

# *The Silver Lining*



*O Lord, Thou Preservest Man and Beast*

August 1998

## "IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS"

*Sermon by Elder Bro. Duane Farney*

### I Thessalonians 5

What a beautiful chapter here this afternoon and to think it told us here to, "Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss." (I Thess. 5:26). What a joy that is to be able to do this. It is a kiss that would be holy. It would be a kiss that would be brother with brother, and sister with sister, even to the time when we can someday trust we will greet the Lord with a holy kiss of faith.

We pray that we can do this to many more yet that will find the way that leads to Heaven above and that will be either as a brother of the Lord or a sister of the Lord.

What a high standing, dearly beloved! There is no higher standing in this world in which we live regardless how much knowledge or how much we can obtain where our jobs and education would take us. There is no higher standing than to be a child of God.

Certainly we wait upon the Spirit to speak to us. We just trust and pray that each and every one of us has prayed that God would reveal Himself here.

We have been reminded, first of all in this chapter to be ready. To be ready, we have been told here, "...the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night." (I Thess. 5:2). We know a thief usually works under a cloud of darkness. He goes where he can't be seen and usually he works quick and fast taking something that does not belong to him. Yet, we know how quick that thief can come if we are not ready.

Why would God tell us that here today? Just a thought. Why did He tell us that? We wonder sometimes as this has been

preached down through the centuries of time.

He still has mercy, compassion and love for all, but He doesn't love the sin that we commit. He doesn't love the sin that is committed in the lives of people here upon earth. This is the sin that He died for. This is the sin He came to earth to die for and so our sins can be taken away.

There are many people today that believe in God. If you would ask a dozen people on the street at any time and ask if they believed in His Son, Jesus Christ, you might get a very high percentage. To follow the precepts of His Word, if you wanted to ask and dig deeper, maybe, how many are converted? How many have repented of their sins and been converted and walk aright apart from the world and all it has to offer? We would have to think that the percentages then would be very low, not that we are judging any man.

Dearly beloved, we have something that is very precious unto us. This coming week as the Elder body would gather together on Wednesday morning, almost sixty active elders and perhaps a dozen retired elders sitting on the side, things will be discussed that will give direction to the church as we approach tomorrow and the future.

There are many things that are pressing hard upon the church and we are just so thankful that we can feel the prayers of those back home praying. We gather two full days and then Thursday evening is the minister and Elder meeting which is very encouraging. On Friday is the general conference, which is very

encouraging to preserve those things that we have known, and to preserve those things that are in this chapter that we have read.

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil." (I Thess. 5:21-22). Have you ever thought, dearly beloved, why that verse is in the Bible? Abstain from all appearance of evil. Surely we could have a converted heart and

*Sermon continued on page 45*

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3. Forrest, IL
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7. Oakville, IA
8. Fort Scott, KS

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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

August 1998

## Technology and the Internet II

This editorial is a continuation of a topic that was discussed in the last issue of the Silver Lining. The Internet and the WWW has raised great concern in recent years because it provides access to virtually unlimited, uncensored information to anyone who has access to this media. Children are especially vulnerable to this flood of unwholesome material.

The ease of access to the Internet allows one to obtain strange and evil information in the privacy of their own home. Identity can be hidden through made up names allowing individuals to deceive themselves into thinking that they can engage in this behavior without being caught. However, we know from the scripture that we will be held accountable for our behavior. "Rejoice O young man, in thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment" (Eccles. 11:9).

The false sense of security from the easy anonymity and the attitude that no one is really in charge of controlling the Internet is a serious problem. To think that we are not accountable for what we do is, of course, contrary to scripture. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (II Cor. 5:10).

The Internet also raises serious dangers concerning doctrinal deception. Experiences have shown the potential danger of yet another way in which the ecumenical spirit of our time can draw believers and friends alike into false doctrines, heresies and associations with others of a different faith or persuasion. The world proclaims the virtues of cultural diversity but in the scripture Jesus Christ said "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Mt. 12:30). Christ also warned us to "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many" (Mt. 24:4-5).

The apostle Paul also warned of this

deception when he wrote "I marvel, that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel; which is not another; but there be some that trouble you and would pervert the gospel of Christ" (Gal. 1:6-7).

Temptations are intensified when we feel that there is some element of privacy of our actions. Certainly there is an opportunity for the enemy of our soul to intensify temptation via the Internet. Alone in our home, office or college dormitory, unwholesome or deceptive information is available to us almost immediately. The tempering effect of needing to go somewhere else and be in a public place that brings with it an element of accountability is gone. The Lord reminds us to pray that we are not led into temptation (Mt. 6:9-13).

An additional concern about the high speed technology is the expectation for more services at an ever increasing speed. Technology is helping to make us very impatient. The human desire for instant gratification is emphasized even more by the speed with which we have come to expect things to be accomplished.

The Bible teaches us that "...they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;" (Isaiah 40:31), and "...wait on the Lord, and he shall save thee" (Pr. 20:22). If we have so little patience with our daily pursuits, will we have the patience to wait upon the Lord? We would do well to find a quiet time each day to talk and listen to the Lord.

Also of concern with the technological advances is the added power it gives to those who choose to use it to control or harm others. Prior to the technology revolution, the effect of one's actions was generally limited to a rather small geographic area. It is now possible for individuals to have a greater impact on and bring more devastation to the lives of more people than ever before. The risks of major catastrophes by individuals or small groups is substantially greater than it was several decades ago. Not only does this pose a risk to the safety of individuals

and communities, it may be a source of temptation to God's children to misuse technology to gain an unethical advantage over others.

Another great danger of the Internet results from the fact that many young children are more adept at understanding and using computers and technology than their parents. Therefore, parents need to make a special effort to counsel and provide accountability for their children. Parents need to review their scriptural responsibility in teaching their children of the ways of the Lord and to warn them of the dangers of deception in the world.

Deuteronomy 6:6-12 explains the necessity of the intensity needed to help our children understand the right way to live. Additionally we are instructed to "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). Further instruction tells us "and, ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

Improved technology can be used either for good or evil. If we are not careful, we will be exposed to more evil influences as this improved means of communication brings greater opportunity for involvement with worldly influences. If we become involved in the use of technology, we must use the utmost of caution and Godly discernment and make ourselves accountable to someone in our use of technology. The use of technology by our children must be very carefully monitored, because Satan will not lightly pass up such a powerful opportunity to spread his evil influence. We know the judgment of God on those who commit sin, and we also know that Satan has used many devices in the past to tempt the people of the world to engage in many sinful activities. We must be careful that we do not use advanced technology to "...do the same, (nor) have pleasure in them that do them" (Ro. 1:32).

An editorial committee of elder brothers is preparing articles for this section of the Silver Lining to address some of the special needs of our times. Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to: Silver Lining Editorials, RR 2 Box 50, Roanoke, IL 61561.



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

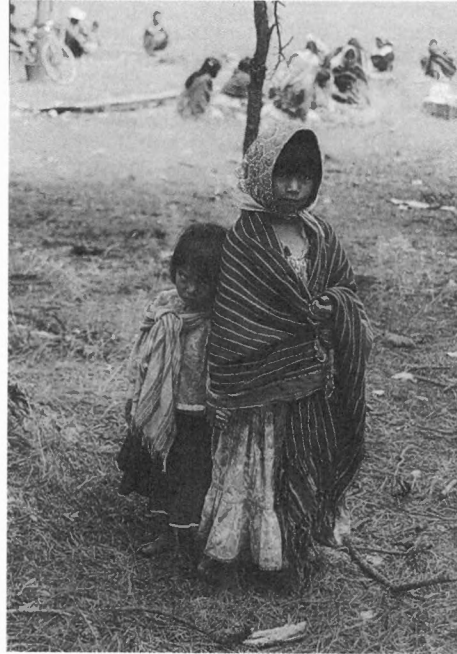
## The Wooden Bell

Does anyone hear  
the cry of the poor or the sound  
of a wooden bell?  
Does anyone stop and listen  
to stories they have to tell?  
Or does this frenzied life  
demand an ever increasing yell,  
Smothering out  
the cry of the poor  
and the sound of a wooden bell!

One of our brothers on a work team to Haiti was preparing to leave the country, and was besieged with cries of street vendors. These Haitians were selling things they had made just to earn enough to survive in their troubled land. Although he was busy, the brother stopped long enough to purchase a carving from a man.

Later, when time allowed, he examined the purchase more carefully. It was a wonderfully crafted wooden bell. On it were carved what at first appeared like hieroglyphics. A closer look enabled him to make out the words, "No one listens to the cry of the poor, or the sound of a wooden bell."

We're well enough acquainted with bells to know that the sound a wooden



bell produces would quickly be lost among the brassy tones of other bells. Likewise we know that in the world today "money talks". In a money-hungry society, the poor so often are cast to the side. In time, it is easy to see how one could become to feel as useless as a wooden bell.

The scriptures do not allow the "haves" to escape obligations toward the less fortunate. Quite the opposite! Among the numerous references toward the poor, Proverbs 21:13 echoes resoundingly: "Whoso stoppeth his ears

at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard."

It is probably not the sound of the wooden bell that justifies its existence. The beauty of the bell lies in its uniqueness and the meticulous craftsmanship required to produce it. In much the same way, a human not entrusted with material riches has many other talents to offer and stories to enhance the lives of others. And, lest we forget, the rich and poor alike have been crafted by the same Master Craftsman.

Our brother keeps the wooden bell visible in his office as a reminder. Would it not be helpful for all of us to have a reminder of our duties toward God and His creation?

Yes, there are those  
who hear the cry  
and the sound of a wooden bell,  
Whose hearts are tuned to the  
fainter strains,  
not only the clanging knell;  
But woe to those  
who close their ears,  
of them the scriptures tell,  
That they shall become  
as the cry of the poor,  
and the sound of a wooden bell.



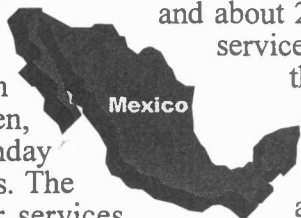


## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

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

### New Church Building in Ixtlan, Mexico

The first regular service in Ixtlan was held on January 27, 1995. Since then, services have been on Sunday and on Thursday evenings. The original building used for services was a very basic structure, 26' x 30'. Services were held in a room about 14' x 30' with a kitchen at one end. The rest of the building contained two bedrooms with a bathroom between.



twelve baptized believers in addition to Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold and about 28 in attendance for each service. Approval was given by the Elder Body at the 1997 Conference to build a new church building. World Relief also gave approval to sponsor work teams to assist with the building project. Construction started in November 1997 and since then work teams have gone to help lay concrete block and pour the concrete floor.

lack of accommodations there, we request that before anyone goes, they contact Bro. David Wiegand of Champaign, IL, who is Chairman of the Mission Committee.

It is important that any of our brothers or sisters who go to Mexico for work or a visit remember that they are ambassadors for Christ. Our appearance, conversation, and actions should be in accordance with the Scripture and accepted church practices.

We sincerely appreciate your support. If you wish to help with the new construction, contributions may be sent to:

BRO. GENE MARTI  
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN MISSION COMMITTEE  
P.O. Box 23356  
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66283

### Making room for growth

In 1997, the attendance grew, and the building became very crowded. Some Sunday School classes were being held outside. Currently there are

### Your support is appreciated

As the work in Ixtlan has grown, some of our brethren have expressed a desire to visit the area. Due to the

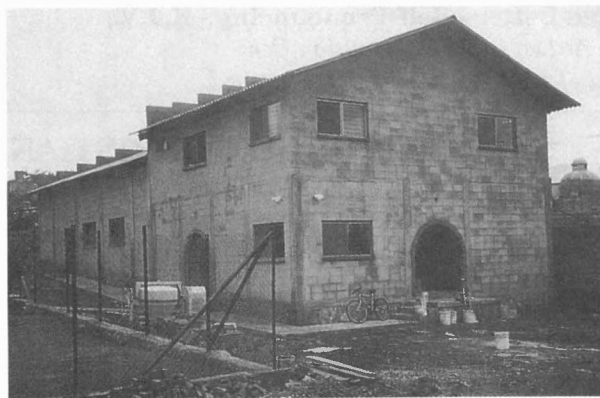
### Report from Ixtlan

*Moses said unto the people, fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will show you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.* EXODUS 14:13&14.

Truly we have experienced the salvation of the Lord as others turn their lives over to the Lord. We have also seen His mighty hand as His people come together to build a house of worship. Another work team came from the U.S. and helped complete the block work for the second story and the interior walls on the first floor.

The spiritual blessing they brought even surpassed the physical help they provided. The example and encouragement they gave to the men who had started coming to the services cannot be measured in earthly terms. The current baptized believers continue to grow in the Word and in the Spirit.

We had our first services in the new church on the 28th of June. We still have some interior painting to do and the flooring to put down in the



33' x 80' Church in Ixtlan, Mexico

assembly area. It was a real treat to have ceiling fans move the air since we are in our rainy season and it gets quite hot and stuffy in our room in the house. We were also thankful that the acoustics seem to work real well for singing and preaching.

We now have room for a lot more people and pray God will again fill

our church with His called ones. Work also continues on the second level, which is the Sunday School area. Once the interior work is completed it is our hope to do some landscaping.

Due to the amount of work on the church building and time spent meeting with individuals as well as the various Bible Studies we hold through the week, it has not been possible to do much on acquiring land for the Ranch. It is our desire to once again begin pursuing the acquisition of land for this purpose.

The support we have been receiving financially, spiritually, and in prayer has been a real outpouring of God's love through His people to those here in Mexico. God's blessings to all of you!

Yours in Christ,  
Bro. Marshall & Sis. Jan Heinold  
July 1998

## - NOTICE -

### Repair and Distribution of Worn Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle or Gospel Hymn Books

We're distributing more used Bibles in the United States now, although some are still sent overseas. Thanks for your continued support. You may get your books to either of us or Wing or Bluffton World Relief Centers.

Jerry and Arlene Banwart  
Box 181 C, 307 W. First St.  
Congerville, IL 61729  
(309) 448-2416

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Bibles distributed by our Churches

<u>1998</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>	<u>TOTAL — 15 YEARS</u>
July	4,460	24,231	436,429

\* 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

### **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 -*  
*A shipment of Haitian (Creole) was received.*

### **Education Coordinator Needed**

Gateway Woods is looking for an experienced, licensed teacher to fill the position of Education Coordinator. This person will work with public school teachers and houseparents to provide the best educational services to students who live at Gateway Woods, supervise and work alongside the tutors who help in our after-school program, and supervise the Gateway Woods teacher who works with a handful of students needing more structure than the public school is able to offer. As we look at the possibility of expanding our school to serve students who are not Gateway Woods residents but could benefit from being in our school, there will be new challenges—and new rewards.

### **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED**

Jesus listened patiently (Luke 24:13-24) even though He had perfect knowledge of personalities and problems of people with whom He spoke. By His listening, Jesus was perhaps showing the value of letting an individual put his or her troubles into words that can be shared with another (James 5:16).

When we listen, we are better able to understand others and their problems. But listening does more. It builds rapport with others, shows we care, and dem-

### **Counselors Needed**

Gateway Woods, a Christian residential childcare facility, has immediate openings for both 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, please call one of the brothers listed below.

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**

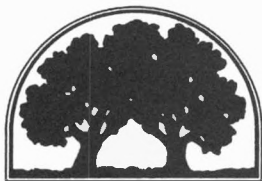
Calls are answered by an answering service and referred to the hotline. You will receive a return call shortly. All calls are strictly confidential.

Callers will receive a screening, suggestions for appropriate services and assistance with appropriate referrals.

The hotline will not provide diagnosis or treatment.

onstrates that we are interested and willing to share the burdens of another (Gal. 6:2).

But what happens if the person who needs to be heard has a special challenge? What if that individual can't speak, think quickly or put needs into understandable words? God has been very good to us here at ACHH. There are quite a number of individuals living at our facilities with this exact concern. But He has provided wonderful tools to assist us with communications. Staff are trained and encouraged to listen, look for all signs of communication, and respond to



### 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

these communication attempts of our friends living at our facilities. Also we have been blessed with a wide variety of assistive

devices and technologies that support communications when this equipment is needed. We have such things as computers that are voice activated and actually talk for individuals by the push of a button or switch. There are also communication boards, books, and a host of other devices that are used as well. Thanks be to God that He truly cares about individual people, and that there are systems and people available to assist our residents in this way when necessary.

As an example, we needed to take time last week to listen to residents express their feelings. We heard that Sis. Lucy Endress from Peoria passed away. Sis. Lucy lived at our larger facility, then Oakwood Estate before moving to the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home of Peoria. Many residents in all facilities had a great desire to express sadness and remember Sis. Lucy. Many remembered that she was a woman who never complained and always helped others. Don't you think that God was honored by such a life? We do, and express sympathy to her family and former roommates at our facilities.

Birthdays for September are: ACHH - Ed Green (3), Judy Vicic (3), Marta Graber (9), Mike Culkin (10), Richard Harvey (14), Lester Miller (16), Glenn Getz (20), Mike Bedford (26), Cindy Sigulas (22), Ethel Borinstein (29). OAKWOOD - Dave Maupin (20), Nancy Theis (25). LINDEN - Dave Taylor (13), Janet Christensen (16), Jim Maupin (24), Brent Rebeck (24), Doug Steffen (26). 652 DETROIT - Angie Massner (9). 241 MINNESOTA - Janet Schweigert (10). 207 WAGLER - Marlene Esslinger (8).

### 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

### GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Chuck and Naomi Wiegand

Do you ever find yourself coming to the end of the week and wondering where it went? Do you ever look so forward to the next big event in your life that you forget to focus on today? It seems like it is easy to get so caught up in the events in life that we don't live each day to it's fullest. This was a big struggle for us as we

# GATEWAY WOODS

Saturday, August 15, 1998

22ND ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION

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

## **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!



planned our vacation to Colorado. It was hard to focus on doing our job each day rather than planning our activities in Colorado. Now that it is time to leave, it is even harder. I keep finding myself already in Colorado in my mind when we still have an 18-hour drive with our two young boys. What's wrong with that you ask? Possibly nothing, but what kind of blessings are we missing out on by not enjoying the journey? Are we missing opportunities to bring glory to God's name because we are focused on tomorrow? We are reminded in Matthew 6 to take no thought for the morrow. It sometimes is a painful reminder for us. We must live in today. Yesterday is gone forever and tomorrow is not guaranteed to come. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24).

This month Aleachia B. went home. Our prayer is that God will be present in her life and with her family. We also want to welcome Jackie S. to the Graf house and Mandy O. to the Fiechter house. We pray that God will help us make a difference in their lives as they temporarily reside with us. We are very thankful for our recent volunteers which included brethren and friends: Dawn Sutter, Amber and Amanda Ward (Francesville, IN), Rebekah Inoue (Bloomington, IL), Jenny Sauder and Krystal Rowell (Tremont, IL) and Austin Smith (Bluffton, IN). God bless their efforts and willing hearts.

We want to invite you all to join us and nearly 2,000 others on August 15 for our 22nd Annual Auction and Sale. If you can't join us physically, please join us prayerfully.

We still have a number of current and pending job openings for Secretary, Education Coordinator, Alternate Houseparents and both male and female Counselors. (See notices in this issue). If you or someone you know is interested and qualified, please call, pray or come.

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### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

**Margo Stettner**

"Father, we thank Thee for the night and for the pleasant morning light. For rest and food and loving care and all that makes the day so fair. Help us to do the things we should, to be to others kind and good. In all we do and all we say, to grow more loving everyday. Amen."

Two times each day, the children say this prayer. What a blessing it is to hear young hearts thanking the Lord. Even one of our youngest students folded his hands and hummed along to our prayer! We are so thankful for the opportunity to teach these little ones about our Father.

July has been another hot month at the preschool. The children enjoy their swimming time so much! It's also fun just to watch the kids work and play together. It is refreshing to see how quick the children are to laugh, smile, and give hugs to one another. Truly "children are an heritage of the Lord..." (Psalm 127:3).

As many of you know, the Preschool is in need of a teacher. We are trusting that the Lord will provide for our needs. If you (or anyone you know) are interested in this position, contact Bro. Lavoyd Moore at 256-232-2035 or the Preschool at 256-233-0591. We would appreciate your pra-

yers as we wait for our need to be met.

In the next couple weeks, we will be busy preparing our school for the next school year. Currently, we have two computers that the children are able to use. However, we would like to incorporate more computer time in the children's day-to-day activities. If anyone has a computer that they no longer use and would like to donate it, please contact Bro. Lavoyd Moore or the Preschool. God bless all of you for your efforts toward our school!

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### ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

*Psalm 133:1*

The unity we read in the Bible verse above was taught in Vacation Bible School. To make Christ the Lord of our life we read the Bible and pray for His guidance (even though you read same scripture over and over). Mere man cannot answer prayers; this new watered down stuff isn't healing our lengthy list of ailing folks, just adding to it.

The beautiful singing by our Sunday School children and by our choir on Father's Day, for our Vacation Bible School program, were messages of love and enlightening our need for a Saviour.

On June 25, Bro. Mark and Sis. Stacey Steffen became second-time parents when Jonah Mark was born. Hannah loves her role as sister by sharing grandparents, Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum and Bro. Carl

and Sis. Myrna Steffen (Alto, MI). Great-grandparents are Sis. Helen Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbara Schupbach. Sis. Stacey got to witness for the Lord at the hospital. Yes, Jonah's parents read and believe the Bible, where his name came from.

Sis. Gladys Fisher appreciated the card shower for her 94th birthday. She is in frail health and hasn't been to church for some time. She does enjoy a card or phone call.

June 28 was Bro. Gabe Hill and Sis. Kristen Lehman's wedding in Bern, KS. Many guests attended from Phoenix, including four generations of the groom's family, Sis. Madeline Knochel (late Bro. Ted), Susan, Bro. Gabriel, and son, Christian. Elder Bro. John Lehman performed the marriage of his daughter and her husband. Sis. Kristen has been working in Phoenix, but we welcome them home and ask God's blessings on them as they establish their home. A reception to honor them was held in Phoenix on July 19.

The weekend of July 11 and 12, many of our congregation went to Prescott to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Furrer twins, Beth and April. We rejoice with our new sisters in faith and parents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena. What a blessed first-time event for our Prescott folks.

"If God be for us, who can be against us?"

*Romans 8:31*

Sis. Jan Elsasser returned to Phoenix on July 14. Despite the record 117 degrees, we were cold with grief, after seeing Sis. Mart nearby for a little more than ten

years, reality set in. We in Phoenix now have our closure for Sis. Mart. Our prayers are with Sis. Jan. "He loveth at all times."

God's love knows no boundaries, so our love is stretched to Illinois, as two Sunday School youngsters and Mom leave us. Sis. Jeanne Schlatter Metzger, Kurt and Erin will always have a special place in our hearts. "He cares for you." (I Peter 5:7)

We've felt the Lord's loving hand touching Sis. Irene Emch in a health problem; Sis. Cathy (Jerry) Emch had major surgery and Sis. Shirley Mohrman had minor surgery. We have a lengthy list of folks on the sick list, and the Sutton family needs prayers.

We welcome Bro. Chris Wuthrich from Roanoke, IL.

Read I Cor. 1:10 for your discontent!

Pray for God's presence as the Elders meet in August.

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### ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

**Jane Hodges**

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;..."

*Mark 16:16*

On July 12, Bethany and April Furrer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena) were baptized on our new church lot using a stock trough. Over one hundred witnesses attended as Elder Bros. Wendall Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) performed the baptisms and the laying on of hands. It was a beautiful ceremony with one brother commenting that the girls had the radiance of the physical sun and the spiritual Son on their faces. Everyone returned to our rental building for the greeting of our new sisters in Christ and for the fellowship din-

ner.

It was announced that Tim Furrer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena), through repentance, has now found peace and is awaiting baptism.

Ministers bringing us God's Word this last month included Bros. Darrell Stoller (Bern, KS), Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA), Curt Kaufman (Tucson, AZ), Bill Dotterer and Greg Gramm (both of Phoenix). May God bless them and their families for their love and service.

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### ARIZONA, TUCSON

**Lisa Knapp**

I mentioned in a previous article that Sis. Martha Blessman had moved to a new facility. I have been asked to give her new address in this issue. Sis. Martha is now residing at Manor Care, 3705 N. Swan Rd., Room #184-A, Tucson, AZ 85718.

Carrie Kaufman (Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline) has left again for college. Instead of returning to Northern Arizona University, she will be attending Arizona State University in Tempe. We wish Carrie well as she begins her second year of college.

Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria Bauer celebrated their 40th anniversary on July 13. May God bless them in the future as He has in the past.

Our summer monsoons have begun bringing us cooler temperatures in the high 90's, but also humidity that we are not used to.

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### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

**Joshua Martinez**

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be

seen, nor touched...but are felt in the heart."

—*Helen Keller*

Christian greetings across the many miles! The love that we receive from our Heavenly Father and our dear brothers and sisters is one of the greatest blessings of all! His love is freely and joyously given, always flowing, ever abundant. May we always feel His presence, His love and His peace within our hearts. May we walk together encouraging one another, praising God in faith and with the confidence that God is with us wherever we go.

We said our farewells to a dear part of the Altadena family this month. Bro. Mike and Sis. Kathy Drete and their children have relocated to central Illinois and will be attending the Washington, IL church. Our congregation wishes them the Lord's blessings as they establish their new home. We will miss them and extend a warm welcome to come back and visit us.

We trust God will bless Bros. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) for their labors of love toward us in the ministering of the Word this past month. We thank them and their families for their love and fellowship.

What a blessed fellowship we share and how privileged we are that we can gather together freely. On July 12, we held our annual Sunday School picnic. We wish to thank all who supported and participated in the event. We wish to thank the Sunday School teachers for their efforts throughout the year and the children for their joyful energy and enthusiasm for God's Word.

We feel thankful for our many

visitors this past month. We are also grateful to our Father for bringing our loved ones back safely from their vacations. We wish to extend a warm invitation to visit us should your travels bring you to sunny southern California. Have a happy month!

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."

*Ephesians 1:3*

## CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

**Rose Huette**

The weekend of July 4th was enjoyed by many as we gathered at Bro. Doug and Sis. Lillian Wagenbach's to honor our two high school graduates, Sis. Yamin and Bro. Philip Petrovic. It was a time of rejoicing with much food, fellowship and singing praises to God. Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) was here with his family. We thank Bro. Mike for so diligently sharing the Word with us on Sunday, and may the Lord's blessings be upon him and his family. We also had many other visitors. We were blessed to have visitors from as far as Connecticut.

Bro. Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ) and his family also worshipped with us one Sunday recently. We appreciate Bro. Ken's willingness to assist our ministers on the pulpit and are thankful for his labors on our behalf.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Elders as they prepare for the upcoming Conference in Forrest, IL. We pray God's blessings on this meeting and that His will be done.

Some from our congregation have been ill. Sis. Frieda Minger,

who resides in a local nursing home, continues to need this added care. Our convert, Ralph Zimmer, who is 89 years old, fell a few weeks ago and was hospitalized. He is slowly improving and was moved from the hospital to a rehab center for continued care. Fred Aeschleman (Peoria, IL) while visiting here was hospitalized and is slowly improving. We know how much he wants to go home and just pray it can be soon.

## ONTARIO, KITCHENER

CANADA

**Laura Baxter**

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it;.." After much prayer, counselling with the Elder and National Building Committee members, and feeling God's direction, we as a local church have purchased a building lot. If the Lord wills, we plan to start building a church this fall season. We are thankful for the many prayers, time, and efforts that have been made to guide us in this step and most of all thankful for God's direction and answered prayers.

With much joy, we heard the engagement announcement of our Bro. Tim Tomic to Sis. Melanie Kaeb (Alto, MI). We pray for God's help and direction as they plan for their future life together in the Lord.

We are thankful for our visitors this past month. We thank Bros. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) for ministering the Gospel to us.

We welcome all visitors to come worship with us. Please contact Bro. Wayne Saddler

(519) 662-6834 or Bro. Mike Ursu (519) 669-8515 for more information and directions.

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## COLORADO, DENVER

### Yvonne Lehman

Greetings of love in our dear Saviour's name! Summer is fleeting. Soon students will return to school. We can look forward to cooler temperatures as the fall season approaches.

We feel thankful for our ministering brothers and their efforts to bring forth the Word. May the Lord richly bless visiting Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and his family for sharing with us. On Sunday, July 5, we were privileged to listen to Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL). We welcome all visitors who are in the area to come and worship with us. It truly is a blessing for our little church to meet and greet dear ones from all across the land.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly Ramseyer, along with Carrie and Caleb, are rejoicing in the miracle of a new baby girl, Grace Ellen. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Ruth Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Dorothy Ramseyer (Bay City, MI). Also, Debbie Braun has experienced the blessing of a baby boy in her life, named Aaron Andrew. Aaron's grandfather is Herman Braun from Illinois. May God give the wisdom to these dear parents to raise their children to love and fear Him.

We are so thankful God has brought new families to our little congregation. Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika Schambach, along with their two small children, Joseph and Kathleen, recently moved here from Elgin, IL. We extend a

warm welcome to you.

Bradley Langhofer has returned to his home following a six week externship in the Denver area. We wish Bradley well in his future studies and career as a Veterinary Technician.

What a miracle it is—two dear friends saw their need to repent and give their hearts to Jesus. These are souls who have turned their backs on the world and decided to live for our dear Lord Jesus all their days. Our hearts rejoiced as we in the Denver congregation witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Kevin Braun and his wife, Sis. Pam Braun. We were brought back to that day when we too sat in the front bench and gave a testimony of the Lord's work in our lives. God has promised grace every day to live for Him. We thank Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) for giving so willingly of his time and effort to be used for this blessed occasion.

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## CONNECTICUT

### ROCKVILLE

#### Cherie Galat

Our brethren and Sunday School children enjoyed a beautiful day together at our annual Sunday School Picnic. May God bless the tender hearts of our children and young adults as they move onto another year. We also thank the efforts of our teachers and Sunday School Superintendent in teaching the children of God's ways.

We thank Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Richard Aberle (Altadena, CA) for sharing with us out of God's Holy Word. May we continue to pray for our ministering brethren.

Our hearts rejoice with the angels in Heaven as more converts

come in repentance. We pray He leads Jonathan Zahner (Bro. Warren and Sis. Bonnie), Adam Luginbuhl (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma), Bruce Hoffman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella) and Kirby Reutter (Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay) along further upon this path.

It surely was a blessing to have several of our churches' young groups here over the Fourth of July weekend. Christian friendships are renewed and new ones established while we strive to serve Him. It is strengthening and uplifting to see the faith and desire to uphold our traditions that help us walk as a peculiar people.

We bid our dear Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy Schneider a fond farewell as they follow God's leading to Illinois. We pray God be with them as they establish a new home.

Our prayers are with our dear sisters who have been hospitalized recently. May God heal according to His will both Sis. Martha Mangold (Bro. Clarence) and Sis. Clara Zahner (Bro. Emanuel).

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## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

### WASHINGTON

#### Henrietta Meyer

"I planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."

*I Cor. 3:6*

Our thanks and prayers go with Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman as Bro. Ed retires from the ministry. It was through their efforts that the Washington D.C. church was begun. Thanks to both for being such good gardeners and support for our congregation.

Our ministers this month were Elder Bro. Robert Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and James Plattner (Princeville, IL). We appreciate the time all the ministers and their families give to our congregation. Other visitors this month were from Bluffton and Valparaiso, IN; Rockville, CT; and Chicago, IL.

Last month I mentioned summer employment brings people to the area. There was a long article in the paper about the low unemployment in the area (many openings are unable to be filled). There are opportunities in many fields: computer/technical, construction, or service industries. Contact one of the brothers listed below or anyone else in the congregation if you would like information on employment opportunities in this area.

Services are usually held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at the Tysons Corner Westpark (Best Western) Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. Song service begins at 10:15, worship service at 10:30. If there is an interest expressed by our visitors, we gather Saturday evening for fellowship and/or singing.

For more information, assistance, or just to let us know you are in the area, please call Bro. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749 or Bro. Barry Steffen (410) 569-3635.

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**FLORIDA**  
**FT. LAUDERDALE**  
**Nancy Rocke**

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves:

for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

*Hebrews 13:17*

As we have the privilege to listen to the Brotherhood Conference tapes and the Memorandum, may we be obedient to the instruction from our shepherds. Our obedience to those who are over us in the Lord is not an option but a requirement to serving God. The Lord in His infinite mercy has given us shepherds who watch for our souls; they have a great responsibility and will be accountable. Wouldn't we want to gladly submit to their counsel? We want to obey God, and He tells us in His Word that we are to obey those who watch for our souls.

Even though families from our congregation are on vacation, we have had some visitors which we greatly appreciate. We are thankful for the tie which binds our hearts together through our faith in Christ Jesus.

We are thankful that Sis. Joyce Banwart has been able to assemble with us. We missed her smiling face and cheerful attitude.

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**FLORIDA**  
**NORTH FT. MYERS**  
**Anjie Baum**

The weather is hot and humid, our members are few and our visitors are few. Still, there's love and unity in our little church, and we are ever grateful to God for each one who gathers with us.

Being as our congregation is so small in the summer months, we really have no news to report. I pray you will bear with me, then, as I share a personal experience.

This past week I put my children in the stroller and went for a short walk. We had been waiting to go outside all day for a breath of fresh air, but as is typical of Florida in July, it had been raining all day. Finally, the rain let up and we decided to go out, even though it was lightly sprinkling. The sprinkling of rain was refreshing against the heat and humidity, so we didn't mind getting a little wet.

As we were walking, I was looking up at the dark, grey sky, hoping to see at least a glimmer of light. And I saw it! It was more than a glimmer. As far as I could see, east to west, north to south, was darkness. But straight above us was a tiny hole in the clouds, and the light beaming through was blinding. At first I saw it as a ray of hope in a dark world. Then I realized that Jesus is our hope, and His light truly is blinding, penetrating our hearts. I also realized that to the world, that ray of light has to come from us as believers in Him. We have to be filled with His Spirit, His love, in all that we do and say so that others will see Him. There are a lot of lost souls surrounded by the darkness, searching for some sort of light. What a joy and privilege to let His Light shine through us.

“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

*II Corinthians 4:6*

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

Our entire congregation was blessed when Bro. Glenn and Sis.

Sandee Price hosted the annual Bro. Eugene and Sis. Mildred Huber Reunion over the 4th of July. Around fifty of Sis. Sandee's family were able to come to Sarasota!

A special thank you to Bros. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN), James Emch (Phoenix, AZ) and Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI), who were our visiting ministers for this month. May the Lord richly bless them for their labors.

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

*Psalm 122:1*

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### **GEORGIA, ATLANTA** **Keith and Carol Kaufman**

The Lord again has given  
His counsel and His will;  
He came to live among us,  
His promise to fulfill.  
*Zion's Harp #138*

We want to thank Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) and Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) for ministering the Word of God to us. May the Lord richly bless you for your labors.

The inside remodeling is done in our church. We are looking forward to having the parking lot expanded. In anticipation of open house and dedication, we would appreciate receiving names and addresses of your loved ones who live in the Atlanta area. Please send them to Bro. Tom Waldbeiser at 2910 Maple Vista Ln., Lawrenceville, GA 30044.

As summer comes to a close, our thoughts and prayers go with each one beginning another school year.

We extend a hearty welcome to all visitors for Saturday evening fellowship and worship on Sun-

day. 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 every 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.

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### **ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE** **Sheila McCoy**

Seeing a nest of baby birds with their mouths open wide reminds me that like those tiny birds, we need to hunger after the Word of God.

We are grateful to our visiting ministers, Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), for coming when both of our ministers were gone. Bro. Doyle said we should pray that Jesus would protect us from Satan with a hedge about us as God did with Job. We were reminded to pray "not my will, but Thine, be done".

We are thankful for the continued growth of our small congregation. Gary and Sis. Doreen Moser and their children (Nicole and Heidi) have moved to Portage, WI from North Dakota. May God bless them on their long drive to attend church. We are also grateful for the fellowship of Bro. Vince Schlatter (Dutch and Leann) from Latty, OH. Vince is employed in the Milwaukee area. He has been attending church mostly with the Chicago congregation; but for those living in the

Milwaukee area, he is an added blessing.

Bro. Jim Jepson has started his duties as Sunday School teacher for the Bible Class. We pray that God will grant these teachers wisdom and encourage them in doing His will.

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

We thank Bros. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) and Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) for ministering God's Word to us. May you both be richly blessed.

We welcome back Bro. Brent and Sis. Cheryl Nussbaum and their children. They have been in Phoenix and Indianapolis. Bro. Brent will be working in the family business at Nussbaum Trucking.

We welcome Ruthie Leman to our Bloomington church. Her address is 3123 Monterey Rd., Bloomington, IL.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay Knapp have decided to make Bloomington their home church. Their children are Jennifer (18), Jackie (16) and Jason (14). Their address is 1763 E. 200 N. Road, Hoopston, IL.

Brooke Elizabeth was born June 10 to Tom and Terri Vogel. Jacob Thomas welcomes little sister home, along with thankful grandparents, Bro. Stan and Sis. Nate Vogel, and Jim and Dale Vance (Dardanelle, AR).

Mark and Wendy Heiniger are looking forward to the possibility of taking Austin home from the hospital in a few weeks. Austin has undergone multiple surgeries and has had complications, but he remains stable at this time.

Bro. Clarence Vogel (Sis. Mildred) passed away on July 13, from a heart attack. In addition to his wife, three children (Ross, Sis. Ellen, and Becky), four grandchildren (Michael, Christopher, William and Jennifer) and one brother (John) remain. May the Lord's hand be upon this family and comfort them in their time of sorrow.

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**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD  
Brad & Cheryl  
Kupferschmid**

Another year of Sunday School has ended. We are thankful for all the teachers' efforts and time over the past year. May God bless them. Our Sunday School picnic was held at the Princeton Park on June 28. The students sang for us and then we enjoyed the good food and fellowship. Later, old and young blended their voices together to praise God.

Those students who have finished high school are Abby Ehnle (Bro. Gary and Sis. Carole) and Brandon Gudeman (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa). Joanna Stoller (Bro. Nate and Sis. Sherrill), Daniel Ehnle (Bro. Donn and Sis. Tracy), Jeb Joos (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny), and Phil Endress (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky) have graduated from 8th grade and will be joining the Bible class when Sunday School starts again in September. As each of these students have moved on to higher learning, may God be near and bless them.

We are so thankful that Brandon Gudeman has obeyed God's call to repentance. As he goes on to college, he will now have the Holy Spirit to guide and direct his decisions. Thankful parents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa. Jeb Joos has also felt the need to

have God's nearness and grace as he enters high school. His parents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny. It is so good to see repentant hearts heed God's invitation. May we each one keep these two young men in our prayers and pray that many more may come to the foot of the Cross.

Sis. Donna Ehnle (Bro. Roy) fell and broke her leg last month. We are thankful that she is recovering so well and can get around more now. May God continue to heal her.

Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) came to share God's Word with us this month. May He bless their willingness to be used in His service. We were blessed by having them with us.

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

"Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower."

*Matthew 13:18*

This summer has been passing quickly, as summers seem to do. After a period of very wet weather, we have had rather hot, humid days. Our flower beds and garden went in a bit late, but everything is now blooming and bearing fruit. Our son, Joel, has especially enjoyed seeing those things that we put out as seeds sprout into small plants that continue to grow and bloom. He proudly gives tours of the very simple plantings that we have around the yard. As he was showing someone around the other day, he pointed out the morning glories. We have some that are thriving and taking over the back

fence, others that are barely making it against the weed killer and shade, and we have the marker sticks with nothing growing because the plants did not come up or survive. This reminded me of the parable of the sower and how important the right conditions are to our growth (Matthew 13:18-23). I imagine that God must be somewhat like our six-year-old gardener and that it gives Him much pleasure in seeing growth and great concern for those who are less successful.

We are pleased to welcome a new family into our congregation. Sis. Jeanne Metzger and her son, Kurt, and daughter, Erin, have moved here from the Phoenix, AZ area. Jeanne and her family will be residing in St. Joseph. We wish them the best as they settle into new surroundings. Bro. Matt and Sis. Christine (Romersberger) Ginzler were welcomed as a newly married couple with a church picnic/shower at a city park on a warm summer evening. New families are always welcome and appreciated in Champaign-Urbana!

Our numbers are always down in the summer when the students are gone, and we enjoy having the company of those who come during this time to visit family and those who stop by on their way to other vacation destinations. We appreciated the efforts of our visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL). Soon school will be starting again and we will have the return of most of our students from last year and a new group of those beginning their time here as college students. The annual new stu-

dent welcome/picnic date is Sunday, August 30.

## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

**Jill Rager**

Having just returned home from a family vacation, I have to wonder where the term the "lazy days of summer" ever originated. It seems this month the news from Chicago is that of many comings and goings.

During our Vacation Bible School, June 22-26, we were abundantly blessed by the five ministers who made the trip to Chicago to speak, in particular, to our Bible class students. The children spent the week learning about being a good Samaritan in the "Good Samaritan Clubhouse", and the adults and Bible Class students focused on the theme "The Faith of our Fathers". Our speakers and topics were:

Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) - Our Doctrines and Traditions; Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) - Repentance/Conversion/Baptism; Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) - Dating vs. Marriage by Faith; Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) - Concepts of Loyalty and Commitment to a Faith; Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) - Applying Self Worth to Overcome Worldly Peer Pressure.

We express a big thank you to these brothers for their efforts in preparing as well as coming to present the topics.

Not long after a busy week of VBS, our Bible class students left for a long-awaited trip to Jamaica along with the Detroit Bible class students. We pray that the experiences these students encountered while building a road or a retaining wall or put-

ting a roof on a building can have a far-reaching impact for the Jamaicans as well as the students.

We wish many blessings along with our farewells to Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana Knapp and their infant daughter, Lexi, as Bro. Matt starts employment in Bloomington, IL. We will miss this family, but are glad that God seems to fill in the gaps with other newcomers. Bro. Jason Rauhe has accepted employment in our area and will be joining our congregation from the Detroit, MI congregation. We welcome back Bro. Jason Huber (Francesville, IN) as he was with us last summer. We also welcome back Bro. Matthew Rassi as well as his wife, Sis. Bridget, and their new son, Carl.

We are so thankful to welcome LaVirra Lehman back home after an extended hospital stay.

Our other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL).

Although summer does seem to encourage much coming and going, we never want our spiritual lives to experience that. In a sermon this month, we read of the pillar of fire/cloud that led the Israelites. That pillar not only provided direction and protection, but served as an ever-present reminder of God's presence. This minister prompted us to think about what it would be like to have such a visible presence in our daily lives. That thought has come back to me several times since hearing it. Let's keep a mental pillar in our lives to keep our minds aware of the Holy Spirit because our God never takes a vacation; He is always

there for us to call upon.

## ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Beth Steffen**

**Darlene Walder**

Summer has come for all of us here in middle America. July and August are busy months and we must daily concentrate on taking time for the Lord and not let our tasks with family and jobs be too consuming. We rejoice every time Sunday comes so that we can rest from our work. Picnics are always something to look forward to during the warm months and we did just that on Sunday, July 12. We had our annual Sunday School/All Church Picnic in the park. The school age children always enjoy playing the fun activities their Sunday School teachers plan for them and the adults enjoy all the good food.

Our hospital patient this month was Bro. Gib Stock. He had surgery and is recovering well. We are thankful for that.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Bro. Clarence Vogel of Bloomington, IL. We lift up Sis. Millie and her family at their loss. We know that Bro. Clarence lived quite a few years here in our area and was the tiller of the soil. I found this poem and would like to have it printed in his memory.

When the wheat is carried home  
And the threshing time has come,  
Close the door.  
When the flail is lifted high,  
Like the chaff I would not fly;  
At His feet, oh, let me lie,  
On the floor!

All the cares that o'er me steal,  
All the sorrows that I feel

Like a dart,  
When my strength begins to fail —  
'Tis the beating of the flail,  
On my heart!



It becomes me to be still,  
 Though I cannot all His will  
 Understand.  
 I would be the purest wheat  
 Lying humbly at His feet,  
 Kissing oft the rod that beats,  
 In His hand!

By and by I shall be stored  
 In the garner of my Lord  
 Like a prize;  
 Thanking Him for every blow  
 That in sorrow laid me low,  
 But in beating made me grow  
 For the skies!

—*Voice of Triumph*

Elder Bro. David Wiegand (Champaign, IL) assembled with us on a Wednesday evening this month and we are always thankful for his kind words of exhortation and encouragement.

We rejoice with Bro. Joe and Sis. Tricia Walder at the final adoption of their two precious lambs that God has blessed them with. Kelly Marie, age 2, and Autumn Kristen, age 1, were officially adopted on June 29. Happy grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Dorothy Walder and Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen Steiner (Princeville, IL).

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**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**  
**Glenna Rinckenberger**  
**Sandy Steiner**

We thank Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) for sharing the Word with us. Do we remember to pray that God will continue to grant grace and strength to our ministers to stand before us time and time again?

Belated best wishes go to our graduates. Bro. Grant Rinckenberger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna), Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gay), Brian Zobrist (Bro. Clarence and Sis.

Luann), and Adam Ott (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Mardell) graduated from high school. Doug Schrock (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet) received his GED, and Sis. Laura Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary) received a two-year nursing degree from ICC. May each one seek God's direction for the path that lies ahead.

June 28 was the day for our annual Sunday School Picnic. We enjoyed the opportunity to spend time together as a church for fellowship and singing and to strengthen the ties that bind us together. This picnic also marks the end of the year, and we thank the Sunday School teachers who have completed their terms. May God reward them for their labors and grant the new and returning teachers a willing heart and godly wisdom to teach the truth and to be good examples for our youth.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to those who have recently lost loved ones. Sis. Esther Miller and Lena Miller lost a sister, Emma Wildermuth. Bro. Jerry (Sis. Linda) Knobloch's grandmother, Sis. Esther Tanner (Goodfield, IL), also passed away. May they feel the Lord's comfort and nearness in this time of sorrow.

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**ILLINOIS, ELGIN**  
**Peggy Heiniger**  
**Norma Schambach**

God has blessed Bro. Eric and Sis. Nancy Schieler with a precious little girl, Lauren Hope, born June 19. Abbey and Jarod are excited about their little sister. She is a bright spot in her Grandpa Bro. Paul Weiss' life.

We rejoice that God has called another dear soul to serve Him. Megan Schambach (Bro. Bob and

Sis. Jeanne) has expressed her desire to repent and live her life for Christ. We ask God's grace to be with her.

We are thankful for the visiting ministers we had this month: Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI).

It's always a blessing to add to our congregation. We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Fred and Sis. Shaena Dietz and their son, Logan, who have moved from Fairbury to work in the area. Sis. Shaena is the daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Leann Schambach. We also enjoy the fellowship of Matt Wirtz (West Bend, IA) who is spending his summer in an internship here. We are also thankful that he is seeking the Lord in repentance.

After spending many months with their daughters because of illness, Bro. Earl and Sis. Kay Steffen have returned home. We are thankful to God for granting renewed health.

Many thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Dick (Sis. Judy) Klopfenstein at the passing of his brother, Lester, of Mishawaka, IN. May the Lord comfort their hearts.

We pray God's blessings on Andy Schifferer (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy) and Kim Weaver as they joined their hearts in marriage on July 11. They will reside in Peoria, IL.

Illness and surgeries this month included Kyle Wewetzer (Bro. Mark and Sis. Nancy), Sis. Cora (Bro. Bill) Schambach and Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen. Our prayers are with them.

*Note of Thanks:*

My sincere thanks to all of you for your prayers, cards, gifts, visits and telephone calls. I really

appreciated all of them. May God bless you all for your love.

*Sis. Kay Steffen*

## ILLINOIS, EUREKA

### Janet Zimmerman

Our Sunday School picnic was held June 28 at the 4-H Park. We had a beautiful day that was enjoyed by all even though it was very hot. As the children move on to a higher grade, may the teachings they have learned always stay with them. May God bless each teacher for their efforts put forth.

Our love and prayers are with Sis. Ruby Grusy as she said farewell to her husband, Bro. Ira Grusy. He died Thursday, July 16. Bro. Ira lived at the nursing home the last few years and Sis. Ruby was daily by his side to help him in whatever way she could. May God comfort and bless her for the love and faithfulness shown to her husband. Our sympathy is extended to his brothers, Bro. Alf and Robert of Eureka, and William of Surprise, Arizona. His sisters are Ollie Henline of Greene, Iowa, Viola White of Tampa, Florida, Virginia Jarnagan of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Esther Stalter of Flanagan and Hilda Fehr of Congerville.

We had two visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS) and Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH). We thank them for bringing forth God's Word and pray that He will bless them for their labors.

God's miracle touched the hearts of Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky Martin on July 14 as they welcomed Bryce Taylor into their home. Happy to have a playmate is big brother, Brant Jacob. Grandparents are Bro. Ernie and

Sis. Judie Knecht and Sis. Edna Martin (Princeville, IL).

We are thankful for our two friends who have confessed peace with God and man. They are Todd Martin (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Mary Ellen) and Jeffry Huber (Bro. Gary Huber and Karen Huber).

Our love and prayers are with Sis. Verna Wettstein at the death of her mother, Sis. Esther Tanner. She died Monday, June 22. May God be with Sis. Verna and bless her for helping with her mother as she often did. We extend our sympathy to sisters, Sis. Salome and Sis. Corine Hartter, and her sister-in-law, Sis. Dorothy Hartter, all of Eureka.

Our prayers are with Bro. Don Frank who is recovering from back surgery and Bro. Harold Hodel who had knee surgery. There are those who have other illnesses and have had various tests or treatments. May we remember our loved ones in our prayers.

#### *Notes of Thanks:*

A sincere thank you to all who remembered me with love and prayers. Also the many kind deeds shown to me during my recovery were greatly appreciated. God bless all of you.

*Sis. Melba Mangold*

We want to thank everyone for all the food, cards, gifts, flowers, and especially your prayers in our behalf during these past few months. May God richly bless you each one.

*Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle and family*

## ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

### Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

### *Courage*

No matter how difficult the challenge, when we spread our wings of faith and allow the winds of God's Spirit to lift us, no obstacle is too great to overcome.

—Ray Lessin

This month our visiting ministers were: Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Wesley Knapp (Goodfield, IL), and Bros. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) and Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN). We thank these brothers for their labor of love in bringing God's Word to us.

We are rejoicing with the angels in Heaven over every sinner that repents. Jennifer Kaisner (Bro. Don and Sis. Leona) and Shannon Fehr (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda) have found a need to repent. We trust that God will be with them with His abundant grace.

We were happy to hear that two couples have announced their engagements. On June 21, Bro. Philip Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Lana Young (Bro. Norman and Sis. Lola) were announced. On June 28, Bro. Joshua Knapp (Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy, Goodfield, IL) and Sis. Carolyn Kieser (Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky) were announced. We wish these dear couples God's blessings as they prepare to be one in the Lord.

On July 2, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sara Moser were blessed with a precious baby girl, Martha Anne. Little sister, Myrna, is delighted. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser (Washington, IL). Great-grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Rosetta Stoller (Forrest, IL).

On July 6, Bro. Cory and Sis. Beth Steffen were blessed with a darling baby girl, Renae Ann. Siblings, Tiffany, Tami, and Ryan, are excited about their new playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Steidinger and Bro. Albert and Sis. Karen Steffen. Great-grandmothers are Ollie Steidinger and Elizabeth Schick (Morton, IL).

Our new Sunday School teachers are: Bro. Neil Bahler (Sis. Tami), Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda), Bro. Doug Moser (Sis. Julie) and Bro. Nelson Zehr (Sis. Amy). May God bless them as they teach our children. Teachers who have finished their terms are: Bro. Randy Stoller (Sis. Ronda) and Bro. Jerry Kaisner (Sis. Donna). We thank these brothers who willingly served. Also, Sis. Lola Young (Bro. Norman) finished her term as Sunday School teacher. Sis. Ronda Stoller (Bro. Randy) will be the new teacher. We thank these sisters. May God bless all the teachers. Our Sunday School has grown and it was needful to have more brothers to teach the dear children. We are thankful for the increase.

The annual Brotherhood Conference will be in Forrest this year. We are praying for our Elder brothers as they are preparing for the Conference. May God be with them as they carry out their duties.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Shaena Dietz and baby Logan have relocated to Elgin, IL. We pray that God will be with them. This family will be missed by all of us.

We pray for God's healing power for Louise Hibsich, Sis. Barbara Meiss (Bro. Marion), Bro. Henry Steffen (Sis. Lola) and Ron Hartman (Carolyn) who have been in the hospital.

*Note of Thanks:*

The family of John Roth wishes to thank everyone for their deeds of kindness during the illness and passing of their loved one.

**ILLINOIS, FORREST**

**Jean Knapp - Linda Anliker**

As the angels in Heaven rejoice, so do we as we see souls turning their lives to God in repentance. We pray the Lord will grant Lucas Nussbaum (Bro. Terry and Sis. Deb), Raya Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly), Jodi Leman (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol), and Joe Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy) much grace as they begin this new walk with Him.

July 11 and 12 we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four souls who have made preparation for eternity. We welcome Sis. Janelle Lehmann (Art and Jana), Sis. Rosemary Koehl (Barry), and Bro. Don and Sis. Barb Hall as lambs of the flock. As long as life to them is shared, may they serve the Lord sincerely.

We are thankful for visiting ministers, Elder Bros. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), and Bros. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), and Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) who were willing to serve us manna from Heaven through God's Holy Word.

The gift of life and the responsibility of teaching their children about Jesus were once again given to two couples. With joy, Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean Knapp, Sis. Carrie, Jared, Kyle, Leah,

Waylon and Naomi welcome a girl, Lilah Marie, into their hearts and home. Lilah's grandparents are John and Adeline Kaeb (Arrowsmith, IL) and Bro. Norval and Sis. Wilma Knapp. Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller with open arms gladly receive their little boy, Philip Daniel. His siblings are Sis. Sheila, Sis. Sara, Michael, Ben, Sis. Heidi, Rebekah, Laura, Crystal and Anna. Grandparents include Bro. David and Sis. Beulah Ehnle (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Rosetta Stoller.

When love shines in....Making plans for a December wedding are Joel Brown (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane) and Lana Lanz (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne).

United in marriage on July 11 were Erik Leman and Angie Wiles. Parents of the couple are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Leman and Dick and Pam Rieger. May their love continue to grow as they walk together as husband and wife.

We are grateful and thankful Joshua Kaeb (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie) is doing well after a traumatic farm accident. While helping his father with chores, Joshua's arm was caught in an auger. Skillful doctors were able to save his arm and he is recuperating at home.

Others spending time in the hospital were Bro. Greg (Sis. Jill) Stoller and Sis. Marie Schrof. We pray God's nearness will be with each of them as His will is accomplished.

May God comfort those in our congregation who have experienced the loss of loved ones. Funeral services for Sis. Edith Zimmerman were held on July 7. We pray God will comfort her husband, Bro. Les, and family. Feeling the loss of their mother

are sons, Steve (Morris, IL), Jay and Sam (Fairbury, IL), Cal and daughter, Peggy DeFries. We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Terry (Sis. Peggy) Young and family in the death of his father, Bill Young (Rittman, OH).

*Notes of Thanks:*

We wish to thank everyone for their thoughtfulness, prayers, cards, gifts and food during our time of need. We are thankful to our family and thankful to our church family for the many kind deeds and words of encouragement. May the Lord bless everyone.

*In Christian love, Bro. Art and Sis. Velda Huette*

We want to sincerely thank everyone for their prayers, gifts and deeds of kindness extended to us during Ben's surgery and recuperation. Words can't express our thanks and appreciation.

*Humbly, Bro. Ben and Sis. Irene Traub*

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**ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**  
**Jan Beer**

In less than one week, our church family has increased by four—all baby girls! Jessica Rose Wiegand came into the hearts and home of Sis. Jenise and Bro. Mike on July 7. Sis. Lynda and Bro. Rod Hinrichsen and their two sons welcomed Kate Morgan on July 9. July 10, another family with two little boys (who live just across the church parking lot from Hinrichsens), got a baby sister, Autumn Nicole. Thankful parents are Sis. Suzanne and Bro. Nate Wieland. Sydney Ann Swords joined the family circle of Gabe, Sis. Heather and Bro. Kris on July 13. We pray God's grace

on each of these dear families as they nurture these little ones who have been entrusted into their care.

Ministers visiting Goodfield in July have been Bros. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA), Galen Rokey (Sabetha, KS), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO), Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL). We are always thankful for your service to us.

Our Bro. Josh Knapp and Sis. Carolyn Kieser (Fairbury, IL) recently announced their engagement to the congregation. Parents of the new couple are Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky Kieser and Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy Knapp. Our prayers and best wishes are with you, Bro. Josh and Sis. Carolyn.

Our dear friends, Paul Martin and Cathy Chrisman, were united in marriage on Saturday, July 18. Sis. Lindsay DesCarpentrie and Bro. Kevin Wiegand were married on July 19. We wish both couples the blessing of the Heavenly Father.

Liz Hohulin (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene) became our Sister in the Lord on July 26. Welcome, Sis. Liz.

As we said "welcome" to one dear soul, we had to bid another dear soul "farewell". On Monday, July 27, our Bro. Bill Joos was laid to rest. Our prayers follow his faithful mate, Sis. Clem, and all his family.

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the prayers, visits, memorials and other kind deeds shown during the passing of our loved one, Esther Tanner. God bless each one.

*Adolph Tanner*

*Verna Wettstein  
Madolyn Tanner,  
Lauretta Knobloch  
Ken and Phyllis Rokey  
Don and Mary Alice Tanner*

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**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY**  
**Perry A. Klopfenstein**

At work I was placing an order over the telephone. I asked a question, and in the lady's response the word "wholeheartedly" was used. Immediately, I thought of that word's spiritual connotations.

Indeed, our following of Christ and our daily service to Him, requires that we give our whole heart. There is simply no other way to do it. Half-hearted and self-oriented tendencies will not result in true happiness. The concept of wholeheartedness reminds me of the song "Self-sacrifice" found on page 159 of the Zion's Harp Hymnal:

Let your whole life be an offering  
To God and to Christ the Lord.  
None who here to Him surrender  
Will regret it, for His Word  
Gives us peace, And release,  
Sweet rest after battles cease.

On June 26, Ryan and Sherrie Schlipf became the parents of Tucker Loren. He is the brother of Bodee, 3, and Codee, 2. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Vicki Schlipf; Carol Stiles, El Paso, and Bob Stiles, Mohamet. May God be with these dear children and their parents.

Sis. Marie Stoller fell and broke her wrist. She has a cast, and is recovering.

As of this writing (July 20), the congregation is mindful of the General Conference in Forrest. In a multitude of counselors there is safety (Prov. 24:6). As a godly authority exists in the

church, we as brethren benefit by the collective wisdom of those whom God has placed over us. The ongoing kindness and patience of our Elder brethren are patterns we should support and appreciate.

In the world there is a moral tempest. And yet, it has always been that way. While we can become anxious at the moral decline and ethical disorder all around us, we can take comfort that God sees it all, and He still reigns supreme. Let us follow His ways, and all will be well no matter what circumstances exist. Let's give Him our "whole heart".

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## ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney  
Cheryl Wuthrich**

It is cause for reflection when in one month we can report all the major milestones of life happening in our own congregation. We have had births, conversions, baptisms, a wedding and also funerals. We have rejoiced with those that rejoice and have wept with those that weep. We pause to think of the 16 loved ones that have been laid to rest from our congregation this year. We thank the Lord who supplies so abundantly when He renews us with converts, new babies, and Christian marriages.

Mabel Friedinger died at the age of 92 on June 16. May the Lord comfort her loved ones. They are her son, Lester; her two daughters, Norma Miller and Lillian Stout; her eight grandchildren; her twelve great-grandchildren; and her other relatives and friends.

Our Bro. Russell Zimmerman died on June 29 at the age of 72. May his loved ones be remem-

bered in prayer. They are his wife, Sis. Alvina; his daughter, Sis. Kris Taufer; his son, Bro. Mike; his five brothers, Robert, Bro. Harold, Walter, James and Jack; his two sisters, Ruth Kaiser and Ella Stuber; his six grandchildren; and his many other relatives and friends.

We rejoice that our Father has called two more souls into His vineyard. On June 27 and 28 we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of our Bro. Eric Kaiser (Bro. Ed and Sis. Barb) and Bro. Jeff Steffen (Bro. Jim and Sis. Valerie). We welcome them into our precious fellowship. May the Lord continue to bless and guide these two young men.

Bro. Terry and Sis. Janeen Baum are so thankful to welcome six-month-old Kinsey Alla from Russia into their home. Big brother, Derek, is happy to have a sister to play with. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Jody Baum and Daryle and June Hari (Phoenix, AZ).

Bro. Daren and Sis. Rita Metz welcome Joseph Lee into their hearts and home. Joseph was born July 7. Sharing the joy of a new grandchild are his grandparents, Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby Beer (Milford, IN) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol Metz (Forrest, IL).

On July 12, Bro. Brian Blume (Wolcott, IN) and Sis. Cherise Knobloch were united in Holy Matrimony. Their parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell Blume (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl Knobloch. The wedding ceremony focused on praise to our Lord for the great things He has done. We pray their life together will remain focused on praising God and looking forward to His return.

We welcome Bro. Bart and Sis.

Junell Rinkenberger who are making Morton their home church. We thank the Lord for bringing them to us and know He will show them how they can serve Him in our congregation.

We are grateful to the ministers who visited us with their families this month. They are Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Bros. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN). May the Lord richly bless them as they serve Him.

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## ILLINOIS, PEORIA

**Peter and Mabel Weber**

James, half-brother of Jesus, elder of the church at Jerusalem, died being clubbed to death. John died a natural death but was thrown earlier in his life into a pot of boiling oil, yet spared miraculously. On this date in 1998, we are still here and have everything we need in abundance, but become cold towards Christ and the Scriptures. The early believers gave everything to Christ. "Count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations" (James 1:2). We find joy in suffering by going to God Who will hold us up. The 24 elders represent the 12 tribes and 12 apostles who wear crowns on their heads, representing the redeemed of all ages. If we want to wear a crown forever, we have to endure trials and tribulations, focus on the goal and be committed. Are we running, like Paul says? We don't want to be a cast-away. Are we right with God or is there anything we haven't come to terms with? John was caught up into Heaven. Will we hear the trumpet call of Jesus? Read in Revelation this week about all the horrible judgments. But God will be the winner. The last

plagues will be terrible..."and the mountains were not found" (Rev. 16:20). God's judgment is going to come. Where do we stand? How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? (Bro. Ken Hoerr on June 28).

Illustrating his topic "Spiritual Check-up" for our family night service on July 1, Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) reminded us to stay true and faithful as we promised in the baptismal waters. We spend much time nurturing our physical body, which passes away, how much more attention should we give our spiritual body, which lasts forever. We should ask for our daily bread, not more, even as the manna lasted only for one day. How are we doing in obedience to God, His Word, the Church, Elders, parents? We need each other in our spiritual walk of life. Read and take the Word of God literally. We can remind each other in love when we have spiritual adjustments to make. Be more faithful. Once we have tasted of the glory, we don't want to go back to the old sinful nature. Storms are coming, but grace is available. Don't ask God to change the Word and make sure to flee temptation and don't flirt with it. Don't put yourself into a position where Satan has the advantage. We must stand up for Jesus, let the banner fly and not suffer loss, so we can make a difference. We don't date because "it is not good for a man to touch a woman" outside of marriage (I Cor. 7:1). We don't need legal or constitutional changes, just obedience to the Word of God. Put on the armor of God, keep on the helmet, talk to God alone. Attend every testimony so we can be reminded of our own experience and recall how we were freed

from prison. And let's go to funerals and realize it could be us, and today could be our last day. When you keep polishing your armor, Satan can hardly get your attention. What is our attitude? Do we support our Sunday School, even without being a parent? If we are involved, we understand things better and have more fellowship. Keep coming to church early (...to sing) and don't let your spiritual body starve. In 30 years we will have served 30,000 meals. We cannot remember all the foods but we know we wouldn't be here without them. Thanks, Bro. Clark, for your and Sis. Cindy's visit and inspired and inspiring words.

When opposing the British, mustering an army, rallying around the flag and winning, our forefathers had a cause they believed in. Our symbol is not the flag, but the cross, and we are thankful for the liberty we have in Christ as we have been freed. And beyond being free we want to be a servant of God. "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient." (I Cor. 6:12). Satan promises no accountability and no consequences. He has been lying to man throughout history. Liberty in Christ is not to do our own thing, but to serve Him and be set free from death in eternity. Satan does not tell us the whole story and if we listen to him, he puts his hooks into us and we are in bondage to him as there is no fence to ride. Satan dangles things in front of us but we don't see the little hooks, like in a fishing line, which bring us eventually in like a fish. It seems like an oxymoron to be free and a servant at the same time. "The truth shall make you free" (John 8:32) and God will remember our sins no

more. The time of no worries will only come in eternity but no matter what happens to us, we stand and walk in the spirit and take up the cause of liberty in Jesus, looking to the cross for our rallying point. (Bro. Dave Obergfel on July 5, Psalm 86 and Gal. 5).

Bro. Howard Musselman (81) was laid to rest on July 8 after having endured the results of a crippling stroke, which left him without speech and mobility for five years. His family wishes to thank all for their prayers and many expressions of love and support during those years. Bro. Ken Hoerr asked in his sermon: "Does God hear prayers?" In Luke 18:5, the unjust judge said of the widow, "I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me." God did hear her prayer. In Daniel 10:12 we read "Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou did set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard." God is a persistent God, never gives up on His people and is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9).

Elder Bros. Chuck Hemmer and Dave Wiegand were at Ixtlan, Michoacan, Mexico on July 3-6 for the testimonies and baptisms of a local husband and wife, which brings the number of believers to 11, in addition to Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinfeld.

We welcome Sis. Hilda Fischer into our fellowship. She was baptized at the Skylines, where she has resided since 1985, on June 23.

Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) visited us on June 16 and we thank him for his ministry.

Our hospital patients, Sisters

Lucy Endress and Lucille Knobloch, have returned to the Skylines and Sis. Lillian Koehl was also able to return to her home after a long stay at OSF.

A birth announcement is a happy note to conclude any report: Lucas Allen (#3) was born June 19 to Troy and Crystal Martin and we extend our sincere congratulations to them and his grandparents, Bro. Dean and Sis. Judy Martin.

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**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**  
**Sheryl Martin**

"But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter: and we all are the work of thy hand."

*Isaiah 64:8*

As we sing the song "Have Thine Own Way Lord" (Hymns of Zion #113), we were reminded that the Lord is the potter and we are the clay. The Lord works within each of us in many ways so that we may become that useful vessel. Clay must be soft in order for it to be worked with. The Lord often will soften our hearts so that they can become useful vessels. We need to surrender our will to His will.

Bro. Marvin Streitmatter and Sis. Sara Steffen were united in marriage in Remington, IN on June 20. Bro. Marvin is the son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane Streitmatter and Sis. Sara is the daughter of Bro. Roger and Sis. Vicki Steffen (Remington, IN). May God bless this couple as they begin their lives together.

Our dear friends, Janis Kieser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy), Kirk Plattner (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene) and Joel Gehrig (Bro. Ken and Sis. Donna), were brought

into the sheepfold on July 12. May the grace and power of God be in their lives as they go out into the world as lambs among the wolves.

Our prayer is that Bro. Al Hartzler (Sis. Vicky) and Sis. Leah Stahl may feel the healing hand of God during their recovery.

*Oh, To Be Nothing*

Oh, to be nothing, nothing,  
Only to lie at His feet.  
A broken and emptied vessel,  
For the Master's use made meet.  
Emptied that He might fill me  
As forth to His service I go,  
Broken, that so unhindered,  
His life through me might flow.

*Hymns of Zion #76*

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**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**  
**Lisa Leman - Boni Stoller**

"Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou has wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!"

*Psalms 31:19*

On Wednesday evening, July 1, the Roanoke congregation truly felt God's goodness as two of our brothers were called into the ministry. Bros. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy) and Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie) have put their trust in the Lord and answered the call so the gospel of Jesus Christ can continue to be preached. May God bless the ministry of these two brothers and may we all continue to pray for them and their families. We also thank Elder Bros. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Ron Messner (Washington, IL) for coming to preach the Word and help in the Lord's work.

Hospital patients this month

were: Bro. Jim Mueller, Bro. Jim Hodel, Sis. Alice Kempf, and Bro. Charles Kupferschmid. We pray for God's healing, according to His will, for all our loved ones who are experiencing health problems.

*Notes of Thanks:*

Words can never express my appreciation and thankfulness for prayers, cards, gifts and deeds of kindness in the past and again after my fall. God bless each one of you.

*In Christian Love,*  
*Sis. Doris Bowald*

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all of you for your cards, gifts, visits and especially your prayers for Steven and our family during his hospital stay.

*Bro. Bruce and Sis. Debbie Fischer*

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**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**  
**Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb**

To every servant be it told,  
How he should use with courage  
bold

The talent God has given.  
His treasure he should well defend,  
Abundantly good seed should  
spend,

When it may lead to Heaven,  
Many person who receive it  
And believe it,  
They'll have gladness,  
And be free from grief and sadness.

*Zion's Harp #210*

Our dear Elder Bro. Dan Koch has "used with courage bold the talent God has given him and has abundantly sown good seed". Having retired from the duties as an Elder some time back, he has now retired from the ministry also. We thank Bro. Dan for his many years of service and pray

God will grant Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol good health that they may have a retirement filled with God's blessings.

Richard Beutel (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol) and Naida Gillespie were married at Stowe, VT on July 11. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their life together.

Many hearts have been saddened as loved ones have passed from this life to eternity. We extend heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Frieda Schaefer and her family in the passing of her sister, Sis. Esther Tanner (Goodfield, IL).

We also extend sympathy to Sis. Ida and Sis. Esther Musselman and family in the passing of Bro. Howard Musselman (Peoria, IL).

Our Sis. Ann Aberle was relieved of her earthly afflictions on July 13. She is survived by brothers, Bro. Al (Sis. Emma), Bro. Emil (Sis. Wilma), Bro. Walt (Sis. Vera), Bro. Ernie (Sis. Frieda), Vernon, and nieces and nephews.

May you feel God's loving arms around you and may His presence comfort you is our prayer.

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## ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Denise Romersberger**

**Sue Ruppert**

That Monday evening the storm was ferocious. After the big winds came through, there were many trees down and branches broken off. Within a few days, the leaves on those branches were turning brown. They had been broken off from their life source, and could not sustain themselves. So they shriveled and died. As I observed this, I thought, "That is just what happens when we, the branches, are separated from the vine, Jesus Christ. Our souls shrivel up

and die." But in contrast to the sudden break of the branches of the trees in the wind storm, many times our break from Christ is much more subtle. A few cracks at a time: a liberty here, a neglect of reading the Scriptures there, and before we know what has happened, we are separated from our life source. May God grant us the grace to depend totally on Him, and to be willing to be shaped by Him. Let us not go our own way, or we may become as dead as those branches, which are no good, but to be thrown into the fire.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL), Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) and Glen Dill (Tremont, IL). We thank these brothers for lending themselves as servants of God.

The Sunday School picnic was held on a beautiful, warm Sunday afternoon. The food was plentiful, and both the children and adults enjoyed the fellowship.

An open house was held June 14 at the condominiums which are now complete. Six of the nine units are filled, with three units still available for occupancy. God has truly blessed this endeavor!

Several of our congregation have been hospitalized this month. Bro. Kevin Hofstetter is now at home and is recuperating from the surgery he experienced. Sis. Ann Hofstetter was also hospitalized briefly, but is now home doing well. Sis. Millie Drester underwent knee surgery and is home recovering. We thank the Lord for providing wisdom to the physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers who cared for our church family members. We also thank Him for His gra-

acious presence in their recovery.

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## INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Kim Maller**

**Trudy Eisenmann**

A friend recently shared a verse with me; it's so good, it needs to be passed along: "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen." (I Timothy 1:17). This reminds me to seek God's praise and not my own and that He reigns forever!

How awesome to think that we can live with Him. Bro. Dan Habegger, 84, passed away June 30, leaving his two sons, Richard and Larry. Also, Bro. Aaron Reinhard, 81, left this earth on June 21, leaving his wife, Sis. Irene, and three sons, Don, Bro. Jerome, and Bro. John.

The nursery is buzzing with the arrival of Braden David born June 20 to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Brittany Isch. Grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny Isch and Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda Maller. Also, Bro. Von and Sis. Diane Heyerly were first-time grandparents when Zachary Alexander was born to Allen and Kristi (Heyerly) Etter on June 21. A firstborn son was born to Bro. Kurt and Sis. Mary Gilliom, named Conner Everett, on July 9. Grandparents are Bro. Hubert and Sis. Judy Isch and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Marie Gilliom. On June 19, Bro. Chris and Sis. Kara Pulver gave birth to their little Chad Simon who joins Taylor, and grandparents, Bro. Lester and Sis. Aldulla Pulver and Bro. Simon and Sis. Delores Heyerly.

We want to thank Bros. Dan Beer (Milford, IN) and Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) who shared the Word of God with



us. It was quite encouraging!

We apologize for the misspelling of Sis. Nellie Bertsch who had passed away.

We sang farewell to two parties who are leaving Bluffton. Sis. Kami Isch will be going to Africa for a period of time. Her address by airmail is Kami Isch, F I L, BP1299, Yaounde Cameroon Africa. Bro. Hal and Sis. Janean Kipfer and family are going to Indianapolis where he will further his studies. We hope they will return to Bluffton.

Bro. Brian Clark (Richard and Connie) has been engaged to Sis. Annette Nestle (Cindy Courtney).

We celebrated the wedding of Bro. Kurt Moser to Sis. Molli Gilliom on June 21. Their parents are Bro. Dwight and Sis. Pat Moser and Bro. Dave and Sis. Marcene Gilliom.

June 28 was the 50th wedding anniversary of Bro. Dale and Sis. Doris Fiechter. We praise the Lord for these marriages committed to Him in faith.

Bluffton was host July 11-12 to Christian Endeavor. A large group of high school students from Indiana churches were here.

Prayers are extended for those in the hospital this past month: Lyle Isch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny), Bro. Walter Speheger (Sis. Mary), Dave Aschliman (Sis. Linda), Bro. Milo Baumgartner, and Sis. Hilda Steffen.

It's always an exciting time when friends come to the Lord. Eight souls have confessed peace and were announced to be baptized in the near future.

**INDIANA  
BLUFFTON NORTH  
Lori Steffen  
Rhonda Maller**

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

*Psalm 32:8*

These are words of hope and promise for our new convert, Laura Kipfer (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Valerie). We rejoice with Laura and her family and pray that she will grow in wisdom and spirit.

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

*Psalm 127:3*

We also celebrate with Eric, Grant and Garrett Bucher as they welcome their new baby brohter, Zachary. Zachary and his brothers are the sons of Bro. Trent and Sis. Kelli Bucher. Grandparents are Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis Bucher and Bro. Butch and Sis. Pat Moser.

Many of our congregation joined in Sunday services with Bluffton on June 21 for the wedding of our Bro. Kurt Moser (Bro. Butch and Sis. Pat) and Sis. Molli Gilliom (Bro. Dave and Sis. Marcene, Bluffton North). God's blessings on this union of love.

Our hearts share in the grief of Bro. Amos Reinhard (Sis. Martha) over the loss of his twin brother, Aaron (Sis. Irene, Bluffton). We know that God will comfort Amos in his sorrow.

Daniel Shorb, 14 year old son of Bro. Brett and Sis. Cindy Shorb, was admitted to Riley Children's Hospital recently. We pray for his speedy recovery.

"For our light affliction, which

is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;"

*II Corinthians 4:17*

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE  
Pam Huber**

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

*John 8:32*

"What is truth...?" was our theme for Bible School this year. We were challenged and encouraged by all those who were with us through the week. Our thanks goes to Bros. Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL), Howard Plattner (Alto, MI), John Laukhauf (Latty, OH), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) and Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL). May God bless you and your families and all those who helped make it possible.

We had the joy of two couples being united in marriage this past month. Tara Putt (Norm and Sis. Mary) and Jim Terry (Donald and Patricia) exchanged vows on June 20. Our prayers are with them as they seek God's guidance on this new path together. On July 5, Sis. Sharlin Huber (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jackie) and Bro. Jaret Wieland (Bro. Brace and Sis. Brenda, Leo, IN) were married. We also wish them God's grace and strength as they join their lives as one with His.

Diana Houston has found peace with God and man. We rejoice with her and will continue in prayer for her strength and growth in the Lord.

Sis. Catherine Neihouser has been in the hospital recently. May God grant her strength as

she regains her health.

Sympathy and comfort are extended to Maxine Boehning (Stanley) at the loss of her mother, Mabel Boze. May the Lord ease their hearts and minds. We also pray for peace and strength as Dale Phebus, who is the father of Judy Gutwein (Gorden), passed away recently.

Our prayers also go out to the family of Joel Montgomery who passed away. He was a grandson to our dear Bro. Joe and Sis. Esther Gray. We can rest in the knowledge of God's sovereignty and love as Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Praise and thanks to God for the many visiting ministers we had this past month for all our special events and regular Sunday services: Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), Jaye Rinkenberger and Jeff Grimm (both of Goodfield, IL).

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### **INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS** **Gail Bradford**

This month we welcomed several newcomers to our fellowship. Bro. Hal and Sis. Janean Kipfer, Bro. Joe and Sis. Tara Sprunger, and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jill Martin and their families have recently moved to our area. Graduate studies bring Gina Meylan and Bro. Rob Honneger to Indianapolis. Recent graduate Bro. Aaron Klopfenstein began a new job here.

We rejoice with happy grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis.

Becky Pearson, and great-grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Edye Mayer, on the birth of Jacob Logan Barnett on May 26, son of Michael and Kristin (Pearson) Barnett.

Friends and family gathered on July 11 to witness the marriage of David Witzig (Bro. Bill and Sis. Conni) to Nicole Carver. Bro. Ken Wuethrich reminded all of us how blessed a family can be with Christ at the center.

We were saddened by the death of Amy Butros' brother, David Nelson. May the Lord comfort Amy and her husband, Ramiz, as they carry on. We lean on the knowledge that David rests in the loving arms of his Saviour.

In June, more than 60 children attended evening Vacation Bible School, learning through songs, activities and projects how much Jesus loves them, and the exciting ways they can respond to His love.

In July, our senior high school students attended Christian Endeavor at Bluffton, IN.

On a recent Wednesday night, we read in II Samuel 24 that David would not accept the gift of a threshing floor and oxen with which to make a burnt offering to God. Instead, he insisted on paying for them, because he did not want to sacrifice to God "that which doth cost me nothing." Are we giving to God only that which is convenient, or are we offering him our "pearls of great price"?

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### **INDIANA, LACROSSE** **Anna Marie Stoller**

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just per-

sons, which need no repentance."

*Luke 15:7*

Joy resounds in Heaven and throughout the LaCrosse congregation with news of Mark Heindold (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy) turning to God in repentance.

Carol Ailes, Sis. Carolyn Levy, Bro. Ed Frank, Bro. Harold Heindold, and Rachel Feller are in our prayers as they endure physical illnesses.

Bros. Kent Mogler and DeWayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) were visiting ministers the past month. God is gracious to provide spiritual nourishment Sunday after Sunday, and how privileged we are that He grants us this day of rest from earthly toil. We trust that our brothers who bring forth God's message can also feel a blessing and break from the earthly cares, even though they labor in the Word.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

We want to take this means of thanking each one for your cards, phone calls, prayers, food and any other way of helping during John's illness and since his death. Words cannot express our thanks and appreciation enough to each one of you. May God richly bless you all.

*In Christian love,*

*Sis. Lucille Heiniger*

*Joan Cambern and family*

*David Heiniger and family*

*Karen Pickard and family*

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### **INDIANA, LEO** **Ethelyn Schlatter**

"Where He leads I'll follow" (G.H. #788). We miss Bro. John Willis who has moved to Kiowa, KS. He has taken a job with a harvesting team. May he feel the Lord's presence in his heart as

we pray for him. His address is: John Willis, c/o Paul Roark, 4745 S.E. S.R.Z, Kiowa, KS 67070

Bro. David and Sis. Paige Stieglitz are leaving the Leo congregation and relocating in Elgin, IL. He has been accepted as administrator at Apostolic Christian Resthaven. We will miss them. May they find a blessing in His service there.

Bro. Gene Stoller was hospitalized for back surgery and is now at home recuperating.

Sis. Lucile Frank was hospitalized with a heart attack and is recovering at Christian Care, Bluffton, IN. May they feel the Lord's care and healing power.

Sis. Pearl Klopfenstein, 88, who had been in failing health since September, 1997, was liberated from her earthly body on July 4. She and Bro. Lloyd, who survives, were living with Bro. Lynn and Sis. Chris who faithfully cared for them. On June 27, they quietly observed 69 years of marriage with family and a few friends. We pray for God's comforting Spirit on Bro. Lloyd and their two sons, Bro. Dennis and Bro. Lynn, and their families.

It was a blessing to share in the joy of Bro. Jaret Wieland and Sis. Sharlin Huber as they were joined as one on July 5 at Francesville, IN. Both fathers, Bro. Brace Wieland (Leo, IN) and Brian Huber (Francesville), took part in the ceremony. It was a beautiful service as reflected in one of the hymns, Zion's Harp #186, verse 4, "Truly meekness greatly blesses, and obtains the Father's grace. Who this virtue here possesses, knowing her most fitting place, will in all his deeds find favor, and his soul is glorious ever. Faith, hope, love and gentleness do a heart of meekness bless."

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN), Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN). At all three services we were reminded that we are living in the last days.

Bro. Gary read Acts 28:27 and said because of prosperity there is a "lack of desire to serve God". Elder Bro. Phil read Acts 17:16 and asked, "are our hearts stirred" with the evil that surrounds us today? Bro. Carroll referred to the signs of the last days, that Jesus left for us in Matthew, Mark and Luke.

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### INDIANA, MILFORD Renee Beer - Linda Beer

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

*Psalm 139:23-24*

Bro. Phil and Sis. Millie Beer were blessed to become grandparents of Elizabeth, daughter of Steve and Heidi Rozow of Milford. Also blessed were Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby Beer becoming grandparents of Joseph, son of Bro. Daren and Sis. Rita Metz (Morton, IL).

We thank Bro. Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) for serving us God's Word. May the Spirit fill each of our ministers as they stand to share the Word each Sunday.

We pray God will grant many years of happiness and blessings to the union of Sis. Renee Beer (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby) and Bro. Brett Lantz (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Diane) of Rittman.

We were thankful for the safe return of 29 from our congrega-

tion who spent a week in Juarez, Mexico. The High School Sunday School and young people along with teachers and parents had a very blessed experience in helping the needy and growing in their relationships with God and each other.

We appreciate vacationers who visit us for services when they are in our area. Being a smaller church, we are especially blessed by your presence and the sweet fellowship.

This reading was very meaningful to me, causing me to ask, am I making a consistent investment for God's glory and His cause?

"O Thou, whose name is Love, Who never turnest away from the cry of Thy needy children, give ear to my prayer. Make this a day of blessing to me, and make me a blessing to others. Keep all evil away from me. Preserve me from outward transgression and from secret sin. Help me to control my temper. May I check the first risings of anger or sullenness. If I meet with unkindness or ill-treatment, give me that charity which suffereth long and beareth all things. Make me kind and gentle towards all, loving even those who love me not. Let me live this day as if it were to be my last. O my God, show me the path that Thou wouldest have me to follow. May I take no step that is not ordered by Thee, and go nowhere except Thou, Lord, go with me. Amen."

—A. Drenden

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### INDIANA, REMINGTON Patti Bahler

On June 21, Bro. Marvin Streitmatter (Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane, Princeville, IL) and Sis. Sara

Steffen (Bro. Roger and Sis. Vicki) were united in marriage. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Sara will make their home in Bloomington, IL. We wish them God's richest blessings.

On June 28, our church gathered together for our annual Sunday School picnic. A special thanks to the teachers who have put in much time and energy to teach our students the way, the truth and the life. A warm welcome to the new teachers, Sis. Sarah Schambach, Bro. Jason Getz and Bro. Stan Virkler.

We feel thankful and blessed for our visiting ministers this month. Thanks to Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Art Baurer and Jim Plattner (both of Princeville, IL) and our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN). We appreciate the many teachings delivered to us.

"Christian history looks glorious in retrospect; but it is made up of constant hard choices and unattractive tasks accepted under the pressure of the Will of God."

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## INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Jennifer Mangold  
Sue Beebe**

I was listening to a sermon from a brother in Bluffton. One of those wonderful tapes that are provided by mail. And the sermon was of Charity. I cannot remember the dear brother's name, but he spoke of charity as love that is given with nothing expected in return. He spoke of how we are asked to love our neighbors as ourselves, and how charitable love does not look to what we receive in return. He also chastened each of us to examine ourselves and how we

treat others, especially brethren of the church. Do we avoid some during times of fellowship, in attempt to avoid greeting them? When we are kind to another, do we always expect kindness in return? I really had to examine myself with these questions.

"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;"

*I Corinthians 13:4-6*

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), and Bros. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Walt Rager (Toledo, OH), and Ben Manz (Junction, OH). We sincerely appreciate these brothers giving of themselves while they were here to minister the Word. Other visitors this month were from Bern, Sabetha, Peoria, LaCrosse, Congerville, Bluffton and Belvidere.

Our dear Sisters Mildred and Ernestine Meister are prayerfully watching by the bedside of their brother who is ill. The thoughts and prayers of our congregation are with them.

Many gathered at the home of Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe for our annual Sunday School picnic. We appreciate the loved ones opening their home to our congregation.

We rejoice with Bro. Tom and Sis. Carolyn Frank in the wedding of their daughter, Celise, to Kirk Beckham. This new couple will reside in Indianapolis and we pray that God's blessings and guidance will be with them forever.

Several have traveled or are traveling from our congregation. We pray that the Lord will watch over Sis. Deann Beebe (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue) as she travels to see a friend in Japan. The Beebe family are also awaiting the return of Mark Beebe who is in England on a work/education program. And, we are thankful that the Lord provided a way for young people in our congregation and Milford, IN to travel on a work team to Mexico. Many of those who went felt the blessing they received in giving of this time and effort exceeded what work they were able to provide to those in need in Mexico.

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## INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Beckie Lehman  
Jody Bahler**

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

*Romans 8:28*

It was touching to feel the power of the Holy Spirit moving among our Wolcott congregation as we, as a united body of believers, gave our prayerful support to Bro. Greg (Sis. MaryBeth) Lehman to become a messenger of God's Word through the ministry. We are thankful that God has provided, and we pray that Bro. Greg and Sis. MaryBeth and their precious family will feel the divine presence of God in their lives.

We are grateful for visiting ministers who have shared the Word with us this past month. They are Bros. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), and

Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN). May the Lord bless them.

Many of our congregation traveled to Morton, IL on July 12 to witness the union of Bro. Brian Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell) to Sis. Cherise Knobloch (Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl, Morton, IL). We wish for them many blessings in their married life, and that they will continue to seek the Lord and to walk humbly and obediently before Him.

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### IOWA, BURLINGTON

#### Karla Gerst - Judy Gehring

Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL) was with us for the funeral of Sis. Lois Gray. She is survived by her mother, Sis. Maye Heiniger, two brothers, Richard (Burlington, IA) and John (Knoxville, IA), and one sister, Joan Gerst (Burlington, IA). May we remember each one of them in our prayers.

As a dear soul leaves us, a new son, Bennett Lyle, was born to Bro. Leroy and Sis. Carolyn Wulf. His brothers are Brett and Blake and his sisters are Heather and Hanna. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Leona Wulf (Lester, IA) and Bro. Lloyd and the late Sis. Edith Massner.

In our Sunday School election, Sis. Monica Eisenmann was voted in for a two-year term. Bro. Michael Messner is in for a five-year term. God bless the teachers who teach our dear young children. May they all have a special blessing for sharing their time and talents.

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### IOWA, ELGIN

#### Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

"But rise, and stand upon thy

feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee..."

*Acts 26:16*

Our prayers are with Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty) who has been called to serve in the ministry. We give them our love and support, and appreciate their willingness to be submissive to this duty, for truly "stones could not help crying if the watchmen's call would cease."

We want to extend a warm welcome to Bro. Jeff Strunk (Belvidere, IL) who has found employment here, to our small congregation. We hope he may feel at home, and look forward to worshipping and fellowshiping together.

"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...He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

*Revelation 21:4,7*

Car accidents occur every day and lives are taken—but when it happens in your own church family, the tragedy seems so much greater. Along with his family, Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy, Sis. Melisa, Aaron, Monica, and Maria, we mourn the loss of their son and brother, Jerry Lynn Butikofer, who died July 10, nine days following a car accident. May God help us all to trust in His perfect wisdom and will, and may He grant the family an extra

portion of grace to bear their loss. Jerry's grandparents are Bro. Albert and the late Sis. Betty Banwart (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Bert and Sis. Beulah Butikofer (Elgin, IA).

We always appreciate our visiting ministers who come to preach the Word. They included Elder Bros. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), and Bros. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX). May God bless these dear brothers as they labor on our behalf.

As we think ahead to the upcoming Brotherhood Conference, we want to remember our Elder Brethren in prayer. May they feel the Spirit's movement and guidance as they gather together to seek God's direction for our lives.

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### IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

#### Laura Funk

Visiting ministers recently include Bros. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS) and John Rowell (Burlington, IA). We are thankful the Lord provides these brothers to be used on our behalf.

We wish Eloise Glatt, Sis. Jan Webber's mother, a speedy recovery from total knee replacement surgery. She is staying with Bro. Phil and Sis. Jan this summer. We look forward to having her assemble with us again.

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### IOWA, IOWA CITY

#### Sharon Gerst

The Iowa City Reunion was held on the 27th and 28th of June. It was a blessed time as we visited with those who had lived in the Iowa City area before.

Thank you to all who came to share the weekend with us.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month. They were Bros. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA), Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL). We appreciate these brothers coming to speak the Word of Life to our congregation.

We welcome Bro. Larry and Sis. Emily Peterson as they moved from Lester to be with the Iowa City congregation. May they feel a part of our little church family! We appreciate all who help us "Hold the Fort" until the Lord returns!

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Janette Schulz in the loss of her sister-in-law, Sis. Karen Schulz. We also extend our prayers to Sis. Melisa Butikofer in the loss of her brother, Jerry Butikofer.

Our prayers are with Bro. Ted and Sis. Carrie Wiegand as Sis. Carrie has been hospitalized in the last several weeks.

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

We are so thankful for our ministers who share with us the Word of Life. Our visiting ministers were Bros. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA). May God bless them and their families for their labors.

Our thoughts were drawn closer to Heaven when we laid to rest a dear sister in faith, Sis. Elizabeth Nester. We share sor-

row with her stepchildren, Bro. Eugene (Sis. Shirley) and Sis. Ruth, and her sisters, Sis. Zelma Knobloch and Sis. Iola Knobloch. May they take comfort in knowing that her days of suffering are over.

We also extend sympathy to Sis. Donna Mogler (Bro. Phil) on the death of her mother, Sis. Velma Hartzler (Rittman, OH); and to Sis. Laretta Knobloch on the death of her mother, Sis. Esther Tanner (Goodfield, IL). We pray that God will comfort all those who sorrow.

Two souls from our congregation have heeded the call to repentance. We rejoice with Anna Knobloch (the late Otto) and Mychal Van Wyhe (Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan) and pray that they will feel God's nearness as they seek to build on the firm foundation.

We congratulate Bro. Jared Metzger (Bro. Art and Sis. Kristy) on his engagement to Sis. Carla Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene) of Sabetha, KS. We wish them many blessings as they plan for their future together.

God bless you on your pilgrim way,  
Thro' storm and sunshine guiding still;

His presence guard you day by day,  
And keep you safe from ev'ry ill.

*Gospel Hymns #514*

We wish the best to Bro. Larry and Sis. Emily Peterson who have moved to Iowa City, IA. We will miss them and their son, Andrew, who plans to join them at the end of the summer.

Our hospital patients were Anna Knobloch and Andy Leuthold (Elsie). Surgical patients were Bro. Paul Leuthold (Sis. Betty), Sis. Sherryl Knobloch (Bro. Larry), Maria

and Abigail Warner (Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue). Bro. Phil Mogler (Sis. Donna) had cataract surgery. We pray for God's healing hand on them and on all that suffer bodily afflictions.

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**IOWA, OAKVILLE**  
**Melody Steiner**  
**Debra Wagenbach**

Bro. Chad Kuntz (Bro. Bob and Sis. Edra) and Sis. Natalie Wiegand (Bro. Brian and Sis. Cindy) were united in Holy Matrimony on June 28. Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bros. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) and Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) were in Oakville for this special weekend. May God bless Bro. Chad and Sis. Natalie and provide for them as they begin their life as one in Him.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held at the Fellowship Center on July 19. We are thankful to have such willing teachers for our children and pray that God will always be near them as they strive to "plant the seeds of righteousness" into their young hearts.

On July 26 we welcomed five dear souls into our precious brotherhood. Our new brothers and sisters are Bro. Robby and Sis. Kris Lanz, Bro. Regan and Sis. Tricia Lanz, and Bro. David Lanz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet). Bro. Robby and Bro. Regan are both the sons of Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Jean Lanz. We so much appreciated the admonitions and encouragement of two dear Elder brothers throughout the weekend. Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) joined us to assist Elder Bro. Ed.

Other recent visiting ministers who we enjoyed having in our

congregation at Oakville are Bros. Danny Stoller (Rockville, CT) and Rod Bajema (Lester, IA). May God bless them.

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## IOWA, PULASKI

### Lisa Knecht

Greetings of love to each of you! We want to extend a special thank you to Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA) and Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Sis. Mildred, Goodfield, IL) for visiting our congregation and being used in God's service. Our prayers of support are with you.

July 19 was the wedding day for Bro. Virgil Knobloch and Sis. Katrina Walter in Silverton, OR. Our congregation warmly welcomes you, Sis. Katrina, as we have been looking so forward to having you with us. May the Lord continue to bless and be near you both as you serve Him together.

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## IOWA, WEST BEND

### Berniece Banwart

### Eunice Fehr

Sunday, July 5, Bro. Matthew Fehr (Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Rachel Schmidt (Bro. John and Sis. Paula) exchanged wedding vows. Bros. Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN) and Don Miller (Sis. Bernadine, Minneapolis, MN) ministered from God's Word on this happy occasion.

On July 12, we were encouraged when three dear souls gave their testimonies and were baptized. We welcome Bro. Jaylin Dahlhauser (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Ellen), Sis. Kendra Banwart (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Marlene) and Sis. Breann Messner (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Audrey) as our new brother and sisters in the Lord. Elder Bros. Curt Frank

(Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr in this important work. Bros. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) and Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) also lent themselves in sharing the Word.

Our surgical patients this month have been Bro. Rick Kellenberger (Sis. Karen) and Bro. Victor Banwart (Sis. Marilyn). Others in for medical treatment have been Joel Schmidt (Wendy), Sis. Elma Mogler, and Josh Wirtz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila). We are thankful that all have been released from the hospital and can enjoy a fair measure of health.

The death angel has called Home two dear souls, one young and one old. Our prayers and sympathy go out to Bro. Albert Banwart, as his grandson, Jerry Butikofer (Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy, Elgin, IA), passed away after a tragic car accident. Also to mourn his passing are Jerry's uncle and aunt, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose Grimm, along with many relatives from here. May this dear family feel God's loving arms around them and be encouraged to continue on.

Sis. Elizabeth Nester (Lester, IA) was called Home after lingering many years in the nursing home. Left to mourn her passing are her three brothers, Emil Metzger, Bro. Arnold Metzger (Sis. Alice), Bro. Silas Metzger (Sis. Della) and Sis. Marie and Sis. Darlene Metzger, and two sisters-in-law, Alice Marie Metzger and Rosella Metzger, all of the West Bend area. Also from our congregation is step-granddaughter, Sis. Anita Fehr (Bro. Byron).

Bro. Bill and Connie Zaugg are excited to be first-time grandpar-

ents to Caitlyn Rose Kenney of Ayrshire, IA. Caitlyn arrived June 16 to the home of Scott and Carolyn Kenney. We wish them God's blessing and direction as they begin their new role as parents. Great-grandparents to welcome her are Bro. Ed and Sis. Helen Zaugg and Don and Eleanor Hohensee (Pocahontas, IA).

May we prayerfully remember our Elder Brothers as they gather for the Brotherhood Conference. As we gather for the tapes, may we be submissive and strive to uphold our blessed faith.

Our Sunday School students will have three weeks vacation in August and resume on August 23. The 4-year-olds are anxiously looking forward to beginning Sunday School.

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## JAPAN, SHIODA

### Willis Ehnle

I help the Japanese English teachers in our local junior high school and one of the three teachers I help with pronunciation and practice is Mr. Mochizuki. He asked me to talk to the students about my travels in Japan so I told them about guiding some American guests to Kyoto and Nara. Kyoto has many temples and is the old capital of Japan. Nara has a very large Buddhist idol inside of a huge temple. Mr. Mochizuki asked me what my guests thought of this huge statue and I replied that they were worried. He asked why they were worried and I replied that there are too many idols in Japan. They have eyes but they cannot see and they have ears but they cannot hear. Mr. Mochizuki told me and the students that Christianity also has idols in the form of statues of Jesus, or of

Mary holding the baby Jesus. He also asked me the difference between a statue and an idol. I told him if these statues or any statue is worshipped, it is an idol. If it is not prayed to or worshipped, it is just a statue. They all took a great interest in this matter of idols and the way in which at least some Americans look at it.

Bro. Frank Sauder, his wife, Sis. Kathy, and their three boys are presently visiting us. Bro. Frank was our visiting minister on Sunday, July 12, and we appreciated his messages on leadership as displayed by Moses, and on failure and success, as displayed by Peter who denied the Lord but later, profiting from his failure, went on to success as a servant of the Lord.

Lois and I plan to be in the States from July 29 until August 28. God bless you all. We love you.

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## JAPAN, TOKYO

### Andrew and Jana Klaus

Greetings of love from Tokyo! Our congregation was greatly blessed to have had a visiting minister and his family on July 19. This is a rare occurrence although we invite with open arms and hearts any other ministers to share the Word with us anytime! Our visiting minister was Bro. Frank Sauder and his wife, Sis. Kathy, and three boys (Roanoke, IL). The Sauders were back in Japan for their second visit since they returned to America five years ago. It seemed as if they were "right at home" to many of us! We appreciated Bro. Frank's efforts in bringing God's message to us in his usual clear, easy to understand manner. After church services, many of us enjoyed a picnic and fellowship at

Kinuta Park, a large lovely, green park in the midst of the busy city. Precious memories, how they linger!

The week before, July 12, was also a very blessed weekend as Sis. Judy Bauer, a former Shioda American Kindergarten teacher, along with her aunt, Sis. Helen Jenssen, and cousin, Elaine Young, all from Cissna Park, IL were able to worship and fellowship with us. After church services, they and others traveled to the country church to have a singing and supper together. It was a very special time of fellowship and praising God through song. We look forward to one more Sunday, July 26, of fellowship with Sis. Judy, Sis. Helen and Elaine before they continue on in their travels to China, Hong Kong, India and Germany.

Sis. Haruyo Onoda's youngest son, Akira, and his wife have a new baby boy born July 8. They live just ten minutes from Sis. Onoda, so she can often enjoy her first grandchild.

Our oldest member, Sis. Shizuko Utsuki, spent some time in the hospital recently. She is back home now, but still has many weak days. Sis. Yoshiko Sakuta still suffers greatly from rheumatism and cannot attend church as often as she would like. Please keep these dear people in your prayers. In fact, Sis. Yoshiko knows English quite well, so if you would like to write to her to encourage her, the address is:

Yoshiko Sakuta  
3-6-2-B-607 Inukura  
Miyamae-Ku, Kawasaki-shi  
Kanagawa-Ken 216-0011  
Japan

Even if you do not know her, feel free to introduce yourself.

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## KANSAS, BERN Holly Meyer Lori Baumgartner

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

*II Corinthians 5:17*

June 20 and 21 was a special weekend as we welcomed four new sisters in faith into our congregation. Kendra Meyer (Earl and Sis. Darlene), Belinda Stoller (Bro. Darrell and Sis. Gloria), and Tamra and Kimberly Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan) shared their testimonies with us on Saturday evening and we witnessed their baptisms on Sunday.

Sharing the pulpit that weekend with Elder Bro. John Lehman were visiting Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Art Nohl (Morris, MN), and Bros. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL). What a blessing it was having each of them, their families, and many other visitors in our midst.

We were so beautifully reminded that before repentance, each of us seem to fear "giving up" so many things of this world, but alas when we do repent, we find that God through His grace removes our old desires and we really aren't giving up anything at all. Instead we gain. We truly become a new creature in Christ.

We rejoice with Lori Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie) who has made a beginning in repentance. May we each do our part to uphold her in prayer as she puts her old life behind and becomes new.

The following weekend of June 28 was another joyous occasion.



We witnessed the wedding of Sis. Kristen Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie) and Bro. Gabriel Hill (Edward and Susan Sauver, Phoenix, AZ). Our prayers go with them as they establish their home in Phoenix.

Two visiting ministers, Bros. Greg Gramm (Phoenix, AZ) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), were here to share in Gabriel and Kristen's joy. We had one other visiting minister during the month, Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO). May the Lord bless each one for their service on our behalf.

We were happy to hear the engagement of Sis. Wanda Grimm (Sabetha, KS) to Bro. Dayton Menold. Sis. Wanda's parents are Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene Grimm (Sabetha). Bro. Dayton's parents are Bro. James and Sis. Lou Menold. May the Lord continue to direct their lives as they plan for a future together.

We are thankful to report the safe arrival of three new babies. We pray for wisdom for the parents and grandparents who have been given the opportunity to influence these new little lives.

Rachael Kate was born on June 16 to Bro. Jay and Sis. Heidi Baumgartner. She is welcomed home by siblings, Laura and Mitchell. Rachael's grandparents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy Baumgartner and Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey.

June 28 was the birth date of Lauren Victoria. She was born to Bro. Victor and Sis. Jananne Menold and is welcomed home by one sister, Alexa. Her grandparents are Bro. James and Sis. Lou Menold and Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn Hartter.

Clayton and Sis. Miriam Strahm welcomed a new grandson, Eli John, into their hearts.

Little Eli was born on July 8 to Brian and Christy Strahm of Bern.

Bro. Roy Rokey (Sis. Lucy) was hospitalized during the past month. We are thankful he has recuperated from injuries he suffered during a fall.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held the evening of June 7. We appreciated all the Sunday School teachers who helped organize this looked-forward-to event. We often take for granted the extra efforts our Sunday School teachers put forth throughout the year for our children. We are so thankful for all that they do for them. May the Lord continue to direct each one of them in their work that "touches many lives".

Kindly heaven smiles above,  
When there's love at home;  
All the earth is filled with love,  
When there's love at home.  
Sweeter sings the brooklet by,  
Brighter beams the azure sky;  
O there's One who smiles on high,  
When there's love at home.

*Hymns of Zion #64*

Bro. Harlan and Sis. Pearl Stoller celebrated their upcoming 50th wedding anniversary with their family on July 11. May their home continue to be one filled with love toward each other.

August brings with it the sounds of the school bell. As our children look forward to a new school year with anticipation, we must remember (as parents and grandparents) to pray for each one of them, their teachers, and their administrators. May we remember to keep our homes as a haven of peace and love for our children to come home to each afternoon or evening.

## KANSAS, KIOWA Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

My heav'nly home is bright and fair,  
Nor pain nor death can enter there:  
It's glitt'ring towers the sun outshine;  
That heavenly mansion shall be mine.  
*Hymns of Zion #247*

The Lord called our dear Sis. Kathryn Miller Home this month. We are so grateful that she will never have pain again. Her faith was a blessing as she struggled with poor health over the years. She will truly be missed by all.

As our youth return to their various schools, may we hold them up in prayer that the Lord's guiding, protecting hand is on each one.

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## KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY Julie Bahr

A number of us had the privilege to enjoy the enrichment class Bro. Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington, IL) shared with us the weekend of July 25. Bringing our children up in the Godly way and the prayerful way was Bro. Jeff's message to us. It was uplifting to all who attended. Each one of us have a responsibility to teach them the preciousness of others. May God grant Bro. Jeff and his dear wife the needed grace to labor on.

A dear brother, Bro. Joe Farney (Sis. Wilma), went to his heavenly reward on July 24. Bro. Joe and his dear wife attended church with us in Gridley for a number of years, while living in Kansas City, before the Kansas

City church was built. We share in the deep sympathy that is extended to Bro. Joe's dear family. May God comfort each heart.

Because of God's goodness and grace this past month, several have felt His healing touch. Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane) and his son, Michael, both experienced some trauma or surgery repair. Bro. Jay suffered a foot injury and Michael received corrective inner ear surgery. Sis. Jill Luthi received minor surgery, and little Matthew Knobloch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri) suffered a shoulder injury. Let us be mindful to encourage each one in their afflictions.

Our heartfelt thanks is extended to Bro. Lloyd Kraft (Sis. Nadine) for his willingness to serve on the pulpit for a number of years. Bro. Lloyd retired from the ministry this past month, after serving for 19 years. We pray for God's blessings upon him and his dear family.

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### **KANSAS, SABETHA**

**Mary Kay Wenger  
Brenda Grimm**

There has been a lot of joy in our congregation this month.

Trisha Kellenberger (Bro. Jay and Sis. Marilyn) became the bride of Matthew Gibson (Thomas and Patricia Gibson, Ozawkie, KS) on June 6. We pray for God's blessings on this union as they make their home in Topeka, KS.

Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian Kellenberger observed their 50th wedding anniversary and enjoyed the day with family and friends.

Father's Day was a special day for Bro. Ben and Sis. Jan Wysong. They were blessed with a grandson, Benny William, born

to Natalie and Ron Grass (San Francisco, CA). Sis. Evelyn Wysong is a happy great-grandmother.

We were thankful to hear the Word brought forth through visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) and Earl Beery (Rittman, OH).

We rejoiced to hear the engagement of Sis. Kara Grimm (Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene) and Bro. Klinton Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen). A week later it was thrilling to hear another announcement in one of the same families! Sis. Wanda Grimm is engaged to Bro. Dayton Menold (Bro. James and Sis. Lou) of Bern, KS. The following week we rejoiced to hear the engagement of Sis. Carla Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene) to Bro. Jarod Metzger (Bro. Art and Sis. Chris). May God continue with these couples in their future plans.

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### **KANSAS, WICHITA**

**Emma Miller**

Bro. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) brought us the message on July 12. We are the benefactors when Bro. Wally and Sis. Helen are in our community to visit relatives. May the Lord bless them both in their willingness to worship with us.

July 4 was a very special day for our congregation. Our friend, Glenna Funk, became Mrs. Joshua Kelly in a late morning wedding ceremony. Then in an early evening ceremony, our friend, Liza Carnahan, became Mrs. Chris Scanlon. She is the daughter of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Pauline Carnahan and Glenna is the daughter of Bro. Glenn and

Sis. Sally Funk.

Last month, I failed to report that Bro. Jonathon Long was chosen to be an alternate Sunday School teacher. Recently, he shared the ACTS of prayer with us:

Acknowledgement  
Confession  
Thanksgiving  
Supplication

This week, I received a card from Bro. Derek Funk in response to a letter I had written to him. How it delighted my soul to be thanked for thinking of him! So often we contribute to gifts and are never personally thanked for them, which leaves us with an empty feeling. Comparing this to my spiritual life, I must be more dutiful to give thanks to my Heavenly Father for His ever present being in my life. How often I must grieve Him when I take for granted His divine care.

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### **KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**

**Doug and Rebecca Germann**

Our heartfelt thanks to our many visitors this past month. We especially appreciate those who have come to share the Word of Life with our congregation. These include Bros. Ken Schneider (Sis. Loretta, Remington, IN) and John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA). In addition, we were privileged to share a weekend with a group of single brothers from many congregations on the weekend of July 19. The theme of the weekend was "Redeeming our Time" and many brothers spent a great deal of time with the planning of this blessed weekend, and we thank you for your efforts. A special thanks to the Brothers who came to help with the weekend:

Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Bros. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) and Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN). May God richly bless the efforts these Brothers made.

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**MICHIGAN, ALTO**  
**Kristen Plattner**  
**Michelle Oesch**

Our children enjoyed a special week at Vacation Bible School the week of June 22-26. They learned and shared God's love and forgiveness through songs, Bible stories, and making special shoe boxes for blind children in Jamaica. The week held blessings not only for the children who came, but also for those who gave of their time and talents to teach the children. It's been said that "taking the easy way to do things is not necessarily always what is right, but doing those things that are hard for us often is." It can be our tendency to say we are too busy and don't have time to help, but there is always a blessing, even if we can't see it right away, when we give of our time for others.

We extend special thanks to these ministering brothers who traveled to Alto during our week of Bible School: Bro. Bob Meyer on Wednesday evening and Bro. Nelson Beer on Saturday evening. One of them shared this thought that "I am what I am because of the choices I made yesterday." He was talking to the kids about making good choices to avoid the sometimes greater consequences years later. It was a timely message for all of us who are struggling to raise our children to make the right choices and, more importantly, to discern between the voice of the enemy and that of our Lord in

Heaven.

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

*Genesis 2:24*

We extend our blessings on the announcement of two hearts and souls the Lord has led to be joined together. Sis. Melanie Kaeb (Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne) is engaged to marry Bro. Tim Tomic (Kiosta and Eina) from Kitchener, Ontario. May they feel our prayers and the Lord's nearness as they make their wedding plans.

It was an encouragement to hear that three souls have found peace with their Lord and Saviour. Jacob Gerst (Bro. Wally and Donna), Brian Knupstrup (Charles and MaryAnn), and Brett Plattner (Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen) have found grace in serving the Lord and it is our prayer that they may always know that God is good and He will see them through this life here on earth. Whoso draws nigh to God one step through doubtings dim, God will advance a mile in blazing light to him.

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**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**  
**Rhonda Knochel**  
**Peggy Jackson**

Last fall I planted many perennial bulbs and plants around our home. Some of these plants are early spring flowers that got confused when we had warm temperatures in the winter, and began to come up. Then we had some real winter weather and the new little shoots froze. Spring came, and many flowers came up and bloomed, but many did not. I was concerned that I had lost them in the fluctuating winter

weather. One day I was out pulling weeds in my flower beds. Some of the weeds were quite small and so I was very close to the ground, even moving mulch aside, to pull them out. That is when I noticed a whole group of tiny shoots beginning to make their presence known. Many bulbs had survived after all. This gave me a thought about people. Many people have had some seed planted in the fertile soils of their hearts. That seed became dormant as they entered a winter of sin. Some of the seed may have been lost and as we look at all of the weeds, it is easy to miss the gentle activity that may be working just beneath the surface. Sometimes, in the seemingly hardest person, is a child who still hurts. When we love people enough to stick by them and even seek them out when all we can see are the weeds, we may be surprised to get a glimpse of the soul inside that Jesus loved enough to die for. The tender shoots may be coming up! Jesus knows this and that is why we have been commanded to love one another, for it is by our love for one another, that we, as believers, can change the world.

We were very blessed to witness the testimonies and baptisms of Sis. Sarah Knochel (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kay) and Sis. Janelle Ramseyer (Bro. Neil and Sis. Sharon). It is always such a blessing to be reminded of our own conversion as well as to rejoice with those new brothers or sisters in Christ. May God continue to richly bless them as they continue on the road to Heaven. We extend thanks to Elder Bro. Duane Farney and his wife, Sis. Karen (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), and Bro. Don Manz and his wife, Sis. Connie (Junction, OH),

for coming to share in this special weekend with us and for ministering to us from the Word.

We also had the privilege of hearing Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) share the Word. We really appreciate his willingness to serve our congregation and pray a special blessing on him and his wife, Sis. Julie.

Our deepest sympathy is expressed to the Meylan family in the passing of Fern Shannon (Meylan). We pray that in this time of sorrow, each one will feel the very real presence of God comforting them and guiding them on.

The Bible refers to people, in many passages, as earthen vessels, or vessels of clay. As we know, clay pottery is fragile and can easily be chipped or broken. This is also true of us. As we live our lives, we often experience the frailty of our bodies. Sis. Margaret Schlatter (Bro. Dave) and Girard Jacobs (Sis. Diana) have felt firsthand just how fragile we are. We are thankful that the Lord's hand has been on them and pray that in each case, there will be complete healing.

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all..."

*Romans 16:24*

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## MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Kristie Meyer**

**Manuela Denes**

As many of us are busy with our gardens, let us be encouraged with the following:

Five rows of "peas" - prayer, preparedness, promptness, perseverance, politeness.

Three rows of "squash" - squash gossip, criticism, and indifference.

Five rows of "lettuce" - let us love one another, let us be faithful, let

us be loyal, let us be unselfish, let us be truthful.

Three rows of "turnips" - turn up for church, turn up with a new idea, turn up with the determination to do a better job today than you did yesterday.

*(Kemmons Wilson)*

As often happens in our church, we have some move in and some move out. We welcome Sis. Crystal Ramsier (Bro. Dave and Sis. Dottie) from Smithville, OH as she is working for Ford Motor Company. Also, Bro. Lucas Frank (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan) from LaCrosse, IN is worshipping with us as he has accepted a job with Chrysler, and Sis. Ashley Wiegand (Bro. Brian and Sis. Cindy) from Oakville, IA joins us for the summer. We are thankful to have them here as they add to our young group. Bro. Jason Rauhe (Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay) has accepted employment in Chicago and will be leaving us. Anna Jill Zbinden has returned home after being here for an internship at U of M. God bless them as they have completed one facet of life and have entered another.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Lance Pfeifer as he feels the loss of his grandfather, John Roth, from Fairbury, IL. Let us remember to cherish the time we have with those we love.

On June 28, we had our elections for various church offices. We thank all those who have served in the past year. May God bless them for their efforts. Those with new responsibilities are: Sunday School teachers - Bro. Jesse Bedolla and Sis. Pat Baran; Trustees - Bro. Russ Rambeau and Bro. Mike Reinhard; church dinner committee - Sis. Mary Weigle; Woodhaven board member - Bro. Pat Allen;

usher -Bro. Curt Kaisner.

On June 12, several of our young group and adults along with brethren from Iowa went to Haiti on a work team. It was a blessed experience for everyone involved. The pictures they have cannot even begin to show what it is really like.

On May 30, our high school students had a fundraiser dinner to raise money for a trip to the deaf village in Jamaica. They have worked hard on raising funds in various ways. On July 11, they finally left after many months of planning. The experience of having to work together and confronting problems that only God knows why is an invaluable experience. Through everything that happens knowing God is in control is such a comfort.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

*Psalm 46:1*

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## MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Delores Sauder

We have enjoyed the fellowship of many visitors. Among them have been Elder Bros. LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Bros. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Don Stoller (Rockville, CT) and Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL). We thank them for sharing God's Word with us.

The last Sunday for Sunday School was June 28. A picnic was enjoyed at the park. Classes will resume September 13.

As August approaches, we think of the gathering of our Elder Brothers at the annual Conference. Our prayers are with them as they share the concerns

of the church.

The children of Bro. Ray and Sis. Millie Schmidgall hosted a reception July 5 in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were some of the first to gather in Minneapolis and have been faithful laborers in the church. May God continue to bless them.

Sis. Ethel Bednarski (Bro. Joe) is able to assemble with us again after having knee surgery. We are thankful for God's healing power.

*Notes of Thanks:*

I want to express my sincere thanks to everyone for your prayers, cards, gifts of love, phone calls, and visits while I was in the hospital, care center, and at home while I was going through my knee surgeries and recovery. All was deeply appreciated. May God bless you all.

*Sis. Esther Linemann*

I wish to thank everyone who remembered me with prayers, cards, and visits when I had knee surgery. May God bless each one.

*Sis. Ethel Bednarski*

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**MINNESOTA, MORRIS**

**Dianne Kellenberger**

**Nancy Wulf**

Summertime brings so many visitors our way, whether they are vacationing, visiting loved ones, or just passing through. It is always a pleasure to meet and greet each one of you.

We appreciate the effort when some of those visitors are ministers, and we thank Bros. Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ), Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), Clark Stoller and Stephen Baner (Gridley, IL) for lending themselves on our behalf.

June 13 was the blessed wed-

ding day for Russ and Beth Koehl. Rejoicing with them are their parents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Karen Koehl and Bro. Curt and Sis. Jane Ehnle (Princeville, IL). Russ and Beth are making their home in Bloomington, IL and may they feel your warm welcome in your congregation.

Thanking God for His direction in their lives, Bro. Ryan Messner and Sis. Heidi Feuchtenberger look forward to their wedding on August 16. Their parents are Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl Messner and Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger.

Sis. Bev Minke is thankful for her precious granddaughter, Mariah Jo, born June 30 to Chris and Dawn Minke.

Our Sis. Rebecca Schaefer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam) has traveled to Hungary to live and work among our brethren there for six months. May the Lord watch over her and protect her until we meet again.

I forgot to include one college graduate last time. Lori Schmidgall (Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda) has graduated with a Bachelor degree. When one has applied themselves for four years, they do deserve recognition and so, congratulations, Lori.

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**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**

**Carol Ann Messner**

**Becky Braulick**

We were privileged to have Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) with us this past month who shared the Word with us from Judges 7. The chapter is on the attack of the Midianites by Gideon and his 300 men. We were reminded that the battles we face are God's battles which He will deliver us from if we but

ask.

Once again we are at the time Sunday School starts (August 2). Bro. Verl Schmidt was chosen as superintendent for the year. We pray for God's guidance and wisdom for the teachers to lead and teach our children.

Faith and Mercedes Schmidt welcome the birth of their baby brother, Gavin Derick Mitchel, born June 23. We wish them and their parents, Bro. Derick and Sis. Ruth, many blessings. Grandparents are Bro. Darrel and Darlene Schmidt and William and Dorthy Ehlke of Arlington.

Sis. Gerry (Harold) Messner has suffered a setback from her recent surgery. We pray she will soon be on the road to complete recovery.

The following poem was written in remembrance of Sis. Ella Schmidt who passed away a couple of years ago by her granddaughter.

*Grandma's Rose*

With tear stained cheeks we chose the deep red spray of roses for Grandma's casket. There was no other flower that could ever compare to Grandma. Grandma was like a rose in many ways. Anyone could see the beauty of God in a rose, just as anyone could see God's presence in Grandma.

The petals of the rose were soft and silky, as were Grandma's hands. I never could understand how she kept them so soft when she worked so hard! Grandma's arms were always reaching out to help those in need just as the leaves reaching out to catch the sun.

The stem of the rose is straight and strong to hold up the rose in winds and storms just as the

stem in my Grandma's life, God, was strong. He held her up in many "winds" and "storms". He was also her strength in time of need. But with beauty there can also be pain. Thorns are sharp and can pierce the skin. They can tear and rip. The thorn in my grandma's life was cancer — it tore, ripped and pierced my family's hearts. Cancer can kill and that's just what it did.

It's been two years since my Grandma's body was laid to rest. The rose from her funeral is dead and dry. Yet there is still beauty in a dried rose. I remember its gentle fragrance and soft beauty. I don't think there could be a better likeness to my Grandma. My memories of her will always go with me — and just the scent or beauty of a rose will always remind me of her.

—*Sis. Lindsay Schmidt*

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### **MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY** **Brent Kellenberger**

We were thankful to have ministering Bro. David Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO) with us on July 5. Independence week-end always stirs up many thoughts about America, our future, and our standing with God.

For those of us who are redeemed, independence came when we asked Jesus Christ to break the chains of sin and set us free. It is sad to think of our loved ones who are still slaves to Satan. They are deceived into believing that sin and selfishness is freedom and they have no concept of faith. We know from the Bible that without faith, it is impossible to please God. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that

diligently seek him." (Hebrews 11:6). Unfortunately, our society breeds the thought process that before we accept something, it must be recognized as an absolute, tangible fact. This line of thinking can become very dangerous when mixed with God's Word. If we cannot accept and believe the entire Bible on faith, then we will constantly be questioning, and never find fulfillment. We must remember that God is not like man. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord" (Isaiah 55:8). Having a desire to know and understand God's Word is important in our walk of life. The things we don't understand must be believed and followed on faith, knowing that God has a purpose above our understanding.

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### **MISSOURI, LAMAR** **Carolyn Banwart** **Martha Kellenberger**

It's been a pleasure to have so many summer visitors. We especially appreciate the visit of ministering Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) and pray that God will bless him for his willingness to serve us.

Bro. Troy and Sis. Vanessa Luthi have a new baby! Miranda, Jordan, Jennifer, Matthew and Jacob were thrilled to welcome home their little brother, Mark Adam. Also enjoying him are grandparents, Bro. Ray and Sis. Violet Luthi and Howard and Mary Zartman.

Bro. Jonathan Banwart was a surgical patient, but is now home. We pray he has a quick and complete recovery.

Sis. Kristen Braker has completed her training at Franklin Technical School. We congratu-

late her and wish her God's continued guidance as she enters the job market.

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### **MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS** **Betsy Schrenk**

Many visitors find their way to our little church in the summertime. What a blessing to meet and greet so many from our various churches. We thank each visitor for worshipping with us!

Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), and Bros. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO). Several of these brothers were surprises to us as they walked into church on Sunday morning—very welcome surprises, especially when Bro. Loren thought he would be alone on the pulpit. God provides in wonderful ways.

St. Louis is both a crossroads for travelers and a destination. There are many (free) activities appropriate for families in our area. To receive a helpful packet of information, you can call the St. Louis Convention and Visitors Center at (800) 888-3861.

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### **MISSOURI, TAYLOR** **Tina Sutter**

We have had several visiting ministers this month. They are Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA). Thank you for being used in the service of the Lord.

"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; char-

ity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth..."

*I Corinthians 13:4-8*

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**NEW YORK  
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG  
Anna Mellnitz**

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

*Colossians 3:16*

We had visitors from Rockville, CT on July 5; and on July 12 we had visitors from Kansas and Tremont and Eureka, IL. We had a potluck supper and singing after services on Sunday. We are always happy to have visiting brothers and sisters in our congregation.

Sis. Rachel Snyder was in the hospital, but she is home and is doing fine now.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Sandy and Bro. Lon Butikofer and family on the death of their son, Jerry, who was killed in an accident. He is the nephew of Sis. Becky Virkler (Bro. Andy).

Safe in the arms of Jesus,  
safe on His gentle breast,  
There by His love o'er shaded,  
sweetly my soul shall rest.

*Hymns of Zion #218*

Our sympathy goes out to Bonnie Trembly's husband, Steven Trembly, and her four children,

ages 1 month to 9 years. She was the daughter of the deceased Bro. Perry and Hazel Virkler.

Bro. Clifton and Sis. Bessie Farney have a new granddaughter. Her name is Crystal Lynn Farney. She was born on July 10. Her parents are Wayne and Penny Farney.

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**OHIO, AKRON  
Joyce Gasser**

The marriage engagement of Sis. Susie Bako (Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Jozsef Kocsis of the Romanian Nazarean church was announced. He has been attending the church at Budapest. We wish the Lord's blessings upon them.

George and Tina Gal of the Nazarean church gave their testimonies of their conversion and became a part of our fellowship June 27. We welcome them to our congregation. Elder Bro. Ken Sauder assisted our Elder Bro. Gene Pamer in these labors.

Bro. Ben Ammann, 94, passed away July 6 at the Rest Home area of the Apostolic Christian Home, where he had been residing. He was born in Akron and lived in California before moving to Rittman seven years ago. Surviving are brothers, Harold, Edward, Robert and Clarence, and sisters, Martha Maguire and Emma Southers.

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**OHIO, COLUMBUS  
Nancy Banks**

A portion of an article caught this writer's attention the other day. It described the Christian's responsibility when speaking of others. It advises the believer to "THINK". When in a conversation with others and a third party is mentioned, the others should

first consider:

**T**ruthful - is what you say about the other person true?

**H**elpful - is what you are saying helpful?

**I**mportant - is what you are saying important?

**N**ecessary - is what you are saying necessary?

**K**ind - most importantly, is what you are saying kind?

We've enjoyed many visitors this summer so far. Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and ministering Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) and Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL) helped bring forth God's precious Word this month. One visiting minister recently likened the Christian's daily walk with the Roman soldier. The Roman soldier was never allowed to flee the enemy, mainly because his suit of armor covered only the front of his body. As believers, we were instructed to never turn our back to Satan but to put on the full armor of God. We so appreciate our ministering brothers and their words of warning.

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**OHIO, JUNCTION  
Sandra Manz**

O how welcome is the sabbath,  
Joyous day for all the ransomed!  
Day of peace and day of rest,  
Consecrated to God's blest.

*Zion's Harp #126*

After a week of living among the world and struggling to stay free of its many distractions, it is indeed a blessing to be able to assemble in the haven of the church on Sunday.

Our young friends are antici-

pating the day set aside for them each year in Mansfield. May God's blessings and protection once again surround Youth Day. A big thank you to the Mansfield and Rittman-Smithville congregations for their hours of planning and service to the Ohio and Michigan churches.

On July 4, Robert James Manz, Jr. was born to light up the life of first-time parents, Bro. Robert and Sis. Donna Manz. We are happy that the Lord has blessed this happy couple with a child. Grandparents who will be adding little Robert to their prayer list are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Betty Manz and Sis. Wilma Teubel (Pulaski, IA).

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### OHIO, LATTY

**Kathy Sinn**

**Heidi Hackenjos**

We want to give a warm welcome to Brent and Sis. Andrea Steiner and their young son, Jacob, who have recently moved into our area and will be assembling with us. They both were raised in the Rittman, OH area, but come to us from Alto, MI. We trust that they will be strengthened and blessed as they gather with us.

We enjoyed the evening of our Vacation Bible School program. We were well aware of the power of God as a very powerful storm passed through just prior to the program. As we sat and listened to the children, we were also reminded of God's grace and strength. Trusting that the songs and verses will long remain a part of the children's thoughts, we pray that God will direct the future of each one. We certainly want to thank all of the brethren who made the week and program a blessing for all of us.

Little Grace Lee was welcomed into the home of Mark and Laura Spangler and their children. Grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Sharon Keysor and Roger and Marie Spangler. May this family continue to serve the Lord each day.

Two souls have confessed peace with God and all men. Jaymee Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. Joanne) and Koertland Beyer (Peter Beyer and Sis. LouAnn Beyer) have felt the calm spirit of peace fill their lives. As they await a time of testimony, may they continue to rely on the Lord to bless them with this peace of heart and soul. And may He ever guide and direct their lives.

June 28 was the wedding of Bro. Rick Steiner of Rittman, OH (Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth) and Sis. Dawn Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol). May the Lord favor each family with the special love for the new addition into their family circle. We enjoyed the brethren from Rittman and other congregations who gathered with us to worship God and witness the wedding.

We were thankful to have visiting ministers with us during the month. They include Bros. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH), Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN). As the brothers stand to preach the truth, may our fervent prayers strengthen them to this end.

On Saturday, July 11, we were blessed to listen to one more soul who was given grace to bring a testimony of faith. Denise Plummer (Bro. Rick) spoke of God's call to her and His abiding grace enabling her to walk the new path of life. As we then witnessed her baptism on Sunday, we were

reminded of our vows to the Lord. May we ever give the more earnest heed to contend for the faith of our fathers.

As this issue of the Silver Lining comes to your home, many of your children will again be turning their minds to school. As you send them forth for another school year, please send your prayers with them each morning. And as they return in the afternoon, greet them with the love of a Christian home.

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### OHIO, MANSFIELD

**Cari Mann**

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light."

*Romans 13:12*

How often do we find a blessing in the spoken Word, proclaiming that the day is at hand and that we should ever be watchful and ready. It is with thankful hearts that we could make welcome Bros. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Don Manz (Junction, OH). May we ever prayerfully support our beloved brethren as they continue to sound the call to come forth and prepare for the blessed day when our Lord shall come again.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

*Hebrews 10:25*

Many assembled at the home of Bro. Mike and Sis. Florina Baumann as they hosted the an-



nual Sunday School picnic on July 10. Such a gathering is always a blessed time of fellowship. May we always remember how uplifting these times can be and strive to assemble together as often as possible.

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## OHIO, RITTMAN

### Lynda Beery - Lucy Gasser

Greetings!

Again this month we have the full range of the experiences of life to report.

Our newborn is Jaclyn Grace Deuber, born to John and Kim Deuber. She has a sister, Cassidy. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Deuber and Larry and Jan Hanzie.

We are rejoicing with Jodi Dotterer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn) who has begun to walk in faith in Jesus Christ.

Dale Hess (Ellen) and Jim Miller (son of Sis. Myrle Rufener) have been patients in the hospital. May God hear and answer our prayers on their behalf.

Bro. Nathan Steiner (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail) and Sis. Anita Maletich (Bro. David and Sis. Connie, Smithville, OH) were in faith, united in marriage. Ministering Bros. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) brought the truth of God's Word to us on that special day which was also Father's Day.

Friends and family of Bro. Rick Steiner (ministering Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth) visited the Latty congregation and shared with him in the joy of his marriage to Sis. Dawn Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol, Latty, OH).

The coming marriage of Bro. Brett Lanz (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Diane) to Sis. Renee Beer (minis-

tering Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN) was announced in July. Bro. Nelson ministered to us when Sis. Renee made her first visit. Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) shared the pulpit with him.

May these young couples be blessed always as they live their lives in faithfulness to God and to each other.

We sympathize with Sis. Mary Stoller (Bro. Lawrence) because of the death of her brother, Charles Wormald, of Akron.

Sis. Velma Hartzler was granted her desire to be present with the Lord. She was 97 years old and had been a child of God for 78 years. Surviving are her children, Sis. Eleanor Pamer (Elder Bro. Eugene, Akron, OH), Sis. Donna Mogler (Bro. Phil, Lester, IA), Sis. Lucille Blough, Bro. Dale, Bro. Vincent (Sis. Jane) and ministering Bro. Merle (Sis. Bonnie), and grandchildren, great grandchildren, step-grandchildren and step great grandchildren. Her family can find comfort in the promises in God's Word.

Alton Blatter also passed from this life. We extend our sympathy to his sister, Sis. Neva Gasser, and sister-in-law, Sis. Elda Hartzler.

Dixie Maibach (Dale) mourned the loss of her brother, Warren Hardgrove. We pray that she will feel our prayers for her comfort.

Bill Young experienced much suffering in his last months, but we rejoice that he could find forgiveness and be ready to meet his Saviour at his passing from this life. His children can find comfort in this. They are Bro. Terry (Sis. Peggy, Forrest, IL), Vickie Hupp (Michael) and Sis. Luann Musser (Bro. Michael). Also surviving are grandchildren and a

great grandchild and brothers and sisters.

Bro. Ben Ammann also passed away. Ben had lived in California for many years before coming to live in our nursing home.

Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Kenneth Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Bros. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Robert Stoller (Lamar, MO). Our thanks to these brothers for their faithfulness in bringing us the truth.

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## OHIO, SARDIS

### Joy Indermuhle

My Jesus, as Thou wilt;  
Oh, may Thy will be mine;  
Into Thy hand of love  
I would my all resign:  
Thro' sorrow or thro' joy,  
Conduct me as Thine own,  
And help me still to say,  
My Lord, Thy will be done.

*Gospel Hymns #372*

Shortly after the last writing, we received news that two of our beloved sisters have been stricken with cancer. Sis. Rosella Figel and Sis. Martha Indermuhle would covet the prayers of everyone as the Lord's will is sought in their time of need. At this time, Sis. Martha is being treated for her cancer and our prayers are with her. Sis. Rosella underwent surgery near the end of June to remove the cancerous part of the afflicted organ. The Wednesday night before her surgery, Sis. Rosie asked to sing the above hymn, "My Jesus, as Thou Wilt" and surely we must remember the Lord's will is best. Our prayers continue for her as she recuperates. Sis. Martha is still able to assemble with us and we look forward, Lord willing, to

having Sis. Rosie in our midst again. May the Lord's will be done.

Sis. Karen Indermuhle (Bro. Bob) underwent surgery on her neck the end of June as well. She is subsequently wearing a neck brace for six weeks and at the time of this writing is halfway done. We pray God will grant her grace and strength in the days ahead and if it is His will, healing. Sis. Karen is able to assemble with us and for that we are thankful. May God's will be done.

My Jesus, as Thou wilt;  
All shall be well for me;  
Each changing future scene  
I gladly trust with Thee:  
Straight to my home above  
I travel calmly on,  
And sing, in life or death,  
My Lord, Thy will be done.

*Gospel Hymns #372*

Though our small congregation has experienced some sadness in the past month, we have had reason to rejoice as well. Our cause for rejoicing is that Charla Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry) has heeded the Lord's call for repentance and conversion in her life and we wish her much grace in the days ahead. May Charla experience the blessings of turning to the Lord in her youth. Our prayers are with her.

The weekend services were to be at the New Martinsville, WV church we were again reminded of God's great power. Our county, and some surrounding counties, experienced severe storm conditions resulting in power outages, downed trees, flooding, etc. As a result, we were unable to hold services this year at the Limestone Ridge church; there is no place to go if the weather we experienced would

have struck again on Sunday. We enjoyed the usual service Saturday night at Sardis church with our Bro. Mark Ramsier serving us from the pulpit. Lunch was served and an afternoon service held on Sunday at the church as well. Miraculously, just before lunch the electricity came back on. In the afternoon we were exhorted by our Bro. Bill Brake and we appreciate the willingness of our home brethren for bringing forth the Word in what turned out to be a very blessed weekend for all. Retired Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) was with us for the weekend as well. We invite all to return for what, Lord willing, would be the "usual" New Martinsville service weekend another year.

We thank Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) for being with us this month and for bringing God's Word to us from the pulpit. May God bless him for his willingness.

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### OHIO, SMITHVILLE Edith Miller - Ruth Gasser

There is beauty all around  
When there's love at home;  
There is joy in every sound,  
When there's love at home.

*Hymns of Zion #64*

Many young folks are making plans to establish a home at this time. We hope they can feel the Lord's leading, and that they can be blessed in allowing Him to be the centerpiece of their marriage. On June 20, Dan Blough (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lorene) and Amy Kaufman (Evelyn and the late Glenn) became husband and wife. On July 12, Bro. Garth Gucker (Robert and Judy) and Sis. Sheila Hartzler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Gloria) were joined in

Holy Matrimony. Many visitors gathered with us for that occasion. We thank the brothers who took part in serving in the ministry that day: Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bros. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), Paul Gasser and Dave Graf (both of Akron, OH).

We also appreciate the efforts of Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forest, IL) and Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) to proclaim the Word to us this past month.

"O yes, He cares, I know He cares, His heart is touched with my grief." Many of our loved ones have faced illness and pain again this past month. May they feel the Lord's comfort and reassurance and also our prayers. Our Sisters Berniece Bauman (Bro. Herbert) and Marge Zollinger (Bro. John) have spent time in the hospital. We hope they continue to make progress toward recovery.

We offer our sincere sympathy to Russell and Ellen Gerber in the death of Russell's father, Ronald, after a brief illness.

We are instructed in Romans 12:15 to "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." We rejoice that Katie Maibach (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Barbara) has found peace with God and man and is awaiting baptism. Also, we rejoice with the angels in Heaven that her brother, Bradley, and also Andrew Dotterer (Dale and Sis. Elaine) are seeking the Lord in repentance. May He lead each one to find eternal blessings in exchange for the deceitful pleasures of this world.

Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl Beery are happy to welcome another grandchild. Carley Ann has joined the family of Bud and Lynne Kandel and Joshua on

June 21.

We wish the Lord's blessings on Sis. Crystal Ramsier (Bro. Dave and Sis. Dottie) as she makes Detroit her home, where she has taken employment.

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## OHIO, TOLEDO

### Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter

As we enjoy the fellowship that extends across our brotherhood, we were thankful for recent visitors. Serving us from the pulpit were Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI). We appreciate their labors on our behalf.

We extend our congratulations to Matthew Beard (Bro. Dave and Sis. GERALYN) who recently graduated from Mansfield School of Nursing. We are glad to welcome him back home and wish him God's blessings as he serves those who are in need.

As there are times of rejoicing, there are also times when we need comfort. We pray that God will comfort Sis. Clara Beard in the death of her brother, Lloyd Quick. We also extend our sympathy to the family of Miriam Reineck, who passed away July 13.

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## OREGON, PORTLAND

### Louisa Gallup - Mary Berg

We were thankful to have Bro. Fred Witzig and his wife, Sis. Nancy, and their children (Altadena, CA) visit us this past month. Special thanks to Bro. Fred for preaching the Word as inspired by God.

We rejoice that we were able to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our friend, Brianna Miller. We welcome her into the body of Christ and pray

that her youthful zeal will be a light to those that she comes in contact with. It was a blessing to see our small church filled for the occasion. We thank those that came from far and near to share this most precious experience. A special thanks to Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Art Metz in this important work. We also thank Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) for serving us on the pulpit as well.

We pray for those of our congregation that are or will be traveling this summer. May God protect you on your journeys.

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## OREGON, SILVERTON

### Rosa Lee Kuenzi

At a recent meeting of the Sunday School teachers and our ministers, a new Superintendent of the Sunday School was chosen for the next two years. Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa) was selected for this duty. He has our prayers and support for this weighty responsibility. Bro. Lynn Kuenzi (Sis. Marilyn) has completed his two years in this post and we thank him and Sis. Marilyn for their labors of love and prayerful concern for this very important part of our church family.

In other Sunday School activities, a "Sunday School Weekend" was held in mid-June. As we are located such a distance from our other Apostolic Christian churches, a minister is invited in for this event. This year Bro. Doug Harmon and his wife, Sis. Lanna (Toledo, OH) were here to enjoy a couple days at the Oregon Coast at "Restless Surf" with the Bible Class students. Saturday evening there was a meal together at church and an opportunity for Bro. Doug to speak to the

class. Sunday afternoon there was an all church picnic at Silver Falls State Park. These occasions are very special to everyone involved making all the efforts it takes to make it happen well worthwhile. May God bless all who participated. The July 4th weekend gave us special reason for joy unrelated to our thankfulness for the many freedoms we enjoy here in the United States of America. We witnessed the rebirth of another soul, welcomed another dear young person into the Family of God! Sis. Megan Walter (Chad) gave her testimony of faith and was baptized on July 5. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) was able to be here to assist in this wonderful work with our own Elder Bro. Art Metz. The testimony given and the wise counsel of our dear Elder brothers is so beneficial for those of us just sitting on the benches listening and remembering our own individual experiences. Sometimes it is quite a while before a new brother or sister has the opportunity to sit and listen to another's experience but Sis. Megan only had to wait one week. The weekend of July 11-12, much of the Silverton congregation traveled to our Portland/Oregon City church for the testimony and baptism of Sis. Brianna Miller (Tim Miller and Carol Miller), granddaughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Pearl Miller. We rejoice with both of these dear families.

July 11 was the unexpected "birth day" of Wade Richard Luthi. He arrived about a month early, but mother and baby are doing well now. His thankful parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Kris Luthi and he has Aaron, Brooke, Zayne, Weston and

Quinton to welcome him as well. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. RosaLee Kuenzi and Bro. Ray and Sis. Violet Luthi (Lamar, MO).

We are enjoying many visitors this summer and are so thankful for our new church's larger spaces and especially our large fellowship area. Among our visitors this past month are Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), and Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS), Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) and Gary Endress (Bradford, IL). Our many thanks to these faithful brothers who were willing to stand and bring forth the true Gospel message.

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**PENNSYLVANIA  
PHILADELPHIA  
Merle and Bev Rocke**

"God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

*John 4:24*

We are so thankful for all the many visitors who have stopped along their way to worship God with us in Philadelphia this summer. And we especially appreciate the labors of our dear ministers who visited us recently: Bros. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL). May our Father richly bless them and their families for their willingness to be spent for our eternal benefit.

Over a span of many years, Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman have unselfishly served the congregations of Philadelphia, PA; Union City, NJ; and Washington, DC. We love and appreciate them so much! So it was with mixed feelings—thankfulness, apprecia-

tion, and sadness—when Bro. Ed announced his retirement from the eldership and from active ministry. We ask God's special blessings on them and their family. And we pray a double measure of grace, strength and wisdom for our ordained deacon, Bro. Ben Wiegand (and Sis. Michelle and their family), as he assumes the leadership of our small flock.

Our hearts were saddened as we bid farewell to Bro. Matthew and Sis. Bridget (Zollinger) Rassi and their infant son, Carl. They have been such a blessing to our little flock, but they have now moved to the Chicago, IL area. We wish them God's richest blessings forever.

The ability to travel under God's protection is one of our greatest blessings. As you plan your travels, we would humbly invite you to join us in assembling for Sunday or Wednesday evening worship services. Meeting and greeting those of our common bond of faith is a major element of our precious heritage which we too often take for granted.

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**TENNESSEE  
FELLOWSHIP AREA  
Mike and Monica Fritz**

Brethren and friends from twenty congregations were blessed as we gathered for the annual Tennessee Fellowship Singing which was held at the Athens, Alabama church and the Tennessee Fellowship Area in Pulaski, Tennessee over Memorial Day weekend. Our theme for the weekend was "Spiritual Benchmarks". Throughout the weekend, we enjoyed the fellowship of about 225 people.

The weekend began with a singing and fellowship on Satur-

day night at the Athens church. On Sunday morning in Athens, Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) exhorted the brethren and friends from the Living Word of God. Sunday afternoon we gathered at 3:00 at the Tennessee Fellowship Area, located about 30 miles north of Athens. There we were all blessed with an afternoon and evening of singing, fellowship, and encouragement from God's Word. We all had the opportunity to raise our voices in praise during times of congregational singing. Also, throughout the afternoon and evening, many choirs and special groups shared their talents for God's glory. Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) shared with us several spiritual benchmarks, and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) encouraged us to apply these in our lives.

We would like to thank everyone who made the effort to come share this special weekend with us. We trust that all received a blessing from our time together, and we pray that each of us will "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14). Please remember to mark your calendars to come join us for next year's Tennessee Fellowship Singing on Memorial Day weekend, May 29-31, 1999.

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**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE  
Gwen Leuthold**

Are you an encourager or a discourager to those you come in contact with? Whether we are consciously aware of this or not, we are constantly impacting someone else's life at work, in caring for our children, at the grocery store, taking a walk, etc. As children of God, we need to be

encouraging in what we say and do. I have found in my own life that a simple smile or hello really does make a difference. Let's make a real attempt to encourage those around us. If we find ourselves feeling down with the burdens of life, we simply need to run to Jesus. He is waiting with open arms to comfort and help us.

"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 Milea Fritz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica) who has turned her heart and life to Jesus Christ. We wish her the Lord's blessings, grace, and guidance as she begins her new walk with the Lord.

During the past month, we wholeheartedly welcomed Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and their families. Many other visitors from various churches in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and Athens, Alabama also stopped and worshipped with us. We appreciate the efforts of everyone in stopping to fellowship and worship with us and pray that God will bless each and every one of you. As we are a small congregation, we especially enjoy meeting and greeting those of like mind and like faith. We extend a special thank you to our visiting ministers for their labors of love in

servicing the Lord Jesus.

If you are traveling in the Nashville area, please contact us. Our services are scheduled for the first and third Sundays of each month, but we are also meeting for a tape services on most of the other Sundays. Churches scheduled to visit for services in the near future are as follows: September 6 (LaCrosse, IN), September 20 (Junction, OH), October 4 (Bluffton, IN), October 18 (Taylor, MO), November 1 (Mansfield, OH) and November 15 (Washington, IL). Contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 353-8835; or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940.

### 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 Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), and Bros. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ), Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), John Stoller (Leo, IN), and Jerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, 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 at the Comal County Senior Citizens Center in

New Braunfels. 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

We have been hearing about a lot of different weather conditions around the states. We have very dry weather in Zapata.

This is the time of the year when people are traveling on vacation trips. May we all be careful and watchful while driving and pray for the Lord to watch over us.

Our church treasurer, Bro. Russell Stoller, and his wife, Sis. Melvene, from Latty, OH and one of our church trustees, Bro. Melvin Gerber, and his wife, Sis. Millie, from Ellington, CT are in Zapata for two weeks. They have homes here so they are winter residents. We appreciate that they came to check on things this summer.



*Sermon continued from page 2*

yet if we would appear as evil, we would be going against what this verse tells us to do. Really, who would want to appear as evil? Sometimes it is done without knowing it, no doubt, maybe, ignorant to the fact in some cases.

But certainly, isn't it a blessing about our appearance? There is a world today that says appearance doesn't matter. There are doctrines that circulate that appearance doesn't matter anymore...it is all within the heart. But we were told here to abstain from all appearance of evil and to prove all things and hold fast that which is good.

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit." (I Thess. 5:18-19). Sometimes we read verses and we really don't know what they mean because we just read them so fast that we really don't take much thought in what they say. But this says, "In every thing give thanks." Maybe sometimes with the trials of life, maybe sometimes when our eyes are cloudy with tears, are we so quick and willing to give God the thanks for the tests of life?

Certainly we are quick and ready to give Him thanks when things go good, when things go just the way we want them to go, then it is very easy, isn't it, to give Him thanks, to have a smile upon our face, and just be so joyful?

How about the times when we are clouded with tears? How about the times that inside we are carrying many and heavy burdens and to give thanks for all things? In everything give thanks.

"See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever fol-

low that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men." (I Thess. 5:15). He is talking to the household of faith here—among yourselves. Don't render evil for evil; it just makes more evil and makes more problems. But follow that which is good, even among ourselves and to all men.

"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly," (I Thess. 5:14). Unruly would mean ones that cannot rule themselves, that has a spirit of self and to be self-centered and cannot find the grace even to bridle the tongue when it needs to be bridled. Or the actions, and we are told to warn them.

"...comfort the feebleminded," (I Thess. 5:14). Maybe there are those who cannot get their thoughts straight, cannot sort them out, or cannot focus on important things in life. For the feebleminded, or maybe those in high age when the enemy comes and torments, comfort them, it says.

"...support the weak," (I Thess. 5:14). I told a dear soul we are all weak just recently, and we all are, aren't we? Support each other in weakness.

"Be patient toward all men." (I Thess. 5:14). Be patient for all things. Someone said during lunch hour that we ought to pray for rain. Maybe we have. Be patient. One could think how can we be patient when the fields are thirsting for moisture and the precious fruit of the harvest will suffer.

How can we be patient? But in turn, how can we make it rain? We learn to be patient, don't we, dearly beloved? We learn through sometimes mistakes and shortcomings...through being unruly, maybe ...through being feebleminded...through

being weak that we fall into difficulty. We learn to be patient and let the Lord supply our needs.

Our prayers usually are, brothers, that we would pray verbally when we are called upon to pray and that the Lord would provide our needs. That encompasses a lot to provide our needs and the Lord knows what we are in need of. I am sure the sisters and friends pray also in a very silent way that the Lord would provide our needs for us.

"Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." (I Thess. 5:5). Then he tells us here, "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." (I Thess. 5:6). Now what kind of sleeping is he talking about here? A physical sleeping when our body gets so tired that we need rest? Or is he talking about a spiritual sleeping of those things that was once important to us and we let slip away?

But he said, "Let us watch and be sober." (I Thess. 5:6). Regardless who we are here this afternoon, we can do both those things in a very quiet manner. We can watch and we can be sober and they don't cost a cent. They are both free. We are able to watch and we are able to be sober.

"For they that sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ," (I Thess. 5:7-9). Now He has granted us to obtain that, each and every one of us here. To the dear friends of

the truth, He has appointed you to obtain this salvation. He wants us to have it and He wants us to never lose it as long as we live.

We would take the hope of salvation to our graves when the time and the day would come when we close our eyes in death, that our day of salvation could be present within our body. It is not a wise thing to put it off, especially not a wise thing to put it off once God has called, even though many do, but it is not a wise thing.

Once God calls, it is good for the soul, and it is good for the hope of turning to God to obtain this someday when earth and heaven will pass away and all the things of this earth, all the beauty, and all the glory of this world. There is much. Yes, there is a lot of glory in this world. There is a lot of power out there.

We live in a land where man can do his own thing. He can go wherever he wants to go, he can do whatever he wants to do, and he really doesn't have to be a child of God. But it would be the will of God that all would come. It would be God's will that all would come to the knowledge of truth and understanding and to enjoy the blessed hope of salvation.

As we heard this morning about the Saviour and how He was given the power by God to overcome death, it really means a lot to us, doesn't it? We can see our loved ones pass out of this life and we all see it because it comes to all the homes. When the body grows old, men die. Yet, we know as the old must die, the young can die and there is this separation here upon earth.

We see our loved ones and their eyes are closed. Their tongues are ceased and life is

gone from their body. We have all seen that in our families. As the lid on the casket is closed, and we have viewed them for the last time, what awaits there is a hope there. There is a faith there...not here, but over there. They can no longer come to us, but we can go to them.

Verse twenty-three is a very uplifting verse: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Thess. 5:23).

Many of them that sleep in the dust shall arise to a new and glorious body. They will be preserved blameless. That is quite a word, isn't it, preserved?

To you dear sisters that take care of the food from the garden, you can preserve that food in many processes. You can preserve it so it keeps a long time, so it keeps for years, even to the cold of the winter months when the gardens are long gone. Yet, the fruit of that garden has been preserved and there are processes that you can do by canning and those things that preserve that food so it is good.

To think that Jesus is preserving this church, Who is the Chief Shepherd and we want this church and this faith preserved for as long as time is. We might think sometimes, it is just going to drift and drift. The things that we count near and dear to us have already been preserved.

Again, let us pray that the Lord would provide for us...provide for our children, even those that are far away from us and maybe moved away. For even those that don't assemble, that there would be an inn preserved when the burden of sin would grow so heavy upon their shoul-

ders and that mountain of sin would ever be before their eyes and maybe hell and destruction would be there after a life given to the service of the enemy.

We read that there will be those that come in the eleventh hour. He is going to use us as instruments, dearly beloved, to preserve the church as we know it. Oh, yes, there will be changes. Of course, there will be changes. We don't come here in a horse and buggy anymore, do we? But the spiritual changes is what we are talking about, that those things could be preserved, and a soul can feel the depth of sin.

We know that the Word tells us that the wages of sin is death. (see Romans 6:23). It is a death that we really don't know what it is all about because we think of death when we see someone struggling with a severe sickness. Then sickness overtakes the body and the body dies.

But the wages of sin will be an eternal death. Converts have confessed that they see darkness. It is really a mystery unto us because it says that there will be fervent heat there with fire and brimstone. Anything that we have seen here where there is fire, there is light accompanying that fire. But it also says darkness and gnashing of teeth. That is the reward for a life of sin without repenting, or without being converted.

The reward of a life that is given over to Christ, given over to His power, submitting ourself unto Him, our reward would be the Lord. Where is the Lord going to be? The Word tells us He is on the right hand of the Father interceding for us. We know, beloved, it is going to be a good place and it is going to be a place that cannot be touched by sin,

*Sermon continued next page*

unrighteousness or all those things of the works of the flesh. It cannot be touched there. Those things will not go there.

But the things that are preserved are the joys and the fruit of the Spirit. Those things are going to be with God, and going to be with His Son, Jesus.

Didn't the brother say this morning that if we stood up and preached any other thing but repentance, we would not be a servant of the Lord? How true that is. If we didn't preach repentance and conversion and living a life preserved in Christ, what kind of minister would we be?

Maybe there are those who don't want to hear that. I don't think I wanted to hear it; yet, I did want to hear it. Even though we don't want to hear it, we do want to hear it because we know that it is good for us. It is good for the soul and that someday the hand of God can be stretched forth into the hearts of many yet

because He is faithful.

That is our prayer to the oncoming generations that God would be faithful unto them and He would not leave them or forsake them, but yet be faithful to them and adopt them someday through the adoption of the Holy Spirit...to be adopted by the Lord Jesus Christ and to be one of His children.

"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." (I Thess. 5:24). Then verse twenty-five, just a short verse, "Brethren, pray for us." (I Thess. 5:25). How much we need your prayers! We really do.

"Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss. I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren." Then in ending, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen." (I Thess. 5:26-28). It comes back to the word grace again—this unmerited favor that is given unto us by God. A favor that we

were not worthy of but by grace we are here this afternoon. By grace we want to strive onward and forward being a child of God and to do that which the Master would have us do.

So as we go through this life, dearly beloved, as we grow older, this morning we read this chapter. When I say we, it was just my wife and myself and this is the first Sunday morning we have been alone.

I had to think and remember back to our other home, the times when we would pray and read with our children. I remember we would pray that when the children were grown up, they would remember those times. I think of older brothers and sisters and how quickly time goes, doesn't it? How quickly someday we will all be together, we trust, in Heaven.





## ZION'S HARP REVISION STUDY COMMITTEE REPORT

In 1992 the Elder Body authorized a survey of our churches and their song leaders to ascertain whether or not there was a need and support for revising the Zion's Harp. Since the last revision was in 1958, there have been many brethren and song leaders that have felt the hymnal could be improved. When it was determined in 1993 that a good majority of the churches favored a revision, the Elder Body authorized a Zion's Harp Revision Study Committee to review the current edition of the Zion's Harp, and to make recommendations of melodies to replace current melodies which are considered difficult to sing. The committee was charged with soliciting and receiving input from the churches for suggested changes and improvements, with the results to be combined and forwarded to the Elder Body for consideration. After considering the report from the committee, the Elder Body would then decide on how to proceed.

The committee began its work in early 1994 with a focus on the history of the Zion's Harp and on the changes made in 1958. It established a survey procedure for making and receiving recommendations for improved acapella congregational singing. During 1995, 1996 and 1997, the churches and their song leaders were

asked to participate in preference surveys that encompassed proposals and recommendations from Brothers and Sisters across America and Japan for the entire hymnal. These surveys were conducted for study purposes in order to establish a basis for making recommendations to the Elder Body. The survey responses and comments have given the committee a data base and wealth of information for this purpose.

After reviewing and summarizing the information received from the churches, the committee is recommending the following revision proposals for the Zion's Harp:

1. Melody replacement and/or revision for 10% of the hymns where it was determined by the church surveys that a replacement is preferred. Melody replacements come from original melodies in the book, from other hymnals, and from new compositions by brethren.

2. Significant harmony revision for easier acapella singing for about 20% of the hymns where it was determined the harmony (and hence the song) was difficult to sing. Changes of this nature allow for retention of the existing melody and have had the most support in the church surveys.

3. Other less noticeable changes would involve pitch, fermata placement, and less significant harmony revision

for the remaining hymns, most of which would be of a technical nature, but will allow the melodies to be more conducive for acapella singing. Changes in wording as proposed by an Elder Committee are minimal and of a corrective nature. Reformatting of songs for easier reading and an expanded definitive index are also part of the revision proposals.

A prototype hymnal has been prepared for the churches to review for final comments and recommendations before the committee completes its report for the Elder Body. Anyone who would have further comments or recommendations should contact your local committee before final church evaluations are completed in 1998.

The study process has been one of careful and prayerful consideration because of the significance of the Zion's Harp as a precious treasure to our Church. The brothers on the committee are grateful for the many expressions of support received from the Brotherhood in completing the task at hand. May the Holy Spirit continue to direct this endeavor for the honor and glory of our Lord and Heavenly Father.





The following contains excerpts from the diary of Elder Bro. Henry Geistlich of Switzerland who visited all the existing American churches in 1866. His trip was grueling and often uncomfortable. In his diary he lists many specifics concerning the condition of the churches of that era. The Geistlich Diary is an important historical document for the Apostolic Christian Church.

*Sunday, July 15:* The past night I slept good. We stayed in a German hotel. I also had a dream, namely: I arrived home from my trip, finding my wife and my children well and in good health, for which I was very glad; also being glad that I was home again, but as I awoke it was a dream.

We had to go 25 miles yet with a rig until we came to the brethren. The country around Elgin is somewhat hilly although fertile. The climate is fair, there being some hot days. Wheat grows especially well here. The harvest is a week or two later here than in southern Iowa. The region where the brethren live is almost like Switzerland, therefore, I liked it here. The congregation here is quite large, the brethren are mostly from Bern and Zurich, Switzerland. They have a new church building.

I felt at home with these Swiss brethren and in the spirit I also felt good. The houses here are mostly built of stone, yet there are some log houses where I stayed. The tables from which we ate were mostly richly laden, as one finds in the richer places in Zurich. Here they have an abundance of meat, fowl, vegetables, butter, honey and other things.

The most precious of all is God's Word and His precious peace and the most wonderful of all is God's glorious gospel in this world, which also came into this barren and desert land, through which the Lord brought peace into many huts, and I also had the pleasure to spend many precious hours.

*Monday, July 16 - Elgin, IA:* The past

night Bro. Josef Bella and I stayed with Bro. Rugg. We were very glad that the Lord allowed us to meet again after being parted for so long a time and so great a distance. In earthly riches, Bro. Rugg is well to do; he has a new stone house similar to some at home. He also owns seven horses, cattle, sheep and swine in abundance. Yet, he speaks of his earlier days of poverty as blessed, saying the trials and temptation which he now has are greater than they were when he had to worry for his daily bread. Today I also wrote letters to Zurich and Schafhausen, Switzerland, and also to Neuhof, Germany.

*Tuesday, July 17 - Elgin, IA:* A true Christian cannot be without persecution here upon this earth. The provings show us the way to the eternal life and home. Blessed is the man who bears the affliction. For after he has been proved, he will inherit the crown of life. As far as I have come on my trip, I can see that the believers all have the same battle of faith to fight as the Apostle writes "which you can see in me and also have heard of me."

*Wednesday, July 18 - Elgin, IA:* Today as we were visiting with some brethren, I became sick. We had to stay here. Bro. Bella, Bro. Reuter and Bro. Christian Bauman went on visiting. This gave me a chance to write several things in my day book. I am very glad that the time has come where I do not have to go any further. When one has traveled about 6,500 miles, one gladly starts homeward. Oh, how many long hours have I had and how many moanings and pleadings have arisen from my heart to God in the many things that have come over me on this trip. I thank God from the bottom of my heart, who unto today has graciously helped and faithfully protected me.

*Thursday, July 19 - Elgin, IA:* Today as I awoke I felt very sick. My entire body ached all over; also, I was nauseated and had to stay in bed most of the

day.

*Friday, July 20 - Elgin, IA:* The past night I slept much better than the previous night. He does not continually humble us but consoles us again from time to time. The past several days I felt rather heavy. At times I would feel like turning directly toward home, but I must have patience and wait for the time to come when I can return home. I am satisfied with the help of the Lord on my daily way, both as to body and soul. This morning I was also visited by a young man who told me of the inward troubles he has concerning his soul. It is sad how the devil does urge people to sin and transgress and thereby hinders them from finding the way to everlasting life and tries to keep them in unrighteousness until they die.

*Saturday, July 21 - Elgin, IA:* I stayed with Bro. Rugg again the past night. Together we visited the Brethren Holding. Carolina is married. Her husband's name is Graf. They have four or five children. It seemed they were having a hard time. Her sister Anna is staying with her.

*Sunday, July 22 - Elgin, IA:* Today we had a glorious and blessed day. I could rejoice along with the dear brethren here. I felt as if I were at church in Switzerland. All was well and lovely. We talked much of olden times between our sermons. Many had a blessed remembrance of their old home. Bro. Rugg and Schappi were especially happy because they had company. We had church three times today and ended the day in joy and delight.

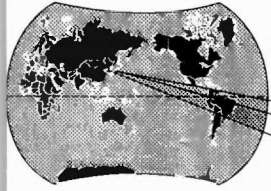
by Perry A. Klopfenstein

**Next Issue:**  
*The Geistlich Diary Continues*

# The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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## “The Freedom of Slavery”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Slavery is usually considered to be a terrible thing. However, some slave owners are kind. Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, was said to have been a very kind slave owner who set up one of his slaves in a business which was prospering at the end of the War between the States, while Davis himself was devastated.

In the Bible, Onesimus is thought to have been a slave of Philemon. The Apostle Paul writes to Philemon in verse 18, in the book by his name, “If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account.” If Onesimus had stolen some money, or otherwise was in debt to Philemon, one would think that Paul would urge him to work it out, or make restitution in some way. However, Onesimus may already have worked for Philemon for so many years that Paul figured Onesimus should simply be forgiven and the debt, if it exists, should be forgotten. Paul encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus

forever, “Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved.” (Philemon, verse 16).

Another instance of slavery in the Bible is referred to in I Timothy 6:1, “Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour.” At least, in Bible times, slavery was common enough that it had to be reckoned with.

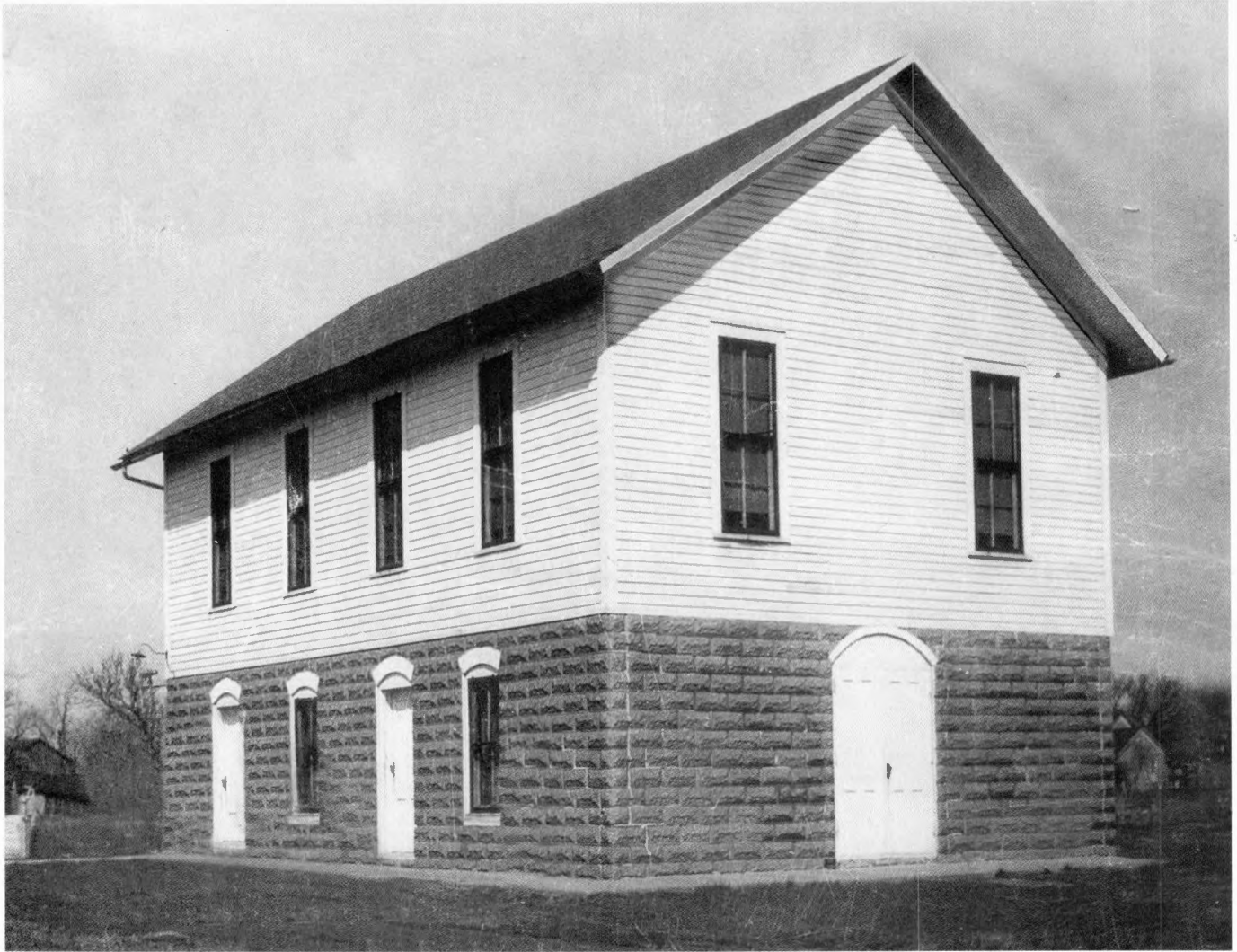
To be owned by someone else, and to be bought and sold as a commodity, generally hurts our dignity and self-respect. Yet, I have been sold by my former owner, the devil, unwillingly of course, but nevertheless sold, to my new owner, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, and I rather like being His slave. Besides saving me from an eternity in hell, He makes me a joint heir of all the treasures of Heaven and the worlds to come. The situation is so good for me that my dignity and self-respect has increased, not because of what I am but because of the fact that Christ liveth in me and challenges me to live a really holy and

pure life, which only increases the blessings of love, joy and peace.

About Christ having bought me, and all others who are truly God’s children, we read in I Corinthians 6:20, “For ye are bought with a price.” As for how much He paid for us, we read in I Peter 1:19 that we were redeemed, or bought back, “With the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

As for the freedom of being Christ’s slave, true believers are free from the burden of not being ready to meet God, free from trying to keep up with all the pleasures of this world, free of bitterness towards others, free from partaking of those things which destroy our minds and bodies, free from always wanting things that we don’t really need, and we are free to enjoy life to its fullest with wonderful relationships with others, and by living a pure and holy life. That, my friend, is real freedom.

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## **Pulaski, IA - 1864**

*pictured 1941*

In the rolling farmland of south central Iowa lies the small village and community of Pulaski. It was in this area that the second Apostolic Christian church was formed in Iowa during the winter of 1864-1865.

In 1904, the old church, now nearly thirty-five years old, was moved to the southeastern edge of Pulaski. The church sat on a high cement block foundation.

In 1957, a new church was built in Pulaski and serves the congregation yet today.

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