

The Silver Lining



*Behold, I will stand before thee there upon
the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the
rock, and there shall come water out of it,
that the people may drink.*

September 1998

“THE DAY OF THE LORD IS NEAR”

Sermon by Elder Bro. Benedict Weyeneth on June 9, 1864

Hebrews 10:30-39

The Apostle says in these words, that we are to fear the living God, “Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.” (Hebrews 10:30). He will execute vengeance upon all the ungodly with flames of fire.

We have an example in the former Israel, how God knew how to punish their sins by many and various plagues, even the Philistines had to subdue them. He punished and chastised them in many ways before He brought them into the Land of Canaan.

Even so He will deal with us if we are not obedient to Him. Our way also leads through anxiety, pain and suffering to the heavenly Canaan above.

The Lord shall judge His people, but to him who leads a shameless, godless life, He is a fearful God.

The Saviour says, “...their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched;” (Isaiah 66:24). Eternal curse and torment shall follow them, for such is the fruit of their works.

Therefore, it is so important for us to be submissive unto our Lord, so that He can lead us as is His will.

He will make a great difference between the disobedient and those who have yielded themselves to Him, in tribulation as well as in joy, who have set their trust and confidence upon Him, their God and Saviour.

Such He will confess as His own on that judgment day. He will wipe the tears from their eyes, all pain and hardship will be banished, (see Revelation 21:4) and eternal joy and peace shall be

their portion, as for Christ’s sake they have not loved their own lives even unto death.

As we read in the book of Revelation, they all came out of great tribulations. Therefore, they are now with their heavenly Father, and with the Lamb, in Whose blood they have washed their garments from sin and have retained their purity.

All such He will receive unto Himself into His kingdom; but unto the evildoers there is promised a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which will not delay nor tarry. He will answer them, “Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity, for I have never known you as My own. Go and receive the reward of your sinful deeds and unbelief in the lake of fire and brimstone.”

Here we see what is kept in store for all such. The Lord will judge the whole earth with the sword of His Word. The Word which He spake will judge them.

As we are reminded of all this now in time of grace, let us the more heed His Word of Life, and lift up our weary hands and feeble knees, and remember how Christ endured a great conflict for our sake.

The Apostle here reminds the Hebrews, how they also endured a great fight of affliction, and that they should not leave off or turn back, for then all would be in vain if they would go back into their former footsteps. They should now remember how much they had already labored, endured and borne for Christ’s sake.

In their time, they had outward persecutions to endure. Be-

cause of their faith, they were robbed of their earthly goods, in order to induce them to return into Babylon. But they were loose and free from all that was temporal, and accepted with joy the spoiling of their goods.

Their heart was with their Saviour, who out of love for mankind gave His precious blood and body upon the cross, whereby He acquired the power to save all humans. But this salvation now

Sermon continued on page 47

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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

September 1998

The Power of Darkness

Satan has always feared the light. From the beginning of time he has worked in darkness and confusion, mixing the truth with lies. He successfully confused Eve by convincing her that by eating of the fruit of the tree of knowledge that "...your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (Gen. 3:5), and that she would not die.

Even before he was cast out of heaven, Satan worked under the power of evil. "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon: and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world:" (Rev. 12:7-9).

To a significant degree, Satan has succeeded in transferring his preference for darkness to mankind - and in the process has brought condemnation to those whose deeds are the work of darkness. "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (Jn. 3:19).

Often children fear darkness because they do not know what is there if they cannot see it. It is a sad situation to watch a child who is afraid of the darkness. It is a tragic situation when a man fears the light. This often occurs because they can see what is there, they know their deeds are evil, and they do not want the results of their works revealed to the world.

The concept of darkness is based on deceit. Men think that they can hide in darkness and that their evil deeds will go unnoticed. The scripture teaches us otherwise. "Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops" (Lk. 12:3).

Sin and the power of darkness will prevail at certain times. If we allow Satan to control our thinking and our behavior, there will be periods of time when it will appear that these forces of evil are in control. Christ recognized this at the time of His arrest prior to His crucifixion. When the chief priests, the captains of the

temple and the elders sent soldiers to arrest Him, He said "Be ye come out as against a thief, with swords and staves? When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour and the power of darkness" (Lk. 22:52-53).

To accomplish God's great plan for the salvation of the souls of men, Jesus was willing to allow the power of darkness to prevail for a time. However, He knew that it was only for a time and after that time had passed, the power of God would clearly dominate Satan.

We might ask ourselves why God would allow darkness (and hence Satan) to prevail for even a short time. If we examine the Scriptures, we find that in the short time of Christ's trial and crucifixion several very important concepts relative to the plan of salvation were accomplished. Christ was able to turn the Power of Darkness into a series of victories for His heavenly Father.

First of all, He established very clearly that He was the Son of God. While speaking to Pilot, Jesus said, "Thou sayest that I am a King. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice" (Jn. 18:37).

Additionally, He established the futility of depending on the Power of Darkness. As He was being led to Calvary, He said to those who were following Him, "...weep not for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children, For, behold, the days are coming in the which they...begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and the hills, cover us" (Lk. 23:29-30). Even the mountains and the hills will not be able to stop the power of light from destroying the Power of Darkness when the Lord determines it is the time.

Also, the power of forgiveness was demonstrated in the very darkest of times. As Christ was in the depth of His agony, on two separate occasions, He showed the power of forgiveness. One of the thieves recognized that Jesus was innocent and was dying for the sins of the world and asked for Christ's help. The power of darkness did not diminish Jesus' desire or willingness to help others even when He was in extreme agony. He

said to the repentant thief, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Lk. 23:43).

There were also others who were in need of forgiveness but at that time they did not recognize their need. Even without their having asked Him to do so, Christ prayed for, and forgave, those who were crucifying him. "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Lk. 23:34).

The seriousness and power of darkness is referred to many times in the scripture. In His Sermon on the Mount, Christ said "But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness." (Mt. 6:23). The ultimate victory of Satan would be if "...the children of the kingdom shall be cast into outer darkness: There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Mt. 8:12).

Fortunately, the children of God need not despair: Although Satan's power in darkness is great, it is limited and we need not be consumed nor controlled by him. The Lord has promised us a way out of this despair. Jesus said "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness" (Jn. 12:46).

While we are under the power of Satan we are in darkness but "...God sent not His son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved...For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, but he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God" (Jn. 3:17-21).

God's children are such a privileged people. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). Our heavenly Father "...hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Col. 1:13).

The power of darkness is limited both by time and strength. The light of the Word of God will prevail and His children will be blessed for resisting Satan and for standing in the light.



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

A Special Report on Our Struggling Brethren in East Europe

The dark cloud of communism has been lifted from the nations formerly governed by the USSR, but the results of that failed system continue to plague our needy brethren who live there. Many American brethren and friends are concerned for them, so we want to inform you of their present circumstances.

A glance backward

The industrial revolution began before the turn of the 20th century, but little of it reached Europe before the time of World War I. This war took a terrible toll in life and industrial progress. After this awful conflict, simple farming methods and lack of industrialization continued throughout the various nations. The catastrophic results only retarded industrial growth. National borders were changed and old alliances dissolved. Although it may seem strange to us in the "melting pot" of the USA, loyalty to the glories of past kingdoms remains even today among the people of the countries involved.

The beginning of communism

Because all of Russia was in a state of crisis, in 1917 events permitted the overthrow of the Russian Czar, and the institution of a system espoused by Vladimir Lenin. In their desperate situation, the common people in Russia accepted this system, even though it brought repression of individualism and eliminated the incentive of personal initiative.

How it was for Americans during this time

Looking into the mirror of the past, we can see that our own ancestors in America had difficult times in their daily living as the 20th century evolved. As late as the early 1940's many of them still depended upon horse power which actually stood on four hooves.

The decade of the 1920's brought changes at home, but they were followed by the financial crisis which resulted in what is known as the "Great Depression". Those who lived through it can never fully forget the hardships it brought them. During this time, they did the best they could to make a living and support their families. Most occupations were in agriculture, which was still based upon the age-old methods. Some had to move to the cities where they could find employment. These moves were often difficult and families found themselves in strange surroundings. Hard times set in.

For the first time in many generations, the common man found himself free to make decisions.

The rise and fall of Nazism

Germany suffered greatly after the war, and reached a point where inflation was impossible to endure. This gave rise to the era of Adolf Hitler and its tyranny.

In the beginning, the Nazi theory had great appeal to the common people. The rest is history. World War II resulted, and Nazism was defeated, leaving the whole continent in ruins and chaos.

After World War II

In the period following this great and terrible war, the entire continent of Europe was partitioned between East and West, which meant between democracy and communism.

Our brethren in East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Romania, and Ukraine found themselves under a yoke of bondage which reached into virtually every area of their lives. They could do nothing except submit.

Many brethren still alive can tell us stories of the experiences which they made, and the oppression they endured during the time of communist rule. It is impossible for us, who have grown up in freedom, to completely relate. However, to more fully empathize with our brethren in East Europe, we must try to think of how it would have been for us to endure what happened to them.

The fall of communism

In spite of its failures the communist system endured for nearly 70 years. There was almost no progress except in the area of armaments. Homes and businesses decayed. The infrastructure got worse year after year, and the factories were not modernized. Any individual initiative toward progress received no support from the oppressive regime. The seat of power was in Moscow, and the leaders of the Soviet Union controlled all facets of life.

December, 1989

In December of 1989, an unopposed uprising of the people of East Berlin resulted in the destruction of the Berlin Wall. This wall was the symbol of the strength of communism, and when it fell, regimes toppled throughout Eastern Europe. In a matter of weeks the situation throughout the continent totally changed. For the first time in many generations, the common man found himself free to make decisions.

It was in this environment where the Apostolic Christian Church of America finally found itself in a position to assist our needy fellow pilgrims in these distant lands. At the present time all of our efforts in Eastern Europe come under the jurisdiction of the European Board.

Stepping up the assistance

Although we had been sending a limited amount of assistance to our suffering brethren, the opening of the borders made more possible. We would like to share with you the current situations and the ways in which we are aiding the brethren in the various countries.

Hungary

The Hungarian nation speaks a language unrelated to continental Europe, and is deeply appreciative of its past glory. Once the Austro-Hungarian empire ruled much of Eastern Europe. The Hungarians did not fully submit themselves to the communist system, although they had few other individual options.

However, when communism departed, many of them prospered using the capitalistic system. They are a part of our program to assist other nations today. But inflation still remains high, and large families still find it hard to make ends meet.

Even before communism imploded, we were able to help them build a new church in Budapest. Since then other churches have been built, and we are assisting some needy brethren on an individual basis. Church building projects are approved by the Mission Committee in cooperation with the European Board.

Romania

During communism brethren in this troubled land assembled in homes secretly. Although the lamp of faith grew dim, it did not go out. But yet the ravages of time took a dreadful toll on their numbers. Many young people and families fled oppression, and today only around 1,300 or so members remain. We are trying to help them remain in Romania and build a lifestyle in which they can live and prosper.

However, today there is a struggle just to exist. Money is scarce, inflation high, and bartering is common. A program in place finances some qualified brothers in free enterprise projects. We are furnishing aid for fuel, assisting the needy, and have bought vehicles for church use.

In addition to this, a sea container of material aid is shipped from the Bluffton Distribution Center to Romania every month. World Relief funds are matched by an Amish group named "Iron Curtain Ministries", which contributes about \$120,000 annually for this purpose. We have also helped build a number of Romanian churches, and some are currently under construction.

Slovakia

There are only a few believers in Slovakia, where we have helped remodel houses for churches, and continue to send aid to the needy. *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."*

Yugoslavia

At one time it was estimated that over 30,000 Nazarenes (the name used by our people in East Europe) lived in this area. However, war, tyranny, flight from oppression, and death have reduced their numbers to roughly one-tenth of this.

Presently we are doing our best to assist them in coping with their difficult situations. We have an ongoing program of building churches and assisting in creating private enterprises

which can employ our own brethren. We provide help for winter fuel plus assistance to the needy, widows, and refugees. Vehicles have been bought for church use.

As far as we know today, none of our brethren are in the war zones of former Yugoslavia.

Ukraine

Perhaps the most difficult situation with which we are dealing lies with the brethren in Ukraine. As a part of the former USSR, they are sharing in the severe economic problems. Just as in Romania, pensions and wages are not being paid, and money is very scarce.

Barter has become a way of life in this deeply troubled land.

Our brethren in Breidenbach, Germany maintain constant communication with the Ukraine churches, and send a semi load of clothing and food, etc. in at least once a year.

The Russian Mafia has high presence, and is a force which cannot be ignored. There is no real order in the land, and as the situation continues to deteriorate, this only worsens. Human suffering is real in this troubled nation. They have few comforts we enjoy, such as indoor plumbing, refrigeration, etc.



For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

GALATIANS 5:13

We need your prayers

May God continue to give us wisdom to work with these opportunities. If you want to help in Europe, contribute through your local World Relief Treasure Representative or send donations to:

European Board
Apostolic Christian World Relief
180 Park Place
Wadsworth, OH 44281

- 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>
August	3,309	27,540	439,738

* 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.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Ten years ago in August, Oakwood Estate opened its door to new residents. Oakwood Estate is a 16-bed home located on Veterans Road here in Morton, a neighbor to the larger home. Many of the residents who moved in there had come from the ACHH 93-bed facility, giving an opportunity for more folks who were waiting to move here to come. It has been a period of growth, for the organization, as well as individuals. The resi-

dents of Oakwood had more responsibilities given to them along with more privacy and choices. Since that time another 16-bed home, Linden Estate, and five other homes in residential Morton, 650 Detroit, 241 S. Minnesota, 200 Hazelwood, 652 Detroit and 207 Wagler, have become occupied by our residents. God has really blessed us, and along with that blessing we feel a great responsibility to continue to serve the developmentally disabled to the very best of our ability. Two hundred forty-one people are now living in the

Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped facilities.

Some of the residents have enjoyed summer vacations, there have been bike rides, shopping trips, eating out, Special Olympics, sitting out in the courtyard—good old summertime! And, oh yes, the taking shelter in our safe areas when the tornado sirens blared—the not-so-good summertime, but we are thankful for God's protection as the storm passed.

Birthdays for October are: ACHH - Tricia O'Donnell (1), Carol Fahrni (5), Mark Mulnix

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

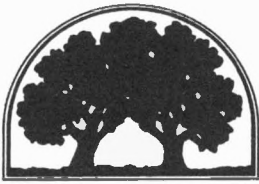
Phil Stettner
Counseling Elder
219/565-3499

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.



**"...BUT GOD GAVE
THE INCREASE."**

I Cor. 3:6

Thank you so much for the loving response to our 22nd Annual Auction. Our total to date is over \$230,000! We are in awe of how God takes the portion we have to offer and multiplies it as only He can. Your donations help to pay the daily cost of care for each child, especially those placed by parents who may be unable to pay the full cost. Thank you for supporting us in this mission...for the children!

**Sale Date for 1999:
Saturday, August 21, 1999**

**Alternate
Houseparents Needed**

We at Gateway Woods have enjoyed being fully staffed for some time now in the area of childcare staff. Bro. Todd and Sis. Carol Schrock have informed us that they will be leaving the Houseparent position in the fall of 1998. This opens an opportunity for a couple, directed of the Lord, to work in our full-time residential child care 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

(6). OAKWOOD - Lois Baumgartner (4), Bryan Tiezzi (30). LINDEN - Kent Knobloch (14). 200 E. HAZELWOOD - Chad Gerber (9). 652 DETROIT - Anita Schuon (13).

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

Ed and Deb Graf

Sometimes the only thing that seems constant in our lives here is change. How thankful we are to have an unchanging God, who has unchanging standards and imparts His unchanging love to us. That even though circumstances and situations around us may change, we can find stability in the rock of Jesus Christ.

When the leaves of our woods begin to change color, we know that school is just around the corner. The end of summer vacation and the beginning of the new school year bring many changes to Gateway Woods. First, we would like to say farewell to our volunteers who were with us for the entire summer. Sis. Rachel Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and Sis. Holly Beer (Milford, IN) gave their entire summer to help here. Both sisters gave countless hours helping develop curriculum for our on-grounds school. They also helped with the children in many other ways. Our residents appreciated their friendship, example, and their Bible studies. May our Lord richly bless you for your giving.

We also say farewell to our Summer Volunteer Coordinator, Bro. Jeff Waibel (Bay City, MI). We are glad for the work he did all summer to insure our volunteers were given food, a place to sleep, and productive work. Bro. Jeff also conducted a well received Bible study for our male residents. We are very thankful for the many volunteers who helped us this month. We have so many during this time of year we're reluctant to list them for fear of forgetting someone!

**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

The reason we enjoy so many volunteers this time of year is because of our Annual Sale. We are so thankful to see God's blessing once again as He provides for our financial needs. To date, the sale has brought proceeds in excess of \$235,000! We wish to give our humble thanks to those who gave of their time, talent, energy and resources to make a successful sale day. But most of all, we give all thanks and praise to our God, without whose blessing all our efforts would fail.

HAITI/JAMAICA WORK PROJECTS - 1999

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

COUNTRY	GROUP	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAP.	FULL
Jamaica	CCCD	Jan 1-9	Deaf Village	TBA	Work Place	40	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jan 1-9	TBA	Greg Herman	Deaf School	40	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan 8-16	TBA	Craig Emch	Grade School	10	0%
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan 15-23	TBA	Dean Pashek	Grade School	10	100%
Haiti	S.E.E.D.	Jan 22-30	TBA	Bob Beebe	TBA	7-9	0%
Haiti	S.E.E.D.	Jan 29-Feb 6	TBA	Bob Beebe	TBA	7-9	0%
Haiti	MEBSH	Feb 5-13	TBA	Jim Walter	Grade School	10	0%
Haiti	Palm Grove	Feb 19-27	TBA	Tim Butikofer	Grade School	10	0%
Haiti	Palm Grove	Feb 26-Mar 6	TBA	Tim Butikofer	Trade School	10	0%
Haiti	MEBSH	Mar 5-13	TBA	Phil Isabel	Grade School	10	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 5-13	Kingston	Terry & Bev. Miller	Deaf School	40	75%
Haiti	MEBSH	Mar 26-Apr 3	TBA	Stan Descarpentrie	Grade School	10	100%
Jamaica	MEBSH	May 14-22	Deaf Village	TBA	Work Place	40	100%
Haiti	A.W.A.	TBA	TBA	Earl Sauder	TBA	TBA	0%
Haiti	Medical	TBA	La Cayes	Bob Pflederer	HospLumiere	TBA	0%

CCCD=Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf

MEBSH = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

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

TBA = To Be Announced

(*) = Held for College Student Participation

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX
Earl Sauder	309-387-6357	309-387-6357
Harold Witzig	309-266-6263	309-266-8575
Greg Hermann	309-243-5610	309-693-4344
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	330-939-4591
Dean Pashek	517-662-7685	
Jim Walter	815-692-3158	815-692-2851
Bob Beebe	219-291-2158	219-299-8173
Tim Butikofer	319-426-5486	319-426-5586
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885
Bob Pflederer	309-266-5853	309-676-8455
Stan Descarpentrie	309-467-3898	
Terry Miller	309-747-2212 or 941-485-4302	

Another area of change is our resident population. We recently said so long to Tiffany S. and Janella E. from the Schrocks' and Justin B. from Fiechters'. May each resident take the Biblical truth they have learned and make it real in their lives. We also wish to welcome Jamie G. and Juston K., both to the Schrocks' house. Please pray for the residents, their families, and houseparents as they make adjustments in their lives. Sis. Kim Plattner (Leo, IN) has been with us this summer helping some of our older residents learn independent living skills. We are grateful that she will be able to stay with us on into the school year and assist us part-time in our on-grounds school as a Teacher's Aide.

We are saddened to see the departure of Sis. Sandy Leman, who has been a Houseparent and, more recently, our Education Coordinator. Thank you, Sandy, for all of the work you've done on behalf of our children over the past five years. We pray God will bless you as you follow His leading into a new service for Him. We are extremely grateful for the Lord's provision in her replacement, Sis. Rachel Fessenden (Leo). Thank you, Rachel, for answering the call to serve the Lord here.

We continue to pray for the Lord to fill our open positions. We currently are in need of male and female counselors and an Alternate Houseparent couple. May the Lord continue to call workers to His vineyard here at Gateway Woods.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama**

Joan Reinhard

The Preschool Board met July 25 in a special meeting to make some decisions for the Preschool's coming year. The board members toured around the Preschool to see the changes that have been made in the Preschool itself and especially to see the improvements that have been made to the playground. Thanks to many volunteers, we now have a beautiful playground with grass growing pretty much everywhere. This has taken some effort and some time, because during a typical year our playground has a lot of traffic on it almost every day. The board also made some weighty decisions in the restructuring of the Preschool, and we want to thank each of them for their input, prayers, and faith that they have shown as we try to do God's work here each day.

We wish to extend a special thank you to Sis. Monica Steffen (Milford, IN) for spending the summer helping here. She was very useful in many ways as she gave of herself so willingly. We were blessed by her presence here and we pray the Lord will reward her and each of the volunteers that so faithfully help out in the work here.

We are starting the school year with a much smaller number of students, with many of them being children from church families or relatives of church families. We are hoping to reach out to the parents of these students to encourage them in their walk with God.

We still have an immediate need for a teacher here at the Preschool. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving the Lord here in Athens, we would encourage you to call as

soon as possible. The Preschool Board will meet again on October 24. Please call Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (256) 232-2035. Pray for our need here to be met.

We have a small sponsor program here for those families who do not have the means to pay the full tuition for their child to attend Preschool. If anyone would be interested in sponsoring a child through their preschool years, please contact Sis. Joan Reinhard at (931) 424-5838 or call the Preschool at (256) 233-0591.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Joan Reinhard

"Put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (Eph. 6:11). This was the theme for our Vacation Bible School the week of June 15-19. The students really seemed to enjoy the week as they learned about each piece of the armour and for what it stands. We ended the week with a camp out at the Tennessee Fellowship Area and all who participated had a blessed time.

Our congregation has been saddened with the leaving of Sis. Molly Stickling and Sis. Margo Stettner this past month. Sis. Molly has moved to the Chicago area and we wish her the Lord's blessing as she pursues a career in social work. Sis. Margo has moved back home to Bluffton, IN and will teach elementary school in Ft. Wayne. Both of these sisters have been an encouragement to our congregation here in Athens and will be missed greatly. May God bless their countless hours of service not only for the preschool, but for the church as well. Thank you, Miss Molly and Miss Margo!

We welcome Sis. Monica Steffen (Milford, IN) to Athens for the summer. Sis. Monica has been helping at the Preschool this summer and we have appreciated her willingness to help with whatever is needed. We hope, as she goes back to Indiana to finish her last year of school, that her summer in Athens will carry many special memories. We have been blessed by her presence and support.

There still is a need for a teacher at the Preschool here in Athens. Please call Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (256) 232-2035 if you are interested or know of someone who may be interested. We also are in need of some good, working computers at the Preschool. If you have one you would like to donate, please let us know.

Our visitors this month were from Bloomington, Cissna Park, Fairbury, Forrest and Roanoke, IL; Junction, Latty, Rittman and Smithville, OH. We thoroughly enjoy visitors and hope you will feel free to come as often as you can.

August has been a hot month for us here in Alabama and it makes us grateful that the Lord, in His wisdom, saw fit to create the seasons to give us change. We have appreciated the visitors that the vacation months bring, and even the fellowship from those who have been helping in some of the reconstruction from the tornado damage in Birmingham. We appreciate the ties we have within our church family and thank those of you who make it a point to stop by.

Some of our Athens members went to the Conference this month and some also went to the Gateway Woods Auction the next weekend. Each time we travel it reminds us of how thankful we

should be for the freedom we have in our country and that we should be praying for our government diligently. We are a blessed nation.

We were thrilled to hear the testimony of Sis. Judy Clark and witness her baptism this past month. We appreciate her example and attendance in church and we are thankful to have her as a Sister in Faith. Each time another person is added to the faith, it is such an encouragement to each of us, and this was no exception. Our prayer is that this will stir the hearts of all who have not yet turned to the Lord.

We ask for prayers for Sis. Des-sie Siniard who has not been feeling well lately and has not been able to attend church with us very regular. Sis. Dessie is 87 years old and still lives at home by herself. If anyone would care to write to her, her address is D-23 Houston Courts Apts., Athens, AL 35611. A note would be greatly appreciated and would bring her much joy.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"...repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations..."

Luke 24:47

In these times of "quick fixes", there is not, nor will ever be, a jiffy repentance. Preparing your heart and soul to become a child of God is not dreary, but a fulfilling time of "out with the old you" and refilling your clean heart with love and a desire to do God's will (if God was holding your hand, your walk in life will be as good as it gets).

We are thankful our Elder Conference could meet and pre-

serve Luke 24:47 in our Apostolic Christian Churches.

We were grateful Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bros. Marshall Heinold (Ixtlan, Mexico), Dan Beer (Milford, IN) and William Hodel (Roanoke, IL) came to preach the Word of God to us.

Sis. Barbra Schupbach was hospitalized for tests. Sis. Cathy Emch and Sis. Linda Yackley were able to attend morning services in mid-August. Our beloved Sutton family needs our prayers as well as numerous shut-ins.

Bro. Dick Beery and Bro. Marshall Heinold took a load of optical equipment to Mexico.

Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne Dotterer went to Bern, KS to meet baby Kyle Dean, born to Bro. Larry and Sis. Jill Meyer on August 11. Bro. Joe and Sis. LaVina Dotterer are Kyle's great-grandparents.

There was a singing the night of August 15 to honor our wedding couple and a host of visitors. God blessed our area with His special gift, rain, that night so the blessing was multiplied.

Bro. Todd Klopfenstein and Sis. Heidi Kokanovich exchanged wedding vows on August 16. It was a beautiful 102 degree day when Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich pronounced them man and wife at 1:19 p.m.

The buffet reception was held at the Wyndham Metro Center Hotel in Phoenix. Our choir sang as well as other musical offerings.

Sis. Heidi's parents are Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich and Bro. Todd's parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. LouAnn Klopfenstein. We pray God's blessings on their marriage and home.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Jane Hodges

“Let brotherly love continue.”
Hebrews 13:1

We have had visitors from across the country this summer, stopping in to worship with us while on their vacations. We so appreciate all who come and the fellowship we enjoy together in Christ. Two Sundays this last month we had over sixty in attendance.

May God richly bless our Elders and ministers across the land, who give their love and service to all of us and our God. This last month the Word of the Lord was brought to us by ministering Bros. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and James Emch (Phoenix, AZ).

ARIZONA, TUCSON
Lisa Knapp

Our Bro. Bob Haas (Sis. Carole) had surgery recently and has spent time in the hospital. Bro. Bob continues to be under medical care at this writing. We are keeping Bro. Bob and Sis. Carole in our thoughts and prayers. May God grant you both faith and grace sufficient for your needs.

We resume our monthly fellowship suppers in August and will resume Sunday School classes now that everyone has returned from vacation.

We are still experiencing a warm, humid summer as compared to our usually very hot, dry conditions. Our monsoon rains are still threatening every afternoon and sometimes coming

through with an enjoyable storm to watch.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Joshua Martinez

“Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”
1 Thess. 5:16-18

Greetings of love across the many miles! Our prayers this month are with the parents whose children will be leaving the nest for the first time—whether it is off to kindergarten for a few hours each day or to college. May God bless all those making new beginnings, as well. May we be reminded that the road of life is easier when we allow God to be in control. May we always humbly and obediently “let go and let God”.

Our Altadena family has been blessed by the wondrous miracle of a new life. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Shirley Luthi received Micah Jeffrey on August 9. His siblings, Daniel, Lydian, Alyson and Joel, joyfully welcome the newest addition to the family. Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Witzig (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Ruben and Sis. Krystol Luthi (Morris, MN) are the grateful grandparents. May God bless Bro. Jeff and Sis. Shirley with added strength and wisdom. We thank them for being steadfast examples to all of us.

On August 15, we were blessed with a Bible study led by Bro. Fred Witzig. May God bless him for his labor of love on our behalf. May our love for God be evident in our obedience to the spoken Word brought forth by our ministering brothers.

Several members of our family

were hospitalized for one reason or another this month. Our prayers for God’s healing touch were with Elder Bro. John Klotzle, Bro. Doug Aberle, Debbie Aberle (Bro. Richard and Sis. LaNae), Ann (Aaron) Yaussi and our dear winter resident, Bro. Ruben Luthi (Morris, MN). We know that these shining lights look unto the Lord for all their help and strength. We hope that all those who were hospitalized will feel our prayers and love surrounding them at all times.

We are blessed with such a wonderful faith, where we can travel across the many miles and find the same deep and abiding faith and love we just left behind at home. We have been blessed by the fellowship of our many visitors this month. We continue to extend our invitation to all who will be traveling to the Southern California area to come see us. May the Lord be with you all. Have a happy month!

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”

II Peter 3:18

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Rose Huette

We were saddened to hear that our Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) became ill at the Brotherhood Conference and was hospitalized in Bloomington, IL. He is home now and feeling much better, for which we thank our Almighty God. Our prayers are that he will continue to improve.

Our church has started to listen to the Conference tapes recorded in Forrest, IL. May God

grant us the grace to apply the many teachings to our individual lives.

As Sunday School will resume soon, may we remember to uphold our teachers in prayer. May the Lord pour out His grace and direction upon them as they teach our future church, that their young tender hearts will be open, that in due time the fruits of the Word would be manifested in their lives.

We are so thankful to have Barry Winkler back in our midst. He has safely returned from overseas. He was gone for about six months, mostly in the Saudi Arabia region, and is currently stationed at the Navy Base in San Diego. Barry is from the Rittman, OH area and hopes to return to his family soon.

Fred Aeschleman (Peoria, IL) has improved enough to leave the hospital and stay with his daughter, who resides in the San Diego area. Fred and his wife, Irene, plan to return to their home soon.

Our friend, Ralph Zimmer, is feeling much better and has also returned home after being hospitalized for some time. He is able to attend church again, for which we thank God for. We pray that both Fred and Ralph will continue to get stronger.

This month we were privileged to have many visitors. Last Sunday we had many young people from the mid-west and our neighboring church. Following services we had a church potluck and singing afterwards. It was a joyful time of fellowship and praising God.

This morning the Bible opened to Ephesians 6:10-11 which talks of the armour of God. "Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his

might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

OHTARIO, KITCHENER CANADA

Laura Baxter

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

Luke 15:7

There is joy in Heaven as well as in our congregation as our friend, Maria Toth, has expressed her desire to begin her repentance and walk with the Lord. May we lift her up in prayer and encourage her.

We are thankful for our visitors this month and especially our visiting minister, Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH). We enjoy the many blessings of Christian fellowship.

Plans are now being made to begin our Kitchener church building project. A previous list of skilled volunteer labourers has been made by the National Building Committee and those on the list will be contacted at the appropriate time. However, there will be a need for general volunteer labourers throughout the project. Anyone interested in volunteering may contact our local project coordinator, Bro. Tim Tomic (519) 696-2881.

On the church building site there is a large rental house, and along with local brethren, there is room to house about 20 volunteers. Also, for anyone wishing to do so, there is a motel within walking distance from the site: Heilberg Inn (519) 699-4413.

We welcome all visitors who are in the area to come and worship with us. Please contact Bro. Wayne Saddler (519) 662-6834 or Bro. Mike Ursu (519) 669-8515 for more information and directions.

Note: Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard's new address is: 52 King E. Box 30, Heidelberg, Ontario NOB-1YO

The music that reaches farthest into Heaven is the beating of a grateful, loving heart.

COLORADO, DENVER

Yvonne Lehman

Born again. That's what the magazine ad says in big bold letters. The car ad that is. It seems that in these days definitions to change as far as the world's statements, but we know that there are no shortcuts to being born again. The only means whereby we can be born again is through our Lord Jesus Christ giving His sacrificial love for us for the remission of our sins and whereby we may be forgiven for these sins and be filled with His Holy Spirit to guide us in our lives each day.

How we rejoice with our loved one, Mike Katanic, who has been announced to the church as having peace in his heart and looking forward to baptism. We thank God for His continuous mercy and grace and miracles in our lives each day.

We were blessed to have Bro. Bill Emch, along with his wife, Sis. Susan (Lamont-Gridley, KS) with us in July. Also serving us from the pulpit was Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) traveling with his wife, Sis. Vicki. We wish to give loving thanks and appreciation to Bro. Jim Kaeb and his wife, Sis. Diane (Bern, KS) for

their efforts as well. How wonderful to be refreshed with the messages and through His Living Word.

The Lord observes each and every aspect of our daily lives. He gives counsel for our lives and this should encourage us when matters come up in life. His Holy Spirit and the Holy Word show us the way through difficult times. It has been said that difficult times develop our character. Maybe it is through difficult times that our character is made known. We should be encouraged to continue in the way we have always found to be right and profitable to us as our souls look to God. We will be an overcomer because of faithfulness to His Word and through faithful prayer. Let someone know that you will pray for them. Reach out and ask a soul who is suffering, "Can I help? Can I lift your burdens in some way?"

We remember our Elder brethren across the land as they meet and pray for our souls and guidance and direction for shepherding the flock. May we help and lift their burdens through our prayers and our obedience. We were reminded of prayer not long ago. When we say "Amen" we are saying "Be it so." We are surrendering our prayers to Him.

Deena Henry and Kent Braun announced their engagement and the upcoming wedding is being planned for September 12. We wish them and their families God's richest blessings. May they look to Him to guide their lives.

"Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name."

Psalm 63:3-4

CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE Cherie Galat

As our Elders, ministers and brethren of our faith have gathered during the Brotherhood Conference, may we heed the warnings and apply the wise counsel given to our Christian walk of life that we may bear the fruit that God desires. May we prayerfully consider His will as each of our respective congregations around the world gather to listen to the tapes in the upcoming months.

It was our privilege to host the Fort Sam Reunion here in Connecticut. What a blessing it was to fellowship with our dear beloved brethren who represented many of our churches.

Many ministering brethren have visited us over the past weeks: Bros. Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Brian Webb (Ft. Lauderdale, FL).

We have had two weekends of baptisms. On August 2, we witnessed the baptisms of Sis. Linda Luginbuhl (Bro. Keith), Sis. Rhonda Zahner (Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally) and Sis. Sarah Crary (Bro. Ken and Sis. Deb). Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) assisted Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan. On August 16, Sis. Katie Ryan (Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl), Sis. Karen Goric (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Lou) and Sis. Erika Hoffman (Bro. Michael and Luann) were baptized. Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) helped our E-

lder Bro. Kevin Ryan in this work of love. Both weekends were spiritually uplifting as we listened to their testimonies of faith. May they all continue to rely upon Him for guidance and seek His grace as they continue on as precious sisters within the household of faith.

August 15 was the beautiful wedding day of Tim Mattson (Clifford and Karen) and Jessica Kloter (Bro. Eric and Sis. Sharon). As they walk as husband and wife, it is our prayer that they seek out His will in their lives.

Adam Luginbuhl (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma) has moved to Pennsylvania to continue his education. May God be with him and continue to give him direction in his life.

Our prayers are with Di Kupferschmid as she was hospitalized recently. May God give her a quick recovery as He wills.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

"Be ye therefore ready..."
Luke 12:40

We never know if our time on earth will suddenly come to an end. For two individuals in our area, it was a normal Friday afternoon at work. Thirteen seconds later one was dead, the other dying. Since this happened at the U.S. Capitol, the whole world knew about it, but the same could happen at the county courthouse or the neighborhood bank.

Our prayers go with Adam Hermann (Morton, IL) and Gabe Hollis (Petersburg, IL) as they return to Bradley University af-

ter summer employment in the area.

Our ministers this month were Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), and Bros. Ben Wiegand and Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN). We appreciate the time all the ministers and their families give to our congregation. Other visitors this month were from Bluffton and Wolcott, IN; Rockville, CT; Chicago, IL and Smithville, OH.

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.

**FLORIDA
FORT LAUDERDALE
Nancy Rocke**

“But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 19:14

Bro. Seth and Sis. Dawn Sauder are the happy and thankful parents of Nathanael Quinn. His grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy Sauder and Bro. Dan and Sis. Jane Plattner (Goodfield, IL).

“Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.”

Psalms 34:19

Sis. Joyce Banwart had surgery and is getting along well. May the Lord be near and comfort her as she recovers.

The Lord brought Bro. Glenn Price (Sis. Sandy, Sarasota, FL) into our midst. May God bless him for being used on our behalf.

Note of Thanks:

May the Lord richly bless you for your prayers, cards, love and support during my surgery and recovery.

Sis. Joyce Banwart

**FLORIDA
NORTH FT. MYERS
Anjie Baum**

Can you imagine your life without the benefit of God's Word? What does it mean to us? We are a blessed people who take so much for granted, including our Bibles. I'm sure I could find at least ten Bibles in our home at this very moment, some of which have gathered an awful lot of dust. The Bible is God's way of speaking directly to us—convicting, teaching, encouraging, that we may understand His righteousness as best as humanly possible through the example of Jesus Christ. Scripture tells us that we are to delight in the Word of God, meditate upon it and keep it in our hearts. To love our Heavenly Father is to love His Word. Our ministering Bro. Victor Beer opened to Psalm 119 this past Sunday, and these verses come to mind:

“With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander

from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord, teach me thy statutes.”

Psalms 119:10-12

The brethren in Ft. Myers are pleased to report that we have had some summer visitors recently. We enjoyed another of our famous barbecue dinners. Unfortunately, our dear friend, Clarence Peters, our most enthusiastic planner of barbecues, was unable to join us due to illness. He was hospitalized the weekend we had scheduled the dinner. We missed him, but we are thankful he is feeling better. Clarence asked that I include this letter of thanks:

“I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation of the love and kindness you gave to me while in the hospital and returning home. I definitely missed being present for your cookout and thank you for the sample you brought to me. Also, thank you for the plant and cards, they mean so much to me. Your kind deeds of love and thoughtfulness will never be forgotten.”

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Rachel Sabo
Melissa Sabo**

“Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid!” We have heard at the Conference, and will be hearing from the tapes, that we must lay aside every weight, and sin which doth so easily beset us, and run with patience the race that is set before us.

Just as we care so diligently for the physical body, so must we care for the spiritual. Surely we

have great and many reasons to be thankful for our Lord and His shed blood. Our faith and brethren, and our dear shepherds that give so much that we would not lose sight of the sheep fold, the cross, and the blood that has set us free.

We must always pray for our Elders and their families as Satan is no respecter of persons or position. Let's be thankful that we have these brothers to go to in times of trial and joy and let us hold up their arms as we work together with them in these last days.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL). We were very blessed to have these ministers with us, as we are very small this time of year.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Keith and Carol Kaufman

God has blessed us so richly with fellowship of those who are one in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. We so appreciate those who bring their children with. This is very important for our children. Among our many visitors, Bros. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Tom Leman (Denver, CO) and Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL) came to bring forth God's Word. We are thankful for each one of you. May God richly bless you.

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.

We had a blessed Saturday evening of singing and fellowship several weeks ago as beloved brethren called ahead and were willing to spend the evening with our group. We encourage all to call and spend time together that we may fellowship with the saints.

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. Contact Bros. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554, John Brewer (770) 502-8629 or Keith Kaufman (404) 243-6232 for further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Sheila McCoy

We had our old asphalt driveway replaced with a concrete one. The contractor ran out of cement on the last section. Since cement hardens fast, he made a seam where there shouldn't have been one and later added more cement to finish that section. Needless to say, I was very disappointed with the looks of that seamed patch.

It makes me wonder how often our Heavenly Father is saddened by our hardened hearts and our desires to do things our way. How often do I fall short of what God expects me to do and I disappoint him? I am so thankful our Saviour never runs out of love and mercy for His sheep and that He is interceding to God for us.

"...Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 4:17

Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (El-

gin, IL) brought to us this timeless message. Our other visiting minister this month was Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL).

Bro. Mark Wettstein presented a topical Bible study on the "Works of the Flesh". May God bless these willing brothers who are "ready to speak, ready to warn, ready o'er souls to yearn."

ILLINOIS

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Carol Sauder

Janice Horner

New life was born into our Bloomington-Normal church congregation. On July 20, Nicholas Matthew Musselman arrived healthy but a bit early into the hearts of Bro. Matt and Sis. Lynne, and siblings, Zachary, Molly and Morgan. Also delighted are grandparents, Bro. Roger and Sis. Pat Musselman (Pulaski, IA) and Bro. Eric and Sis. Norma Massner (Oakville, IA).

Four days later, Brianna Heather Grusy surprised her family by being a girl. Her four bigger brothers are Jeremy, Jordan, Brandon, and Austin. Her thankful parents are Bro. John and Sis. Sue, and happy grandparents are Robert Grusy (Champaign) and Connie Grusy, and Graham and Barb Core (Barrington, IL).

First-time grandparents, Bro. Dick and Sis. Jan Gudeman, received an e-mail from their daughter and son-in-law, Suzi and Renaud Subra (Toulouse, France). They are the happy parents of a son, Aidan Gaetan, born August 12.

Wednesday evening, July 22, Bro. Ron Heiniger had an unusual Bible study entitled "Knitting Class". Since the Bible has

only three places where the words "knit together" are found, Bro. Ron used these passages to reveal how we can be spiritually knit together: (1) in love, (2) in Jesus Christ as our perfect pattern, and (3) for a common goal—as God's people becoming a unified body of believers to serve God and further His purposes.

We were privileged to have two visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) on Tuesday, August 4, and Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) on Sunday, August 9. We appreciated their depth and enthusiasm for the Lord. It certainly was contagious.

J.C. Ebach recently underwent open heart surgery at Carle in Champaign. He is recovering at home in Normal after a successful quadruple bypass operation. He and his wife, Mary Ellen, are very thankful for the cards, notes, letters, and prayers they have received.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Brad & Cheryl
Kupferschmid**

"Must Jesus bear the cross alone, And all the world go free?" (Tabernacle Hymns #304).

As I visited recently with a ministering brother about his calling to the ministry, he mentioned that, though he prefers other brothers to go before him, he does not have a reluctance to preach God's Word. He said that he could never repay the price that Jesus paid for him on the cross, so he should never be reluctant to do anything that God asks. What a wonderful attitude! And shouldn't we all have that attitude? None of us would ever be able to repay what Jesus did

for us on the cross, so is anything He would ask of us to do or to give up too great a sacrifice to make for Him? After all, it is ultimately for our benefit, our brethren's benefit, or our children's benefit.

On July 24, Bro. Wendell and Sis. Linda Stahl were blessed with a baby boy, Joel William. Grandparents are Sis. Charlotte Stahl and Bro. Nate and Sis. Esther Martin (Princeville, IL). May God bless Joel with health and give Bro. Wendell and Sis. Linda the wisdom to rear Joel up to fear Him.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this past month. They were Elder Bro. Willis Ehle (Shioda, Japan) and Bros. Bob Miller (Portland, OR), and Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA). May God bless them for being willing to preach the Word.

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

"Something that is stronger and deeper than any words is found in love."

—Anon.

We look forward to a wedding in our church. Sis. Kara Banwart was engaged to one of our recent U of I graduates, Bro. Aaron Klopfenstein (formerly of Peoria but now of Indianapolis). Kara is the daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen, and has been working in Peoria for the past year. We wish them many blessings as they grow closer to one another and to God during this engagement. It is nice that they will be helping another smaller church grow as they make their home in Indianapolis.

The annual Sunday School

Picnic was blessed with perfect weather this year. All who attended enjoyed the picnic and activities in the park. Special thanks go to the Sunday School teachers who put so much time into the preparation of lessons, programs, and activities throughout the year. Our thanks to departing teacher, Sis. Rachel Meyer, for her term. Replacing her will be Sis. Christine Ginzel.

A recent sermon focused on the latter part of Matthew 11 which says: "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." The minister stated that in order to keep the burden light, whether around our home, at work, or in the church, two things are needed. We need prayer and helping hands. When we have these two elements, the work will be easier to bear. We should tell ourselves: "I will do everything I can to be helpful in the work."

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Jill Rager**

One of the benefits of being a correspondent for the Silver Lining is the opportunity to stop each month and glance back at the great things God has done!

We rejoice with Candice Rinkenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon) as she has decided to pick up the cross and follow Jesus. Although we do not see Candice as much, we want to reassure her that our prayers for her can reach all the way to Phoenix, AZ where she will be attending college.

Another celebration for the Rinkenberger family was the wedding of Sis. Mindy Knapp (Stan Knapp and Sis. Judy Knapp) and Bro. Brandon Rinkenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon) in Goodfield, IL on Au-

gust 16. We congratulate Bro. Brandon and Sis. Mindy and wish them God's blessings as they begin their walk together.

God has richly blessed us with visiting ministers this month, many of whom were passing through Chicago en route to or from the Conference. Bros. Dave Marquart (Taylor, MO), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Tom Waldbeiser (Atlanta, GA), Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Elder Bro. Wilis Ehnle (Shioda, Japan) served us this month and we are grateful for their willingness.

Sometimes the things God does in our lives are great in that His ways are simply above our ways. If we had it our way, I wouldn't have to report about people moving away, but we trust that as we say farewell to Bro. Jake and Sis. Jeanne Plattner that God will have great things in store as they move to California for Jake's employment.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Darlene Walder

Beth Steffen

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have seen their loved ones depart this life. Dwight McGrew, a brother-in-law to Sis. Vi Greiner, passed away on July 21. Our whole community was saddened by the unexpected loss of 13-year-old Trey Luecke who died following a diving accident. Trey's great-grandmother is Sis. Louise Manz of our congregation. What a wonderful assurance to be reminded of God's faithfulness to the very end. "For this God is our God forever and ever; he will be our guide even unto death." (Psalm 48:14).

Al and Dorothy Rudin became

grandparents again on July 9 when precious little Samantha Christine was born to Lyle and Lisa Rudin. May God's blessings be on this family as they welcome a new daughter.

"And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister..."

Mark 10:44-45

We are grateful for the many ministers who came to serve us this past month. Among them were Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bros. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ), Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT), Ronald Palitto (Akron, OH), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Tom Waldbeiser (Atlanta, GA). May God reward each of these brothers, their wives, and families for lending themselves as servants of the Gospel.

Sis. Becky Rinkenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally) and Bro. Ryan Weiss (Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen) became one in Christ when they were joined in marriage on August 9. It would be our prayer that the love Becky and Ryan have for God and for each other would continue to grow and grow.

We rejoice to welcome Bro. Nick Walder (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon) into our church fam-

ily. May God abundantly bless Bro. Nick in his service for the Lord.

We see the summer drawing to a close. As parents, we are preparing to send our children off to college or back to school. We pray, Lord, for a hedge of protection around each one of them. Keep them in Thy loving care would be our plea.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Sandy Steiner

Glenna Rinkenberger

We were blessed in having the Brotherhood Conference in our area. As a result, we had several visiting ministers with us. They were Elder Bros. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Art Nohl (Morris, MN), and Bros. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ) and Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN). Let us all remember to keep these brothers in our prayers that the Word would continue to be brought forth in truth and sincerity.

Bro. Denny and Sis. Emily Wettstein are the happy parents of another daughter, Kara. She was born July 30. Welcoming her home are Henry, Reuben, Amber, Joel, Dale and Carmen. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein (Eureka, IL).

Bro. Orville (Sis. Lula) Zimmerman has spent some time in the hospital.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Peggy Heiniger

Norma Schambach

Our congregation is thankful for three young souls who have found the need of a Saviour. We

rejoice with Bryan Kellenberger (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Debbie), Kristin Kellenberger (Bro. Tim and Sis. Marcia) and Aubrey Schmidgall (Rick and Sis. Cindy). May God go with them as they return to the work place and high school. Our prayers go with all of our students as they return to the classroom or leave for college.

We were saddened to say goodbye to two dear couples whose jobs have taken them to other areas. Bro. James and Sis. Jennifer Kieser and Alyssa have moved to Bloomington, IL and Bro. John and Sis. Wanda Kinsinger have relocated to Portland, OR. We will miss assembling with them, but have the faith that God will be with them wherever they go.

A hearty welcome to Bro. Dave Stieglitz and his wife, Sis. Paige, who have moved here to assume the administrator duties at our nursing home. May they feel our love and support.

August 9 was a day of rejoicing for our Bro. Ryan Weiss and Sis. Becky Rinkenberger of Cissna Park as they were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen and Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally. May God bless them as they walk hand in hand through this life.

Children are indeed a gift from God. Brian and Kelly Heiniger are the excited first-time parents of Brock Edmond born July 28. His grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Peggy and John and Linda Park. Tyler Schambach is happy for a little sister, Katlin Renee, born August 16 to Bro. Matt and Sis. Renee. Her grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie and Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie Anliker. Jordan and Sherri Vanagas are new parents of Rachel Lynn, born June 12. Her

grandparents are Bro. Norm and Sis. Ginny Schock and Tony and Beverly Vanagas.

Robbie Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida) and Jamie Noga of Elgin announced their engagement and look forward to a wedding next summer. Kim Schambach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy) and Jim Bloomer of Benbrook, TX have also announced their engagement. We wish them God's direction and blessings as they plan their future.

Loni Schock (Bro. Norm and Sis. Ginny) returned to Papua New Guinea July 6 to resume her missionary duties with New Tribes Mission for another 3 or 4 year term.

We appreciate all the miles traveled by Bros. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Duane Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) who so willingly spoke to our Sunday School students during Vacation Bible School week. Also visiting us this month were Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bros. Garth Steffen (Portland, OR), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA).

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Janet Zimmerman

The Union Of Hearts

When pure and upright hearts,
By flames of love ignited,
Are by the bond of faith
More firmly yet united,
The light of hope beams forth
In radiance far and nigh,
Invites us to partake
The blessings from on high.
Zion's Harp #79

On July 26 we witnessed the marriage vows of Sis. Julie

Schertz (Randy and Tereza) and Bro. Kevin Kupferschmid (Bro. Ed and Sis. Donna). May God bless this dear couple as they walk life's pathway together.

"Love of all gifts is the greatest which the Spirit does bestow...". On August 2 we heard the engagement of Sis. Rachel Stoller (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie) and Bro. Kevin Schrock (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet) of Congerville. May God bless them and be their guide as they plan for their wedding.

We were thankful for our many visiting ministers this last month.

They were Bro. Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Ontario), Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Bro. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO), Bro. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Bro. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS).

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Sis. Arletta Martin in the death of her father, Bro. Bill Joos, of Goodfield. He died on July 23.

Hospitalized at this time is Sis. Naomi Peters. Our love and prayers go out to her as she is enduring many afflictions of the body.

Once again the summer months have quickly gone by and it is time for school. Our prayers are with our children that God will be with them and guide them throughout the day. We think of their teachers also and commit them to God in prayer.

The Lord Will Provide

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

He tells us we're weak,
Our hope is in vain;
The good that we seek
We shall not obtain;
Yet when such temptations
Our patience have tried,
In this we find solace:
"The Lord will provide!"

Though merit and strength
We do not possess
And honor and wealth
Our souls would distress;
In Thy name, Lord Jesus,
We'll ever abide,
And thus say: "Amen,
The Lord will provide!"
Zion's Harp #86

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr
Joann Zehr

May we in perfect love be found
When we Thy table, Lord,
surround...
Zion's Harp #200

In commemoration of the Lord's death and suffering, we partook of Holy Communion on July 29. Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) assisted Bro. Art in serving the Holy feast. It is always humbling to partake and deeply reflect on the cost of our salvation. As we think of the great love that the Lord had for us, may we in turn share that love with those around us—our brethren and friends. "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." (I John 4:11).

We joyfully welcomed Matthew Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane) as a brother in Christ on the weekend of August 1-2. Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) were with us for this occasion. We thank them for

their efforts. May the peace and grace of God go with Bro. Matthew as he plans to move to Kansas soon for schooling.

"...the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance..."
Romans 2:4

A number of souls, both young and old, have been touched by God's goodness and drawn to repentance. We rejoice with Louise Hibsich, Joel Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary), Janelle Schmidgall (Bro. Bill and Sis. Anna), Brent Young (Bro. Norman and Sis. Lola), Hope Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane) and Michael Slagel (Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys) as they begin their walk with the Lord. We wish them the grace of God as they strive to become dead to sin, self and Satan and alive unto Him.

Give faithful servants ever
Who have but one endeavor,
Thy Gospel to proclaim;
Who heed Thy Spirit holy
And strive and labor solely,
O, Lord, to glorify Thy name.
Zion's Harp #207

We were richly blessed with company as the Conference was held in neighboring Forrest. Ministering brothers who proclaimed the Gospel were Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), Art Metz (Silverton, OR), John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Bros. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) and Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO). Other ministering brothers were present in the congregation also. It was a joy to have so many visitors and we welcome you to come again.

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare

himself to the battle?"
I Cor. 14:8

We are currently listening to the Conference tapes and appreciating the words of exhortation. We are so much in need of clear direction and admonition in these modern days when the world gives the signal that everything is relative and "anything goes". Indeed, the Word of God itself is not unclear in its warnings and exhortations.

"For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12

By the grace of God, may we all take heed.

Bro. Alan and Sis. Wendy Edelman have a new little son, Klint Alan, born on August 5. Welcoming Klint home are older sister, Megan, and grandparents, Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys Slagel and Bro. Fred and Sis. JoAnn Edelman (Bern, KS).

Sis. Karen Steffen (Bro. Albert) lost her mother and Troy Rieger (Terri) lost his grandmother when Jane Rieger passed into eternity on July 28. We know that they will miss her. May God fill the empty place in their lives.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene Kilgus and their family as their son, Jeff (Lisa), was just diagnosed with leukemia. Sometimes we don't understand God's ways but He can make "all things work together for good". Also, Sis. Sally Schieler was hospitalized

again. We pray for the Lord's nearness to her.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp
Linda Anliker**

Feeling the nearness of the Holy Spirit, our brethren reaped manifold blessings while working together to host the 1998 Brotherhood Conference. We sense the great responsibility placed on our Elder brethren as undershepherds and trust their coming together was fruitful for preserving and strengthening of the church. We thank them for their endless hours of labor on our behalf. Let us take heed to their exhortations so the reading of the letter and listening to the tapes will serve to the edification of all.

Our congregation also benefited from hosting the Conference by having several visiting ministers here for church services. Those feeding us from the Word of Life were Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Art Metz (Silverton, OR) and ministering Bros. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT), Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA), Ron Koehl (Sarasota, FL), and Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA).

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth..."
Ecclesiastes 12:1

Turning to the Lord in their youth, four souls can escape the many consequences of sin which Satan so eagerly presents us. Brenda Bachtold (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary), Nathan Bachman

(Bro. Larry and Sis. Donna), Trisha Young (Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy), and Bryan Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne) seek the Lord in repentance. May they receive Godly wisdom and understanding as they grow in their new-found freedom.

Two couples were united in marriage. Earl Leman (Bro. Robert and Sis. Donna) and Krista Edwards (Steve Edwards, Forrest, IL and Sharon Brydon, Forrest, IL) were married July 18. On August 1, Arlen Leman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy) and Denise Bahler (Jim and Rita, Fairbury, IL) were united as husband and wife. May their love for each other continue to grow.

The births of baby boys have blessed the lives of two couples. Luke Alan Zimmerman has added joy to the home of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Stephanie, Thadd and Philip. Bro. Eldon and Sis. Marge Waibel and Bro. Glen and Sis. Mildred Zimmerman are Luke's grandparents. First-time parents, Kyle and Monica Edelman, also welcome Drew Michael. His grandparents are Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna Edelman and Joe and Debra Oretaga (Cropsey, IL).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Marie Schrof and Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Perry) Zimmerman as they spent time in the hospital. May they feel God's healing power as they recover from surgery. Sis. Marie is residing at Fairview Haven as she recuperates.

Sorrow has touched the lives of loved ones in our congregation. The funeral of David Boner was August 1. Feeling the loss is his wife, Lorene, and his daughters, Patricia Barnard (Pontiac, IL) and Phyllis LaVelle (Fayetteville, AR).

Sis. Minnie Rinkenberger

passed from this life into eternity on August 13. We are thankful that in her twilight years she was able to surrender her life to the Lord. We extend sympathy to her daughters, Barbara Lund (Tucson, AZ) and Darlene Miller (New Castle, OK), and sons, Donald and Jack (Fairbury, IL), Kenneth (Denver, CO) and Robert (Forrest, IL), and granddaughter, Sis. Dawn (Bro. Paul) Stork.

Our thoughts are also with Leonard (Marilyn) and Bro. Les (Sis. Ruth) and Sis. Leona Leman who feel the loss of their brother, Eldon Roth (Mt. Pleasant, IL). May they feel the Lord's comforting Spirit.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Jan Beer

A quick review of the Ten Commandments confirms how far our nation has strayed from sound moral living. In view of the current news regarding our President, let's redouble our prayers for our nation and her leaders. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (II Chron. 7:14).

Isaac James was born to Bro. Greg and Sis. Jenny Wiegand on August 8. Brett, Emily, Brock and Grandma MaryEllen and Grandpa Steve welcome the little one into their family circle.

Ali Gerber and Jason Knepp have announced their plans for a January wedding. Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish are Ali's parents. We wish this dear couple God's direction in their lives.

Goodfield was host to many visiting ministers in the past

month. Each brother is appreciated for putting "himself" aside and being a mouthpiece for the Holy Spirit. Visitors were Bros. Robert Miller (Portland, OR), Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR), Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), Rich Sutter (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton, IN), and Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Joe Braker (Morton, IL).

Our Sis. Mindy Knapp and Bro. Brandon Rinkenberger (Chicago, IL) were married on August 16. Their parents are Sis. Devon and Bro. Kenny Rinkenberger and Sis. Judy Knapp and Stan Knapp. Our prayers are with this precious young couple as they establish a household honoring God.

Five Wednesday evenings have been set aside for the Goodfield congregation to listen to the tapes of the general Brotherhood Conference.

What sweet comfort it is to know that our gracious Father in Heaven has traveled with Sis. Mandy Schwenk as she moved to New Mexico. We look forward to her return in sixteen weeks after she completes her course of study. "God be with you 'til we meet again..."

The sick, weary, discouraged, house bound, unsaved, lonely or feeble among us need us to hold them up to God in prayer—an encouraging word, note or visit would put "flesh" into those prayers!

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks for all the kind deeds,

prayers, love, cards and memorials shown during the passing of William Joos.

Clemantine Joos, Arletta and Lewis Martin, Eileen and Norm Musselman, Glenn and Bev Joos, Loren and Elise Joos and their families

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

We are rejoicing over seven souls who began repenting here in Gridley during the last week. The waters are troubled, and we pray that multitudes will follow.

Some young neighborhood children from our church were on our front porch last evening. It was mentioned that several souls are repenting.

I asked one of the children (9 years old) if she knew what it meant to repent. She said she knew, but she couldn't define it. I asked her if it represented something really important, and she said yes.

So I asked a seven-year-old boy if he knew what repentance meant. He said, "It means they stopped sinning." That answer warmed my heart. Indeed, the Word says to "cease from sin" and "sin not". Even a seven year-old can grasp that. There is more to repentance than not sinning, but it's well if young children can begin to understand God's teachings so they will know what to do later when they become accountable.

To merely say the word "repent" is easier than the process of repentance. Denying self, ceasing from sinful habits, and achieving humility embodies struggle and sorrow; and the need for God's help becomes compelling as never before! Yet, God is ever merciful and will

draw nigh to any sincere soul who seeks to draw nigh to Him.

Bro. S. H. Froehlich was accurate in describing repentance in a brief writing entitled *The Hook of Sin*:

"The hook of sin, with which Satan catches pitiful people and leads them captive, is a barbed hook. It goes in easily, but it is hard to pull out. And, if a person would pull it out, it tears the heart with bitter pain. That is why it is so difficult for a person to be converted from the power of Satan to the living God."

Bro. Daren and Sis. Marie Yergler became the parents of little Ryan Daren, who was born December 19, 1997. He arrived into their loving care on May 15. May God be praised for providing a godly home and a godly upbringing for this precious little boy. Grandparents are Bro. Max and Sis. Donna Yergler (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Kent and Sis. Shiela Sprunger (Bluffton, IN).

On August 2, Bro. John Butikofer was engaged to Sis. Joyce Kaiser (Tremont, IL). He is the son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Norma Butikofer. Her parents are Bro. Mel and Sis. Marlene Kaiser of Tremont.

Bro. Robert Miller (Portland, OR) was our visiting minister on Friday, August 7. This was the evening of General Conference day (at Forrest). We were thankful, too, that brethren from several states came and worshipped with us that evening.

Our congregation offers its sympathy to John Yoder over the passing of his father, who lived in Forrest.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Sis. Sherrill Perry was called Home on July 24 after a battle with cancer. May the Lord comfort and bless her mother, Gladys Kammerer; her son, Mark Reeder; her stepson, Steven Perry; her brother, David Kammerer; her four grandchildren and her great-grandchild.

August 2 found many rejoicing with Sis. Wendy Witzig and Bro. Todd Sauder (Tremont, IL) as they were united in Holy Matrimony. Their parents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy Witzig and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky Sauder (Tremont, IL). May God be the unseen Guest in their home and richly bless them as they serve Him together.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Mabel Belsley have been blessed with 50 years of marriage. They are the parents of Bro. Roger (Sis. Marty), Sis. Joanni (Bro. Fred) Endress, Sis. Joyce (Bro. Ted) Hirstein, and Randy (Joan). May the Lord continue to bless them all.

We would like to thank Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) for ministering to us. We enjoy having visiting ministers and their families with us.

Note of Thanks:

Many thanks to all our friends and relatives for the cards and gifts you sent when we were in the hospital and since returning home. It was greatly appreciated! God bless you.

Bro. Earl and Sis. Edith Meiss

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

We thank Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN)

and Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) and Bros. Robert Meyer, his father, Robert J., and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) and many guests from various congregations for assembling with us on August 2, the wedding day of Bro. Rob Cupp (Bluffton North, IN) and Sis. Bridget Scholl. A bond of love has brought this couple together... "that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." God is able to bless them, and all who love Him, more than we are able to ask and think (Bro. Phil Stettner, Eph. 3:19-21). Bro. Bob Meyer, grandfather of the groom, meditated on I Cor. 13. All good advice doesn't matter if our hearts are not filled with love. We are living in a world full of excesses. The apostle Paul says "though I speak great things and don't have love, it doesn't amount to anything" as it has no substance and means nothing in the completeness of the Bible. Be kind to each other, continue to do those things which are right for human beings, saved by grace and just passing through this life, use the Word of God and be an example to others. We don't know about tomorrow but have the assurance to enter His kingdom if we remain true and faithful.

"The Seven Words of Jesus on the Cross", portrayed by Zion's Harp Hymn 89, was the topic of Bro. Rick Plattner's family night service on August 5. They represent the seven basic thoughts Jesus had on the cross, where He was not held by Roman nails, but our sins. Calvary was a victory, but there were great woes, "My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" He endured the cross, knowing what was before Him, and willingly took the cup. God

and sin don't mix and when He became the ultimate sin, God could not even look upon Him and He had to bear it alone. He didn't call 10,000 angels to rescue him and thought of His mother while He was treated as a common criminal. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God, but He did utter... "It is finished." Can we make these words on the cross a part of our lives?

The national brotherhood was well represented at the General Conference at Forrest, IL on August 7. It was an inspiring and blessed experience and reflective of Psalm 84:10 "For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand" (others), as the unified chorus of many sincere prayers rose to the heart of God. This occasion provided three visiting ministers on August 9: Bro. Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)...we live in the land of the dying without a promise for tomorrow, but a hope for life eternal; Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN)...do we get caught up in the riches of this world or are we called a child of God, reach out to touch Him, stand fast, deny the world and come to Him who will give us rest?; Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI)...you make Me priority one and I will give you everything you need and an opportunity to let your light shine so that your walk with Jesus is going to get the attention of the world. We thank these brothers for their visits and ministries.

Constantly changing insurance and Medicare regulations have shortened hospital stays dramatically and it has also been determined that home recoveries are more effective and desirable. Our hospital patients, Bro. LeRoy Hartmann and Sisters

Stella Bessler, Emily Tanner and Phyllis Bennett, were discharged and are recuperating now and we pray for the healing mercies of God.

Sis. Lucy Endress (78), at the Skylines since 1995, went from time to eternity on July 25. She was the sister of Sisters Miriam Messerli and Esther Sutter and we extend our sincere condolences to them and the Endress family. They wish to thank everyone for the their love and kindness to Lucy, especially at the time of her death. "May God richly bless all of you."

Clifford Coburn (91), father-in-law of Sis. Michelle Coburn, passed away at Methodist on July 24 and we express our sympathy to the Coburn family.

"Suffer the little children to come unto me"...and Alex, infant son (18 months) of Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Barth, is there now. At his funeral at Washington, IL on August 4, it was mentioned that the only children we get to keep are the ones we lose. He was picked as a beautiful flower who will not feel the stain of sin. May the Lord comfort the hearts of his family and grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Hoerr and Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae Barth (Roanoke, IL), with the assurance that he has attained the goal we are still striving for.

Jonah Eugene, first child of Bro. Russ and Sis. Peg Rumbold, entered this life on May 8. Our congratulations to them and his grandparents, Russ and Sis. Roma Rumbold and Bro. Ed and Sis. Frances Knobloch (Princeville, IL).

Michael Hoerr (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeanette Hoerr) and Lisa Dill (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Sandy Dill, Tremont, IL) were united in matrimony on August 15 and we

wish them the Lord's richest blessings for their walk together. They have been regular attendants and we appreciate and welcome their fellowship.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Sheryl Martin

"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

St. Luke 21:36

Are we caught up in the "cares of this life"? May each of us be watchful and prayerful so that we are not caught up in the cares of this life. We need to keep our hearts set on that heavenly goal.

A new home has been established as our friends, Kari Feucht and Steven Beutel (Tremont, IL), were married on July 25. Kari is the daughter of Bro. Jordan and Sis. Kathy Feucht and Steven is the son of Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette Beutel (Tremont, IL).

On August 9, Sis. Kristy Stoller and Bro. Ben Luginbuhl (Roanoke, IL) were united together in marriage. Sis. Kristy is the daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy Stoller and Bro. Ben is the son of Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl (Roanoke, IL). As these two couples begin their lives together, may they look to God for His guidance and direction. We will miss them as they

leave our congregation.

A daughter, Trista Lynn, was born to our friends, Greg and Jan Siebenthal, on July 31. Her brother, Trent, welcomes her home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay Siebenthal and Wayne and Gaye Fleischer.

Julie Streitmatter (daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Deyonna) broke her arm while playing outside. It is our prayer that she will be back to full recovery before long.

"My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee."

Proverbs 7:1

As the summer is gone and the children are going back to school, may the commandments of God be kept in their hearts as they follow the instructions from teachers. May the seed of truth and love be planted into each of their hearts.

CHILDREN'S PRAISE

O let us exalt our dear Lord and proclaim,
In songs of true gratitude, praise to His name!
As songs of the angels in sweetest accord,
Our thanks and our praises shall rise to the Lord.

His love shone upon us before we believed,
And when we were burdened, His loving heart grieved.
Our parents He gives who provide in each day,
And teachers to show us the heavenly way.

In schools of the righteous we ever can find
The heavenly wisdom, the purified mind.
He calls to His children: Come hither, you blest;

Give heed to my words, I will
bring you to rest.

We'll learn and we'll labor in
cheerful accord,

And do what we can in the
strength of the Lord.

O blessed is he, when the summer
is gone,

Who harvests the fruit from good
seed he has sown.

Zion's Harp #165

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Lisa Leman

Boni Stoller

Summer is quickly drawing to a close and our children and young adults are heading back to school and places of higher learning. Our prayers go with them that our loving Father in Heaven will go with them and give His angels charge over them. I try to remind my own children every day "Remember, there are angels watching over you!"

As the seasons change, so come changes into the lives of our loved ones in our church family.

We share the joy of Bro. Kirk and Sis. Lisa Hoffman at the birth of their little son, Timothy Richard. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicky Anliker (Francesville, IN) and Sis. Jeanni and the late Bro. Tim Hoffman of Roanoke.

We are happy for Jason Knepp and Ali Gerber as they have announced their engagement. We pray God will direct their path as they prepare to be joined as husband and wife. Parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish Gerber (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann Knepp.

We pray God's rich blessings on two dear young couples who have joined hand and heart. Bro. Byron Gerber and Sis. Lisa Leman were married on August 2.

Bro. Don and Sis. Colleen Leman and Bro. Rick and Sis. Shirley Gerber are their parents. On August 9, Bro. Ben Luginbuhl and Sis. Kristy Stoller were united as one. Their parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Cathy Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl.

Our hearts were filled with sorrow to hear of the sudden death of little Alex Barth, son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie of the Washington church. Our prayers are certainly with them and Alex's grandparents, Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae Barth, and his aunts, uncles and cousins from our Roanoke congregation. May God comfort them and bring them peace.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Wilma Fischer and Sis. Helen Zimmerman and little Carolyn Whitten (infant daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Lori). May our God lift them and give them courage through this time of trial.

Our visiting minister this month was Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN). We appreciate his willing service on our behalf and pray for God's blessings on him and his family.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

On July 18 and 19, we were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our new sister, Jane Knobloch (Bro. William and Sis. Eleanor, Lester, IA). Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) was with us. We appreciate Elder Bro. Dennis' assistance and ministry to us for this special occasion.

Also bringing us the wonderful Word of Life this month were visiting Bros. Randy Mogler

(Washington, IL), Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) and Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN). May God bless and reward them for their unselfish service to our great God and to the brotherhood.

July 25 was the wedding day of Steven Beutel (Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette) and Kari Feucht (Bro. Jordon and Sis. Kathy, Princeville, IL). May their love continue to grow as they walk together as husband and wife.

Bro. Todd Sauder and Sis. Wendy Witzig were united in marriage on August 2. Parents of the couple are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky Sauder and Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy Witzig (Morton, IL). We wish them much happiness as they walk life's pathway together.

We are thankful for the Lord's guidance in directing two hearts to be together. Sis. Joyce Kaiser (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marlene) and Bro. John Butikofer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Norma, Gridley, IL) look forward to that union on October 18.

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Paula Wagenbach welcome little Nathan James into their hearts and home. Nathan joins his two sisters, Lucy and Megan, to complete their family circle. Thankful for another healthy grandchild are Bro. Bob and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach and Bro. Elmon and Sis. Janice Koch.

We wish the healing hand of our Lord to Sis. Becky Schweigert (Bro. Roger) and to Bro. Weldon Staker who were hospitalized this past month.

After a lengthy battle with the physical afflictions of this life, our dear Sis. Lucille Schweigert was called Home to the better land. She is survived by one brother, Bro. Chris Schweigert; five sisters, Sis. Viola Schweig-

ert, Sis. Matilda Koch, Sis. Bernice Frank, Eunice Rowell, and Sis. Vera Aberle; and many nieces and nephews. We will certainly miss Sis. Lucille and may God comfort the hearts of her dear family.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Denise Romersberger
Sue Ruppert

Most of us heard the news as we entered the church on Sunday morning. A tragic accident had cut short a young life. The grief and sadness we felt for his family was palpable as we entered the sanctuary. As a congregation, we turned in prayer to the only One that could give us comfort and answers. And God answered in such a powerful way. All throughout the service, the Holy Spirit led us to worship God because He is God, and to know that He was present, even in the midst of our hurt. We were reminded that even when nothing in this world makes sense, we can depend on who God is and that He loves us in ways far beyond our understanding.

During the funeral service, the grieving family and the rest of the congregation were reminded that Jesus is there in the midst of our life storms. This is just as it was when the disciples woke Him as they felt their boat was sinking. They thought He didn't care as they struggled through the worst time of their life. But Jesus did care, and told them to believe in Him who had power over the storm. Jesus simply spoke "Peace, be still" and the waves ceased at that moment. He didn't promise that the storms would never come back, but at their moment of need, He was there. We, too, can cry to Him whenever we

feel that our ship is sinking and we are in danger of being overwhelmed. He still has power over the storms.

It was this message of hope that brought true joy to a grieving church family in the midst of a difficult week. It is the message that will comfort a little boy's family in their darkest days to come. It is the desperately needed message that we need to tell the world around us as they ask how anyone can survive such an ordeal. God grant us grace to tell of the things that fill our hearts.

Alexander Gene Barth, 19 month-old son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Barth, died Saturday, August 1, 1998. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, August 4. He is survived by his sisters, Laura and Anna, and by his brothers, Trenton and Peter. Also surviving are his grandparents, Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae Barth (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Hoerr (Peoria, IL). We pray God's close presence to all of the surviving family.

The family of little Alex would like to express their deep gratitude to all those who shared their presence, brought food, sent cards and faithfully prayed. They have been overwhelmed with the many expressions of love and feel that "Thank You" is so inadequate.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Lester Huber (Lexington, KY). Thank you for sharing yourselves with our congregation.

We welcome Bro. Mike and Sis. Kathy Dreeste back to Washington. We are glad they will be worshipping with us.

We bid Godspeed to Sis. Jen-

nifer Kellenberger who will be spending some time in Mexico attending a university. We will keep you close in heart and in our prayers until you return.

On Saturday, August 15, Michelle Fritz and Kevin Phillips were united in marriage. Parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally Fritz of our Washington church and Daryl and Linda Phillips of Farmington. We pray for God's presence in your new life together.

Note of Thanks:

Sis. Sue Ruppert and her family would like to thank all who prayed for her niece's recovery from viral encephalitis, cerebralitis and kidney failure. The doctors who treated her have stated her recovery was a miracle. Your prayers were what made the difference. Thank you also to those who gave so generously towards the medical bills. We sincerely thank each one of you!

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Trudy Eisenmann
Kim Maller

Summer has come to a close and harvest will soon be upon us. As the seasons come and go, so have three dear souls. Bro. Milo Baumgartner passed away August 15. He is survived by his brothers, Bro. Herman (Sis. Mary), Walter and Wayne; and six sisters, Sis. Alice Geisel, Sis. Nova Steffen (Bob), Sis. Violet Meyer (Bro. Harold), Rosina Baumgartner, June Lehman, and Sis. Eileen Furrer (Bro. Glen).

Sis. Elizabeth Pfister also passed on and has now joined her husband, Bro. William, in Heaven. Their sons are Bro. Tom

(Sis. Barbara), Bro. Ted (Sis. Rose), and two daughters, Sis. Julia Gerber (Bro. Victor) and Sis. Mary Jo Gerber (Bro. Paul).

Grieving a loss also at this time is our Sis. Sharon Merritt and her husband, Gary, as Gary's father, George Merritt, was suddenly called Home. As the circle of life goes forth, we rejoice with the Merritt family, however, as Gary and Sis. Sharon's son, Kent, has given his heart to the Lord.

Tiffany Aschliman (Bro. Deryl and Sis. Peggy), Erin Frauhiger (Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly), Stacy Fiechter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny), Bryan Schwartz (Bro. Gary and Sis. Barb), Jami Imel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon) and Rachel Reinhard (Bro. Larry and Sis. Deb) also have turned from sin and want to become children of God.

The circle of life continues in new birth. Celebrating new arrivals, we have Bro. Marvin and Sis. Kim Reinhard who have been blessed with another girl on August 12. Lindsee Renee joins Alex, Shawn, and Sydnee at home. Grandparents are Bro. Dwight and Sis. Pat Moser and Bro. Roy and Sis. Vergene Reinhard.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Phyl Dotterer are the grandparents to their son's firstborn. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lynn Dotterer gave birth to Brian Daniel on July 20. The other happy grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa Martin (Princeville, IL). We will pray as you all start new lives and may you look to God for direction.

This past month we were fortunate enough to be blessed with hearing the testimonies of eight souls. On July 26, Blaine Isch (Bro. Les and Sis. Ann), Lane

Gerber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl), Andrea and Amber Rager (Bro. Bill and Sis. Lou Ann), and Rich Pfister (Al and Becky) were baptized into the fold. Lending a helping hand for this special weekend was Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL). On August 1, Josh Imel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon), Miriam Isch (Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene) and Cameron Fry (Bro. Denis and Sis. Debbie) gave their testimonies and were baptized on August 2. Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) traveled to Bluffton that weekend to help out.

On July 19, we witnessed the marriage of Bro. Nick Baumgartner (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ruth) to Sis. Leah Habegger (Bro. Ted and Sis. Jane). Another couple uniting in marriage was Kenny Frauhiger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Rose) to Lynette Reinhard (Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann) on August 14.

Engaged at this time we have Bro. Josh Maggart (Bro. John and Sis. Becky) to Sis. Becky Maller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise); and Bro. Rich Pfister to Sis. Amber Rager (Bro. Bill and Sis. Lou Ann). We will keep you all in our prayers as you begin your lives together.

Visiting our congregation were Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN). Thank you both and to the other ministers mentioned above for lending yourselves to us in this very busy vacation time. We hope you return again soon.

Our Sis. Velma Fulkerson has recently moved from Bloomington to Bluffton. Her new place of residence is at Christian Care Retirement Home where she can be surrounded by many family members and friends. Also mak-

ing a change is Bro. Dave Stieglitz and his wife, Sis. Paige. They will be relocating to Elgin, IL where he will be the administrator at the Rest Haven Nursing Care facility. Their new address will be as follows: Dave and Paige Stieglitz, House #70 Second St., Elgin, IL 60123. We hope for them that they will have many safe trips back to Leo, IN and to our Bluffton congregation also.

In the hospital at this time we have Bro. Millard Aschliman (Sis. Alice), Bro. Lester Schwartz (Sis. Sally) and Sis. Marie Kipfer (Bro. Joe). As you look to God for your Divine healing, we will lift you up in prayer.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

**Lori Steffen
Rhonda Maller**

Our beloved Elder and ministering brothers met on August 6 and 7 to discuss the many concerns that face our church as we approach the end of the century. As children of God, we need to pray for God's wisdom and be supportive of our dear ministering brothers as they strive to lead us according to God's Word. "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." (Romans 14:12)

A reason to rejoice is when souls turn their hearts to Jesus in repentance. Jesse Longenberger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Kathy) has chosen to give her life to Christ and we encourage her to stay in the Word and God will provide guidance.

We were blessed to have Bro. Brace Wieland and his wife, Sis. Brenda (Leo, IN), here to share God's Word with us and exhort our couple being married to keep Christ at the center of their lives.

The wedding of Sis. Abby Kipfer (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Val) to Bro. Scott Klopfenstein (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Chris of Leo, IN) was on August 9. May this dear couple travel forward trusting that God will guide their footsteps as they continue fellowship in our Indianapolis, IN congregation. August 14 was the wedding day for Lynette Reinhard (Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann) and Kenny Frauhiger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Rose). May the Lord bless these couples as they begin their lives together.

Loved ones who need our prayers are Bro. Jim Geisel (Sis. Dorothy), Delores Shady (Bill), Trayton Gerber (Bro. Blake and Sis. Fawn), and Bro. Linus Gerber (Sis. Nancy). These individuals are suffering from physical struggles and we lift them up in prayer to the Great Physician who knows our every need. May God strengthen their faith as they trust in Him. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

This month two couples have celebrated their golden wedding anniversaries. Bro. Alvin and Sis. Bernice Fiechter and Bro. Max and Sis. Eunice Steffen have now been married for 50 years. God's blessings to them and their dear families during this special time.

Saturday, August 16, was the date of the annual Gateway Woods Sale. It's always a blessing to see how God works through His children. May this special "Home" always be a place where children can find the way to our "Eternal Home".

As time marches on and we see our children returning to school, may we all pray a little harder that God will protect them from the evils that permeate our soci-

ety and strengthen them with His Spirit of discernment. As parents, let's diligently strive to be the examples Christ wants us to be.

"...in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

Philippians 4:6

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Lily Pelsy

Sermon statement: We shouldn't always ask only for grace to be true and faithful, but we should ask for humility to be an overcomer.

Having found God's grace, five souls shared their testimonies and were baptized. We welcome Bros. Kevin Gutwein (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda), Dustin Gutwein (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Donna) and Sisters Allison (Sis. Melody), Kayla Wuethrich (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy) and Diana Houston (Sis. Juanita) into our church family. We thank Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) for sharing in this blessed weekend.

We thank Bros. Victor Beer (North Ft. Myers, FL), James Emch (Phoenix, AZ), and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) for sharing God's Word.

On July 16, Timothy Michael was born to Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam Huber. Delighted siblings are Paul and Anna. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb Huber and Algird and Erica Gudas.

Brandon and Rosa Wuethrich became parents of their precious son, Tanner Michael, on July 23. Happy grandparents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Judy and Jose and Kathy Mojica.

May God's mercy and will be

done as the following loved ones have spent time in the hospital. The prayers of the church were for Glen Boehning (Sis. Eileen), Bro. Larry Linback (Sis. Connie), Bro. Albert Schini (Sis. Amelia), Fred Howat (Sis. Carol), Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich (Bro. Bob) and Sis. Emilie Anliker (Bro. Elmer).

We welcome back Bro. Burt and Sis. Karlene Isch who have moved here with their daughters, Keelin and Katie.

We also welcome Joseph and Sis. Ibolya Vass and their son, Joseph, who have attended Bluffton the past four years and are originally from Budapest.

On August 8, Jeremy Vogt (Bro. Don and Sis. Pam) and Andria Balan (Doug and Frances) were married. May they feel God's blessings.

We express sympathy to Sis. Connie Wuethrich (Bro. Kevin) in the death of her grandmother, Marion Tiede.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Gail Bradford

We are praising God for the safe arrival of two babies. On July 20, Brian Daniel was born to Jeff and Lynn Dotterer. Grandparents, Bro. Paul and Sis. Phyl Dotterer (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa Martin (Princeville, IL), enjoyed meeting their new grandson.

On August 2, Brian and Michelle Collett welcomed their first child, Andrew Leman. His grandparents are Janie Rober-son of Vernon, IN, Larue Collett of Washington, IN and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Linda Leman (Francesville, IN). As a church family, we have a wonderful opportunity to encourage these young parents as they assume new and important responsibili-

ties.

Our counseling Elder, Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), and Bros. Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN) and Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ) assisted our ministers this month. We can be confident that wherever visiting ministers come from, their exhortation will be firmly grounded in the Word.

We welcome Bro. Jay and Sis. Laurie Wiegand, who recently moved to Lafayette from Kansas City.

Little Noah Cook (Bro. Brian and Sis. Michelle) spent a night in the hospital recently. He is fine now. Along life's way, we find many moments where we need to lean on the Lord!

Many of our congregation attended the wedding at Bluffton North of Bro. Scott Klopfenstein and Sis. Abby Kipfer. They will make their home in Indianapolis.

We rejoice with two announcements: Bro. Aaron Klopfenstein's engagement to Sis. Kara Banwart (Champaign, IL); and Bro. Jeremy Freed's engagement to Sis. Natalie Stoller (La-Crosse, IN). Jeremy's parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Freed of Indianapolis.

In August, newly elected assistant Sunday School Superintendent, Bro. Matt Ackerman, will join new teachers, Bros. Matt Waibel, Jim Bucher and Ron Gress, and Sisters Dawn Anliker, Missy Ackerman and Sandy Guingrich. They look forward to the willing help of the existing staff as they take on their new duties.

Indianapolis stands at the crossroads of several interstate highways. Your destination upon departing the city depends on the exit you choose. If you choose the wrong exit, you must often travel that way for a distance before you can change direction. How much

more quickly you'll reach your goal if you choose correctly the first time! Reliance on an up-to-date map can prevent these detours.

On life's journey, we need to rely on God's direction. His Holy Word provides us with an unerring map for our trip. Referring to it daily will prevent us from carelessly taking the wrong exit at the many crossroads we will surely encounter.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Anna Marie Stoller

A precious baby boy was born into the family of Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jeannie Schneider. Brett Michael joins his siblings, Lindsey, Reid, and Kaleigh.

God has provided a beautiful love between Sis. Natalie Stoller (Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie) and Bro. Jeremy Freed (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy) of Indianapolis. Their engagement has been announced after a time of seeking God's direction regarding this important step in their lives.

A brother reminded us at a singing that when we sing hymns that are prayers, we should be earnest and sing prayerfully.

Bro. Harold Heinold is in the prayers of our congregation as he begins a course of chemotherapy. We hope the unpleasant part of this treatment will evolve into better health. God be near you, Bro. Harold!

"There is nothing glorious being a slave of Satan in this life. There is nothing glorious about ashes in a furnace...if there is something that is not to God's glory — leave it alone!" We praise and thank God for the ministry of His Word.

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Tonya Stoller have moved to the Leo area and we welcome them into our church family.

August 9 was the wedding of Bro. Scott Klopfenstein and Sis. Abby Kipfer at the Bluffton North Church. They will be making their home at Indianapolis, IN where Bro. Scott is employed. We sincerely wish them the blessings of the Lord.

Sis. Lucile Frank returned to her home from Christian Care at Bluffton, IN.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Bros. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), William Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN).

We had Bro. Verne Lehman from the Denver, CO congregation talk at our topical Bible Study. His topic was "Miracles Still Happen". He told about receiving a heart transplant after waiting for one year and four days. The last month and a half were on life support at University Hospital, Denver, CO. While recovering in the hospital, this poem came to him:

The Great Physician

The Great Physician is always
near,
He knows our cry, He knows our
fear.
He knows our need before we ask,
it's easy for Him to provide for
each task.
Trust the One that can heal and
guide,
so you can be happy deep inside.
Believe on the Great Physician -

never cease, and you will go forth with joy and peace.

—*Verne E. Lehman (1995)*

May we sincerely continue to pray for our ministering brothers as they proclaim God's Word, and that they are yielding their thoughts to the Holy Spirit.

About the poem, "The Great Physician": On February 5, 1995, I received a heart transplant after waiting on the transplant list for one year and four days. For the last month and a half I was on life support at University Hospital, Denver, CO.

While still in the hospital, I was contemplating the talent and ability of the physicians to be able to perform this successful heart transplant in me.

The next thought came to me from the Great Physician by delivering this poem.

I trust this poem will be an encouragement to each reader.

—*Verne E. Lehman*

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Linda Beer
Renee Beer**

This summer our congregation has enjoyed many visitors from around the world who have spent a Sunday with us. We want to thank Bros. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN), Vic Beer (Sis. Dorothy, North Fort Myers, FL), Garth Steffen (Sis. Connie, Portland, OR), Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA), Glenn Price, Jr. (Sis. Sandy, Sarasota, FL) and Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Shioda, Japan), for ministering God's Holy Word to us.

We pray for healing for Seth Beer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie) as he suffered a broken arm, Bro.

Morrie Beer who had minor surgery, and Crystal Pamer (Bro. Matt and Sis. Karen) who was hospitalized with an infection.

On July 23, Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Haab said good-bye to Sis. Martha's father, Jerry Hostetler. We extend our sympathy and prayers to their family.

We rejoice with Katy Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy) as she has answered the call to repentance and is seeking a new life in Christ. May she ever trust in the Lord to guide and direct her on life's pathway.

We think of all the students starting another school year. We pray the Lord will give them guidance and protection throughout another year.

We have started listening to the annual Conference tapes and appreciate the many hours our Elders continue to labor on behalf of the church.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Patti Bahler

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord..."

Jeremiah 30:17

We are thankful the Lord has restored health to Sis. Norma Wasner and Sis. Jayne Price who both spent time in the hospital this month.

On July 22, our dear friend, Nettie Wasner, passed from this life into eternity. We wish to extend our prayer of love and sympathy to her family in this time of sorrow.

We are thankful Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) was able to visit us. May the Lord bless and sustain those who continue to preach the gospel mes-

sage.

Note of Thanks:

To all who expressed concern and offered prayers, to all who made phone calls, sent flowers, gifts, cards and food or in any other way helped to make my surgery and hospital stay easier, I want to say a most grateful and sincere thank you. May you reap a rich reward.

Sis. Norma Wasner

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Jennifer Mangold

Sue Beebe

We rejoiced with the zeal for life with our dear Bro. Verne Lehman as he told us of his battle with a heart condition and subsequent heart transplant. On several occasions he faced death and the Lord, through the knowledge granted to man's physicians, allowed him to live on. He spends much of his time now speaking of the experience and writing about it. It's a shame really that it seems only those who face such trials truly love the life that God has granted unto us for a time. And, they seem to be the most settled with the inevitable transition we will all make to eternity. We pray God's blessing will continue to follow Bro. Verne and his dear wife, Leona.

We were grateful to have visiting Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) with us this past month. Some of us were also able to attend the Brotherhood Conference in Forrest, IL. What an awesome joy to hear the brothers and sisters sing. It was a glimpse I think of how Heaven might sound and feel. We were grateful the Elder brothers allowed themselves to be led and provide to us then the direction

or "shepherding" that we need. If all that was said is presented with love and received with love, in the days to come the church shall surely reap a benefit.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Hope Bucher
Cheryl Bucher

We were thankful for the opportunity to learn more about God's beautiful design for the family and to be encouraged to "Turn Our Hearts Towards Home" during our summer Vacation Bible School. We appreciate the teachings of our visiting speakers, Bros. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Dick Kilgus (Elgin, IL) and Howard Plattner (Alto, MI), who challenged us to be more committed to family life. We thank them for their willingness to come. We also are thankful for the groups that shared with us through the ministry of song. The Sunday School topic was "fishing" as the children focused their three days on being drawn to Jesus and catching the beatitude attitude. The following Sunday was our Sunday School picnic where the teachers presented their classes and the children sang the new songs they learned during VBS.

It was a blessing to have Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) as well as Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) minister unto us this month. We pray God will bless them for sharing the message of Jesus with our congregation.

We are continuing to pray for our dear couple, Bro. Roy and Sis. Aldene Freiden, as Roy has recently moved to Parkview Haven. We wish them God's blessings through this change and always.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Beckie Lehman
Jody Bahler

Slowly summer is drawing to a close. Soon the air will have a bite to it and the leaves will crunch beneath our feet. As the children return to school, our prayers go with them as they face challenges and obstacles both in education and in the circle of their peers. May God hold their hearts and hands that they can make right choices for Him.

We rejoiced this past month in the blessing of gathering four more souls into the fold. We were able to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Chad Schieler (Bro. Duane and Sis. Suzanne), Bros. Derek and Lee Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell) and Sis. Theresa Schwab (Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel). May the strengthening grace and love of God be with them throughout their lives. We are grateful to Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz for his willingness to assist Bro. Alfred with the testimonies. With very short notice Bro. Ed was willing to take the place of Elder Bro. John Klotzle who suffered from ill health. We also appreciate the service of Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN) and Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL). Bro. John Stoller kindly assisted Bro. Alfred with the baptisms. May God bless each of these brothers.

We also thank Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) for sharing the Word with us this past month. We are thankful for God's inspiration through his service.

We were blessed to hear Bro. Gene Lehman speak about chapters 3 and 4 in Jeremiah. We were encouraged to hold fast to the

faith and uphold the traditions of the church.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Karla Gerst
Judy Gehring

I heard an Elder say that five words for believing are: Adhere, Cleve, Faith, Rely and Trust.

We were blessed with a visit from Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI). A comment Bro. Bill made was to pray for the ministers (I Timothy 4). I was recently at a visiting church and the minister there said to pray for the ministers during the week so the church may be fed according to the Word of God through the Holy Spirit.

Sis. Esther Peterson and Bro. Blaine Applegarth have been dismissed from the hospital. Bro. Bill Obermann has also recently spent some time in the hospital.

We welcome two new babies to our congregation. Savannah Rose was born July 22 to Bro. Leo and Sis. Tami Banwart. She has one older brother, Brady. Her grandparents are Bro. Albert and the late Sis. Betty Banwart (West Bend, IA) and Gene and Ann Samek (Hawkeye, IA).

Brady Robert was born on August 8 to Mark and Jamy Eisenmann. He has one brother, Taylor. His grandparents are Leo and Connie Martin and Bro. Paul and Sis. Elaine Eisenmann, all of Burlington.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

We read in I Corinthians 12 where different talents were given to fulfill different needs. We are thankful that God is still providing different talents to meet the needs of the church.

And though the needs vary, yet they have a common goal, and that being that the church can be edified and maintain godly order. And though the talents vary, yet we trust that each brother and sister will be directed by the same Spirit as they seek God's direction in fulfilling their duties. Those assigned duties at our recent annual election include: Sis. Heidi Butikofer - preschool teacher; Sis. Sue Schneider - intermediate class teacher; Bro. Jim Knobloch - Bible class teacher and Sunday School superintendent; Bro. Al Butikofer - head song leader; Bros. Jim Knobloch and John Schupbach - trustees.

By the time this Silver Lining edition reaches our homes, most of our students will have returned for another year of schooling. How important this education is so that the future needs of society can be met. We seldom look at our elementary students as the doctors, nurses, teacher, law makers and etc. of tomorrow, yet if the world stands, they will be expected to fill these positions. May we not forget that along with the education received at school, the knowledge gained by reading and studying God's Word is even more important if these future positions are to be filled by God-loving, God-fearing adults according to the teachings and will of God. May God help us not to be slack in sharing His Word with our children.

This past Wednesday evening we were privileged and thankful to have Bro. Andy Virkler and his family (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) with us. We always appreciate their visits and Bro. Andy's willingness to share truths from God's Word with us.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Laura Funk

We have been blessed with many visitors recently, including Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and ministering Bros. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Dale Wulf (Lester, IA). We say a special "thank you" to all who visit us and encourage any who would like to visit us to do so!

As school resumes, our thoughts go out to all students, but especially the college students who are leaving the shelter of the parental home. May the Lord go with you. The elementary and high school students also meet many challenges and temptations each day. Our thoughts and prayers go with you also.

Have Courage My Boy To Say No!

You're starting today on life's journey,
Alone on the Highway of Life.
You'll meet with a thousand temptations,
Each city with evil is rife.
The world in a state of excitement,
There's danger wherever you go;
But if you are tempted in weakness,
Have courage, my boy, to say NO.

The siren's sweet smile may allure you,
Beware of her cunning and art;
Whenever you see her approaching,
Be guarded and haste to depart.
The inns and saloons are inviting,
Decked out in their tinsel and show,
Should you be invited to enter,
Have courage, my boy, to say NO.

Be careful in choosing companions,
Seek only the brave and the true;
And stand by your friends when in trial,

Ne'er changing the old for the new.
And when by false friends you are tempted
The taste of the wine cup to know,
With firmness, with patience, and kindness,
Have courage, my boy, to say NO.

The bright sparkling wine may be offered;
No matter how tempting it be,
From poison that stings like an adder
My boy, have the courage to flee.
The gambling halls are before you,
Their lights, how they dance to and fro;
You may be invited to enter,
Do have courage, my boy, to say NO.

In courage of faith lies your safety,
When you your long journey begin;
And trust in your heavenly Father
Will keep you unspotted from sin.
Temptations will go on increasing
As rivers from rivulets flow;
But if you are true to your Saviour,
You'll have courage, my boy, to say NO.
—Anon.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Sharon Gerst

God has again blessed us with many visiting ministers this month. They were Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), John Rowell (Burlington, IA) and Ted Witzig (Morton, IL). May each one feel God's blessings and our appreciation for their endeavors.

As the new school year starts, our Sunday School teachers will be changing. The teachers for this year will be Bro. Neil Knobloch (Bible class), Bro. Ben Weyrick (middle class), and Sis. Jeanette Moser (primary class). We pray that they will feel God's guidance and help as they teach the future church.

Our prayers are with Bro. Ted

and Sis. Carrie Wiegand. Sis. Carrie is still in the hospital patiently awaiting the coming of their little son or daughter.

IOWA, LESTER
Sue Warner
Cindy Leuthold

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

John 14:27

Three dear souls have searched for the peace that only God can grant to us and now believe that they have found this precious gift. We rejoice with Kyle (Becky) Knobloch and Jim and Betty Leuthold who have been announced for peace and await baptism.

July 18 was the wedding day chosen by Greg Leuthold and Jodi Overgaard who recited marriage vows. May God bless these dear ones as they begin this new step in their lives. Parents of the couple are Jim and Betty Leuthold.

A singing was held at the Fellowship Hall on August 15 for the newly wedded couple, Bro. Virgil and Sis. Katrina (Walter) Knobloch. Bro. Virgil is the son of Sis. Laretta Knobloch and the late Bro. Orvie and Sis. Katrina's parents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter (Silverton, OR). Our prayer is for God's blessings for them as they make Pulaski, IA their home church.

We appreciate and enjoy visitors and are grateful for visiting brethren who minister to us during the vacation season. Recently, our visiting ministers have been: Bros. Doug Grimm

(Sabetha, KS), Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR), Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington-Normal, IL), and Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO). We thank these brothers for lending themselves on our behalf.

Bro. Eli and Sis. Alice Metzger celebrated their upcoming 50th wedding anniversary with an open house celebration on July 25. We are grateful God has blessed them with love and happiness in the past and pray He will continue to bless them in the future.

A precious baby boy was born on his daddy's birthday, August 14, to Bro. Rodney and Sis. Polly Moser. He has been named Toby Ray and joins his sister, Emma, and three brothers, Vance, Eric and Neil. He is welcomed home by the loving arms of his family as well as his happy grandparents, Bro. Ernst and Sis. Ella Metzger and Louis and Tina Moser.

Andy (Elsie) Leuthold remains a patient in the hospital following a heart attack. Also, Sandra (Todd) Martin spent time in the hospital recently. Our prayer is for God's healing touch for those who are ill.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. Wilhelm Metzger of Bern, KS who passed away. He is survived by several of his brothers and sisters from our congregation: Bro. Ernst (Sis. Ella), Bro. Elmer (Sis. Mariann), Bro. Eli (Sis. Alice), Bro. Fred (Sis. Esty), Sis. Emma Meyer and Sis. Freida (Bro. Andy) Mogler, and many nieces and nephews.

Notes of Thanks:

We would like to thank you for the cards, gifts, and prayers during my recent illness and follow-

ing treatment. May God bless each one of you.

Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill Meyer

With sincere appreciation to our brethren and friends for your prayers, memorials, and your many kind deeds which you so lovingly shared with us following the death of our beloved Sis. Elizabeth Nester. God's blessings to all of you.

Bro. Eugene and Sis. Shirley Nester and family

Sis. Ruth Nester

Sis. Iola Knobloch

Sis. Zelma Knobloch

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

Grandchildren are truly a wonderful blessing sent from Heaven above.

Bro. Sam and Sis. Rosemary Wegman and Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally Haerr (Taylor, MO) are rejoicing with becoming grandparents once again. Philip Wesley was born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn Wegman (Chicago, IL). Also welcoming him home is his big brother, Brett.

Bro. Eric and Sis. Norma Massner and Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy Musselman (Pulaski, IA) are also rejoicing with the arrival of little Nicholas Matthew, born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Lynne Musselman (Bloomington, IL). Excited about their new little playmate are his big brother, Zachary, and his big sisters, Molly and Morgan.

Orrin, Kaylee, Vienna and Austin Lanz are happy about their new little bundle from Heaven. Their little brother, Adrian John, was born to their parents, Bro. Monte and Sis. Kelly Lanz. Also thankful for his

safe arrival are their grandparents, Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Jean Lanz and Marvin and Dorothy Austin.

We would like to thank the visiting ministers that have been in our congregation this past month. They are Bros. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Mark Kiefer (Denver, CO). May the Lord continue to bless them and their families for their labors of love.

IOWA, PULASKI Lisa Knecht

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

Psalm 127:3

Our congregation has two very thankful grandparents! Sis. Wilma (late Bro. Richard) Teubel has a precious grandson, Robert James Manz Jr., born on July 4. Parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Donna Manz (Junction, OH). On July 30, Brian and Karla Knapp were blessed with their first child, Baxter Michael. Grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Mary Jane Knapp. May the Lord bless these families as another member has been added.

We wish to express our sympathy to Sis. Karoline Wuthrich (Bro. Russell) and Roy Metzger (Sis. Evelyn) in the passing of their brother, Bro. Wilhelm Metzger (Bern, KS).

We are always thankful for the ministers who visit our congregation. Bros. Paul Butikofer (Sis. Mildred, Elgin, IA) and Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) gave of themselves, and we trust the Lord will continue to give them His Godly wisdom.

As the school year begins and we think of the worldly influ-

ences around our children, may our homes truly be a haven for the precious souls the Lord has entrusted to us.

IOWA, WEST BEND Eunice Fehr Berniece Banwart

We were blessed with many visitors this month. Among them were Bros. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN), Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA), and Andy Virkler (Sis. Becky, Croghan-Naumburg, NY) who proclaimed the Word in the power of the Spirit.

Peace! Peace! Wonderful peace,
Coming down from the Father
above,
Sweep over my spirit forever, I
pray,
In fathomless billows of love.
Gospel Hymns #746

Twila Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene) has experienced this peace. We rejoice with her and look forward to her baptism soon.

Sis. Melissa (Bro. David) Zaugg was hospitalized for a short stay. We are thankful she had a quick recovery. We are also thankful that Cindy (John) Bruellman is doing well after her surgery.

On July 19, Bro. Cory and Sis. Jennifer Fehr welcomed Charlie Roger into their family circle. Emma and Jack are thrilled to have a new brother. Grandparents are Gary and Pat Alberts (Ames, IA) and Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice Fehr. Great-grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Matilda Fehr.

Many of our brothers attended the Brotherhood Conference at Forrest, IL and we now look forward to hearing the tapes on the

next three Thursday evenings. May we all benefit spiritually and joyfully submit to their loving counsel.

"Stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving for the faith of the gospel..."

Phil. 1:27

JAPAN, TOKYO Andrew & Jana Klaus

Christian love and greetings from across the ocean! Once again, we have had several friends span this ocean and bless us with their visits.

Sis. DeAnn Beebe (South Bend, IN) was in Hiroshima with a Japanese host family for several weeks and even though she wasn't able to worship with us, she called and met with Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie. They enjoyed meeting and visiting with this brave, young girl! Sis. DeAnn had previously hosted a couple of girls from this Japanese family at her house in America, so we were thrilled she could now visit Japan.

On Sunday, August 2, Bro. Phil Baurer (Princeville, IL) was here to worship with us. He was in Japan for the second time this year on business with Komatsu Construction.

Then on Sunday, August 23, Jim Whipple (Oakville, IA) was in church with us. He has been to Japan several times on business, but can't always worship with us, so we were thankful to meet him this time.

We are excited to announce that construction has begun on putting up new siding on our church, and soon will be followed by interior remodeling, also.

Church activities this summer included our fellowship meeting

(shuyokai) on July 27-28 in Kobuchizawa, as well as our camp on August 13-15 in the Yatsugatake mountains of Nagano. We appreciate all who attended and thank them for the sweet times of fellowship.

KANSAS, BERN
Lori Baumgartner
Holly Meyer

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Isaiah 41:10

Several dear ones of our congregation have needed these words of encouragement and assurance of God's promises in the past weeks. Bro. Harlan Stoller (Sis. Pearl) was a hospital patient, and Sis. Lila Rokey (Bro. Joe) and Bro. Christopher Menold (Sis. Amy) both had quite lengthy stays in the hospital. Many prayers have been offered this month for their health and strength, and it was so encouraging to have Bros. Harlan and Christopher worship with us again. We hope Sis. Lila can soon join us again also.

Bro. Wilhelm Metzger passed from this life on July 28 and his funeral was held July 31. We can be thankful his earthly pain and struggles are over and do extend our sympathy to his family, especially his children: Bro. Doug Metzger (Sabetha, KS), Marjorie Whitfield (Columbus, OH), and Willa Steiner (Overland Park, KS).

Many family reunions have taken place recently and we have enjoyed the extra visitors, includ-

ing three ministers: Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), and Bros. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) and Edwin Strahm (Elgin, IL). Thanks to all three brothers for being willing messengers of the gospel.

As that message of salvation continues to go forth, we rejoice that another soul has answered God's call. Bruce Stoller (Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria) is giving his heart to the Lord. May he be an overcomer of all the evil in this world, and build a firm foundation on Jesus Christ.

We are happy to report two new lives that are special to our congregation.

Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona Strahm are thankful grandparents of Reagan Ashley, born to Matt and Becky Ahlquist of Columbus, OH, on July 29. Kyle Dean was welcomed into this world by his parents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Jill Meyer, on August 11. His grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne Meyer and Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ). May God give special wisdom to both of these first-time parents as they nurture their precious children.

Another Christian home was established on July 25, as Gail Hartter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois) was joined in marriage to Robbie Nutter (Ralph and Linda, Valley Center, KS). May God bless and direct them as they make their first home in Manhattan, KS.

Our Sunday School classes will resume in September, and may we all be prayerful for our teachers as they help instruct and guide all those tender, young souls! Thanks go to Bros. Brad Strahm and Earl Edelman and Sis. Carla Meyer for their years of service. We give our support and encouragement to Bros.

Todd Rokey and John Baumgartner and Sisters Kathy Strahm and Shelby Strahm as they begin their terms. The Lord bless you and keep you!

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

Influence:

Drop a pebble in the water,
and its ripples reach out far;
And the sunbeams dancing on
them
may reflect them to a star.

Give a smile to someone passing,
thereby making his morning glad;
It may greet you in the evening
when your own heart may be sad.

Do a deed of simple kindness;
though its end you may not see,
It may reach, like widening ripples,
down a long eternity.

—*Salesian Missions*

Recently, we were watching a gentle rain as it fell into a quiet lake, and the tiny ripples the drops made as they touched the surface of the water. Some ripples didn't seem to stretch very far, while others spread out a long way. The above poem seemed to mirror our thoughts, because we never can know what ripples our actions may cause to those around us. Will the ever widening ripples of our lives glorify our Lord, and be an inspiration to others, or will they reflect a self-willed attitude that turns others away from and brings shame to the precious name of our Lord? The choice is ours, but the consequences of those ever widening ripples that our lives reflect are something only our Lord can know. It is our fervent prayer that He will be pleased with what He sees!

We had a truly lovely surprise

when we walked into church this past Sunday morning. Ministering Bro. Glen Funk and his dear wife, Sis. Sally (Wichita, KS) came to Kiowa for the day, and shared the Word with us as well as a very pleasant time of fellowship. We appreciated so very much having them in our midst and hope they do it again sometime.

Thanks to all our loved ones who give of their time to share in services at the Kiowa Manor. It may be a blessing to those in the Home, but it is definitely a blessing to us.

**KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Julie Bahr**

Food for thought: If we tell someone that we are a Christian, let's live our lives so it will confirm their suspicions rather than surprising them.

A blessed day was enjoyed together with visiting minister, Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA). We appreciated Bro. John and Sis. Nelda's visit with us.

The miracle of the birth of a child is always a wonder to us. Our congratulations go to grandparents, Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene Metzger, on the birth of their newest grandson to Bro. Shawn and Sis. Sandy Metzger (Philadelphia, PA). Walker Shawn, born August 2, made a wonderful addition to two big brothers, Hunter and Tanner. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn Lanz.

Our love and prayers with God's blessings go to Sis. Debby (Bro. Jeff) Frieden, who was hospitalized for surgery this past month.

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

Visiting our congregation this past month to share God's Word were Elder Bros. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Marvin Lemman (Bradford, IL). We want to thank them and pray that God will bless them for their efforts.

Even as the angels in Heaven rejoice over the sinners that repent, our congregation has been blessed with two more souls who have turned their back on the world. We pray God will help Christy Meeks (Jerry) and Kaleb Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen) build a firm foundation.

July 18 was the day the Lord united the lives of Bro. Scott Aberle and Sis. Dorene Kurkowski in Holy Matrimony in Detroit, MI. May the Lord bless them as they establish their home in the Kansas City, MO area. Bro. Scott's parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. LaVonne Aberle.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Bro. Joe Farney on July 24. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Sis. Wilma, and his sister, Sis. Mary Aberle.

We also want to remember in prayer Bro. Doug Metzger (Sis. Betty) and his family on the passing away of his father, Bro. Wilhelm Metzger (Bern, KS), on July 27.

Even as Sunday School begins again the first of September, we also are reminded of the children going back to school. Whether it is a college campus or kindergarten awaiting them, we pray for God's protection and guidance in their lives as they confront many decisions.

Our prayers are with those who have suffered bodily afflictions. Sis. Caroline Banwart and Sis. Evelyn Steiner have both

spent some time in the hospital this month.

**KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller**

Sunday School students, teachers, parents and friends enjoyed an evening of fellowship when they met at Sedgewick Park for a picnic on July 26.

We were privileged to have Bro. Dale Frank minister to us on August 9. Bro. Dale and a number of other relatives were in town that weekend for the wedding of his nephew, Kyson Frank. We enjoyed having the opportunity to fellowship with them.

Bro. Virgil Barth gave me the following poem written by Theodore W. Brennan:

I Looked

I looked upon a farm one day,
That once I used to own;
The barn had fallen to the ground,
The fields were overgrown.

The house in which my children
grew,
Where we had lived for years—
I turned to see it broken down,
And brushed aside the tears.

I looked upon my soul one day,
To find it too had grown
With thorns and nettles
everywhere
The seeds of neglect had sown.

The years had passed while I had
cared
For things of lesser worth:
The things of Heaven I let go
While minding things of Earth.

To Christ I turned with bitter
tears,
And cried, "O Lord forgive!
I haven't much time left for Thee,
Not many years to live."

The wasted years forever gone,
The days I can't recall:
If I could live those days again,

I'd make Him Lord of all.

In the forty years I have been attending the Wichita church, Bro. Virgil has been there offering the hand of fellowship and encouragement; so in my eyes, he has served the Lord more years than he wasted.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Doug & Rebecca Germann

Once again the days of summer have flown by so very fast and another school year is upon us. Our prayer is extended for our students across the land, whether they are in public schools, church schools or home schools. May we keep our focus upon the greatest teacher who ever lived, our Saviour.

The past few weeks we have had many visitors and we want to thank you for sharing a weekend with us in Lexington. For those looking for a weekend vacation when the leaves turn, there are many places to visit in the Bluegrass of Kentucky. If you would like information, please contact us at 737 Wellington Way, Lexington, KY 40503 or call 606-224-8710. We would be happy to send out some brochures on the area.

Ministering brothers the past while have been Bros. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), Jerry Baumann (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Pulaski, IA). Many thanks to these brethren for coming the many miles to share the weekend.

While the summer days are filled with the beauty of the outdoors and the aroma of the many vegetables and fruits being canned, my thoughts often turn to Bro. Henry Beer's book of poetry. It is a real blessing to read

the poems on warm summer evenings as the crickets sing and birds chirp the last songs of the day. Below is a selection for the month of September.

September days are here at last,
And soon the summer will be past;
September days are mild and fair,
A touch of fall is in the air.
And nature smiles at every hand
With fruit and corn throughout
the land.

Beneath the silken husks we see
The golden corn protruding free.
Wild asters blossom by the way
And goldenrod in rich display.
The cockscomb and the marigold
Through mild September days
unfold.

When vacation days are done
And mild September days have
come

The children back to school will
turn
And there life's needed lesson
learn.

Out in the orchard there one sees
The ripening fruit on apple trees
The purple grape, all clustered
sweet,

Are a delicious fruit to eat.
It is on mild September days
Our hearts are filled with thanks
and praise
To Him who gives each month and
day,

Whose honor we would seek always.

MICHIGAN, ALTO Kristen Plattner Michelle Oesch

It is encouraging and refreshing to see the Lord work in the hearts and lives of His people. We were privileged to hear the testimony of Bro. Jacob Gerst (Bro. Wally and Donna), Bro. Brett Plattner (Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen) and Bro. Brian Knupstrup (Charles and Mary). Their baptism was a witness to all who attended that Jesus Christ is the Son of our Heavenly Father. We thank Elder Bro. Ed Lanz

(Oakville, IA) and his family for being a part of this special weekend, for sharing in the joy and blessing of three souls who have been set free from sin.

A special thank you to visiting ministers, Bros. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Don Stoller (Rockville, CT). Their willingness to be used to share the Living Word is very much appreciated.

As autumn approaches and school routine again begins for our children, we realize that yet another summer is past. It is no wonder we have warnings to redeem our time wisely, for it slips away so quickly. We pray for God's blessings on our children of all ages as they venture out to further their education. Our prayers go with those who are leaving their families to head back to college. Whether it is an hour away or several states from their homes, may they be reassured the Lord is near their side and only a prayer away.

So Long As There Are Homes
So long as there are homes to
which men turn
At close of day;
So long as there are homes where
children are,
Where women stay—
If love and loyalty and faith be
found
Across those sills—
A stricken nation can recover from
Its gravest ills.
So long as there are homes where
fires burn
And there is bread;
So long as there are homes where
lamps are lit
And prayers are said;
Although people falter through
the dark—
And nations grope—
With God Himself back of these
little homes—
We have sure hope.
—Grace Noll Crowell

Our hearts are truly rejoicing with the angels as another soul has made a beginning in serving the Lord. Our prayers are with Matthew Oesch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle) that God will grant him grace and strength as he takes this most important step in his life. Many are the temptations that Satan will try to lure him away from his heavenly walk, but we pray he will feel God's infinite power and find victory over the enemy.

His call we obey as Abram of old,
Not knowing our way,
but faith makes us bold;
Where'er He shall lead us,
the way He doth guide;
He knows best who rules us;
the Lord will provide.

When Satan appears,
obstructing our path
And fills us with fear,
we conquer by faith;
He cannot take from us,
though oft he has tried,
The heart-cheering promise:
The Lord will provide.
Zion's Harp #86

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Rhonda Knochel

Peggy Jackson

I often bring you some story from nature that I feel accurately portrays some area in our Christian walk. I hope I don't begin to sound redundant as I bring you yet another one of the lessons I've been taught through God's creation.

Recently, I had a vine begin to grow through the lattice work on my front porch. I knew it was a weed, but it looked kind of nice and I thought that it was a morning glory vine. For about two weeks I let this weed grow. It began to crawl up the posts on my porch and wind it's way through

my flower bed. The flower that came out of it was not a morning glory. In fact, it was really ugly and only designed to spread the seed of the weed. So I pulled this weed up. In those two weeks, that tiny vine had become a literal armload of weed and had also wrapped itself so firmly around some of my flowers that I had no choice but to pull them up just to clean up the weed.

It struck me that sin is that way. Often it begins small and seems even rather appealing, but it doesn't take long before we see it's ugly blooms and realize that if we don't pull it out it will only become more destructive. Also, like my weed, sometimes sin destroys some of the good things in our lives. It often hurts others and tarnishes our witness to unbelievers. I challenge each of you today to do a little weeding. Take care of the little weeds of sin that have been creeping into your life before they ruin something precious.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

Psalm 127:3

Bro. Troy and Sis. Jennifer Schrock (Detroit, MI) were recently blessed with a baby girl, Navy Brooke. We rejoice with them as well as with Navy's very pleased Grandma, Sis. Sharon Schlatter, who attends our church here in Bay City. May God bless Navy as she grows up.

We were very excited to share in the wedding day of Bro. Bob and Sis. Kayleen Grew. Their parents are Bro. Neil and Sis. Sharon Ramseyer and Darrell and Cindy Grew. It is our sincere prayer that their love for one another will be firmly grounded and

established in the Lord and that He will bless their union.

Several people in our congregation spent time under the care of a physician this month. They are: Sis. Emily Rechsteiner, Sis. Sharon Schlatter and our Elder Bro. Andrew Virkler (Sis. Maxine). As they recover, we hope that they feel that our thoughts and prayers are with them, as we look to the Great Physician for His healing touch in their lives.

May God be your ever present companion in the month ahead.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Manuela Denes

Kristie Meyer

It was a blessed Sunday as we witnessed the marriage of Sis. Dorine Kurkowski to Bro. Scott Aberle. May the Lord bless them as they make their home in Kansas City.

We've been fortunate to have a number of visiting ministers this month and thank them for being with us and sharing the Word: Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN).

Our Sunday School held Vacation Bible School this past month. I'm sure the children appreciated the lessons as much as the crafts and activities. Many thanks go out to the teachers, parents, and of course, the students for making it a successful and blessing-filled week. Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) concluded the week with a Bible Study topic on Saturday. "Spiritual Motivations" were taken from Romans 12 and we all learned a little bit about the type of person we are. I'm sure that we

were all "motivated" that night. What a wonderful thing it is to have brothers and sisters in our Apostolic faith who have the God-given talent to share scripture with us in ways that are often different from our own outlook!

There have been a lot of people moving to our church and adding to its growth. Unfortunately, we also have to sometimes say goodbye to those that we have grown to love and appreciate. Our prayers and best wishes go out to Bro. Burt and Sis. Karlene Isch as they return to Francesville, IN for work purposes. They and their little girls, Keelin and Katie, will be missed but Detroit's loss is definitely Francesville's gain.

"You never really leave a place you love. Part of it you take with you, leaving a part of you behind." (Anon.)

I'm very happy to be able to close my article this month with the wonderful news of another soul turning his life over to the Lord. Dan Kujawa (Bro. Bill and Sis. Darlene) has made that very important decision and our prayers and thoughts are with him during this special time.

"The only lasting treasure is spiritual; the only perfect freedom is serving God." (Malcolm Muggrudge)

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Delores Sauder**

We enjoyed having Bro. Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ) "back home" and thank him for sharing God's Word with us.

The theme for Vacation Bible School, which was held the week of July 20, was "Jesus is the Key". The guest speaker was

Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL). We thank him for the added blessings he shared.

Cole Thomas is welcomed at the home of Tim and Sandy Jacobson. He also gets attention from his big sister, Mikayla, and grandparents, Elder Bro. LeRoy and Sis. JoAnn Messner (Winthrop, MN).

Being directed of God, the engagement of Bro. Jeremy Freed and Sis. Natalie Stoller (La-Crosse, IN) was made known. We wish them God's blessings as they plan their future together with Christ.

We bid farewell to Bro. Rudy and Sis. Michelle Haerr as they have moved to Eureka, IL and to Bro. Jeremy Freed as he returns to Purdue to finish college. We hope that they will return to visit us often.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Nancy Wulf**

Dianne Kellenberger

We sincerely thank all of our church Elders for their tireless efforts as they've once again gathered together to discuss the cares and concerns of our beloved brotherhood, and for the many times they've sounded the warning that our souls would not be lost.

We truly appreciate all who come to visit. Among our visitors this past month were Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Bros. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Bill Dotterer and Greg Gramm (Phoenix, AZ) and Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA).

At home tis well! There shall the pilgrim tarry,
When tired and worn by sorrow,
grief and strife;
In heaven when the hard race of earthly life is run,

The long-borne load no more he'll carry.
Zion's Harp #170

We pray God's grace and comfort will be extended to the families of Sis. Doris Koehl who was laid to rest July 20. She is survived by three sons: Bro. Edward (Sis. Lois) of Hancock; Bro. Chris (Sis. Ida Lu) of Washington, IL; and Bro. Gerald (Sis. Veloyce) of Farmington; one daughter, Gloria Koehl, of Minneapolis; grandchildren and great-grandchildren; two sisters, Thelma Metzger of Sheridan, IL and Alice (Louis) Hereth of Newman Lake, WA. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bro. Edwin.

We're also saddened by the passing of Albert Moser on August 4. He is survived by two sisters, Sis. Bernice (Bro. Ernie) Frank and Sis. Marian (Bro. Hartzell) Schmidgall, both of Mediapolis, IA.

This union of our hearts
Shall stand through grace in
Jesus;
We walk the path of life,
While cheer and trust increases.
Where God in truth abides,
Where two join hand and heart...
Zion's Harp #79

We rejoice with Bro. Ryan Messner and Sis. Heidi Feuchtenberger as they two became one on August 16. Parents of the couple are Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl Messner and Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger. We pray for God's guidance and richest blessings upon their marriage.

We're thankful Bro. Alpai Moser is feeling better after spending some time in the hospital.

We rejoice that Leah Messner has turned her heart to the Lord in repentance. Leah is the

daughter of Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl Messner.

There is yet room, our Lord is not content,
though many guests are there.
He calls to all with love and kind intent

His feast with all to share,
And by His loving interceding
He calls all men with earnest pleading.
For yet there's room, for yet there's room.

For yet there's room, O sinner hear His call
And give to Him your heart.
Tho' weak you be and lost in sinful fall,
His grace He will impart.
Then come to Him with meek confession
and for His mercy make petition
To cleanse your heart, to cleanse your heart.

Hymns of Zion #129

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Carol Ann Messner
Becky Braulick

"I have set watchmen upon thy walls which shall never hold their peace day or night." (Isaiah 62:6). The Brotherhood Conferences were held in August once again. How thankful we should be for our "faithful watchmen" of our churches. We are always able to look to God for His perfect leadership and faithfulness knowing we are safe and secure under His everlasting arms no matter what turmoil is in the world.

Always we are thankful for our visiting ministers who will spend time with our small congregation. Elder Bro. Ron Messner and Sis. Pam (Washington, IL) and family were able to be here for midweek services. Bro. Rick Plattner and Sis. Mary (Peoria,

IL) were able to spend a weekend with us. Elder Bro. Joe Braker and Sis. Shirley (Morton, IL) were able to spend a Sunday here. We are thankful for the many blessings shared through their teachings.

It was shared that summer is a time for family reunions. The criteria to attend a certain family reunion is the same last name by birth or marriage. We will also have a heavenly reunion one day with being born again out of water and spirit being the criteria for attendance. Will we all be ready to attend this reunion?

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it..." (Psalm 127). A prayer of dedication was held as we begin construction of our church handicapped entrance and baby room addition.

Dick Van Deest (Sis. Nancy) was announced as having peace with God and man. The proving and baptism has been set for the weekend of October 31. We rejoice with the family as one who was lost is now found, praise belonging to God the Father.

Mikayala Jacobson announces the birth of her brother, Cole Thomas, on August 2. Sandy and Tim are the happy parents. Grandparents are Elder Bro. LeRoy and Sis. Joanne Messner and Beverly and Lee Jacobson of Gaylord. We wish them all God's blessings.

For the present time, Bro. Paul and Sis. Jan Messner will be assisting Bro. Leo and Sis. Georgia Messner with the World Relief duties of our church.

Surgical patients in the past month were Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Sis. Hazel) and Sally Heikkila (Mike). Our prayers are with them as they travel the road to recovery.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Brent Kellenberger

In the last month our congregation has experienced several momentous occasions. Bro. Jay and Sis. Lorri Wiegand are moving to Indiana and plan to attend church in Indianapolis. We will miss them greatly and we pray that God will go with them and direct them as they continue to walk the path of life. Although we are saddened as two loved ones leave, we also rejoice as seven more join us. Sis. Tina Fehr recently moved to our area from Champaign, IL. Bro. DeVere and Sis. Michelle Meyer, along with Allison, Lauren, Grant and Blake, are beginning to settle into Kansas City as well. They come to us from Sabetha, KS. We are very thankful that God has led these fellow believers to Kansas City.

We were saddened to hear that our dear Bro. Joe Farney has passed away in his Sabetha home. Bro. Joe was one of the first members in Kansas City, and he was very instrumental in beginning our church. We are thankful for all that Bro. Joe has done for the church through the years, and we pray that God will comfort and bless his wife, Sis. Wilma, and all his family and loved ones. We can take comfort in St. John 14:3-4, where Christ says, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know."

Finally, we want to extend a warm welcome to three students we hope to see often. Sis. Jenny Plattner and Courtney Stewart (Sabetha, KS) are both attending

school in Kansas City, and Sis. Heather Hitz (Detroit, MI) is attending Kansas State University. We are thankful that through the changes of life, God is faithful and unchanging.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Martha Kellenberger
Carolyn Banwart

We were thankful for visiting ministers, Bro. Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan, Elgin, IA) and Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Sis. Karen, Fort Scott, KS). May God bless them for their love in exhorting God's Holy Word. It is truly a blessing to fellowship with those of like mind and faith from other congregations.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Betsy Schrenk

We warmly welcome two young women to St. Louis. Sis. Sarah Rumbold (Bradford, IL) and Danielle Stoller (Gridley, IL) are in a physical therapy program together at Washington University.

Our best wishes are extended to Bro. Kevin Schrock and Sis. Rachel Stoller (Eureka, IL) who recently announced their engagement. We look forward to having Sis. Rachel join us after their December wedding. Bro. Kevin has several years remaining in his study of occupational therapy at St. Louis University.

We prayerfully lift up our precious students here and everywhere that they can meet their daily challenges with wisdom and clear thinking. Many enticing and potentially harmful messages and philosophies come from influential professors and others, and staying close to God is the only way to overcome.

The Young Group from Peoria swelled our ranks one hot August Sunday when they brought a bus to Missouri to go canoeing and enjoy God's handiwork on one of our beautiful rivers and then to worship with us on Sunday. Three of the Peoria ministers and their wives accompanied them: Bros. Ken Hoerr, Mike Rieker and Dave Obergfel.

Other visiting ministers were our dear Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Bros. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Roger Ablerle (Sabetha, KS). God bless you for your faithful service.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Tina Sutter

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

Romans 8:1-2

On July 26, Taylor hosted a Fort Sam reunion. Among those who came were ministering Bros. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN). Thanks to Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) for ministering to us that day.

"...how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to re-

ceive."

Acts 20:35

Annalynn Knochel and Jeremy Haerr were in the hospital this month. We are thankful that both of them are doing better.

"Brethren, pray for us."
I Thess. 5:25

NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Anna Mellnitz

"The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly: not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;"

I Peter 5:1-2

On July 19 we had ministering Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), and also visitors from Kitchener, Ontario.

On July 26, ministering Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) and visitors from West Bend, IA were with us. We enjoyed a potluck supper.

On Monday evening, July 27, we had our annual meeting to elect Sunday School teachers and other positions.

Our general Conference was held at Forrest, IL and the topics were shepherding one another, proper judgment and fearing God, and it was wonderful to hear our Elders speak on these subjects. Our Elders do a wonderful job.

Bro. Lowell Virkler (Celia) had surgery on his arm, but is doing

fine. Sis. Carolyn Virkler suffered a stroke and was hospitalized for awhile, but is doing fine and is able to assemble with us. Sis. Alvera Martin was in the hospital for surgery and has recovered.

Robert Belsley and Van Nguyen were married July 18 in Ft. Brag, NC. Parents are Richard and Eva Belsley (Oakville, IA) and No Thi Nguyen of North Carolina. Bob has assembled with us for three and a half years while he has been at Ft. Drum with the US Army.

We apologize for neglecting to mention our high school graduates and college graduates. Our high school graduates are Brian Graves (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Linda), Scott Greenwood (Dean and Joyce), Erin Herzig (Bradley Jr. and Joyce), and Holly Virkler (Owen and Sue Ellen). College graduates are Sis. Amber and Sis. Lori Herzig (Bro. Ron and Sis. Eleanor), Misty Hirshey (Michael and Judy) and Paul Virkler (Bro. Ted and Sis. Mae).

Note of Thanks:

I wish to express my gratitude for the many acts of kindness, cards, flowers and prayers during my hospital stay and my recent illness. It was greatly appreciated. May God bless you all.

Sis. Carolyn Virkler

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

We are sorry for our Akron members who have had health problems. We are prayerful that the tests, procedures and treatments they have undergone will be helpful to them. They are Sis. Johanna Fortenbacher, Sis. Alice Greenbank and Bro. John

Schamback.

Stephanie and Keith Easterwood have a new baby, Hannah Elizabeth, born July 10. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Gasser.

We appreciated the visits and messages of Bros. Tom Leman, Gary Maibach, Ron Steiner and Elder Bro. Art Bahler who recently assembled with our Akron congregation. We thank them and their wives for the efforts they have made to be with us.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

The hot days of summer are here with lots of good sweet corn, peaches, watermelon and picnic lunches. I could not believe the store that was offering back-to-school specials the other day. There is hardly time to enjoy summer; we are too busy preparing for school to let out and too busy getting children ready to go back! No wonder it seems like summer flies by.

Visiting ministers with us this month were Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and Bro. David Graf (Akron, OH). We appreciate these brothers' efforts in traveling the miles to bring God's Word to us.

Our sincere sympathies are with Bro. Duane and Sis. Ann Wulf at the loss of Sis. Ann's grandfather in Iowa. It was a very difficult time for the Wulfs with their family so far away and our prayers have been with them.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

As our area has suffered one tragic teenage accident after another, we think of our own loved

ones and pray that the Lord will not call any of them out of this life unprepared to meet Him. Jeff Hurd (Bro. Pete and Sis. Helen) has a concern for his soul's salvation and has turned to the Lord in repentance. We rejoice with the angels in Heaven.

Many of us traveled to the Rittman, OH congregation to witness the vows of our Bro. Corbin Schlatter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila) to Sis. Audrey Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic, Lexington, KY). We are so blessed to have another sincere young couple setting up their home in the Junction area.

Sis. Madeline Manz spent an evening in the hospital for observation. We pray for endurance and patience for those who often must suffer affliction of the body.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Cheryl Schlatter both have added duties as they were chosen to teach our Sunday School students. We offer our prayers and support in this weighty responsibility. We thank Bro. Paul Manz and Sis. Sharon Gherian for their years of service as their terms have expired.

Sis. Julia Hale (Bro. Maburn) was honored at a small reception in recognition of her 90th birthday. May the faith of our elderly remain strong throughout their upper years.

On a sad note, two of our young men have moved to other areas of the country. Larry Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) has found employment in Wichita, KS. Sam Dietrich (Bro. Gus and Sis. Dorothy) is stationed in the Marines in Parris Island, SC. May the Lord keep us close in prayer and thoughts and may they miss us as we will them.

OHIO, LATTY**Kathy Sinn****Heidi Hackenjoes**

The summer season is coming to a close and the children are returning to school. Our thoughts turn to fall. What a wonderful time fall can be with the beautiful colors and the smell of burning leaves. It also reminds us that winter is not far away. Soon the trees will be bare and snow will cover the ground and the earth will rest for a season.

The Sunday School classes enjoyed the Youth Fellowship Weekend in Mansfield, OH on July 25-26. What a blessing for our young people to fellowship with one another.

The weekend of August 1-2 several members of the Latty congregation hosted the Fort Sam Reunion. The reunion brought a host of visiting ministers. Sharing the Word with us were: Bros. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ), Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), and Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN). We thank these brothers who were willing to serve us manna from Heaven through God's Word.

Our convert, Corbin Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb), has confessed peace with God and all men. We look forward to hearing his testimony and witnessing his baptism. Our congregation rejoices that two more people have decided to turn their back on the world and follow the Lord. May the Lord bless Keith and Connie

Krzesinski in their new walk of life.

Sis. Iris Laukhuf (Bro. Bob) had surgery this month. May the Lord grant healing as she undergoes more treatments for cancer.

The week of August 5-8 was set aside for the Brotherhood Conference. We sincerely prayed for the Elder Brothers as they met that they would be humble men as they carry out the work of the Lord.

Note of Thanks:

My sincere thanks to everyone who remembered me in prayer, sent cards, gifts, and phone calls while I was in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless you all.

*Dorothy Stoller***OHIO, MANSFIELD****Cari Mann**

In days of youth seek ye the Lord,
His love and truth with one
accord,
Go offer Him thy youthful days
and walk within the Saviour's
ways.

Hymns of Zion #135 v.1

July 26 was the day for the annual Ohio-Michigan Youth Day. Saturday evening was once again spent at the Rittman Fellowship Hall renewing old acquaintances and making new ones. This is a blessed time of fellowship for all who participate.

Meet today in social union.
Spend the hour in sweet
communion

As in seasons past,
Christian friendship is a treasure,
Pure in nature, rich in measure,
Filling us with heav'nly pleasure,
While the moments last,
While the moments last.

Hymns of Zion #53 v.2

We bid a fond farewell to Bro. Rudy Wiegand (originally from Goodfield, IL) as he moves to the Rittman area to assume a teaching position there. We were blessed by the opportunity to know Bro. Rudy and pray that he will find only God's richest blessing in his occupation.

There in my homeland, in Eden
fair,
Sweet flowers are blooming so
precious, rare.
'Tis in this homeland my Saviour
dwells,
Of all its glories no tongue can tell.
Hymns of Zion #77 v.3

Sis. Catherine Morrison is now enjoying the glories of Heaven as she went to rest in her Saviour's arms on August 11. We extend our loving, prayerful sympathy to her loved ones still here below. They include her daughters, Helen (Jerry) Matuch, Linda Morrison, and Laura (Frank) Coleman, and sons, Robert (Karen) Morrison, and Lloyd (Joyce) Morrison. Also surviving are her sisters, Dorothy Durkin, Mary Mae (Harry) Bocka, Ruth Young, and Gladys Texter. Waiting for her on the other shore are her husband, Robert, daughter and son-in-law, Sis. Nellie and Steve February, her brother, John Fuhrer, and sisters, Sis. Martha Cordrey and Sis. Mabel Banks. As her family will surely feel the loss of their beloved mother, grandmother and sister, may they also feel our heartfelt prayers.

Holy Spirit, faithful Guide,
Ever near the Christian's side,
Gently lead us by the hand,
Pilgrims in a desert land,
Weary souls fore'er rejoice,

While they hear the sweetest voice,
Whisp'ring softly, "Wand'rer,
come!

Follow me, I'll guide thee home."

Hymns of Zion #220 v.1

How often do we hear our ministering brethren pray for the Spirit's leading as they stand before us. For without the Spirit, no man could know how to reach each person assembled in a congregation. We are thankful that Bro. Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Ontario) was willing to follow the Spirit's guiding and finish the service for us the Sunday that he visited. Our prayers go with him in his newly appointed duties.

Recently I saw a little cartoon where a dog was talking to a cat. The dog was saying "Down, boy, down. That's all I ever hear - no wonder I'm depressed." That cartoon really struck me that day. In my relationships, do the people I come in contact with hear me saying "Down, boy, down" or do they hear me saying "Up, boy, up"? Am I an ENCourager or a DIScourager? May each one of us ever strive to not only be an encourager but also to lift up those around us who have become discouraged.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Lucy Gasser

Lynda Beery

Our congregation enjoyed a blessed weekend when four souls gave their testimonies and were baptized. We welcomed into the fold Bro. Chad Indermuhle (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Joan), Bro. Tony Stoller (Bro. Robin and Sis. Joanne), Sis. Tiffany Gasser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary), and Sis. Jennifer Dotterer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Mardel). Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH)

came to assist our Elder Bro. Henry in the work. Also laboring on our behalf that weekend were ministering Bros. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Steve Pamer and Ron Palitto (both of Akron, OH).

We are rejoicing with the angels in Heaven as three more souls have surrendered their lives to God and are seeking Him in repentance. They are: Joel Steiner (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail), Rachel Miller (Bro. Michael and Sis. Norene), and Tory Perren. May God grant them the needed grace to fully yield themselves to Jesus Christ and allow Him to convert their hearts.

God has blessed several families with precious newborn miracles. Jeff and Darlene Lanz, along with their son, Nicholas, welcome Noah James into their home. Grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Diane Lanz and Mr. and Mrs. James Reminder.

Chase Richard was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Jill Gasser. Kirk, Andrea, and Clint are happy with a precious baby brother to love. Sis. Doris Gasser and Bro. Michael and Sis. Norene Miller are his grandparents.

Bro. Norman and Sis. Betty Zollinger are thankful for the safe arrival of Luke Andrew. His brothers and sister are Eric, Chad, and Belinda. Sis. Elverna Zollinger and Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler are Luke's grandparents.

Welcoming their first child are Bro. Milan and Sis. Amy Baltic. Their little girl's name is Molly Jo. Her grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic (Lexington, KY) and Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie Ingold.

Also first-time parents, Bro. Eric and Sis. Tricia Steiner, are

thankful for the birth of their little girl, Braelyn Hope. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Carole Steiner and Bro. Galen and Sis. Cheryl Indermuhle.

We have had four weddings during the past month. On July 18, Jennifer Thompson (James and Sis. Joyce) became the wife of Brian Persinger (Jim and Pam).

Bro. Tony Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeannette) and Sis. Cherie Maibach (Jeff and Elsie) were married on August 2. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller and ministering Bro. Gary Maibach (both of Smithville, OH) were the visiting ministers who served us that day.

Bro. Corbin Schlatter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila, Junction, OH) and Sis. Audrey Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty, Lexington, KY) promised themselves to each other on August 9. Our visiting ministers for this special occasion were Bros. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Glen Riggensbach (Smithville, OH).

On August 16, Bro. Joe Miller (Bro. Randy and Sis. Carolyn, Akron, OH) and Sis. Carla Stoller (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joyce) were united in marriage. Ministering Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) were God's messengers, bringing us the Word of Truth on that day. May God continue to bless our young couples as they walk life's pathway in unity.

Several other visiting ministers have served us during the past month: Bros. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Mark Ramsier and Bill Brake (both of Sardis, OH), and Dave Graf (Akron, OH). We thank our Heavenly Father for the faithfulness of all of

our ministering brothers who so willingly preach the Word of God in truth.

Michael Dotterer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn) and Bro. Stan Winkler (Sis. Margaret) were hospital patients. We are thankful for God's care and protection thus far, and pray for continued healing.

We extend our sympathy to Gladys Bauman (Richard) in the sudden loss of her brother-in-law, John Bischoff (Dolores), of Woodsfield, OH. May our loving Lord comfort each aching heart.

OHIO, SARDIS Joy Indermuhle

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

II Timothy 4:2

We wish to thank Bro. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO) for being with us this month and for willingly bringing forth the Word. May God bless His efforts.

Sis. Terry Zollinger (Bro. Gary) underwent surgery on her neck the beginning of August. She is now wearing a neck brace for several weeks. Our prayers are with her as she recuperates and, Lord willing, heals.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to express deep appreciation to all who extended their love to me with cards, gifts, flowers, visits, but most of all the prayers during my surgery and stay at the hospital. May God bless each of you.

In Christian Love,
Sis. Rosella Figel

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Edith Miller
Ruth Gasser**

Seeds of goodness we are sowing,
In the hearts of man today.
Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper
And bear fruit for harvest day.

Hymns of Zion #46

The annual Youth Day for area Sunday Schools was held again in Mansfield on July 26. We appreciate those who take seriously their responsibility in instructing our youth. May God bless those who take part: parents, teachers, ministers, the students themselves, also the Mansfield Church who host this year after year.

As September rolls around, many will be entering schools of various levels. We hope and pray that lessons learned in Christian homes will be carried with each student, and that God will bless all Christian parents and teachers with a bountiful harvest.

Bro. Ted and Sis. Stephanie Luginbuhl have been blessed by an addition to their family. On July 22, Justin Thomas joined big brother, Brandon, and grandparents, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose Luginbuhl and Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic (Lexington, KY). We wish them wisdom and grace to nurture and teach their children in the ways of the Lord.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Bro. Steve Hofacre (Sis. Jollene) in the death of his father, John, on July 27.

We are thankful that those hospitalized this month are able to be out and about again: Sis. Inez Ramsier (Bro. Bob), Bro. Ted Beery (Sis. Rhea) and Sis. Edith Miller (Bro. Larry). We realize there are always others unable to assemble with us who need our prayers.

May God bless the union of Beth Rigggenbach (Bro. Art and Lynne) and Brandon Hess (Dan and Pat) who were married on July 25.

OHIO, TOLEDO Rebecca Beard Edie Fetter

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you...For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;"

Philippians 1:3,5

We were thankful to have our former Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach (Detroit, MI) with us for a recent Sunday. The fellowship that we share and the memories of blessed times spent together are sweet gifts from God.

Congratulations to Ryan Sancraint (Dave and Sis. Connie) on his recent graduation from the University of Toledo. He has earned a degree in electrical engineering.

OREGON, PORTLAND Louisa Gallup Mary Berg

There are friendships that we cherish
In our daily walk of life,
Friends with whom we meet and labor

In our earthly toil and strife,
Friends among the aged and youthful,
Friends that live from us apart
Friends of higher rank and station
Find a place within my heart.

Hymns of Zion #91

We've enjoyed those of you who have visited this summer. It's always good to see friends and family that we have not seen

for some time, but also so good to meet those for the first time that we quickly learn to love and care about. Thank you all for making the Portland church a stop on your vacation calendars.

We thank Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) for ministering to a small group of us one Wednesday evening.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

Sunday, July 19, the wedding day of Sis. Katrina Walter and Bro. Virgil Knobloch (Pulaski, IA) was a beautiful and warm summer day. The parents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter and Sis. Lauretta and the late Bro. Orvie Knobloch (Lester, IA). Bro. Virgil and Sis. Katrina will be part of the Pulaski, IA congregation. We will certainly miss Sis. Katrina here but know the Pulaski church will welcome her and that she will be a cheerful, supportive sister there as she was here as well.

Sis. Renee Hari and Bro. Andy Angstrom chose July 26 as their wedding day. It was also a beautiful and a very warm summer day. Parents of the new couple are Sis. Verla and the late Bill Hari and Richard Angstrom and Nancy O'Riley.

May God ever bless these two dear couples as they each establish their first Christian homes, one in Oregon and the other in Iowa. May this be as the first chapter in a good book with a happy ending.

We have had many visitors this past month, some for the weddings, some taking summer vacations, and a goodly number participating in the Bro. Phil and Sis. Bertha Metzger Reunion. One couple, Bro. Christopher

and Sis. Amy (Metz) Menold (Bern, KS), met with very serious complications while here. Bro. Christopher became ill with a difficult to diagnose illness. After two weeks in the hospital here, he was transferred to a Topeka, KS hospital for further treatment for a serious infection. We are thankful that he is now home and improving. Many, many prayers have risen up for our Father's merciful hand of healing and nearness. Both the Menold and the Metz families appreciate the prayers and concern of their families, brethren and friends.

Among our visitors in recent weeks were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), and Bros. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), Robert Miller (Portland-Oregon City, OR) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO). We do appreciate their efforts bringing us the unfailing Word of the Lord.

We and the angels in Heaven rejoice when one of Jesus' lambs turns his back on the world and follows Him. We were pleased when it was announced that our dear friend, Joel Metz (Bro. Art and Sis. Betty), is at peace with God and man and awaits his opportunity to give his testimony to the Church. Surely a whole choir of angels must be singing in recent weeks as nearly a dozen young people here have begun their walk with the Lord in sincere repentance. Let us all remember to pray for them.

A November 7, 1998, wedding is being planned by Martha Kuenzi (Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary) and Marty Knobloch (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce Metzger) of

Lester, IA. The wedding will be in Oregon and the young couple plans to live in the Lester area. May God be with them as they make their plans.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA Merle and Bev Rocke

"And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth."

Luke 1:14

Our hearts were gladdened at the birth of Leah Borden Aeschleman, first child of Phil and Jennifer Aeschleman, born July 22. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman and Bonnie Borden. Likewise, we rejoice at the birth of the third son of Bro. Shawn and Sis. Sandy Metzger, Walker Shawn, born August 2. He was welcomed home by his older brothers, Hunter and Tanner. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn Lanz and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Doreen Metzger (Gridley, KS).

Rachel Rader, oldest daughter of Ken and Sis. Monique Rader, is our only high school graduate this year. All of us join in wishing Rachel God's blessings as she moves on to the next major phase of her life on earth.

We welcome Adam Luginbuhl (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma Luginbuhl) of Rockville, CT to our small flock. Adam, a recent convert, is just beginning college in Philadelphia. It is very encouraging to us each time anyone moves into our area and is able to worship and fellowship with us on a regular basis.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Gwen Leuthold

This past month, my boss at work related a story to me that I found to be very fitting for Labor Day. The story is about a minister in a small town. A rain storm came, and the town started to flood. The town's people naturally all moved to higher ground. The water, however, kept rising higher until soon they were all on the rooftops of the houses. The minister was up on one of the rooftops as well. Rescue boats were trying to get to people as quickly as possible. A rescue boat in fact came to the rooftop where the minister was and he told everyone else to get into the boat and be rescued. He, however, chose to wait for the next boat. Two boats, three boats, four boats, five boats and finally six boats came to rescue the minister. Each time, however, he asked them to rescue other people and come back for him with the next boat. By this time, the water had risen up to his waist. A seventh boat came along and still the minister would not be rescued. Finally, a helicopter came along. The minister still felt he was doing the right thing by allowing others to be rescued and refused to be rescued by the helicopter. The minister ended up drowning, and went to Heaven. Upon entering Heaven, he asked to speak to the Lord to ask Him why He had allowed him to drown. The Lord's reply to the minister was that He had sent him seven boats and a helicopter and why did he not accept the help given to him by the Lord. The moral to this story is that the Lord helps those who help themselves.

Beginning in the end of July and continuing into August, we were privileged and thrilled to have ministers six consecutive

Sundays in a row. This was the first time this has happened in the history of the Nashville church. We extend a special thank you to Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), and ministering Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL), Dave Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) and Craig Martin (Princeville, IL) for visiting us and for their labors of love in serving the Lord. We extend a special thank you to their families as well for traveling and fellowshiping with us. Many other visitors worshipped with us from the above mentioned churches as well as from Washington, IL and Francesville, IN.

If you are traveling in the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. Upcoming services are scheduled on the first and third Sundays of each month on October 4 (Bluffton, IN); October 18 (Taylor, MO); November 1 (Mansfield, OH); November 15 (Washington, IL) and December 6 (Chicago, IL). Please call one of the following contact names if you plan to worship with us. On the second and fourth Sundays, we usually meet for a tape service. If you would like to join us, please contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 353-8835 or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940.

All I Really Need to Know I learned from Noah's Ark

1. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
2. Build on high ground.
3. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
4. Speed isn't always an advantage. The cheetahs were on board, but so were the snails.
5. If you can't fight or flee—float!
6. Take care of your animals as if they were the last ones on earth.

7. Don't forget that we're all in the same boat.
8. Stay below the deck during the storm.
9. Remember that the ark was built by amateurs and the Titanic was built by professionals.
10. Don't miss the boat.
11. No matter how bleak it looks, there's always a rainbow on the other side.

TEXAS, CENTRAL

Dan and Pam Sauder

"...he shall come to us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth."

Hosea 6:3

As we have had record heat and drought conditions for some months now, in recent days we have received most welcome rains. The parched brown countryside has suddenly put on a new garment of green. In a similar way, we are refreshed and thrive when God's Word comes to us as rain from Heaven.

We appreciate those who come to worship with us. Visiting ministers this month include Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL), and Bros. Wayne Lehman (Sis. Shirley, South Bend, IN), Kenneth Knapp (Sis. Phyllis, Taylor, MO) and Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan, Elgin, IA).

We rejoice with Bro. David and Sis. Shella Brummitt on the birth of their son, Lincoln Kyle. Little David is also excited to have a new brother.

On Sunday, August 18, we said farewell to Bro. Nathan Huber as he returned home to Indiana after working the summer in Houston. We appreciate the times we could share together and wish him God's blessings as he continues his education.

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.

Visitors are always welcome. For your benefit, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Bill Zelt-

wanger (409) 249-5102; Brian and Terri Kaisner (512) 266-0178; Bro. David and Sis. Shella Brummitt (512) 360-3379; Sis. Dorothy Martin (210) 658-1968; and Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Sauder (210) 651-4996.

Sermon continued from page 2

depends on mortal man himself, for every one can choose his part for himself, life or death, blessing or curse.

Beloved, we also should choose the better part, namely to follow and cling to the Saviour and to love Him even as He loved us, and gave us a commandment to love one another. For if we would turn back and get on crooked ways, all that we have endured and aspired to, would avail us nothing.

We must look up to where the many approved martyrs for Christ's sake are resting beneath the altar, waiting for the time when they shall judge the earth, namely the ungodly who are called heathen and chastise them with His rod.

Thereto let us direct our gaze and our footsteps where Christ holds the crown of life, to give unto all those who overcome.

Especially is it a trial, when such who are members do not walk according to the rules and ordinance of the Lord.

Each one should be intent on living a quiet, holy, righteous and godly life. For if we be dead unto world and sin, we cannot live unto ourselves, but in self-denial; all things which cannot enter the kingdom of heaven must be burnt up and consumed.

The Lord has declared that no unclean soul can enter the kingdom of God, and it is well that He has done so. Thus will be manifest all who have loved Him with

all their heart, whose rock and refuge He has been in all distress.

These are trials where our faith is put to the test, in each of which we can be made purer and more glorious.

In the old Israel, we have a complete example, for when they disobeyed His Word and walked in their own ways, God gave them over into the hands of the Philistines who subdued them.

We will fare no better today if we will not obey or take advice. We must cling to the Saviour, as we are commanded; so that we may prepare ourselves for eternity, for the time of grace is soon past.

Even if the Lord does not yet appear, we are in hourly danger of being called out of this time into eternity. But we have reason to believe that His coming will be soon, for we see it by the signs of the time.

The Apostle called the attention of the believers of his time to this, that they should keep themselves in readiness for the day of the Lord, and today we are more than 1800 years nearer than when it was written. We would rather be dissolved and be with Christ at home, which would be best for us.

Here we read: "For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry." (Hebrews 10:37). But ye have need of patience, that ye may do the will of God. "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath

great recompense of reward." (Hebrews 10:35).

But this we must realize that they who no longer trust the Lord, cannot receive His help. They lose courage and they grow weary of well doing and follow after the world.

But, my beloved, cast not away your confidence, the arm of the Lord is yet extended to help all those who trust Him. "But if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."

We are not of those who draw back unto perdition, but rather who have faith, hope and love. All things shall be beneficial and helpful to us, and we know that if we beseech the Lord for light and support, He hears us speedily and we shall have our petition.

A double-minded person receives nothing because he does not trust in God, neither is there any good in his heart.

What is not grounded upon the Rock, which is Christ, will not prevail. We are living in a perilous time, pursued and tempted by evil spirits. Therefore, it is no less dangerous to be fighting for the sake of God and His honor than perhaps in former times. However, the Lord is and will be today as at all times mighty in the weak.

Silver Threads

Two's in the Bible

Two Destinies

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 6:23

Two Commandments

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Matthew 22:37-40

Two Laws

"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

Romans 8:2

Two Ways to Boast

"...How long shall they utter...and all the workers of iniquity boast themselves?" *Psalms 84:4*

"In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever. Selah." *Psalms 44:8*

Two Things to Heed

"Take heed what ye hear." *Mark 4:24*

"Take heed therefore how ye hear." *Luke 8:18*

Two Things at Which Jesus Marvelled

"When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith," *Matthew 8:10*

"He marvelled because of their unbelief." *Mark 6:6*

Two Representative Men

"Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican." *Luke 18:10* (The Pharisee was condemned; the publican, justified)

Two Adams

"The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit."

I Corinthians 15:45

Two Agree To Get Results

"Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 18:19

Two Followed Jesus

"And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus." *John 1:37*

Testimony of Two is True

"It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true." *John 8:17*

God is with Two Who Gather

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

Matthew 18:20

Two Together Have Power

"And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;"

Mark 6:7

Two Masters

"No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Luke 16:13

Give All You Can

"And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all:"

Luke 21:2-3

Two Ways

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Matthew 7:13-14

Jesus was Crucified Between Two Others

"Where they crucified him, and two others with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst."

John 19:18

Two Angels Protect

"And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain."

John 20:12

Two Witnesses

"And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;"

Acts 1:10

Silver Threads

"Jesus or Me?"

Subtly, softly, Satan draws near
Faint are his whispers in each Christian's ear
Hard to discern, yet as plain as can be
Softly he speaks, "Jesus or Me?"

Even as on the temple's height
Where he promised the Lord all the world's delight;
So he seeks to entice those from sin made free
Whispering, "Jesus or me? Jesus or me?"

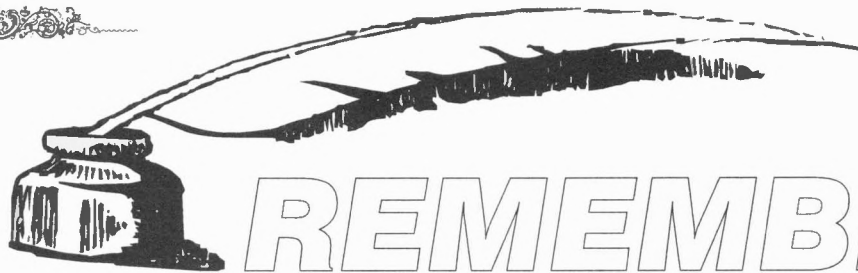
Sometimes he comes as an angel of light
Wielding the Word of God with its might;
As he did long ago in the wilderness there
Seeking to catch the Lord in his snare.

Sometimes he tempts in a roundabout way,
Making the Christian forget to pray,
Trying with all his might to obscure
The communion that keeps us holy and pure.

Bold he advances with crafty wiles
Winning his way with frowns or smiles;
How he delights when he can deceive
All who his sibilant voice will receive.

Oh, faithful Christian, watch unto prayer!
Be steadfast and true; keep your garment with care.
When Satan comes creeping, resist him staunchly
Say, "Jesus is mine! Get thee behind me!"

S.J. Fehr



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The diary of Elder Bro. Henry Geistlich continues. In 1866, he came to America and visited all the American churches. He kept a detailed diary which is historically very instructive for the church today.

Monday, July 23 - Elgin, IA: Last night I slept very little. Early in the evening there came a thunderstorm of such proportion that I had never seen in Europe. Thunder and lightning going through each other. The entire sky seemed on fire, one stroke hitting after another, and the rain fell in torrents. Many of the brethren could not go home as the river over which they had to cross overflowed its banks and there were no bridges. In the forenoon we started to go back toward the Mississippi. All the bridges were washed away.

Tuesday, July 24 - Elgin, IA: Today we had to take a different road because of the high water, which washed away 14 bridges. It was 22 miles around to McGregor, the town on the Mississippi where we stayed overnight. The brethren took us here in wagons, Bro. Christian Bauman driving our wagon. Bros. Michael and Fred Gerber, and others also accompanying us.

Wednesday, July 25 - McGregor, IA: Today we sailed on a steamboat down the Mississippi to a small city, where we had to wait in the railroad station six or seven hours for a train to take us to Peoria, IL. Both in body and spirit we felt fairly well today, although getting somewhat tired of waiting. This is not a very nice city. It is just being built up, like many other cities in America.

Thursday, July 26 - Peoria, IL: We rode all night on the train, arriving at Peoria at 5 a.m. this morning. We had a good trip. Thanks be to the Lord for His gracious and Fatherly protection. As we arrived at Peoria, Bro. Welk (who is a step-brother to Bro. Herbold) was there to meet us, taking us home to Dillon with him. Bro. Welk is a lovable brother

and elder. I enjoyed myself amid the dear brethren and spent blessed hours with them.

Friday, July 27 - Dillon, IL: Today we visited an English brother who was suffering severe pain as he lay on his sick bed. I had much blessing by him, although I could not speak with him. He was very lovable to me. The patience and friendliness I saw in him delighted my heart. He would hold his hands toward Heaven and moan "God, the only Helper." Oh, how much misery and affliction there is here on this earth and how good it is for each one who has found God and a Saviour. Today I also sent a letter to Bro. Hornef in New York. We also visited with Bro. Reuter, where in the evening we had church.

Saturday, July 28 - Morton, IL: Today we visited with Bro. Koch and another brother who is from Switzerland, who was sick in bed at Bro. Koch's who asked to see me. I stayed there for dinner. We returned to Bro. Reuter's in the afternoon. In earthly things they are well to do, having a nice place to live. One thing I did not like—they are visited by snakes, one coming into the room. Sis. Reuter killed it quickly. So all things here on earth have their bright and also their dark side.

Sunday, July 29 - Morton, IL: Today we had our meeting with Bro. Ackerman. We assembled out in the woods. A large number of people were present. As I saw this place, I thought of the plains of Mamre, as we find in the scripture, where Abraham lived. Also, I had a real feeling of love toward the Brethren Ackerman, who were very hospitable.

Monday, July 30 - St. Louis, MO: After riding the entire night on the railroad, we arrived here at 10:00 this morning. I came here to visit my brother, Casper Geistlich. First we looked for a relative of Bro. Weng, and after dinner we looked up my brother. We found him in his store. I surprised him as I walked up and asked for him.

He looked at me sharply and said, "Do you still remember me?" This was a movable moment for us for we had not seen each other for 18 years; and now we suddenly and unexpectedly saw each other. We were very glad and soon were talking about many things concerning our old home.

Tuesday, July 31 - St. Louis, MO: Today we left early to visit the eldest daughter, who is about 16 years old. She came back to St. Louis with us and stayed the balance of the day. In the family circle we talked over many things, both about this new and the old country. This all was of no value to us.

Wednesday, August 1 - St. Louis, MO: Today we visited with some relatives of Catherine Enderli; also with some others who were from Switzerland. These people gave me some books and letters to take along back to their relatives. This visit was indeed no blessing to us. About the truth the people do not want to know anything and vain talk does not strengthen us. It is a miserable thing for a believer to be in such company.

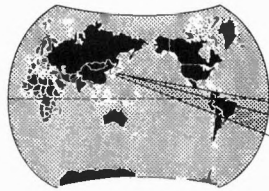
Thursday, August 2 - St. Louis, MO: Today there was a large fire not far from my brother, 23 houses burning down. There also was a water shortage. I was thinking to myself that I would not like to live in this city for the bustling and running is too great. The fire reminded me of the confusion of Babel, in the same manner will that great Babel be destroyed as was Sodom and Gomorrah; and blessed is he who can in time escape from it, before it will be utterly destroyed.

by Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:
More on the Geistlich Diary

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



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“What Are You?”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

The thought came to me that what you are is much more important than what you have, materially. Is that what the Bible teaches? Let's investigate.

Jesus said, “A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.” (Luke 12:15). The Lord Jesus followed that up with the story of the man who built bigger barns but died that night. In the story of the rich man and Lazarus, about all Lazarus had was a bunch of sores all over his body. Materially, he had nothing.

In any case, I like to think about what a person is, in contrast to what a person has materially. If you talk about what a person has without considering the type of possessions, you begin to think that Lazarus had salvation and therefore, he was rich. In the above quoted verse, the Lord Jesus was not talking about possessing salvation, the fruit of the spirit, and other

spiritual treasures. He was talking about material things.

What are you? Are you a kind, patient, loving individual? Are you nice to be around? Are you a smiling person or a frowning person? Are you a praising person or a criticizing person? Are you polite or rude? Are you helpful or bothersome? Are you anxious to find out why others are unreasonable, so you can help them? Are you stricter with yourself than you are with others? Are you a praying person who talks with God as with a good friend? Are you a person who reads the Bible everyday, busy or not busy? Do you think more highly of yourself than you ought to think? Do you like to talk about your own accomplishments and your own righteousness? Do you hold grudges or speak ill of others in a self-justifying manner? It is not so important what you appear to be; I am interested in what you are, deep down inside, in the

depth of your soul.

But you may say, “I am a sick person. I cannot come up to such high standards,” and you have a point. However, I am a healthy person and I have no excuse for not being everything I am supposed to be, as taught in the Bible. Also, we need to be careful that we do not use our ill health as an excuse for being a crank. Let's all try to be gentle and meek, loving and kind. What a person is, is more important than what he or she has.

What is Jesus Christ? He is the Son of God and you and I are invited to be joint heirs with Him. (Romans 8:17). We are to walk as He walked. (I John 2:6). And the way we walk will send out signals all around as to what we really are, not what we pretend to be or would like to be. What are you? Let's try to be all that God intends for us to be. You can be it.

希望の光



Elgin, Illinois -1887
pictured in 1939

The Elgin church was founded in 1887, and services were first held in a small white frame church. In 1930, the previous facility proved to be too small and a brick structure was created. Worship services continued in brick edifice until 1961, when a new renovation added much needed space.

Today the Elgin congregation worships in a new church located in the country close to the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home of Elgin.

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