fold and pray they will stay close to God throughout their lives.

"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

On May 31, we partook of Holy

Communion in remembrance of our Saviour. Assisting Elder Bro. Art Nohl with the testimonies, baptisms, and communion were Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH).

We appreciate the exhortation Bro. Bill had on what a blessed privilege it is to have the King James Version Bible in our possession.

Also ministering to us that same weekend was Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA).

"Flourishing youth thou our hope and our fond expectation." (Zion's Harp #168). June 13-14 was our Youth Fellowship weekend. Sowing seeds of goodness for this memorable event were Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN), retired Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA), and Bros. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH), Dale Wulf and Rodney Bajema (Lester, IA).

We're grateful for the efforts of our ministers, teachers and parents for the benefit of our youth. We pray the teachings given them will be a treasured memory and by God's tender mercy and grace may they "hark to the voice that is calling in kind invitation."

We're so thankful Emily Koehl and David Messner have submitted their hearts to the Lord in repentance. We wish them God's guidance and blessings on their spiritual journey. Emily is the daughter of Bro. Arnold and Sis. Sharon Koehl. David is the son of Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy Messner.

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

Matthew 5:4

Our dear Sis. Marie Feuchtenberger went to her eternal rest on June 5. She is survived by two sisters-in-law, Harriet Feuchtenberger of Willmar, MN and Sis. Emma Feuchtenberger of Morris, as well as many nieces and nephews. We're so thankful Sis. Marie could spend her later years in peace and contentment with her Lord. Our prayers are with her family and loved ones.

There are times in life when each

of us must endure fiery trials. When times of discouragement come, or even the death of a loved one, let us lean upon the everlasting arms of our Lord. He will carry us through.

Congratulations to Bruce and Penny Schmidgall on the birth of their son, Bryce Richard. Sharing their joy is his big sister, Samantha. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine Schmidgall and Bud and Judy Becker.

Delighted with their new arrival were Jon and Lori Moser. Little Joanna Lee was born to them on June 4. Jenna and Jacob are also excited to have a little sister. Happy grandparents are Sis. Noreen Moser (the late Bro. Dave Moser), Glen and Nancy Knopp and Corrine Kruize.

On June 8, Bro. Paul and Sis. Shawn Schmidgall welcomed a precious daughter into their family circle. There to greet Shayla Faye were her sisters, Anna, Larissa and Melinda. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Eileen Nohl and Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall. God be with these families as they teach their children to glorify Him.

Observance of Independence Day in July is a special time to remember the many blessings we still enjoy in this great land of America and to continue to pray for peace and freedom.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks for all of the prayers, cards, memorials and deeds of kindness shown to us at the sudden passing of our father and grandpa, Bro. Gotlieb Joos. May God bless each one.

Bro. Harv and Sis. Debra Joos and family

Gary and Lorrie Joos and family

Dennis Joos

Sis. Marilyn Joos

Nolan and Kathy Kloehn and family

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Carol Ann Messner

Becky Braulick

Greetings!

"Be not afraid nor dismayed; for

the battle is not yours, but God's. Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you: for the Lord will be with you."

II Chronicles 20:15,17

We thank Bro. Michael Baumann and his wife, Sis. Florina (Mansfield, OH), for their visit to our congregation. Bro. Mike's talk set our hearts and minds to contemplating how much our freedom should mean to us. Our country has set aside the 4th of July to honor our freedom of independence. May we remember with reverence the four freedoms which our country is based upon: freedom of worship, freedom from fear, freedom from want, and freedom of speech. God has blessed the United States in bountiful ways. Will we continue to uphold the faith of our fathers?

Sierra Rose Schmidt, born May 30, was welcomed home by big brother, Tristan, dad and mom, Bro. Clint and Sis. Maggie. We wish them God's grace and blessings with their little girl. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou Schmidt and Bro. Waldemir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher (Kitchener, Canada).

Russell Miller (Sam and Sandy) was our graduate this spring. We wish Russell God's best in his life as he continues on in schools of higher learning.

Our Sunday School students and teachers enjoyed a picnic and games at the park to end the Sunday School year. We thank the Sunday School teachers for their time and love shown to our children.

A special thank you to the Morris congregation for hosting the annual Youth Fellowship weekend for the area Bible class students.

Notes of Thanks:

Bro. Harold and Sis. Gerry Messner want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and visits while both were hospital patients and recuperating at home.

I wish to thank everyone who sent cards, the prayers and the visits as

a hospital patient with another back surgery. May God bless each one. It was deeply appreciated.

Sis. Geri Messner (Marvin)

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Brent Kellenberger

On June 13-14 we were privileged to witness the testimony and baptism of Bro. Kent Steffen. We were blessed with many visitors who came to share this weekend. Ministering brethren in attendance were Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), and Bros. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) and Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS). We are thankful that these brothers were with us and willing to be used in the Lord's work. We thank each one who traveled to be with us.

This month we joyfully welcomed baby Emma Lorraine, daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Amy Ginzel. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Ginzel and Bro. Mike and Sis. Carol Rieker (both of Peoria, IL). We are thankful for yet another child in our growing congregation.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS) and Bill Emch. We thank these brothers for ministering the Gospel. May each of us remember that in some way, we are all ministers of the glorious Gospel. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven." (Matt. 5:16).

In Vacation Bible School last week, the Sermon on the Mount was one of the many valuable teachings that we covered. This year, I was reminded once more how much can be learned when one goes from passively reading and listening, to actively teaching the Word. Children come up with many questions! Teachers for VBS this year were Sis. Marty Rokey, Sis. Holly Wales, Sis. Marla Stoller, Bro. Tim Lehman, and Bro. Brent Kellenberger. We thank each parent, child and teacher who participated in this effort.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Martha Kellenberger
Carolyn Banwart

We appreciated having Elder Bro. Charles Sinn and his wife, Sis. Karen (Fort Scott, KS), with us this past month. May God bless him for laboring on our behalf.

Sis. Vannessa Luthi (Bro. Troy) was in the hospital this past month. We trust God will heal and strengthen her again.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Betsy Schrenk

Yesterday is passed. We are not assured of tomorrow. If today you hear His voice, it is the day of salvation.

So was our church reminded to seek the Lord while we have the time—TODAY. Blessing us with teachings from God's Word this month were the following ministering brothers: Bros. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) and Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO).

We were also reminded that if we are not ashamed to confess God's name before men, Christ will profess our names before God. Here in the U.S. we may face derision or scorn (although usually not, in my experience) if we share our faith; what a small price to pay for the opportunity to perhaps mean the difference to some lost, seeking soul of eternal life or eternal death. What if your testimony is the answer to someone praying to find the way out of his or her misery and he doesn't even have a good concept of the One who is there to hear his prayers, much less of Christ and His sacrifice?

While traveling, my daughter met a young man in an airport who had been her friend in high school. After getting reacquainted and talking of many other things, she eventually told him of the wonderful change that God had wrought in her life. He said, "I could tell within the first five minutes that you were a completely different person."

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Tina Sutter

"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."

John 1:3

It occurred to me today that all our needs are supplied by God. My son asked me for a clean bowl so he could eat breakfast. About one minute later he asked me again, like we do so patiently. He didn't realize that I was working on it. First I had to unload the dishwasher so I could put the dishes that were in the sink in the dishwasher. I couldn't fill up the sink with clean water and soap until I had everything out of the sink. Then, could I wash his bowl. In life, one thing leads to another but everything comes down to one source. That source is God. Every need we have is supplied by God in some way. I couldn't fill his need if God hadn't given us water. Think about it and be thankful. Every good thing comes from God.

We are thankful that God watched over our group that went to Jamaica to help with the project at the school for the deaf children. It sounds like they had a blessed time and they are all ready to go back again.

There were several people in our congregation that had some minor difficulties this month. Elaine Hoerr, Annalynn Knochel, Rick Knochel, Jimmy Sutter, and Marcia Massner. We are thankful that all are recovering. Jim Sutter was hospitalized recently. He and his family still struggle with his illness and covet your prayers.

NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Anna Mellnitz

"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 remem-

branch 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

On May 24 we had brothers and sisters from Akron, OH and Rockville, CT. We had a potluck supper and singing at Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney's cottage at Cape Vincent after Sunday services.

On June 13-14, we had visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) and Ed Aeschleman (Sis. Nancy, Philadelphia, PA). We had a potluck and singing on Saturday night and on Sunday after services we partook of Holy Communion, with Elder Bros. Kevin and Ed assisting Elder Bro. Duane Farney. It is a wonderful uplifting experience to our spirits when we share the Lord's supper with our brothers and sisters. Afterwards, we had a meal together. It was a blessed day.

On June 6, Renata Virkler and John Dawson were married. Her parents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Mae Virkler and his parents are Karen Dawson and John Dawson.

Joe Bush (Linette) is in the hospital. Bro. Lowell Virkler (Celia) fell and dislocated his shoulder. Sis. Julia Karcher had surgery on her eyes on June 17. May God's healing hand be with you.

Note of Thanks:

We sincerely thank everyone for their kind expression of sympathy and prayers in the passing of our loved one, Bro. Floyd Graves, Sr. May God bless you.

The Floyd Graves family

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

Bro. Tim and Sis. Joanne Schar became a new father and mother with the birth of a precious baby boy, Joel Timothy, born May 29. His grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Audrey Graf and Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar. May God's blessings be upon them.

We appreciated Bro. Gary

Maibach's visit with inspiring messages for us.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Nancy Banks

As summer progresses, the number of visitors increase and we are so pleased when they make Columbus a stop on their travel itinerary. Visiting ministers with us this month were Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and his family, Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) and his family, and Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and several family members and friends from the Mansfield congregation on a Wednesday evening. We welcome all who will be traveling on summer trips and vacations to stop and see us in Columbus. We really appreciate the company!

May 31 was our graduate breakfast, honoring Will Sauder upon his high school graduation and Sis. Emily Banks who has graduated from nursing school. Both Will and Sis. Emily hope to attend Ohio State this fall for further schooling.

OHIO, JUNCTION Sandra Manz

Several years after I started reporting for the Silver Lining, a dear sister from the Rittman congregation asked me if the months seemed to go faster now that I had a new deadline to meet. This was one of those months where the deadline took me off guard.

Doug Schlatter called his parents with a broken and contrite spirit to express his need for repentance. Our prayers and thoughts reach out to him as he attends school in the Elgin, IL area.

We were refreshed with words of Life when Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Sis. Joan, Leo, IN) spent a Wednesday evening with us. May God bless his ministry.

OHIO, LATTY Kathy Sinn Heidi Hackenjos

Our high school graduates this

spring are Joni Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne), Bethany Laukhuf (Bro. Dwain and Sis. Wanita), Laurel Laukhuf (Bro. Bill and Janice), Clint Plummer (Steve), Heidi Schlatter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky), Sis. Shelby Sinn (Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee), Sis. Amanda Steffen (Bro. Donn and Sis. Karen), Blane Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth), Corbin Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb), Bro. Jeff Stoller (Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnn), Kayla Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol), Summer Stoller (Bro. Mark and Sis. Shirley), Austin Wenninger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Alice), and Todd Wenninger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Deb). Our college graduates include Tammy Tierney (Michael), Bro. Jason Whitman (Sis. Lori), and Bro. Chris Laukhuf. May each one receive the Lord's blessings as they journey on in life.

We thank the ministers who shared the Word with us this past month: Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI), Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Walt Rager (Toledo, OH).

Bro. Jason Whitman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen) and Sis. Lori Laukhuf (Bro. Rod and Sis. Edie) exchanged wedding vows on Sunday, June 7. May the Lord bless this couple in their new life together. Erin Laukhuf (Bro. Dwain and Sis. Wanita) and Ian Gilbert (Steve and Lisa, Decatur, IN) were married on May 16.

Bro. Clem Weiland had surgery this month and Charles Yoh suffered from a broken hip. May the Lord grant a speedy recovery.

Our convert, Denise Plummer (Bro. Rick), was announced as having peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing her testimony and witnessing her baptism.

Two little bundles of joy came to families in our church. Clint Kyle was born to Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet Sinn. Thad, Calvin, Marla, Nolan, Tanya and Gina welcome their new brother home. Grandparents are Bro. Morris and Sis. Alma Steidinger (Fairbury, IL) and Bro.

Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn. Bro. Doug and Annette Nygaard welcome home Jacob Andrew. Jonathan, Leah, and Logan are thankful for their new playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Lorine Hackenjoes and Philip and Geri Nygaard (Mesa, AZ).

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Cari Mann

On May 17, a breakfast was held at the church to honor all those graduating from high school. Our graduates include Troy Baltic (Bro. Pete and Sis. Karen), Tracy Batten (Bro. Mike and Carolyn), Tracy Beard (Larry and Sis. Donna), Matt Domka (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary-Ann), Rick Domka (Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie), Matt Dotterer (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Betty), Tom Hill (Bro. Chip and Sis. Seda), Edward Ramsey (Bro. Ed and Sis. Laura), Sara Sabo (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharon) and Chesney Sauder (Steve and Lori). May each of these young people also keep in mind the important step they must take as they now go either on to college or to begin their life's work.

Also graduating from the Mansfield Med Central School of Nursing are Sis. Emily Banks (Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy, Columbus, OH), Kelly Bauman (Sis. Nancy Bauman and Dale Bauman, Rittman, OH), Matthew Beard (Bro. Dave and Sis. Geri, Toledo, OH) and Sis. Joni Beer (Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue). As these young people now begin their work in the medical field, may they always feel God's presence with them. We bid farewell to Sis. Emily, Kelly and Matthew as they will now be returning to their home churches.

"Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more."

1 Thess. 4:1

We were blessed with many visiting brethren this month. They include Elder Bros. Gene Pamer

(Akron, OH), Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA). It is our heartfelt prayer that each one of these brothers and their families would receive a multitude of blessings for their willingness to serve us.

"A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth."

Eccles. 7:1

Saying goodbye to a loved one is never easy but when a Christian passes on, we can celebrate the day of death for we know their earthly struggles have passed. Our prayers are with Sis. Tammy Beer (Bro. Chuck) and her family in the passing of her grandfather, Bro. Ernest Hartzler (Sis. Pauline, Rittman, OH). May they ever feel our loving sympathy.

"For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,"

Hebrews 2:11

What a blessing it is to add two more brethren to the flock! The weekend of June 13-14, we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of our newest sister and brother. They are Sis. Stephanie Domka (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary-Ann) and Bro. Jared Hill (Bro. Chip and Sis. Seda). As they now begin what may be a long life of serving Christ, may they ever strive to draw closer to Him and serve Him ever faithfully.

Marjorie Dawson is an excited little girl. She now has a sister to play with. Elizabeth Ann was born June 8 to Bro. Ed and Sis. Judy Dawson. Jonathan and Matthew are also excited for a new playmate. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue Beer. As they strive to raise their little ones, may they ever feel the Lord's guiding hand on their lives.

Meet today in social union,
Spend the hour in sweet communion
As in seasons past,
Christian friendship is a treasure,
Pure in nature, rich in measure,
Filling us with heav'nly pleasure,
While the moments last,
While the moments last.

Hymns of Zion #53

It is with loving hearts that we wish to welcome Bro. Rudy Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) who is living here for the summer. We hope that he finds his stay here will be a fond memory when it comes time for him to once again return home.

The week of June 15 we held our annual Vacation Bible School. We had the privilege of five visiting brethren that week who each exhorted us to strive ever onward toward that goal. On Monday, we listened to Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) tell us about "Humility and Yieldedness". On Tuesday, Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) instructed us on "A Believer's Conduct in the Workplace". On Wednesday, Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH) advised us about "Regular Church Services". On Thursday, Bro. Glenn Riggerbach (Smithville, OH) taught us about "Self-denial, Crossbearing and Suffering". On Friday, Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS) showed us "The Cost of Conversion". May each of these brethren accept our humble thanks for taking time out of their week to come and be with us. Also, may they each receive the Lord's richest blessings for their willingness to be used.

"And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was free born."

Acts 22:28

As the time of year approaches that we celebrate the freedom of our country, let us each take some time to think about the "freedom" we have through the birth, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. If we are truly converted, we

can rejoice in the freedom from our previous sins. We could not, as the chief captain, use a great sum to obtain this freedom; it could only have come through the blood of Christ. As we celebrate the freedom from the tyranny of England of old, let us each think about the reasons behind that fighting. Those men were fighting in part for religious freedom. How thankful we can be that we do not have to fight for our religious freedom today but are allowed to worship in the way we believe is true and right. Let us ever strive to serve our Lord who purchased our freedom for us and keep striving for that day when we can celebrate the final victory.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Lucy Gasser - Carla Stoller

After fulfilling a life of service to God and his family, Bro. Ernest Hartzler has gone to his eternal reward. We extend sympathy to his wife, Sis. Pauline, and children, Bro. Ken (Sis. Jane, Smithville, OH), Ben (Sandy), Bro. Dean (Sis. Jan), Bro. Dick (Sis. Karen), Sis. Kate, Sis. Lynell Palitto (Bro. Ron, Akron, OH) and Sis. Nancy Bauman.

Lance Michael joined the family of Bro. Heinz and Sis. Tanya Zierau on May 27. Family members to help care for Lance are his sister, Paige, and brothers, Blake and Logan, and grandparents, Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger and Jerry and Edie Zierau.

John and Sis. Cynthia Nussbaum welcomed another girl into their family on June 8. Rebecca Elaine's sister is Rachel and grandparents are John Nussbaum, Sr. and Elizabeth Arko and Erwin and Geraldine Wagner.

Gregory Jon was born to Jon and Diana Gasser on June 8. Emily and Zachary and grandparents, Sis. Marie Gasser and Carl and Lois Artrip, welcome him into the family.

Carrie Smithberger and Eric Stoner were married June 6. Their parents are Barry and Jean Smithberger and Donald and Michele Stoner.

Bro. Joe Ramsier (Bro. Marvin

and Sis. Terri) and Sis. Kendra Steffen (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janice, Forrest, IL) were united in marriage June 7. As each couple begin their lives together, may they be blessed and guided by God.

Sis. Velma Hartzler has recently spent time in the hospital. May God daily provide for her needs.

We rejoice that Scott Steiner (Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat) has answered God's call. We trust that Scott will enjoy the blessings of serving God.

On June 14, the engagement of Bro. Brad Widmer (Bro. Harold and Sis. Carole) and Sis. Jody Moore (Randy and Sis. Bev) was announced. May God bless and guide them as they prepare for marriage.

Note of Thanks:

Sincere thanks to our brethren and friends for sharing your love and prayerful support during the illness and death of our loved one. May God bless you all.

The Family of Sis. Joyce Hartzler

OHIO, SARDIS Joy Indermuhle

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

II Corinthians 4:5

Our visiting minister for the month was Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA). We thank him for his willingness to share God's Word with us on Sunday. May the Lord's blessings be his.

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

Proverbs 20:7

We wish to congratulate Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger on the birth of their first grandchild, Carl Elias, born to their children, Bro. Matthew and Sis. Bridget Rassi (Philadelphia, PA), on June 13. May God richly bless Carl, his parents, and grandparents as they strive to

raise him in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

Joyce Indermuhle (Sis. Martha) and Bart Wiggins (Delvin and Mary, Woodsfield, OH) were married on June 13. May God bless their marriage.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Ruth Gasser - Edith Miller

Visiting ministers who have labored in our congregation during the past month were Bros. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH), John Stoller (Leo, IN), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH). May God richly bless them for their efforts.

Our high school graduates and their parents were recently honored with a breakfast, at which time they were also presented a Bible. We trust they will use this Book as a daily guide for their lives in the future.

"Whoso findeth a wife, findeth a good thing..." (Proverbs 18:22). The engagement of Bro. Adam Uhler (Dale and Sis. Marilyn) and Sis. Ann Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois) was made known recently. May the Lord be with them as they prepare for this important event in their lives.

We have two new babies to report this month. On May 14, John and Jennifer Brewer became the parents of Caralyn Mae. She is welcomed home by Brandee, Olivia, and John and also grandparents, Bro. Norman and Sis. Audrey Beery.

On May 28, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Millie Stoller welcomed Owen Matthew into their family. Owen's sisters and brother are Lynn, Marcy, and Neil. His grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Eileen Stoller. May God's presence be felt in both of these homes.

We are sorry to report Bro. Don Stoller (Sis. Luzelda) had to spend time in the hospital again recently. May he feel God's healing and comfort.

We extend our love and sympathy to Bro. Ken Hartzler (Sis. Jane) in

the death of his father, Bro. Ernest Hartzler (Rittman).

Our dear Sis. Florence Hanzie was called to her eternal rest on June 12. We extend our sympathy to her three children, Larry (Janet), Sis. Gloria Hartzler (Bro. Stan), and Terry (Sandy). We trust that God will provide comfort to them in their time of need.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter

We had a time of blessed fellowship at our annual Sunday School picnic on June 14. Since we do not have any students in the junior or senior high classes in Sunday School at this time, each family in church was encouraged to invite another family to join us for the day. We shared a picnic supper at a park and enjoyed spending time with those from various congregations. Among our guests was Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) who served us in the ministry. May his efforts be blessed by God.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Mary Berg - Louisa Gallup

As the schools are closing for the summer, so a chapter in the lives of our High School graduates is closed and a new one begins. We will surely miss Jeremy Martin (Bro. Denny and Sis. Lori) as he will continue his studies at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. May the Lord be with him, guide and protect him. Our prayers of support also for Bro. Denny and Sis. Lori who will miss Jeremy the most. Since the distance is so great, it will not be so easy to visit back and forth.

We thank the visitors who made the extra efforts to worship with us this past month. And our special thanks to our faithful visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) and Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), both from Silverton, OR.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

There was a good turnout at Restless Surf for the Spring Clean Up last month. Around 25 people participated in the effort. The stairways were painted; the windows washed; the first floor kitchen rejuvenated with a thorough cleaning, new curtains and wallpaper border; and the whole three-story house was cleaned. But the most impressive improvements were outside, like the frosting on the cake...the clean flower beds, barkdust, mowed lawns and baskets of flowers hanging from the decks...gives the inside work a nice finish. There is also improved access to all sides of the "cabin" thanks to the weed-eater and chain-saw crew, and even a outdoor stone fireplace in the backyard. The satisfaction of the accomplishments and the wonderful fellowship of working together are ample reward for all who came but we do pray for God's blessings on the project, as well.

A special carry-in supper was held to commemorate our High School graduates on the last Sunday of May. As usual, the parents of the graduates host the evening and provide the dessert: a beautifully decorated cake with all the names of the graduates. This year those names were Sis. Amanda Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda), Ruth Kuenzi (Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane), Brian Dietrich (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan), Craig Walter (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen) and Kevin Dettwyler (Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene). As is our custom, the first five songs of the singing are chosen by these fine young people who have well accomplished their high school requirements and now move on into greater challenges and greater responsibilities. May the Lord bless them all.

There were also several graduating from college this year. Oregon State University was the school choice of each of the following: Bro. Adam Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann), Christopher Kuenzi (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marilyn), Bro. Curt Walter (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen), and Stacy Metzger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte, Lester, IA). Stacy

took her senior year at OSU but actually graduated from SDSU at Brookings, SD in May. Sixteen years of studying and learning and now comes the opportunity to use what they have learned in schools, at home from loving parents and at Sunday School and church. May they ever look to the Lord for their guidance and example through life.

Getting a good start on life at more than ten pounds was Carson James Zollinger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Tresa) on June 3. His little sister, Brianna, loved him from the beginning and he is also welcomed by grandparents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger and Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda. He has so many advantages already over so many millions of babies born, that he has been born into a Christian, loving family who will do their very best for him and raise him up to know of our Lord Jesus, but the ultimate choice will be his own responsibility, as with us all.

We were sorry to hear of the vehicle accident that took the life of Dale Martin, Belvidere, IL on June 10. May our merciful Lord send comfort to all the family, which includes his sister, Sis. Betty Metz (Elder Bro. Art). Thankfully, Bro. Art and Sis. Betty were able to travel to Illinois for the funeral.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

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

Galatians 5:22-23

We were saddened to learn of the relocation of Sis. Rachel Clough and her two sisters, Faith and Hope, and Bro. David Eric Roberts, all who moved to the Bluffton, IN area. We know that many prayers were offered asking God for direction and we trust that He will continue to provide for their every need both for body and for soul.

Just as some have moved from

our area, so also are some moving into our area. We welcome Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Fehr from Champaign, IL and Brian and June Crockett from Altadena, CA into our Philadelphia congregation. May God likewise bless them in every way in their relocation efforts and this new experience.

We also welcome another new addition to our congregation with the arrival of Carl Elias Rassi born to Bro. Matthew and Sis. Bridget (Indermuhle) Rassi on June 13. May God bless this loving family as they raise up their child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

We appreciated the efforts of ministering Bro. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA) as he lent himself to bring God's Word to us in all purity and power. We are thankful that God has blessed our churches with sincere brothers who are willing to stand forth and minister God's Word of truth as inspired by the Spirit.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Gwen Leuthold

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

II Timothy 1:7

Aren't we glad that we as Christians do not have to fear what will happen to us in the future? God's Word is full of promises that assure us that He will be with us to provide for our every need whether those needs are for the basic necessities of life, spiritual or emotional.

"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."

John 14:18

"If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."

John 14:14

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

John 14:27

"Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?"

Luke 12:24

As we celebrate the Independence of our Country on July 4th, let us also celebrate the freedom we have in knowing Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour believing His promises that He will provide for our future needs.

This past month, we welcomed Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and his wife, Sis. Marilyn. Many other visitors also worshipped with us. We thank all of you for your traveling efforts and pray the Lord will richly bless you.

We encourage all who are in the Nashville area to come and worship with us. Services are scheduled for the first and third Sundays of each month beginning at 10:00 a.m. Ministers are scheduled to be with us from the following churches: August 9 (Goodfield, IL) - postponed one week; August 23 (Princeville, IL) - postponed one week; September 6 (LaCrosse, IN); September 20 (Junction, OH). If you plan to worship with us, please contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Monica Fritz (615) 353-8835; or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940. Additionally, please call if you are in Nashville during the weekends of the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month as we usually meet for a tape service.

TEXAS, CENTRAL

Dan and Pam Sauder

We look forward to Sunday worship gatherings. It is a joy to worship and fellowship with our local group and those who come to support us and share God's Word.

Visiting ministers this month include Bros. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL), Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ), and Gene Metzger (Sis. Delores, Lester, IA).

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

This month we are harvesting our figs from the fig tree in our yard. I process these figs and put them in our freezer to eat this winter. In the Bible it mentions that when preparing for a journey, they sometimes took figs with them to eat.

"Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched corn, and a hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on asses."

I Samuel 25:18

Declaration of Independence

In 1776, America was born
The war was fought, blood was spilt,
So a nation could be born.
A man named Jefferson, took a pen
in hand
And declared the independence of
the land.
We declared our independence from
the chain of tyranny.
We stood up to the oppression and
pronounced the nation free.
Our constitution proclaims it and
brings out from shore to shore,
That America is a free land and will
stay forevermore.

2000 years ago, a man was nailed to
a tree,
Since war was fought, blood was

spilt
 So the people could be free.
 This man named Jesus, took the
 nails in his hands,
 To declare the independence of all
 men.
 He declared our independence from
 the chains of sin and grief.
 He pronounced our sins forgiven
 and laid out the path of peace.
 The empty tomb proclaims it,
 Angels sing from heaven's shore

And mankind's been liberated and
 that darkness reigns no more.
 Oh, my nation's been delivered
 from the chain of tyranny,
 And my soul has found redemption
 in the blood of Calvary.
 The empty tomb proclaims it and
 the constitution states it clear,
 That I'm free and I'm forgiven and
 the final victory's here.
 —author unknown

How thankful we can be that our
 forefathers were God-fearing and
 could establish such a great nation.
 At times we may feel discouraged
 but we have so many freedoms and
 liberties. Let us thank God daily for
 the bountiful blessings He shares
 unto us. Independence Day should
 be remembered.

The Soul of Man

To Jesus I must flee
 The One who died for me
 Erase my sin.
 My poor tormented soul
 Now seeks for a new goal,
 I'm guilty before Thee
 O relieve me.

I was misled and strayed
 To die I am afraid
 Cast out the foe.
 I want to live for Thee
 Ever so weak I be,
 Thou art my only help
 I trust in Thee!

Baptism is desired
 By God it is required
 Dead man buried.
 A covenant is made
 New spirit reinstate,
 In this new living soul
 To dwell within.

Within I feel forlorn
 The need to be reborn
 Through Thy shed blood.
 Repent is Thy command
 I need Thy mercy hand,
 Forsake me not I pray
 I long for rest.

Now guilt did disappear
 Also torment and fear
 Peace entered in.
 God's mercy was applied
 Because of me He died,
 Now that I am set free
 I'll live for Thee.

Now I belong to God
 His blessings are my lot
 Holy Spirit!
 Jesus is my brother
 Thus love for each other,
 In God's family tree
 A child of God.

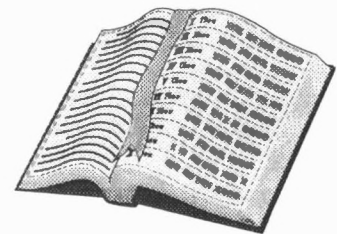
O God break down my pride.
 Let me walk by Thy side
 I long for peace.
 I'm broken to pieces
 Please help me, Lord Jesus,
 Sin confession must be
 To set me free.

Satan was forced to flee
 And lost his hold on me
 Hallelujah!
 I'll forever praise God
 While treading on this sod,
 Rejoicing in His love
 Fortunate me.

*These words were written by a
 brother in faith to be sung to the tune
 of "My Country 'Tis of Thee".*

God loves a humble heart
 Praying removes the smart
 I need Thy grace.
 Unworthy before Thee
 Cast my sins in the sea,
 To forget forever
 Jesus come in.

My sins are forgiven
 I'm longing for heaven
 Rest evermore.
 I'm not afraid of death
 Repentance set me free,
 Bliss in eternity
 To be with God.



Sermon continued from page 2

So when I read this verse: "...for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." (Revelation 12:12). I don't know exactly when this is referring to. He could be talking about a later war. But he could also be talking about that time period when Satan was kicked out of Heaven. But because Christ had already been crucified, resurrected and ascended, and done His work when this was written—when the revelation was given to John—it could be talking about a combination of past and future tense.

It could possibly be alluding to this short time as since the beginning of Adam and Eve in the garden. Do you say a short time? When we get several million years out there into eternity, yes, it's going to be a very short time. "...because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." (Rev. 12:12).

How much time do we have? How much time do I have? How much time do you have? Does anybody know? I think, for some reason it comes to my mind, of the Value Jet that went down in the swamp in Florida. If I remember correctly, I think the last message they heard at the control tower from the pilot was something like, "We have time..." and that was it, and they were gone. They lost contact and they found them in the swamp.

"...for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." (Revelation 12:12). I think of military war. I think of Baghdad and I think of the U.S.A. I think of all our people at the Pentagon and all the other places that are doing intensive planning right now. Not just now, but the planning that's going on and all the thoughts about military intelligence and if we strike, where it will be.

Where are their weak spots? Where are their communication centers? Where are their missiles at? Where are they pointed? Where are their arsenals? Where are their supplies? Where is all that stuff? Because if we go to war, we are going to target that stuff. We understand

that. We can see that after it happens, we can see it.

We can't see spirits. You know spirits are things that are also powerful. When I think of a spirit, I think of right now going through this room are all types of energy waves. You don't see them. But if we set down a receiving device, a radio right here and turned it on, if it had energy, and it worked, all of a sudden we would have sound coming from this radio that came from those energy waves that we can't see. But they are here all the time. There are all types of energy waves going through this room, but we can't see them.

We don't comprehend that there is energy in this room until we have a receiving device, or until we see action, or until something takes place. Spirits are like that. We can't see them, but they are spirits. These spirits, the devil and his angels, and his spirits are at war. We don't always recognize that until it's too late.

"...for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." (Revelation 12:12). There are all types of examples that we can think of where someone was asleep and woke up too late. I think of an example of one of the clearest experiences I ever had.

I was in Washington D.C. I had been there for a couple days. It was Sunday morning and I was looking very forward to gathering with some brothers. It is a small little gathering in Washington D.C. I had planned my route all out as I had been there before. I took a long walk on Sunday morning down to the foggy bottom Metro station. I know that I have to go to Metro Central to change trains.

I know I'm going to get on the line heading, I think, it was the orange line, orange or blue, whatever, and I'm going to go west straight out of D.C. and then get off and take a short shuttle to go to church.

It was a nice morning. I am sitting down, relaxed, and visiting with some people on the train. All of a sudden, I hear the conductor on the train say, "Next stop, Pentagon."

Fortunately I had been there before to know that something is wrong, because the Pentagon shouldn't be on this stop. The Pentagon is after you hook South to go towards National Airport, and I'm not going South, I'm going West. That is what I thought.

I immediately knew I was in trouble. I immediately knew I was on the wrong train. I was fortunate that I had left early enough that I had time to get off at the next stop and transfer to another train and go on back the other direction.

But what really struck me was that I had missed several very important key signs. I should have clearly known I was on the wrong train, but I didn't. I was living under the illusion that everything is fine, when I was going in the wrong direction all the time.

There are other interesting parallels to life, and one is this. In the D.C. Metro system at times, there are multiple trains running on the same tracks. I literally was on the right track for a period of time. I was at the right place, but multiple trains stopped at the same track. Now I shouldn't have missed it there either, because not only are they color coded, but on the train they will always list the name of the last stop. I could have read it on the train, but I missed it. I got on the wrong train.

There was another warning sign which is every time they come to a stop, they will say, "Pentagon City, next stop Pentagon." They will also say, when they take off, the name of the train, the color and the last stop. I missed all of those. You know, sometimes, usually on those trains, the sound is kind of muffled. The person isn't talking real clear, the message isn't real clear, but you've got to pay attention and listen.

I think of that parallel and the reality is it is so easy for us as humans to be preoccupied with other things and we think we are on the right train. The reality is this: it doesn't matter what we think. We are on one of two trains. Time is limited. We don't know how much

Sermon continued on next page

Sermon continued from page 45

time we have, but we are on one of two trains. One of those trains says Heaven, and it's powered by the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

The other train is labeled Hell, hellfire and damnation. The reality is that is the only place those trains are going. We are never ever going to get there; it's absolutely impossible. I could have ridden that wrong train for days and I would have never gotten where I wanted to go. Unless we are on that train bound for Heaven, we are never ever, ever going to get there.

My wife and I had a similar experience again last September. I had a meeting in Belgium and we were there for a few days time. We knew some friends over there and went to visit them. It was late one evening. There were multiple trains that we could have caught from St. Troiden back to go to Antwerp. We were enjoying our visit. They said, "You have plenty of time; we'll put you on the last train."

We had ridden that train the previous day, and every time we had wanted to get off the train, when it would stop, we would get up to get off the car and the doors to the car were open. We were coming from St. Troiden back into Brussels, it's late and the train came to a stop at the North Brussels rail station. We got up to go to the doors but the doors didn't open. We had never had to open them before. I didn't realize that you had to hit a button to open the doors to the train.

We got there and the doors didn't open. It doesn't stop very long, because it's late and there weren't very many passengers. We hear the sound of air. The brakes are released and the train starts to move again. By now it's going from the North to the Central Brussels rail station. With that in mind, the optimistic side of me said, "That's okay, we'll catch the next train coming back this way and it'll take us to Antwerp."

We got to Brussels and we checked it out and the last train had left two minutes ago. So we went to the station and asked, "How do we get to Brussels tonight?" He said, "You can't." "How do we get to Ant-

werp tonight?" He said, "You can't." "Anymore trains?" He said, "No. There are no more trains out of here until something like four or five in the morning."

I said, "What about motels?" He said, "There is none here, but there is one more Brussels station. You can go down there and check."

We went down the street and stopped at the first hotel and they said, "We are full." We said, "What about the others?" He said, "Already people have been by here and all the places are filled and there are no places to stay."

We spent the night in the cold. At a certain time after midnight, they shut the heat off in the Brussels railroad station. We spent the night in the Brussels railroad station, having had a room bought and paid for back in Antwerp. We didn't know anybody and it was kind of spooky and it was cold and it wasn't very comfortable.

I thought, "Wow! What a lesson." Someday, somewhere, someone is going to get caught and they are going to remember that there were two trains. You know, I heard about that. I heard about the message of Jesus Christ, but I thought I was okay. I thought I was on the right train. Or you know, I thought, "I'll catch the next one. I'll catch the next one tomorrow. I've got plenty of time."

It is going to hit someone after the rapture comes and all the believers that they knew are gone. All of a sudden, it's going to hit them. You know, I had a warm place that was bought and paid for, for me. It was already paid by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. I heard about it, but I didn't get there quick enough and I missed the train.

"...for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." (Revelation 12:12). How much time do we have? What are the stakes? What is the game that we are playing? Do we think that there is a cost to serving Jesus Christ? Do we think that we have to give things up to serve God and Jesus Christ? Do we think that it's too much of a price to pay? If we do, we aren't

seeing very clearly. If we feel that way, if we are foolish enough to feel that way, I shudder to think of the day that we will understand.

You know, Heaven is just absolutely going to be gorgeous and wonderful and marvelous beyond our dreams. No devil, no temptation, no pain, no cancer, no death. Nothing wrong. It's just going to be marvelous!

Hell is just going to be horrible beyond our imagination. I hate to talk about hell. But I have to think that perhaps two of the worst things about hell, beyond pain, is: Who are we going to be there with?

You read the newspapers. You read about the horrible things that are happening in life today, and those are happening because people don't have Jesus Christ in their hearts. If those people never come to Christ in their lifetime, those are the people that somebody is going to be in hell with.

But I think the greatest tragedy, the absolute, utmost, most horrible thing about hell is that it is going to be forever. If any of us find ourself there, we will be forever missing the love of God. We will never ever get to know the true love of a perfect God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Think about this little point of time, thinking about this ray that goes on forever. Think about that the devil views himself as having a short time to deceive us. Where are we going to invest our time or energy? What is going to be our focus?

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." (Revelation 12:17).

Let's be courageous. Let's not be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, even if the majority of the people around us don't care and mock us and make fun of us. Let us never lose sight of that because in the end there are only two destinations. Every living human being has need of what we have.

If we have Jesus Christ in our hearts, we have what every person in the world needs. Let us be thankful. Let us fight the devil for that.

Silver Threads

Have You Thought About Your Soul?



Have you ever stopped to wonder
 What this life is all about
 Why you're here and where you're going
 When your lease on life runs out

Maybe you've been far too busy
 Trying hard to reach your goal
 Would you let me ask you kindly
 Have you thought about your soul?

You may reach the highest portals
 And your dreams may all come true
 Wealth and fame may be your portion
 And success may shine on you

All your friends may sing your praises
 Not a care on you may roll
 What about the great tomorrow
 Have you thought about your soul?

Don't forget your days are numbered
 Though you may be riding high
 But like all us poor mortals
 Someday you'll just up and die

Your success and glory
 Won't be worth the bell they toll
 Let me ask you just one question
 Have you thought about your soul?

You've never thought it over
 Spend a little time today
 There is nothing more important
 That will ever come your way

Than the joy of sins forgiven
 And to know you've been made whole
 In the name of Christ the Saviour
 Have you thought about your SOUL?



Let us set examples for the people
 around us and get their encourage-

ment that there is a better way to
 live life. Let us thank our God for

the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Let
 us live for Him.

Silver Threads

I Will Never Leave Thee, Nor Forsake Thee

Hebrews 13:5

When storms of doubt and unbelief
Rage fierce within your soul;
When faith is weak and clouds are dark
And peals of thunder roll.
O doubting heart, awake! awake!
Let tempests not your soul o'ertake.

When pathways split before you lie
With choices hard to make;
And you know not what next in life
The Lord will undertake.
O fainting heart, be calm and still
And know that God will work His will.

When Satan's flaming darts of fire
Against your soul are hurled,
With all his might and strength employs
Allurements of the world.
O tempted heart, with courage fill
The power of God is stronger still.

When painful burdens of the cross
Press down your soul with care,
And every new onslaught of pain
Compels you to despair.
O feeble heart, be staunch and strong
Deliverance will come ere long.

The God that hears the feeblest prayer
And knows the sparrow's fall,
Protects and guides the weakest saints
Who for His refuge call.
O, heart, arise, fresh courage take!
Thy God will never thee forsake.

—S.J. Fehr

To Those I Love and Those Who Love Me

When I am gone, release me, let me go -
I have so many things to see and do.
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears,
Be thankful for our many beautiful years.

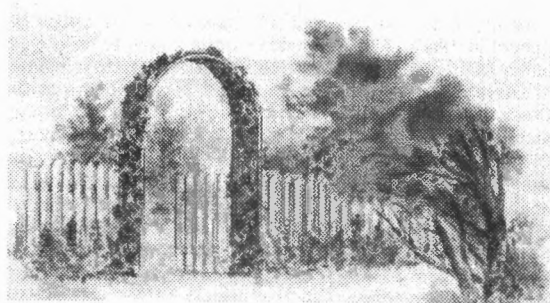
I gave to you my love. You can only guess
How much you gave to me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have shown,
But now it's time I traveled on alone.

So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for a time that we must part
So bless the memories within your heart.

I won't be far away, for life goes on
So if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear
All my love around you soft and clear.

And then, when you must come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and say -
"Welcome home!"

—author unknown



Checklist for Encouragers

FROM 1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 5

<u>Verse</u>	<u>Thought</u>	<u>Suggested Application</u>
5:11	Build each other up.	Point out to someone a quality you appreciate in him or her.
5:12	Give honor to leaders.	Look for ways to cooperate.
5:13	Think highly of leaders.	Withhold your next critical comment about those in positions of responsibility.
5:13	Give wholehearted love to others.	Say "thank you" to your leaders for their efforts.
5:13	Avoid quarreling.	Search for ways to get along with others.
5:14	Warn the lazy.	Challenge someone to join you in a project.
5:14	Comfort the frightened.	Encourage those who are frightened by reminding them of God's promises.
5:14	Tenderly care for the weak.	Support those who are weak by loving them and praying for them.
5:14	Practice patience.	Think of a situation that tries your patience and plan ahead of time how you can stay calm.
5:15	Resist revenge.	Instead of planning to get even with those who mistreat you, do good to them.
5:16	Rejoice.	Remember that even in the midst of turmoil, God is in control.
5:17	Pray continuously.	God is always with you – talk to him.
5:18	Be thankful.	Make a list of all the gifts God has given you, giving thanks to God for each one.
5:19	Do not smother the Holy Spirit.	Cooperate with the Holy Spirit the next time he prompts you to participate in a Christian meeting or to help someone.
5:20	Do not scoff at those who prophesy.	Receive God's word from those who speak for him.
5:22	Keep away from evil.	Avoid situations where you will be drawn into temptation.
5:23	Count on God's constant help.	Realize that the Christian life is to be lived not in our own strength, but through God's power.



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

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18



Excerpts from the diary of Elder Henry Geistlich of Switzerland who visited the existing American churches in 1866.

Saturday, July 7. Near Bloomfield, IA: Today we arose at 4:00 to go on to Pulaski, IA. During the past night it was very hot, and we were unable to sleep. Three brothers and myself were in one room. We would like on our uncomfortable bed, uncovered, yet the sweat would roll down our bodies continuously. One brother lay down on the floor on account of the heat.

Oh, how many burdens and how much trouble there is here on this earth. Today we visited the brethren Miller and others. The church here is young, most of the brethren used to be Mennonites, people who lived much according to the law. This I am writing in Iowa, about 5,500 miles from my earthly home. At times homesickness seems to come over me and a longing for my home in Europe. Here at Pulaski there are many hundred thousand acres of land for sale, as cheap as four dollars and less per acre. The thought came to me that this would be a good place for the poorer brethren to settle.

The climate here is healthier than in Illinois. The wages are also good, but the grain and produce are not worth as much as in Illinois. There is a railroad through this part of the state, which will help the price of grain when it is finished. In the summer it gets hotter and in the winter colder here than at home in Europe.

I saw swine which had their ears frozen. This region does not have as much wood as many other places in America. The snakes and other pests are plentiful. At no place would I like it as well as at home in Europe. Yet when my brethren are assembled together, it became friendlier. I was somewhat burdened to make this trip to Iowa for if the lord doe snot shield us, it is hard to labor in the work of God.

Faith must give us courage and strength. Only belief and faith have the promise of God. Therefore, we must go our way and do our works only through

faith and belief—without faith it is impossible to please God. Therefore, this trip was heavy and bitter for me. I have had to fight many a battle with Satan on my way.

Yet after we came here, the brethren were very glad and joyful over us. The Lord gave us his blessing and His precious Word of Life. So if it doe snot always go as we think and wish, we must let it serve for our best. We are only servants and maid-servants of the Lord. We must at times go away or do a thing in obedience to the Lord, whether we can do it in full belief or not. We find in Samuel I, 15:22, "Behold to obey is better than sacrifice." This is also for all followers of Christ.

Sunday, July 8. Pulaski, IA: Today there was church at Bro. Kropf's. He used to be a leader and preacher for the Mennonites. The entire church consists of about 25 members. They are yet young in their faith. Seemed to be very lovable brethren to me. We had many blessings together and enjoyed ourselves as children of God. Today I felt sick in body, but in the spirit I felt well and was of good courage. Through many afflictions we must be proved and receive from the Lord one victory after another.

Monday, July 9. Pulaski, IA: Today we visited with many brethren in their homes. In the evening there was church. Bro. Josef Bella and myself talked over many things concerning the church.

Tuesday, July 10. Pulaski, IA: Today I wrote several letters; one to the brethren in Zurich, Switzerland and one to Bros. Peter and Joseph Virkler in New Bremen, NY which I sent away by chance, as the mail is not as regular here as at home.

Wednesday, July 11. Pulaski, IA: Today we left Pulaski for Elgin, IA which is in the northern part of the state. We first visited three brethren who live about 26 miles south of here. A brother took us to the Mississippi River, where we boarded a ship for Burlington, which is city on the river. Today we saw a rattlesnake. We could see how with its power of charm it tried to catch a frog. The snake was yet a way off when the frog started to scream

and with all its power tried to escape while it was yet possible for the frog to get away so that it would not become a victim of the snake.

I thought in like manner shall the faithful try to escape from the old serpent, which is Satan. When he is yet far off, we must run for him so that with his charms and calling we do not let ourselves be misled; for if we do not escape, he will swallow us. His power of charm is great and his hold is death to all them that are not awake to his danger and again listen to his calling.

To the opposition of this serpent we have Jesus Christ, who did conquer and overcome this serpent. In Jesus Christ there is hidden no false charm, no deception, and no deadly poison, for He is the Messiah. He is the Saviour! He is the Redeemer and salvation of the world. No one is deceived or harmed by Him. He came to bring salvation and happiness to mankind, life, peace and joy.

Thursday, July 12. Burlington, IA: Today we sailed further north on the Mississippi on a steamboat to McGregor, where we took the railroad to Elgin, IA which was our destination. The trip on the river was very pleasant. I was thinking to myself, that this river is as I have heard of it many times before and thought of it and now I am riding on it. How wonderful are the ways and leadings of the Lord. How He leads His children to the goal of their eternal end.

Friday, July 13. The past night we had to spend in a railroad station as there was a wreck on the railroad. The train left the track and the engineer and the fireman were hurt. How soon does an accident happen if the Lord does not shield and watch over us. For all things we shall be thankful to Him.

Saturday, July 14. In northern Iowa. We still have one more day to travel. The region here is thinly settled and has much timber.

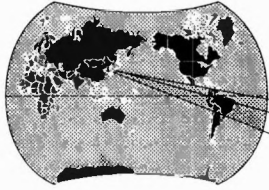
By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

The Geistlich Diary Continues

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



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“Carried By Angels”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Recently, the story of the rich man and Lazarus was read in our church. I noticed that “Lazarus was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom.” (Luke 16:22). I have long imagined that when a believer dies, his or her spirit soars away to be with the Lord, to receive a new body at the time of the resurrection. The Apostle Paul wrote, “Having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better.” (Philippians 1:23).

Enter the angels. What do they have to do with this? Will they carry you and me to Abraham’s bosom in Paradise? Jesus told the thief on the cross, “To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:43). Therefore, I use the word Paradise for Heaven, and I capitalize it as a proper noun, the name of a definite place. It may well be that angels will carry us to Paradise.

The word “carry” is interesting. When I was in Alabama, the

word meant to give a ride in your car. In the north it meant to hold and transport something in your arms. It may be that the angles will carry us in their arms, or it may be that they will simply escort us. Either way, I like the idea. Most of us are ready for a little comfort and consolation.

In Acts 4:12 we read concerning the Lord Jesus Christ, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” So far as I know, Abraham had never heard the name of Jesus Christ. Christ’s mother, Mary, and her husband to be, Joseph, were the first to hear it. The angel, Gabriel, said to Mary, “Thou shalt...call his name Jesus.” (Luke 1:31). The angel of the Lord, perhaps Gabriel, said to Joseph in a dream, “Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.” Nevertheless, Abraham is most

certainly in Heaven where he welcomed Lazarus. He did not know Jesus by name but he knew God’s promises and believed them. We read, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.” Christ’s atonement was efficacious or effective for Abraham because he believed God, and believed in the promises. That’s wonderful.

Back to angels, when Israel (Jacob) blessed Joseph and his sons, he said, “The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads.” (Genesis 48:16). I notice that in the King James Bible, Angel is capitalized in this case. Could it be a reference to Christ? I think it could be. Who else can redeem us from all evil?

We rejoice about Lazarus being carried to Abraham’s bosom by the angels and we joyfully anticipate a similar experience. Carried by angels — how wonderful can it be?

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Bern, KS - 1895

picture after 1947

The Bern Apostolic Christian Church is located five miles southeast of Bern on the rolling Kansas prairie—an area settled largely by Swiss and German immigrants.

In 1870, four families from Bluffton, IN moved to Blue Springs, NE and then eventually settled near Bern. As other families migrated to the area, a church was established. In 1895, a building was erected for worship services, with a separate building serving as a Sunday School. Many hardships, primitive living conditions, and encounters with Indians were endured by these forefathers. The church was remodeled and a full basement added in 1947. Construction began in 1970 on the new church building and it was dedicated in 1972. An addition to the Sunday School was completed in 1984. As this is being written, in 1998, a hard surface road is just now under construction, leading to the present Bern Church.

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