

The Silver Lining

For every creature of God is good. Every plant which the Lord hath planted, that groweth in the field, is for our well being; and we give thanks to the Creator for them all.

November 1998

"THE BLOOD OF JESUS TAKES AWAY SINS"

Sermon by Bro. Floyd Graves, Jr., Croghan-Naumburg, NY

Luke 24

This is a very interesting chapter about the latter times of our Lord and Saviour when He spent time here upon this earth. It is the fulfilling of this mission that the Heavenly Father gave Him to come here on this earth and to walk this pathway and to live life as you and I are living here today.

Then He went willingly to that cross, shed His precious blood and died for you and me. He was placed there in that tomb for three days. We find here in this chapter that He arose. He overcame death and grave, didn't He? He overcame this old sinful wicked world and was brought back upon this earth and was seen of these men that we read about today.

Here in this forty-sixth verse, He said unto them, "Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:46-47). Some of these words have the same meaning today that they had when they were spoken by Jesus Christ.

Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name. Surely, dear ones, if we came to God's house and did not continue to speak these words, we would not be fulfilling God's Word, would we? We would not be fulfilling Christ's mission here upon this earth. Very plainly, He tells us here, to speak and to preach of repentance and to make right that which we have done wrong by going to those perhaps we have harmed in one way or another and correcting it. Or

if we have taken something that belongs to someone else, return it or replace it or to make right that which we have done wrong.

Jesus Christ Himself spoke these words, "Remission of sins should be preached in his name." It doesn't say just there in that area, but it says, "...among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." (Luke 24:47).

He spoke to those, "And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." (Luke 24:48-49). Wait until they receive the Holy Spirit.

It goes on and tells us that He ascended to heaven. "And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God." (Luke 24:50-53).

Here we find the last day when Jesus was seen here upon this earth. It is hard for us to imagine, isn't it, going out in that far place and seeing Jesus lift up His hands and being blessed by Him and then seeing Him leave this earth and ascend up into Heaven.

It tells us here they must have been so inspired that they worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem. They worshipped Him continually in the temple, praising God for what He had done.

Surely, dear ones, what Jesus Christ did here, hung upon that cross and He overcame even this

world, and He overcame that death and He overcame that grave. He did it for you and me. We can still take advantage of that wonderful blood that was shed upon the cross and what Jesus Christ did for us.

In the beginning of this chapter, it says, "Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away

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

November 1998

Lost Opportunities

So many times as children of God we find ourselves regretting lost opportunities. How many times have we found ourselves in a situation in which we plan to do something for someone, such as visiting the sick or elderly, only to find that we have waited too long?

Perhaps the Lord called a loved one home and we regret not having taken the time to visit them, knowing we will never have that opportunity again. There are times when we know someone is facing a critical time in his life, only to find that we waited too long to give him an encouraging word or a bit of time that would have helped him through a dark hour. We are often sorry we did not make helping that person a priority in our life.

The Bible provides us with many valuable lessons about lost opportunities and instructs us on ways to avoid the pitfalls of these unfulfilled intentions.

In the parable of the ten virgins, the Saviour taught us the importance of being ready for the coming of the bridegroom and of the disappointment that awaits those who intended to be ready but were not. Their intentions were of no value. When they knocked on the door "...saying Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not" (Matt. 25:11-12).

In the same lesson Christ explained the fate that awaits an individual who has been given talents to be used in the service of the Lord but makes excuses for not using them in His service. Even though the servant felt justified in his own mind for not using his talent, the Lord did not accept excuses and said, "...cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 25:30).

In other situations, individuals were given the opportunity to follow Christ but they had other things they wanted to accomplish first. One who had been called to be one of Christ's disciples "...said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to

go and bury my father. But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead" (Matt. 8:21-22). Another only wanted to "...first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:61-62).

Others claimed that they were not aware of opportunities and therefore should not be held accountable. They didn't know that they had not ministered to those in need but the Lord reminded them that "...Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me" (Matt. 25:45).

Most of the examples cited thus far have referred to individuals who lost opportunities, but there were also times when entire villages lost the opportunity to do God's will. Prior to His crucifixion, Jesus lamented the plight of Jerusalem when He said "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not" (Matt. 23:37).

Perhaps one of the greatest lost opportunities of all time is the sad plight of Pontius Pilot. Here was a man who was in the right place at the right time to make a major impact on history. He had the authority to set Christ free. He had the understanding to know that Christ was innocent and he had been warned by his wife to not have anything to do with Christ's death. But, he feared the crowd and was not willing to take a chance at upsetting Caesar by setting Christ free. There is no doubt that even if Pilot would have risked losing his position by setting Christ free, Christ would have been crucified because it was necessary to fulfill God's plan. But Pilot had the opportunity to be the only man in history who could have been remembered as the ruler who

gave up his position to free Christ. He lost this opportunity because he feared man more than God. Instead of being remembered as the man who set Christ free, he is remembered as the man who washed his hands of the matter and tried to shift the responsibility to others. What a tragic lost opportunity to stand up for Christ.

How can we as God's children avoid losing the opportunity to do God's will? There are many places in scripture that help us avoid this situation. If we follow Christ's message in the Sermon on the Mount, we will start building a foundation that will help us take advantage of the opportunity to serve God. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

It is necessary from time to time for us to pause and take a spiritual inventory of our lives. Have we kept the promises we made when we made our covenant with God? Have we allowed the pressures of providing for our families to make us lose sight of the weightier matters of faith? Do we allow the desires for entertainment and worldly activities to rob us of precious time that could be spent in taking advantage of the opportunities that God presents to us?

As we reflect upon our life, do we seriously consider the Golden Rule? "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them..." (Matt. 7:12).

While it is certainly true that we cannot do all of the things we would like to do to help others, and although we cannot relieve all of the world's suffering, we can be of help. Every kind deed that is done is an opportunity gained and a service done for the Lord. "For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward" (Mk. 9:41).



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

Distribution Centers are at the Heart of World Relief Programs

In the spring of 1971, a check for \$2,000 was issued to support the shipment of food parcels to needy brethren in the communist country of Romania. This marked the first international efforts of what has developed into Apostolic Christian World Relief.

Since then, millions of dollars have been contributed and distributed, and thousands of our brethren and friends have participated in worthwhile projects. The lessons learned through these many efforts have brought us to where we are today.

The World Relief Committee wishes to use these two pages this month to make our brethren and friends aware of the vital part our distribution centers play in the overall efforts of helping the needy. We have asked those in charge of these centers to share the work with our readers.

Each of our distribution or material aid centers is staffed by volunteers who do the many jobs necessary to receive, sort, and distribute all the different kinds of goods which come from many different sources.

As time goes by, we find sources for items which can be put to good use. However, it is necessary to sort these items, and to place them where they are needed most. This coordination takes place at each center.

Goodfield Distribution Center

The purpose of this center is to receive and distribute donated goods to the needy, not only in foreign lands, but also here in our own land. This facility is within easy driving distance of a great many brethren and friends, and provides a place where young and old can contribute to the overall effort of helping others.

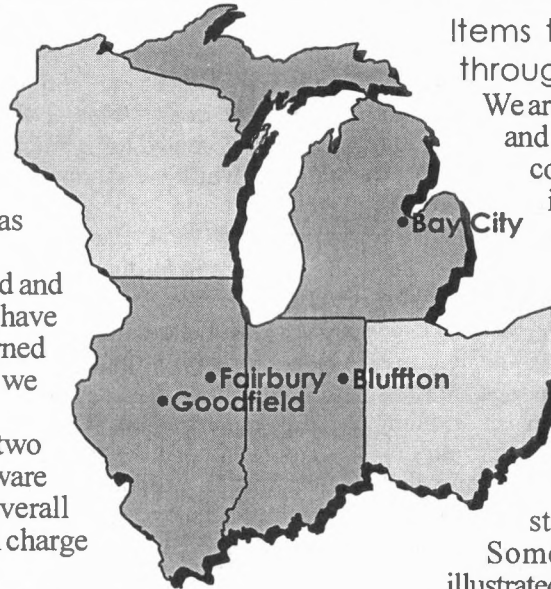
Volunteer Groups

Groups of young members and friends from the surrounding area come and help sort and fold sheets received from motels and hospitals. Barrels of goods are shipped to Jamaica, Haiti, Mexico, and also to the Indians of the southwest USA. All of this requires a lot of work which volunteers provide.

Sunday School groups also come from time to time and help assemble school kits and health kits which go into the distribution system.

Sometimes groups from public schools also gather to help bag soap and do other work to fulfill the community service requirements of their classes.

The assistance received from older people such as retirees and those who have some extra time is greatly appreciated and vital to the completion of the work needs.



Items that go through the center

We are gratified by the amount and variety of goods which come from the surrounding area. It is quite amazing that the Lord provides for the needy in our facility before we are even aware of the situation. This is a common thread which runs through all of our distribution centers, and is faith strengthening for us all.

Some of these items are illustrated below:

- ◆ Furniture and appliances are distributed in the local area.
- ◆ Mattresses and desks come from a local university and also are distributed locally.
- ◆ Medical equipment and supplies come from local sources, and are placed into the distribution channels where our coordinators see the greatest need.
- ◆ A variety of food products come our way, often unexpectedly. They are given to food pantries, soup kitchens, and if it is a logical thing to do, are shipped to other areas of World Relief work.
- ◆ Tools come from people who give them or have bought them at auctions. Some tools also come from our membership in the NAIER organization, which receives and distributes surplus items from companies nationwide. Contact is maintained with our other distribution centers, and often goods are exchanged in order to utilize them in the most opportune manner.

We encourage our donors to remember that when something is given in the Lord's name, it should not always be blemished or surplus, but that the real sacrifice comes from giving that which one can use himself. We see this happening much of the time, and thank our generous donors as well as our volunteers for their untiring efforts.

Contact Marvin Wagenbach: 309/925-5658

Fairbury Material Aid Center

This facility is operated by Cissna Park, Fairbury, Forrest, and Gridley, IL. The function and purpose comes under the umbrella of the national World Relief Committee, and is the same as all of our distribution centers.

Donated items are received on the first and third Mondays of each month from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Volunteers accept

goods and work at various times to sort and stock shelves. On the second and fourth Mondays of each month, during the same hours, we are open to the public. At those times, people with needs can come in and take items from our supply under the supervision of our volunteer workers.

Packaging of food products

Food products come to this center from a wide variety of sources. This gives an opportunity for volunteers to work in sorting and packaging these goods in sizes proper for individual distribution. Crisped rice, pasta, Campbell's soup, cake mixes, pancake mixes, as well as fresh meat are some of the items we process.

Distribution of the items

The items we receive also include quilts and other hand-sewn items from our local congregations. Each distribution center maintains contact with all the others to coordinate and supply products to areas of greatest need. We load sea containers to Haiti and Jamaica, fill trucks with items needed by native Indians in the southwest USA and Mexico in addition to filling local needs. We depend upon our volunteers for the manpower needed to do this work.

Contact Glen Steidinger:
815/692-3473

Bluffton Distribution Center

Since 1985 a former business building has been used as a distribution center in Bluffton, Indiana. Through the years, much material assistance has gone to the needy in many places, both at home and abroad, through this facility. The distribution system is organized by committees who are given specific areas in which to work.

Packages to Romania

On the third Tuesday evening of each month, over 30 volunteers come to the Distribution Center to sort and pack 64 barrels of clothing to be shipped to Romania.

The following Monday evening about 12 brothers gather and assemble 800 food boxes to be used for food packaging that week. On Tuesday evening 45 volunteers from the Bluffton Churches come in to repack foodstuffs from 100 and 50 pound bags into usable packages of 3 to 5 pounds each. Items such as rice, powdered milk, cocoa, candy, rolled oats, cream of wheat, yeast, vitamins, etc. constitute the bulk of these products.

On Thursday evening about 60 volunteers arrive to pack the boxes to be shipped to Romania. The workers come from

various churches with the balance being made up by local people. Two boxes, labeled "A" and "B" are packed for this work. Each weighs about 42 pounds, which makes the total shipment about 35,000 pounds.

Along with this shipment about 64 barrels of clothing are sent each month. Most of the foodstuffs come from Christian Aid Ministries. Soap comes from brethren in Wolcott and beans from Bay City, Michigan and Morris, Minnesota.

It takes about 6 weeks for these packages to arrive in Romania. The Distribution Center needs about 2,000 volunteers each year for this work.

Contact Harry Gerber: 219/565-3397

Haiti/Jamaica Committee

This committee oversees the distribution of supplies needed in hospitals, schools, and communities in Haiti and Jamaica. Normally four or five forty foot containers are sent to Haiti and one to Jamaica from the Bluffton Distribution Center each year. The items vary from Bibles, medical and school supplies and equipment, washing machines, etc. What comes in is carefully evaluated, and designated to the area of greatest need and ability to utilize it. We continue to be amazed at the way the Lord supplies items which we see no use for in advance of a need we could not anticipate. It is a lesson in faith.

Contact Bob Honneger:
219/622-4708



Bay City Distribution Center

This is the newest of our distribution centers, and serves to receive, repackage, and distribute pinto and navy beans. These are grown in the local area. The same products are also shipped from the Morris, MN area to other distribution centers.

Pinto and navy beans make up the bulk of the dried beans which go through this facility. Most of them are purchased

with funds supplied by the national World Relief Committee in two thousand pound tote bags. The cost is \$1.00 over grower price, which is a savings of \$3.00 from normal retail. They are then repacked in 2, 5, and 10 pound poly bags. Volunteers work in about two hour sessions, during which they pack about 8,000 pounds of beans in 100 pound barrels or 1200 boxes. Eleven people are needed for this work.

Sisters do sewing work here from January through March. Food brought from Distribution Centers and other places is sorted and boxed here also.

Contact Kurt Munsel: 517/686-6634

- 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>
October	4,007	34,961	448,159

* Repaired Bibles Shipped = 180

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

Phillip Stettner
1780 N 450 E
Bluffton, IN 46714
(219)565-3499

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 Bible Distribution Center, 1780 N 450 E, Bluffton, IN, 46714.

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

*- Available At Bluffton Bible Distribution Center -
A shipment of Haitian (Creole) was received.*

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION NOTICE

A new Bible distribution center has been set up adjacent to the World Relief Center at Bluffton, Indiana.

All requests for Bibles can be given by sending a request or by calling:

Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner
1780 N - 450 E
Bluffton, IN 46714
Tel/Fax: 219-565-3499

Counselors Needed

Gateway Woods, a Christian residential childcare facility, has an immediate opening for a male or 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.

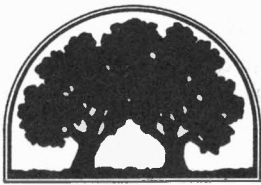
Callers will receive a screening, suggestions for appropriate services and assistance with appropriate referrals.

The hotline will not provide diagnosis or treatment.

TEACHER NEEDED

The Apostolic Christian Preschool of Athens, Alabama is currently looking for teaching help. The position needs to be filled immediately by a sister or brother in good church standing. Additional qualifications include at least some college training with preferably a bachelor's degree in child development, elementary education, or related field. After training, the teacher may be asked to also assume the coordinator position.

If interested in the job, please contact your local elder, and with his support, send your resume to Bro. Lavoyd Moore at 15448 Hwy. 72 W., Athens, AL 35611 or call him at (256) 232-2035. Contact may also be made with Bro. Bill Schlatter (419) 393-2621 or Bro. Ken Indermuhle (740) 483-1593.



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

1 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
Houseparent Opening**

We at Gateway Woods have enjoyed being fully staffed for some time now in the area of childcare staff. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda Fiechter have informed us that they will be leaving the Houseparent position in the Winter of 1999. 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.

Tim Sauder
P.O. Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 467-2159

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

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
HOME FOR THE
HANDICAPPED**

Many of us live in regions of the country in which we observe the hand of God changing the seasons year after year. Truly, fall is a most beautiful time for us. The pigmentation and hues of changing leaves give us a glimpse of God's enjoyment of color. He created this earth with a display of brilliance for human

**BUSINESS CAREER
OPPORTUNITY**

Gateway Woods has an opening on our office staff team for a brother or sister to assist with our financial operations. We are looking for someone who desires to serve in a ministry that heals children and reunites families, rather than in corporate America. This is a key full-time position that offers responsibility, management and creativity. If you have been trained in the areas of accounting and/or finance and possess good analytical, organizational, communication and computer skills and are interested in using these skills in a ministry setting, please contact one of the brothers listed below.

Tim Sauder
Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 467-2159

Phil Stettner
Counseling Elder
(219) 565-3499

beings to behold. We are not only to enjoy this scenery, but to realize the almighty power of the Creator Himself.

Just as He gives nature it's coloration, He gives each of us a personality that is filled with color. The staff and families of each of the residents here at the Home are able to delight in the colorful personalities God has given each of them. Please take the time to learn to "see the colors" in the lives of the special people God brings into your lives.

The Weaver

My life is but a weaving
Between my Lord and me,
I cannot choose the colors;
He worketh steadily.
Oftimes He weaveth sorrow,
And I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper,
And I the underside.
Not 'til the loom is silent
and the shuffles cease to fly,
Shall God unroll the canvas
and explain the reason why.
The dark threads are as needful
In the Weaver's skillful hand,
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned.

**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

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

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

As I sit at the desk that used to be mine here at Gateway Woods

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, E-mail: hlwitzig@dpc.net.

COUNTRY	GROUP	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAP.	FULL
Jamaica	CCCD	Jan 1-9	Deaf Village	Phil Gutwein	Work Place	40	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jan 1-9	Montego Bay	Mark Criss	Deaf School	40	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan 8-16	Les Cayes	Craig Emch	Grade School	10	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan 15-23	Les Cayes	Dean Pashek	Grade School	10	100%
Haiti	S.E.E.D.	Jan 22-30	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	7-9	0%
Haiti	S.E.E.D.	Jan 29-Feb 6	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	7-9	20%
Haiti	MEBSH	Feb 5-13	Les Cayes	Jim Walter	Grade School	10	0%
Haiti	Palm Grove	Feb 19-27	Cotes de Fer	Tom Hitz	Grade School	10	40%
Haiti	Palm Grove	Feb 26-Mar 6	Puits - Sales	Tom Hitz	Trade School	10	40%
Haiti	MEBSH	Mar 5-13	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	10	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 5-13	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40	75%
Haiti	MEBSH	Mar 26-Apr 3	Les Cayes	Stan Descarpentrie	Grade School	10	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 25-Apr 3	Montego Bay	Kent Kloter	Deaf School	40	50%
Jamaica	CCCD	Apr 3-10	Montego Bay	(*)	Deaf School	40	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	May 14-22	Deaf Village	Andy Bauman	Work Place	40	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jun 4-12	Montego Bay	(*)	Deaf School	40	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jun 4-12	Kingston	(*)	Deaf School	40	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jul 17-24	Knockpatrick	(*) Jay Maibach	Deaf School	40	100%
Haiti	A.W.A.	TBA	Les Cayes	Earl Sauder	Water Wells	TBA	0%
Haiti	Medical	TBA	Les 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
Mark Criss	309-243-9271	
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	
Tom Hitz	313-454-9229	319-426-5586
Andy Bauman	309-965-2174	309-691-6793
Jay Maibach	330-939-5234	
Kent Kloter	309-965-2727	309-965-2220
Phil Gutwein	219-843-1761	

and type my thoughts on the computer that I used to use, I am amazed at the changes taking place in my life. Who would have thought six years ago that today I would be living in northeast Indiana, taking classes at a private university in preparation for a completely different career than I was in before? Who would have predicted that I would be able to share my home and enjoy having two younger women living there with me? Looking back on the steps that have brought me to this place, I am overwhelmed with God's goodness toward me.

Before I came to help in the work at Gateway Woods, I had always kept the possibility of working here in the back of my mind. When things in my life got frustrating or boring, I would sometimes tell myself, well, I could always go to Leo and work at the Children's Home. I have always thought that children keep life interesting, and I love to watch them grow and to be a contributor to their growth. I knew that there would probably be blessings in working for an organization sponsored by our church, but it seemed a great sacrifice to have to move so far away from family and all that had grown comfortable for me. So I put it off, looking at all the hindrances to making that big step. The commitment I had made in buying a house, the five-hour drive between Roanoke and Leo, the daily and weekly activities that had become a part of my life—all stood between me and working at the Home. And all that time I had no concept of the blessing I was missing.

When Bro. Tim Sauder called me in July, 1993, to "inform me of some of the needs here" and to

suggest that I consider applying for a position, my first response was to put it off again. I didn't have quite enough teaching years in the retirement system, I thought. As soon as I hung up the phone, though, it was as though God were tapping me on the shoulder and saying, "Think about this. An opportunity to work with your brothers and sisters to help kids—why would you say no?" So after much prayer, I got in my car and headed east.

I didn't even know at first which job I was applying for, Houseparent in the Girls' House or Education Coordinator. After talking at length with Brother Tim, I still did not know which job I was better suited for or which was what God had in mind for me. I had planned to return to Roanoke the same day I came, but I brought a toothbrush and a change of clothes just in case. Since it was getting late in the day, I decided to spend the night at the Girls' House and go back home the next day. As soon as I walked into the house, I was surrounded by girls asking, "Are you going to be our Houseparent?" I answered that I didn't know yet, but I think in my heart I knew.

As it turned out, I was Houseparent for two years and Education Coordinator for three more. Where do I begin to tell what the past five years have meant to me? It was not always easy; in fact, one of the most difficult benefits of working at Gateway Woods was becoming aware of some of my faults. That difficulty, though, was offset by the tremendous blessing of having the support of those around me to help me work through some of those troublesome areas. It is impossible to explain to people who have never worked at

Gateway Woods what a blessing this is. There is a tie that binds those who work together in difficult situations that can only be experienced first-hand.

So many changes have taken place at Gateway Woods since I came here five years ago. Bro. Bill and Sis. Jan Baumgartner left their house in the capable hands of Bro. Todd and Sis. Carol Schrock. Sis. Ruth Gramm went Home to be with the Lord, and Bro. Art retired. Bro. Jeff Thames moved to Illinois and started the program there; Bro. John Stoller took over his position as Child Care Supervisor. Bro. Jack and Sis. Velma Bollier retired from their Alternate Houseparent position. Sis. Joanne Gerber left to start her family, and Sis. Janel Ramseyer took over as Office Manager. Bro. Trent and Sis. Heidi Schrock came to work as Alternate Houseparents. Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lisa Kipfer came to work as Alternate Houseparents. The whole focus of our treatment of young people changed to include their families, in the hopes of helping them in a more lasting way. The Girls' House changed to the Graf House, with Bro. Ed and Sis. Deb Graf taking the place of single Sisters Marilyn Walder, Deb Neuenschwander and myself, and started working with both boys and girls. Assistant Houseparents at all three houses (Sisters Andrea Moushon, Bridget Zollinger, Janel Frank, and Stephany Moser) have turned over their duties to new Assistants (Sisters Terri Gramm, Lisa Waibel, and Jill Gramm). Bro. John and Sis. Peggy Jackson came to work as Alternate Houseparents. The Baumgartners came back to serve in the Foster Care Program

and greatly expanded it. The Jacksons left, and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Naomi Wiegand came to serve as Alternate Houseparents. Gateway Woods School was opened, with Sis. Rachel Fessenden hired temporarily as teacher and then Sis. Missy Frieden hired at semester time. When I left in mid-August to pursue my career in the health profession, Sis. Rachel returned to become Education Coordinator. Summers have been so busy, with extra personnel hired and a multitude of willing volunteers helping out.

And the Gateway Woods residents have made at least three complete turnovers. Think of the number of young people and their families whose lives have been touched by our Home!

I am sure that all the Brothers and Sisters who have worked at Gateway Woods feel, as I do, that a little piece of us will always remain here. Even though I no longer interact with them on a daily basis, I still feel a tremendous kinship with those who are involved in this work. I'm so thankful that God has provided people to take the places of those of us who need to follow His leading in other directions. Life at Gateway Woods goes on. There will always be a need for those who are willing to work with the young people who come here for help and healing. It is exciting to think about what God may have in store as changes continue to take place.

We as a staff are thankful for answered prayer! Bro. Tom and Sis. Jodee Bauman from Goodfield, IL will be our new Alternate Houseparents. The Bauman's, along with their daughter Breana, bring enthusiasm and a willingness to surrender to God's

leading as they leave occupation, families, Goodfield church family, and other comfortable familiarities and trust Him to provide all their needs. Join us in praying for them that God will ease the adjustments they encounter and grant His peace and faithful presence in their lives.

As mentioned earlier, change is inevitable at Gateway Woods. After having served faithfully for seven years in the child care field, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda Fiechter have felt God leading them on to another plateau. We thank God for their "labor of love" in this ministry and ask Him to give the increase to the countless seeds of truth planted in hearts of the youth with whom they came in contact. With their intentions of leaving in February, there is an immediate need for another couple, in addition to the Bauman's, to fill the position of Alternate Houseparents. To those of you whom God has placed the seed of "maybe someday working at Gateway Woods," we ask you to prayerfully consider if now would be that time.

Amanda T. was welcomed into the Fiechter household recently and the Grafs said good bye to Michael C. and Donnie L. Our Foster Care program continues to grow with children being placed in foster families as well as some households becoming licensed for foster children. We appreciate Sis. Terri Mueller from Bluffton North, a Foster Care Caseworker who will be assisting with individual cases on a part-time basis.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama
Joan Reinhard**

What a beautiful thing it is to

see the change of seasons all around us. We went on a field trip to a ranch close by here in Athens and the weather was just beautiful. The students were able to see how life was many years ago, sing some folk songs, listen to stories, take a hay ride, pick a miniature pumpkin, and enjoy a hot dog lunch. The trip went well and everyone had a good time. It is such a privilege to realize how blessed we are, and how good the Lord has been to us.

Our themes for November are Nutrition, the color Brown, and Thanksgiving. We know the Bible says we are to give thanks in everything, and we pray we can do that. This verse has been a real challenge to us here as we try to cope with the death of our son, Joshua Reinhard (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan). He was 13 months old and died October 13 in a drowning accident. Joshua came to preschool two days a week with me and will be missed by his sisters and all the students here. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28). This is a verse we are hanging on to and we would ask for your prayers as we go through this difficult time.

We have an immediate need for another teacher here at the Preschool. Please consider this need and pray that the Lord's will could be done here. If you or someone you know would feel led to Athens to help out, please call Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (256) 232-2035.

We have a sponsor program here at the Preschool 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 helping to sponsor a child through their preschool years, please contact Sis. Joan Reinhard at (931) 424-5838 or call the Preschool at (256) 233-0591. Any amount you would want to send would be helpful and we would pray that the Lord would add the increase to the planting and watering that is being done.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Joan Reinhard

When we woke up on Saturday, October 10, we had no idea that that day would change our lives forever. At approximately 11:15 that morning, our son, Joshua Lee Reinhard (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan), who was 13 months old, fell into the pond near our home and his heart stopped beating. After about one hour and forty minutes of CPR by me, the paramedics, and the hospital staff in Pulaski, TN, the doctor came out and told us Joshua was dead. Tim then asked if we could at least hold him and the doctor agreed to have the nurses get him ready. In a few minutes the doctor returned and told us that he was not sure how to explain this and he did not know what to say, but ten minutes after they had given up on Joshua and while he was out talking to us, Joshua's heart started beating again and he attempted to take a breath. The doctor said, "I guess you would call it some sort of miracle."

They lifelighted Joshua to Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Nashville, TN and there he wavered between life and death for three days. Those were days of complete helplessness on our part and total surrender of our son's future to our Father in

Heaven.

At 12:30 a.m., early Tuesday morning, the doctor informed us that Joshua's brain was swelling and this was causing irreparable damage to his brain. This would eventually cause him to be brain dead. It was during this time that Tim and I inquired about organ donating. Because Joshua's heart had remained strong, he was in the perfect position to be an organ donor. At 4:00 p.m. that afternoon, Joshua was declared legally dead and we committed him to the Lord. They began the long process of evaluating his organs and performing the surgery to remove them. This process went through the night and when morning came, they were able to place his kidneys and his liver, but had still not found a recipient for Joshua's heart.

At the same time that morning, in the same hospital, a little boy named Nycholas was scheduled for heart surgery. They had expected to perform a routine heart surgery on the four month old, but when they opened him up, his heart was beyond repair. There was nothing they could do, and Nycholas was going to die. The Lord was at work though, and Joshua's heart was the perfect blood type, tissue type, and approximate size to be the donor for Nycholas. One of the doctors said the timing of it all was the most amazing thing and throughout the hospital, people were talking about the miracle heart transplant that took place that morning.

Through a series of "coincidences" (as some would say), Tim and I were able to meet Nycholas' parents that morning and cry with them, hug them, and share together this amazing experience. We plan to keep in touch

with them and share pictures, and as I told Nycholas' mom, I hope they will do their best to make sure that Nycholas makes it to Heaven so he and Joshua can meet someday.

Following the funeral service on Saturday, October 17, here in Athens, we had a visitation and the burial in Peoria, IL. Please continue to lift us, and our little Athens church, up in prayer as we go through this time of mourning. We wish to extend a thank you to all those who have expressed their love and sympathy to us during this time.

We do appreciate those who come to visit us here, and we were thankful for visitors from Chicago, Bloomington and Gridley, IL; and from Bluffton North, IN and students from Purdue University.

Bro. Ed Haggemaker spent some time in the hospital this month and we are so grateful to the Lord for restoring him to a measure of health. He and his family would appreciate your continued prayers for them, and we all look forward to that day when there will be no more pain or tears.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Search me, O God, and know my heart...lead me in the way everlasting."

Psalm 139:23-24

During a lengthy time of frail health and "precious memories", Bro. Alvin Laukhuf entered Heaven's gates on October 1. His funeral services were at the church on October 4 with many visiting relatives from Ohio and Oregon present. Our choir sang

several of Bro. Alvin's favorite songs.

Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich, Bro. Ken Lawson and Bro. James Emch had the church services. Bro. Richard Schupbach presided at the East Resthaven grave site.

We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Katherine; daughter, Linda Kay; and son, Bro. Jim; and many other relatives. May you find comfort in Acts 17:28 and Phil. 4:13. God is only a prayer away!

We are in the middle of hearing the Conference tapes. We are the "now" generation. To preserve our church, we, as shepherds, must be alive in God leading, guiding and protecting our lambs to repent and become a child of God.

When you find yourself down in the valley, how thankful you will be you said "Yes, Lord" and repented and lived the life of a Christian. Prayer changes things, be it for direction, or be it for comfort.

From mid-September to mid-October, we uttered numerous prayers for hospital patients, Bro. Floyd Banwart, Bro. Alvin Laukhuf (broken hip), Ella Trent Gibboney, Sis. Toni Bentley (knee surgery).

We rejoiced to see Sis. Lucille Richardson back in church.

Have you tried living a day as if God was walking beside you?

Notes of Thanks:

We are most grateful to our brethren, family, friends and each one who gave and who did the numerous tasks that need attending to during Bro. Alvin Laukhuf's funeral.

May God bless each one for your overwhelming love and support.

*In Christian love,
Sis. Katherine Laukhuf
Linda and Bro. Jim*

We wish to express our thankfulness for all the love shown to us through cards, deeds, gifts, and prayers during our 11-year-old daughter's battle with cancer, her last weeks under hospice care at home and in her death. We wish to express special thanks to the Phoenix, Tucson, Taylor and Francesville churches who showed so much love to us through Mary. Our wish is that her life has touched each one to God's glory. May you each be rewarded in the heavenly mansions above for your willingness to be like Jesus as He has carried us through these dark valleys in our lives.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene Sutton

Sam, T.J., Katie and Megan

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Our Sunday School Picnic was held October 11. A beautiful, sunny day was enjoyed by our congregation as well as some visitors from Phoenix. As always, our bake sale/auction was a huge success to benefit our Sunday School Fund. Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make such a special day possible.

Our weather has been a little warm for this time of year; we had temperatures in the mid 90's into October. The forecast for this weekend (Oct. 17-18) is a cooling trend with temperatures around 80. Our mornings and evenings are wonderfully cool and crisp, with overnight lows right around 50.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA **Joshua Martinez**

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

I Thess. 5:18

Greetings of love across the many miles! Our hearts are warmed with thankfulness as we approach another special season. We have much for which to be grateful, and every day should be a day of thanksgiving to our Lord. Even when we walk in spiritual vales, our Lord and Saviour is with us and will provide if we ask Him in prayer. Praised be God for His bountiful blessings and His unspeakable gift!

We extend our loving support to our dear Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian Petrovic and their family (San Diego, CA). Bro. Peter became an ordained deacon on September 27. We are continually and beautifully reminded of the love which is perfected through the blood that was shed on Calvary to save all mankind. We thank Bro. Peter and our ministering brothers for exhortations centered on Christ.

We also thank Elder Bro. John Klotzle for presenting a Bible study on October 17 on the second chapter of Genesis. May God's blessings and goodness inspire us to study His Word further and apply these principles to our lives.

"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest."

Luke 10:2

We are so thankful another

soul has answered God's call. Justin Moser (Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol) has surrendered his life to Jesus. May he feel our loving and prayerful support and God's grace in his walk with the Lord.

We extend a warm welcome to you should your travels bring you to sunny southern California. At this Thanksgiving time, may we be grateful to God for His Son, our church, family, friends and all gifts He has beautifully bestowed upon us. May the love and joy of His promise fill your hearts every day. May you have a happy month!

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

I Corinthians 15:57

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Rose Huetten

"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..."

On Sunday, September 27, we had a very special day as Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian) was ordained deacon. We give him and his family our prayerful support and pray he will receive many rich blessings. As we have read in I Timothy 3:8-13, it is a big responsibility. We wish to thank Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) for preaching God's Holy Word. We were richly blessed as they came to assist our Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) in the ordination service. Afterwards a dinner was served and enjoyed by all with a service and singing in the eve-

ning.

The following Sunday we were blessed to have Bro. Michael Rieker (Peoria, IL) and his wife, Sis. Carol, with us. They were here on vacation and took time out for us. May God richly bless Bro. Mike for the wonderful teaching and may they come again soon.

ONTARIO, KITCHENER CANADA

Laura Baxter

"Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:"

Isaiah 46:9-10

It is comforting to know our loving, merciful Father knows the end of our life from the beginning and that these timings are in His control for His glory. We rejoice with Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher as they welcomed a new grandson, Elmer Charles Zollinger (Bro. Arlyn and Sis. Barb), into their family circle.

We also sorrow with Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard as their grandson, Joshua Reinhard (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan), was called out of life so young.

Bro. Jim Baxter's grandmother, Helen Hall, and Bro. Peter Pfeiffer's uncle, Bro. John Webel, were also called from life to eternity this past month. May we rest in the comfort that our days on earth are numbered from the moment our life begins and as long as we are at peace with

God, there is no need to fear death.

We are thankful for our ministering Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) for preaching God's Word to us this past month and also Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) for his extra efforts to travel to Kitchener to give a topical Bible Study on Priorities in the Family. It is such a blessing from God to have this beautiful and spiritually stimulating fellowship.

We are also thankful for the pleasant fall weather we are enjoying as we continue to work on the church building project. There have been many volunteers from far and near that have helped, for which we are very grateful. The building is enclosed now and the roof is on and shingled. We are now working on the parking lot, laying brick, pouring the floor, and framing the interior. A previous list of skilled volunteer laborers 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 laborers 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 direc-

tions.

COLORADO, DENVER
Yvonne Lehman

On September 27, Bro. Vic Beer (North Ft. Myers, FL) ministered the Gospel to us. We trust God will bless him for his labor of love and service. We welcome all visitors to come worship with us.

On October 3, we were privileged to hear the testimony of how the Lord has worked in the heart of Mike Katanic. Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) was here for the very blessed occasion. We witnessed the holy sacrament of baptism, which never grows old. As he travels on down the road of life, Bro. Mike will have an indwelling of the Holy Spirit to guide and direct him in his decisions and thoughts. We wish Bro. Mike God's nearness and grace. Without that grace, we would be lost eternally. We were reminded that there is no in between. Not, I'm "almost" a believer, or "almost" thou persuadest me to be a Christian. "Almost" salves our conscience. "Someday" quiets our mind. We can't lie to ourselves. In our heart we know what is true and not true. We read in the Holy Bible "He that is not for me is against me." God will accomplish His will regardless of the situation.

We were reminded of how Ruth was obedient to the older woman, Naomi. Her obedience is a beautiful example to all of us. She faithfully fulfilled her duties gleaning in the field all day, gathering less than a bushel of grain. We could learn that each kernel is so very important. There's a lesson in being dutiful and zealous that not one grain may be lost. In the kernel of grain we see our significance as believers in

the heart of God. May we strive to be faithful and obedient each day.

We have been blessed through hearing of Conference Tapes the past few weekends. It is good to be refreshed and reminded of the importance of our faithfulness to the One who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Our greatest sacrifice is minor compared to His.

"Father, nothing is louder than the silence of our God. But Father, forgive us for the times we've interpreted Thy silence as a lack of love. Give us patience. For we know Thou wilt answer, Father, if only we'll wait."

—Max Lucado

CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Cherie Galat

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:"

Matthew 7:24

Our congregation was privileged to listen to the Brotherhood Conference tapes. What a blessing it is that there are brothers who are willing to gather, seek out God's will for our church, love us with a brotherly love and encourage and warn us upon our pilgrim pathway! May we ever be mindful and prayerful as we consider the instructions so lovingly given.

God is yet touching the hearts of mankind and souls are willing to heed His loving call. We rejoice with Kevin and Nathan Zahner (Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally), Jonathan Moser (Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna), Amy Carlson (Bro.

Wally and Sis. Judy) and Raymond Hany as they strive to lay a firm foundation upon the Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank our dear brethren, Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) for their labors of love and ministry of the Gospel. May God richly reward them in their efforts.

Our sympathy extends to the family of Carolyn Gottier who passed away. May God comfort Bro. Ed Aberle (Sis. Ernestine), Sis. Elsa Hoffman (Bro. Ed) and Sis. Martha Luginbuhl (Bro. Robert), along with other family members and relatives.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer

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

Psalms 127:3

Rhett Colton Fetter surprised everyone when he arrived September 23. Thankful parents are Bro. Matt and Sis. Wendy Fetter. Skyler is now a big brother. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Betty Fetter (Toledo, OH) and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene Metzger (Lamont-Gridley, KS).

Our ministers this month were Bros. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN), Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN), Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) and Elder Bro. David Wiegand (Champaign, IL). We appreciate the time all the ministers and their families give to our congregation. Other visitors this month were from Bluffton North, IN; Mansfield, OH; and Philadelphia, PA.

Services are usually held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at the Tysons Corner Westpark (Best Western) Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. 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.

We will not be having church services in Washington D.C. on Sunday, December 27. We would encourage anyone in the area to travel to Philadelphia, PA for services on that Sunday.

**FLORIDA
FT. LAUDERDALE
Nancy Rocke**

"Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness."

Psalm 30:4

Bro. Glen Price (Sis. Sandy, Sarasota, FL) visited us and we thank him for serving us. October 10-11 was the weekend that some from Fort Lauderdale, North Fort Myers and Sarasota went to Lakewood, and they appreciated the service of Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL).

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Philippians 4:13

Our prayers are with Bro. Tom

Cholak as he has relocated to the west coast of Florida. As we say farewell to him, we also want to welcome a couple to our area. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kristin Krieger are moving to our area from Atlanta, GA. We look forward to having them assemble with us. May the Lord be with each of us wherever He has placed us.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FT. MYERS**

Anjie Baum

Thanksgiving is approaching. Without a doubt, we ought to be most thankful for our salvation. But what are we saved from? Romans 5:9 tells us that God Himself, through Jesus, saved us from His wrath. One of God's great mysteries. Our Heavenly Father provides salvation to us to escape His own wrath, His hatred of sin. Even more mysterious is the fact that our means of salvation, Christ's shed blood, was a willing sacrifice. Jesus tells us in John 10:17-18, "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." He didn't just die for us...He allowed Himself to be nailed to a cross in shame. This Thanksgiving, and every moment of our life, we should be so thankful for His sacrifice; for all our joy, our blessings, our peace come from His immeasurable love for us.

Our sincere gratitude to our dear Elder Bro. Doug Sabo for once again ministering to us this past month.

As the winter season is approaching, we are looking for-

ward to many visitors. Our doors are wide open to welcome all our brothers, sisters and friends.

**GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Keith and Carol Kaufman**

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High:"

Psalm 92:1

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, much emphasis is placed on being thankful. May we remember that as children of God, we should be thankful in all things, every day. God has given us so much to be thankful for; most of all His love and His gift of salvation.

What a privilege we have to end our week with the fellowship of saints and then begin our week by going to God's house to be fed the spiritual food we are so in need of. We are so thankful that brothers are willing to stand up and speak the precious Holy Word of God. Let us continually plead for them to our Heavenly Father that the truth not be watered down or held back. This past month, Elder Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN) and Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton, IN) came and spoke the truth to us. May God richly bless you and those you brought with you.

As we count our blessings, let us remember in prayer those who have health problems, have had a loved one taken from this life, and those who are struggling; for we need the prayers of those we love.

We encourage all who are in the area to fellowship and worship with us. Sunday services begin at 10:20 and 12:30. We meet

the second and fourth Wednesdays at 7:00. The church is located at 6225 Campbellton - Fairburn Rd., Fairburn, GA. Take I-85 south to Exit 13. Go west four miles. The church will be on your left. Please let us know of your plans: Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554; Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629; or Bro. Keith Kaufman (404) 243-6232.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Sheila McCoy

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

Luke 15:7

Likewise, there is joy in our Belvidere congregation as Kay Nazarczuk (Michael) submitted to the call of Jesus our Saviour. We pray that she may be an encouragement to many others who haven't repented.

Bro. Dave Jepson did a presentation on "Prison Ministry". Bro. Dave, with three brothers from Elgin, goes weekly to a prison for adolescent boys for a Bible Study that is actually closer to a Sunday School lesson. Most of these young men have never been taught the Word of God. Bro. Dave asked us to remember these youth in our prayers, that the seed may be sown and bring forth "fruits meet for repentance". A major concern is that many of the youth are released to return to terrible environments. We thank Bro. Dave for sharing with us his heartfelt ministry. May God bless these brothers with their much needed efforts in furthering the Word of Life.

We were blessed with lovely

fall weather and beautiful surroundings for our annual fall picnic at the park. The hayrack was loaded with those of all ages. These times of fellowship are so special.

Our Bible Class was invited to Bradford, IL on Sunday, October 18, for a day of fellowship. We pray that a love for our Saviour will be implanted in their hearts and that there can be established friendships that will be cherished. We thank those in Bradford for thinking of our small congregation and extending their hospitality.

We are ever grateful to God's servants who bring us the Word. Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL).

ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Carol Sauder
Janice Horner

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

Isaiah 32:17

Intrigued by the beauty, faith and countenance of the individuals in the Eureka Apostolic Christian Nursing Home, California-born, Catherine Brame chose to deepen her relationship with Jesus Christ in our church home. She gave her insightful testimony with Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) officiating. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Everett Hari in the baptism the next day. It is incredible how God works in the hearts of man.

"And whatsoever ye do in word

or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

Colossians 3:17

We rejoice with our new converts: Alex Zimmerman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Pam), Scott Meiss (Dawn), Kim Scheel (niece of Sis. Dorothy Harsh and Sis. Ruth Lowery), and Kyle Swager. May God's purpose be fulfilled for them in their lives.

On October 8, Tim and Trish Virgil became first-time parents to a beautiful baby girl, Tea Lee. May God bless their new family. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Bev Virgil and Roger and Vivian Beadles (Elgery, IL).

Our sympathy to Bro. Eric Staley whose grandfather passed away. May the memories of him be precious.

The Hymn/Sing Potluck, October 11, was an excellent opportunity to invite others to attend church for good family time eating, fellowship and the Hymn Sing.

Thankful to God for their recoveries are Bro. Ron Hodel and Sis. Kayleen Heiniger as they spent some time in the hospital this past month.

We certainly welcome these new faces into our Bloomington-Normal Church Family: Convert Scott and Dawn Meiss and children, Zachary, Gregory, Samantha, and Jonathan; Steven and Diane Kauzlarich and children, Christopher, Nicholas, and Lucas; newlyweds, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Sarah Streitmatter; and Bro. Zach and Sis. Caesy Sauder. Tom Wiesenhaln from Ohio, convert Kyle Swager, Sis. Christina Martin from Cissna Park, and Sis. Sheryl Bucher from Valparaiso, IN also joined us.

It was indeed a pleasure to have Sis. Sheryl Bucher's parents, ministering Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois Bucher (Valparaiso, IN), share the Word with us this month.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Brad &
Cheryl Kupferschmid

"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

We are thankful that Brent and Michelle Knobloch have answered God's call to repentance and entered in at the strait gate that leads to eternal life. Brent's parents are Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy Knobloch. May God give His abundant grace to Brent and Michelle and help them make a true repentance that they may enjoy His peace in due time.

May the Lord help each of His children within the fold to remain true and faithful till He comes to take us Home.

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus."
Revelation 22:20

ILLINOIS
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
Samuel and Pamela Furrer

Seasons change all around us, whether it is something we notice in God's natural world such as the changing colors of the trees or the seasons of our human lives. This fall has presented our Champaign-Urbana church with

it's own change of seasons. Earlier this year, our Elder Bro. David Wiegand expressed his decision to retire from his duties as our Elder, but continue to serve us as a minister. On the evening of Sunday, October 11, a filled church witnessed the ordination service installing our ministering Bro. Wayne Banwart as our new Elder. At the ordination service, we were reminded that the burden will be lightened if we remember our ministering and Elder brothers in prayer. Our prayers and support go out to our new Elder Bro. Wayne and his wife, Sis. Charlen, and their children as Bro. Wayne begins his new duties as the shepherd of our flock. We wish Bro. David and his wife, Sis. Ethel, the Lord's continued blessings as he reassumes a life with fewer church responsibilities. As a church, we sincerely thank them for all they have done in serving us in God's service.

The ordination service was conducted by visiting Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL). Others present for the evening were Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL), Thomas Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), Ron Messner (Washington, IL), and ministering Bros. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and Andrew Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY).

There was also cause for thankfulness as Mellisa Mangers (Bro. Dennie and Sis. Cheryl) gave her testimony and was baptized into the family of converted souls in early October. We wel-

come her as our new sister in the faith, and rejoice with her family that their immediate family circle of believers is now complete. Spending the weekend to share in the duties was Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL).

Other visiting ministers over the past month have been Bros. Richard Aberle (Altadena, CA), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Jeff Thames (Washington, IL). We have certainly had our share of the Lord's laborers in the ministry this past month! Sincere thanks to each of these brothers and their families for their presence in our congregation whether it was for a part in a baptism, ordination, Wednesday evening, or Sunday service.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Jill Rager

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

Isaiah 30:21

I am "borrowing" this verse from our September church calendar as I look over the events of the last month. It was very fitting for the month of September because our congregation listened to the Conference tapes on the September Wednesday evenings, and also for the month of "news". Three Spirit-filled brothers shared the Word with us. Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) was with us for our Invite-a-Guest weekend. Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) was with us for a Wednesday evening and Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL)

had a topical Bible Study regarding encouragement.

We have evidence that the ears of unconverted souls continue to hear "a word...saying, This is the way, walk ye in it" as Chris Lau (Bro. Steve and Sis. Marlene) has turned away from the old life and is walking with Jesus. We have great opportunity to put encouragement into action as we support Chris.

We can also encourage our dear Bro. Lenny and Sis. Charlotte Meyer as they grieve the loss of Bro. Lenny's sister, Nancy Wuethrich, of Sanford, FL.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Darlene Walder
Beth Steffen

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

Psalm 106:1

Harvest season is such a beautiful time of year. Once again God has blessed us abundantly. May we praise and thank our Heavenly Father for His goodness and faithfulness. A blessed Thanksgiving to each of you.

John 1:1,14 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth." God sent John not as the Light but to bear witness of the true Light, Jesus Christ. Down through the ages God has continued to provide faithful men to minister the true light to His people. This past month God sent the following Elder brothers: Al-

fred Bahler, Dave Wiegand, Roy Grimm, Art Bahler, Dale Eisenmann, Joe Braker, and Bros. Clark Stoller, Jim Kaeb, Dennis Rassi, Todd Feller and Mark Gerber. A thanks to each of you for your labors of love.

We want to express heartfelt thanks to our Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand and his wife, Sis. Ethel, for the love and kindness they showed our congregation during the time Bro. Dave was our shepherd. I read once that a good compliment lasts about 60 days, but there is a compliment that will take us into eternity and last forever. We pray at the end of your journey, Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel, you will hear the best compliment of all, "Well done thou good and faithful servants...enter thou into the joys of thy Lord." (Matthew 25:21). We love you!

We want to extend a warm welcome and our prayerful support to our new Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN). We appreciate the willingness of Bro. Alfred to serve us here in Cissna Park since Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand's retirement.

We rejoice in the addition of two new sisters. Sisters Rebekah Martin and Jenny Hoffman were added to our fold. We welcome them into our family of God and pray God will keep them close to Him as they currently attend college in Champaign.

The "Londoners", a group of brothers who served together during World War II, recently held a reunion here in Cissna Park. We are grateful for all the efforts put forth that we may enjoy the freedoms we have in America.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to those in our congregation who have lost loved ones re-

cently.

Among them are Sisters Caroline Gudeman and Eldora Bonges. Also, Ben Farney of Cissna Park passed from this life unexpectedly leaving his loving wife, Grace, behind along with four sisters from our church, Sisters Helen Lackey, Louise Drayer, Esther Steiner and Martha Farney. We certainly pray that God will comfort each of your hearts and especially you, Grace. It was evident that Ben had many friends and family who loved him by the number that came to show their last respects.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Bev Knapp have adopted a son, Micah. We are happy God found a way for Micah to grow up in a Christian home. We pray someday Micah can grow up and become adopted into God's family, too.

Our Bible Class went to Princeville, IL on September 27 for ACYF and were guests on October 18 of our Bradford Sunday School. We thank these churches for the efforts they put forth for the sake of our young people.

We wish God's continued blessings on Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta Bauer who recently celebrated 50 years together. Thanks for your example of what God in a marriage can do.

We want to remember to pray for those in our churches going through afflictions. Sis. Gladys Winger and Bro. Ray Eisenmann especially come to mind at this time. "All the way my Saviour leads me, what have I to ask beside? Can I doubt His tender mercy who through life has been my guide? Heavenly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in Him to dwell! For I know whatever befalls me, Jesus doeth all things well." (Hymns of Zion #21).

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Sandy Steiner
Glenna Rinkenberger

We always appreciate our visiting ministers. Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) preached the Word to us recently. In our Faith, how special it is to travel and hear the same truth or to have a brother come to our congregation and preach the same truth.

Nathan Zobrist (Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie) made an emergency trip to the hospital. He is home and doing fine.

Sis. Sheri Dietrich (Bro. Bill) was a surgical patient. She is also home and recovering.

We extend our sympathy to our Sis. Marjorie Knapp (Bro. Frederick) in the passing of her brother, Ben Farney, Rankin, IL.

Also experiencing the loss of a loving grandmother are Bro. Duane and Sis. Jill Gudeman in the death of Sis. Mary Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN). We extend our heartfelt prayers to these loved ones at this time.

As nothing in this life is constant, we have sorrow and we have joy. Jared Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary) has found peace with God and man and awaits baptism. There is rejoicing in Heaven and among the brethren when we can see the life of a soul change from living for self and the world to serving the Lord.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Peggy Heiniger
Norma Schambach

"I was lost!" These were the words of our two converts, Eric Weiss (Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen) and Eric Humbracht, as they gave their testimonies of

how God found them and drew them unto Him. We expect our children to repent and are so thankful when they do. But when we see how God draws a soul who has never known the way, it fills us with awe at the magnitude of His power. Bro. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA) was here for this blessed weekend.

We remember our loved ones who were hospitalized this month. Sis. Evelyn (Bro. Bill) Gudeman had surgery and was able to return home. Bro. Harvey Schurter is still in the hospital. May God be with each of them as they recover.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to little Shawn Michael, son of Carol Steffen, who was born with some physical struggles. We commit him into God's tender care and keeping.

We think of Rachel Cargill as her work as an occupational therapist with Project Hope takes her to Bosnia. May she feel God's nearness and protection, as His love knows no geographical boundaries.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Janet Zimmerman

"Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me..." We rejoice with two souls who have answered God's call to repentance, Brian Leman (Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirley) and Tim Leman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn). May God grant them grace to lay that firm foundation which will stand all the test and trials of the storm.

October 11 was the wedding day of Sis. Julie Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Brad Rocke (LaCrosse, IN). Bro. Brad is formerly of Eureka. His parents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth. Sis.

Julie's parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Jo. May God's nearness and blessings be upon Sis. Julie and Bro. Brad as they walk together as one.

Visiting ministers who were with us this past month were Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), and Bros. Greg Stoller (Forest, IL), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Frank Sauder and Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL). We thank them for sharing God's Word with us and may they be richly blessed.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marjorie Stoller on the death of their daughter, Joanne Fitch. She died August 2. We also extend our sympathy to Richard and Kathy Stoller. May God comfort our loved ones.

On October 11, Sis. Salome Hartter was able to lay down her cross and enter those heavenly mansions above. We extend our sympathy to her family, Bro. Richard (Goodfield, IL), Sis. Corine (Eureka, IL), Sis. Freida Schaefer (Tremont, IL) and her many nieces and nephews. "Safe in the arms of Jesus, safe on His gentle breast..." We have confidence that Sis. Salome is peacefully resting there and may

God comfort her family. We thank Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) for being with us and helping with the funeral service.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Naomi Peters as she struggles with afflictions of the body. Sis. Naomi was able to move to the nursing home after being in the hospital for just about three weeks. Others who have been in the hospital for various reasons are Sis. Ida Belsley, Sis. Connie Hoerr (Bro. Norm), Bro. Gary Huber, Sis. Karen

Martin (Bro. Doug) and Sis. Catherine Wettstein. May God's healing touch be on each one according to His will.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Marie Meyer on the death of her daughter, Nancy Wuthrich, of Samford, FL. She died on October 13.

As we gather together with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving, may God's goodness fill our hearts with love for each other and may we with thankful hearts, hands and voices remember all the wondrous things He has done.

Notes of Thanks:

I want to thank everyone that offered prayers on my behalf, sent cards, gifts and came to visit since my surgery and recovery. May God richly reward each one.

Bro. Gary Huber

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

Bro. Harold Hodel

The family of Salome Hartter wishes to thank everyone who helped with her care and for the prayers. She was a resident at the home for 8 1/2 years. She was well taken care of and we appreciate your kindness to her. She was 93 years old.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr
Joann Zehr

Come, ye thankful people, come,
 Raise the song of harvest-home...
Gospel Hymns #823

Again we have reasons to give

thanks as another harvest is "safely gathered in...and God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied" (#823). As you gather with your family and friends on Thanksgiving Day, take time to count your blessings and ponder on the goodness and mercy of God.

Lead me, Lord, as Thou best
 knowest
 How before Thee I should live...
Zion's Harp #93

We rejoice as two couples have found faith in the Lord's leading for their lives together. Planning a November 22 wedding are Bro. James Tate (Don and Marilyn, Gridley) and Sis. Carrie Knapp of Forrest (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean). Also engaged are Bro. Nathan Teubel (Walter and the late Mabel) and Sis. Jennifer Steffen (Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay). Their wedding is planned for January 10.

On September 30, we witnessed the marriage vows of Sis. Louise Furrer and Bro. Les Zimmerman of the Forrest congregation. Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Wayne Anliker and Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) were present with us.

Then on October 4, the joining in Holy Matrimony of Sis. Carolyn Kieser (Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky) and Bro. Joshua Knapp of Goodfield (Bro. Rick and Sis. Cathy) was completed. Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Bros. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) and Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) shared the day with us. May the Lord continue to lead all these dear couples that their lives together may be a glory and honor to Him.

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void..."
Isaiah 55:11

Other brothers who ministered to us in the past month were: Bros. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL), Ed Fritz (Washington, IL), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) and Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN). May the Word be fruitful in all of our lives.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me..."
Psalms 23:4

Bro. Manny Steffen, 78, passed through that valley on October 10 after a car accident earlier. Our prayers are with his dear wife, Sis. Lucille, and sons, Bro. Keith (Washington, IL) and Jerry of Miami Beach, FL; and 6 grandchildren. Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) was with us for the funeral service and the comforting words were appreciated.

Bro. Ben Lorch (Sis. Marguerite) spent some time in the hospital. We pray that the Lord will strengthen and heal him.

This little poem was a good reminder to me that the "hidden man of the heart" (I Peter 3:4) manifests itself plainly to others by my outward actions and appearance.

"Thy speech bewrayeth thee."
 —*Matt. 26:73*

You tell on yourself by the friends
 you seek,
 By the very manner in which you
 speak;
 By the way you employ your
 leisure time,

By the use you make of dollar and dime.

You tell what you are by the things you wear,
By the spirit in which your burden you bear;
By the manner in which you bear defeat,
By so simple a thing as how you eat.

You tell what you are by the way you walk,
By the things of which you delight to talk;
By the book you choose from the well-filled shelf.
In these ways and more, you tell on yourself.

-Author Unknown

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp
Linda Anliker**

Baptized into Thy name most holy,
O Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and lowly

Among Thy seed, Thy chosen host.
Immersed with Christ I'm dead to sin;

Thy Spirit now shall live within.
Zion's Harp #41

As one would read this hymn, may it be the prayer of each heart as they ponder the seriousness of baptism. We welcome Bro. Derrick Babbs (Gary and Jill Babbs, Mary and Delmar Hoelscher) and Bro. Shane Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne) as our new brothers in faith following their baptism this past month. May they ever fulfill their vows and someday stand eternally in the presence of God.

God is faithful in His promise to call lost souls from the wiles of Satan. We are thankful that souls are still answering God's call. It is our prayer that God will

grant Arlen (Denise) Leman much grace as he commits his life to Him.

We appreciate the willingness of Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), and Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO) for kindly sharing God's Word with us. May God richly bless these brothers for being used in His service.

Bro. Lester Zimmerman and Sis. Louise Furrer (Fairbury, IL) were united in marriage on September 30. As they continue on life's pathway as husband and wife, may they look to God for guidance.

Believing God's will for them to become husband and wife, the engagement was announced of Sis. Carrie Knapp and Bro. James Tate (Fairbury, IL). Their parents are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean Knapp and Don and Marilyn Tate (Gridley, IL). May they by faith continue to look to God to govern their lives.

Children are gifts from God. Royce James Mueller arrived to brighten the hearts and home of Ron and Vicki Mueller and big brother, Reagan. His grandparents are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Darlene Steidinger (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida Mueller.

Several loved ones from our congregation spent time in the hospital this month. May Sis. Marian (Bro. Rich) Rieger, Bro. Perry Honegger, Julie (Mark) Schambrook, Sis. Pauline Wiegand and Sis. Melanie Schneider feel God's nearness.

Note of Thanks:

A very sincere thank you for all of the prayers, cards, memorials, calls, food and other acts of kindness shown us at the passing of our dear wife, mother and grand-

mother, Mildred Metz. May God bless you all.

Reuben Metz and family

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Jan Beer

Halle Renee Wiegand blessed the hearts and home of Robin and Rod Wiegand with her birth on September 26. We are thankful that Robin has made a complete recovery from complications following delivery. Little Halle has lots of happy relatives in our Goodfield fellowship: Grandma Bev and Grandpa Glen Joos, Grandma Karen and Grandpa Gary Wiegand, Great-grandma Vera Heinold, Great-grandpa Howard Heinold, Great-grandma Clem Joos and Great-grandma Perseda Wiegand.

Sis. Heather, Bro. Joseph and Hannah Beer gladly welcomed Cooper Daniel into their family circle on October 2. Grateful grandparents are Bev and John Wohlrab of Kewanee and your reporter and Bro. Joe Beer.

On October 6, Payton Cassidy joined the family of Sis. Niki, Bro. Phil, Danielle and Josie Hodel. Now three darling little girls are the joy of grandparents, Sis. Melita and Bro. Curt Hodel and Wanda and Gary Edwards.

Dear parents, we pray for God to give you wisdom to rear these little ones He has entrusted into your care.

Sis. Carolyn Kieser and Bro. Josh Knapp became husband and wife on October 4. Many from our congregation traveled to Fairbury for the ceremony. Sis. Carolyn, we welcome you to the Goodfield fellowship. May God richly bless your marriage. Sis. Kathy and Bro. Rick Knapp of our congregation are Bro. Josh's parents.

Visiting ministers the past month have been Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) and Ted Witzig (Morton, IL). Thank you, brothers and your wives, for your service to us. These brothers ministered to us and the visiting Bible Classes from Peoria and Roanoke on October 18.

A great victory was won recently in our little village of 454 souls. The local gas station/convenience store began selling pornographic magazines. A young mother noticed this and requested the management pull the offensive material off the shelves. She then advised the pastor of her local Baptist congregation of the situation, and he asked the Goodfield Village Board to enforce the anti-obscenity ordinance. In the meantime, a brother in our fellowship had noticed the pornography for sale and made the same request of the store management. This brother owns a small business, and he left a message for the store owner that he was withdrawing his account until this matter was settled. The next day he received a message from the owner that the material was off the shelves! By the time the Village Board met on Thursday evening, pornographic magazines were no longer for sale in our little town! I am very grateful that, by the Grace of God, our brother took a stand against evil in a very effective, straight forward manner. Pornography is a vile tool of Satan's that has even quietly crept into the congregation of believers. Thanks be to God that in our little town, Satan has lost his battle. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" (I

Peter 5:8).

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

I had a telephone conversation with a brother from a neighboring congregation who had recently been instated into the ministry. I asked him how it was going. He said he felt God's grace and ongoing help; and he was very thankful for this. He told me that only by God's power is he able to preach the gospel.

He said at those times when it's likely it may be his turn to lead in worship—and he feels especially weak—his dear, supportive wife directs him to a hymn in the Hymns of Zion songbook entitled, "Oh, To Be Nothing". In reading these lyrics, a well of humility rises within him, and he finds courage to rely only on God, and thence to find courage to stand before the congregation. Verses 1-3 follow:

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

Oh, to be nothing, nothing,
Only as led by His hand;
A messenger at His gateway,
Only waiting for His command,
Only an instrument ready
His praises to sound at His will,
Willing, should He not require me,
In silence to wait on Him still.

Oh, to be nothing, nothing,
Painful the humbling may be,
Yet low in the dust I'd lay me
That the World might my Saviour
see.
Rather be nothing, nothing,
To Him let our voices be raised,
He is the Fountain of blessing,

He only is meet to be praised."

On September 30, Bro. Dave Zehr, 42, was selected as minister here in Gridley. His wife is the former Sis. Vicki Steffen. They have two children, Bro. Matt, 16, and Kelsey, 13. Bro. Dave's parents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Wilma Zehr. Sis. Vicki is the daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Emmy Steffen.

We wish Bro. Dave much strength and grace from above in the years ahead that he can be a faithful messenger of the glorious gospel.

On October 11, we had three visiting ministers. They were Bros. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Chris Huber (Francesville, IN) and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL). Bro. Tim Hohulin was a visitor on Wednesday evening, October 21.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

Bro. Chuck and Sis. Ann Hart welcomed into their home Cameron Charles born September 15. Happy grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Terry Hart (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean Martin (Elgin, IL). May the Lord grant them Godly wisdom to rear their precious child.

Bro. Earl Meiss was called Home on October 21. May the Lord comfort his loved ones. They are his wife, Sis. Edith; his four sons, Bro. Bob, Steve, Mark and Gregg; his two daughters, Sis. Sharon (Bro. Harvey) Martin, and Jane; his three brothers, Bro. Elmer, Bro. Floyd and Edwin; his three sisters, Sis. Caroline (Ray) Aeschleman, Sis. Viola Mckinley and Sis. Alyce (Don) Gilmore; his nine grand-

children and three great-grandchildren. At times of loss, one's family and friends are such a comfort.

On the weekend of October 10-11 our High School Bible Class hosted the young people from Francesville and Wolcott, IN. The Morton congregation appreciated their visit and also appreciates the planning that went on to make the weekend a memorable one for the students.

On Sunday, October 21, Apostolic Christian Restmor celebrated its 20th anniversary. An Open House and short service were held and everyone had an opportunity to commemorate these many years of service to our elderly.

We wish to thank the ministers and their families who visited the Morton congregation this month. They were retired Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), retired Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Bros. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) and Richard Sutter (Ft. Lauderdale, FL).

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

I Thess. 5:11-12 was the text for "Appreciation" by Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) for family night services on October 7. It's not about the brothers who stand before you and labor, it's about Jesus. But get to know and appreciate them; they thank you for driving them to their closets. God does not call the qualified, He qualifies those He is choosing to pass on the message of grace, appreciation and the Gospel: God's Own Son Provides Eternal Life. When we show appreciation, we raise the value of some-

thing: develop an Attitude of gratitude, giving thanks for everything/what is your Purpose in life?/Pray for truth, strength and wisdom/Remember your life is a gift of God/Edify one another. Christ is the middle cross: stay in the middle/I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me/be Approachable, relate one to another/Touch with a handshake, hug, Holy kiss/It's important to be loved and appreciated/Openness/Never give up. We, as the arms and feet, mind and hands of Jesus, must be willing to reach out, lift, encourage and show appreciation to someone today. Thanks, Bro. Jaye, for your inspiring and timely message.

A summary of Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer's meditation on Luke 21:1-12 on October 11 should be remembered: What kind of treasure do we put into the Lord's treasury? Do we give prime-time to Him, and until it hurts? Not how much we give, but the quality of our giving matters. We all would like to be in the poor widow's position, who gave and did not have much. If we have a lot, we must give a lot. They looked at the beautiful temple, of which not one stone will be left upon another as all will be destroyed. The only thing that will depart this life is our soul. "But when shall these things be?" how long yet? We can rapidly see the signs of the times and how they fit the Scriptures. Don't be deceived. God's timetable and ours are totally different, but the time is coming when Jesus will come back to this earth again. Will you and I be ready, in tune with the Word of God? Be not terrified when you hear of wars and commotions because the best is yet to come for those who have

a Home in Heaven. Settle it therefore in your hearts so we will be prepared to stand before our Lord on judgment day. We are living in uncertain times but can be safe in the arms of Jesus. Are we ready to meet our Maker? Bro. Dave Oberghel added that the world is not looking to Christ, but to the Antichrist. It doesn't matter what happens to us down here as Christ is the victory and He who is in us is stronger than he who is in the world.

The birth of Austin Matthew brought great joy to his parents, Bro. Matt and Sis. Kristi Triplett, as he joined Abigail Rose on September 29. May the richest blessings of the Lord rest upon this precious young family.

Hospital patients were Henry Binkele and Sisters Donna Ferrero, Lillian Koehl and Marian Reutter. Sis. Lillian was able to assemble with us again on October 11 after a hospital stay of over four months, most of it in Intensive Care. How thankful we are when our loved ones are restored to a measure of health and we pray for their ongoing recovery.

Dave Stahl (96), formerly of Princeville, passed away on September 1 after a stay of just six months at the Skylines. May the Lord comfort the hearts of his loved ones.

Joshua Reinhard, infant son (13 months) of Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan, met with a tragic accident October 12 at Pulaski, TN. His funeral was at Athens, AL on October 17 and burial on October 18 in the Peoria Church cemetery. We express our sincere sympathy to his parents and their families and pray the Lord will comfort their hearts at this time of sorrow and let them rejoice in the thought that he has gone to that better home.

Most of us have experienced making a wrong decision. When the borders reopened in Europe in 1947, half of our college class went abroad. I arrived in New York on the hot Friday afternoon of May 23, 1947, to be greeted by two classmates (who had come earlier) with: "We have a place for you to stay!" however, a few steps down the pier were Bro. Charlie Ballasy and his sister, Ethel, who recognized me from a picture. They had come from the Bronx at the request of Bro. Arnold Pfau, my great-uncle, to take me home with them. My friends inquired who these strangers were and laughed when I said I was supposed to go home with a preacher. So I told Bro. Charlie I had other plans but would try to be in church at Union City the following Sunday. Later that afternoon we went to "my place" on 87th Street, which turned out to be a cot in a corner of the sleeping room of one of these friends with barely enough space to close the door after my trunk was delivered.

On Sunday I arrived at the Union City Church as everybody was leaving, but in time to meet Bros. Wartmann, Diggleman, Ackerman, Miller, Kroszner and the Ballasy family. What a relief when Bro. Ernest Ballasy Sr. invited me to spend the afternoon with them and stay for supper. The following week I was able to make different living arrangements with believers in New Jersey and later repented and was baptized in the small (now non-existing) church in Union City, NJ. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer mentions occasionally that God turns into good what Satan means for bad. This was such an experience for me.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to say "thank you" for the many prayers, love gifts and help since my return from the hospital. It was deeply appreciated.

*In Christian love,
Sis. Donna Ferrero*

**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Sheryl Martin**

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16

As we go forth in this life, may each of us be willing to let our light shine in this dark and sinful world and touch the lives of those around us. A little light will shine a long ways in a dark place.

Three of our friends, Robert Herrmann (Bro. Howard and Sis. Maryann), Todd Stoller (Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia) and David Blunier (Sis. Joyce and the late Bro. Dale), were brought into the fold on October 4. We welcome them into the family of God.

Our prayers are with Brad Herrmann (Bro. Walt and Sis. Betty), Sis. Ann Herrmann (Bro. Ben) and Dallas Herrmann (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Renee) as they were hospitalized this month. Dallas had met with a tragic accident as he fell from a roof.

Bill Stahl (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty) has made a beginning in the Lord through repentance. May he feel God's guidance and direction as he begins this new

walk of life.

Supplication

Thine is the light!
From Thee true wisdom comes,
Which leads our hearts aright.
Thou are the Fount,
From which all grace does flow
And bring us to Thy light.
Our souls, O Lord, Thou dost enlighten!
Thou are of life the precious fountain.
Thine is the light!

Thy blessings flow
Upon the seeds of truth
Which in our hearts remain.
The shifting wind
Destroys the germ of life
And blows away the grain.
If in our hearts Thy seed has fallen,
The blessings for its growth were given
By Thee, our Lord!

The praise be Thine,
Thou, Lord of righteousness;
Salvation comes from Thee!
In time of grace awaken us with zeal
That we may faithful be!
May we return to Thee rejoicing,
With Thy Redeemed ones ever singing.
Hallelujah!
Zion's Harp #122

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone who remembered us with cards, prayers, and words of encouragement during my stay in the hospital. May God richly bless you for your love and kindness.

*In Christian love,
Eugene and Elsie Christ*

**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Lisa Leman
Boni Stoller**

What a blessed weekend our

congregation had October 10-11 when four precious souls were brought into the fold. We welcome Bros. Luke Luginbuhl (Bro. Rob and Sis. Gina) and Matt Stoller (Bro. Tim and Sis. Peg) and Bro. Joseph and Sis. Mary Leman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen).

We also rejoice with the angels in Heaven for Natalie Leman (Bro. Bill and Sis. Jeannie) as she has turned her back on the world and begun her walk with God. We are so thankful that the door of grace is yet open and souls can still "come and taste and see".

It was a blessing to have several visiting ministers with us this month. Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) were with us for the baptisms. Also with us this month were Bros. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL). We thank you for your willing service and welcome you back soon.

Our prayers are with our loved ones who have been in the hospital and we are glad that Bro. Ira Farney (Sis. Doris) and Sis. Marge Plattner (Bro. Russ) are now home and recovering.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill

Barb Kaeb

We enjoy and appreciate having visiting ministers, and want to thank Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS) for their service on our behalf. May God ever bless the words spoken as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Our congregation has been blessed to add, with the Lord's direction, two new ministers to

our pulpit. These duties were placed into the hearts and hands of Bros. Dan S. Koch (Sis. Julie) and Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane). We just pray that Bro. Dan and Bro. Tom can always feel the Lord's direction and strength when they are called to stand before us.

Sis. Lenora Kahler was called into eternity October 2. We extend our sympathy to her sisters, Gladys Oswald of Morton and Marjorietta Largent of Tremont. May they look heavenward for comfort.

We also wish to extend our sympathy to Sis. Frieda Schaefer in the death of her sister, Sis. Salome Hartter (Eureka, IL). May God comfort her.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Denise Romersberger

Sue Ruppert

Have you ever planned a trip to somewhere and then waited with anticipation for the moment of departure? Your mind keeps going back to the planned event, even though by necessity you have to continue to work or do other duties. Then, when it is finally time to leave, you can put everything else aside and take off. Many times the planned event is so much better than what we could have imagined. When the trip is over, it is sometimes with some sadness that we return home to resume our responsibilities.

We are all going on a trip soon, one that we look forward to with great anticipation. Even though we have things we must do, our thoughts return to that day when we leave. Heaven and eternity is our destination. We are told that it will be so much more than we can imagine. The best part is that we never have to come back to

this world of work. Praise be to God for His promises!

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

1 Thess. 2:16-17

It actually happened that we had no visiting ministers with us this month. Blessings on our own dear brothers who faithfully stand to preach the Word each Sunday.

Bro. Jeff Thames and his family traveled to Ixtlan, Mexico to visit Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold. God is working mightily in that community. Continue to pray for Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan and for the work they are doing there.

Hospitalized this month was Bro. Carl Wyss. We are glad he is home and recuperating well.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Trudy Eisenmann

Kim Maller

In October of 1945, Bro. Mil-lard Aschliman was returning home from World War II and as he traveled, he wrote a poem and it went like this:

Victory Day For Us In a Foreign
Land

The blessed victory has arrived,
The victory which we long awaited.
It was all in our Almighty's hands,
To bring this blessed victory in
our land.

He has granted this peace out of
great love;
Many reasons have we to thank
Him above.
For He has helped us through this
distress,
Of times He has given us blessed
rest.

We will not forget these foreign
lands;
Here God has truly protected us
by His hand.
He has never left us in this land
alone;
But has sent us comfort from His
throne.

Some day this will turn to more
joy,
When we our loved ones again can
join,
Which we hope will not be far
away;
So let us await with patience day
by day.

The reason for reprinting this beautiful poem again is because it is so fitting now that our dear Bro. Millard Aschliman has gone to his Heavenly home. Bro. Millard's absence is felt by many, especially his wife, Sis. Alice; a son, Bro. Derryl; and four daughters, Sis. Diane (Bro. Von) Heyerly, Sis. Loretta (Dave) Smith, Laura (Mark) Grime and Sis. Lou Ann (Bro. Keith) Kaehr. He also had two brothers, Bro. Homer and Bro. Roy Aschliman, and one sister, Sis. Dora Aschliman. We also extend sympathy to our Bro. Harry Anderson (Sis. Robin), as his father also passed from this life to the next life. Hopefully this poem will comfort all of you and your friends.

We are thankful to announce we have two converts, Jarod Studebaker and Nicole Ploetz. We hope you will be strengthened by the grace that can be so plentiful.

Celebrating many years of

marriage, we introduce two couples. Bro. Harold and Sis. Ellen Geisel have been married 50 years and Bro. Dan and Sis. Gladys Lantz have been married 60 years. A song that could come to our minds is "The Christian Home". How blessed we all are to have such fine examples of love.

In the hospital we have had Taylor Aschliman (Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy), Sis. Gladys Kipfer, Chad Reinhard (Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee), Sis. Luella Aschliman (Bro. Harold), and Bro. Howard Schwartz (Sis. Beulah), along with many others who have went to various appointments and treatments. It would be our request that you all regain health quickly.

We would like to take a moment to extend our sympathy to other grieving church families who have injured loved ones or even lost loved ones in recent accidents. As we try to share some of your discomfort, we can pray you regain strength and when you think you can't go on, remember the poem, "Footprints".

Prayers can come from all over the world to help the ones so near to our hearts. We have many from our various congregations who we see for various reasons from time to time. Sometimes we hear the saying, "Out of sight, out of mind." Let's prove that saying wrong. We can get on our knees at night or whenever, remembering all who are absent for a time from our fellowships. God can bring them near in the spirit even though they may be absent in the flesh.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Lori Steffen
Rhonda Maller**

Bro. Jon Zeller and his wife, Sis. Chris (Morton, IL), spent a Sunday with us and we certainly appreciated his message. We were reminded that we need to be directing others to Jesus by our words and our lifestyle and also how God used persecution to strengthen the church. Do we look at times of persecution as "growing times" or do we fret and worry? Let's strive to be a support system for one another, looking to the Lord for His "help in time of trouble".

We are so thankful that souls are answering the call to come in repentance and seek the Saviour. Jessie and Jamie Longenberger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Kathy) have found grace to turn to Jesus and ask Him to live in their hearts. May they feel the prayers of the brethren as they strive to grow in the Word.

Bro. Ryan Corkwell (Mr. and Mrs. Robert Corkwell) and Sis. Sarah Troxel (Bro. Bob and Sis. MaryJo) have announced their engagement. We pray that God will be the center of their union and direct them as they begin a new life together.

This month has also brought sorrow into the lives of many souls. Sis. Dorothy Geisel (Bro. Jim) has gone Home to be with the Lord where she is free from the pain she has suffered for so many years. We express our sympathy to her family, especially her husband and children, Linda, Sis. Debbie, Sis. Kathy, and Steve. Bro. Max and Sis. Eunice Steffen have also suffered the loss of their daughter, Kathleen Crum. She was married to Stu Crum and had cancer, which she had battled for a long time. Knowing she had peace in her heart brought comfort to her loved ones. She had two brothers,

Dan and Alan, and a sister, Kay Craighead. May these families find peace in knowing that we can all meet in Heaven one day! We also want to extend our prayers to the dear families in Latty, OH that are going through such a tragic time, as well as Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard (Athens, AL) who have said good-bye to their 13 month-old son, Joshua. "God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help indeed. He in the time of trouble sends, His grace to meet our every need." (Hymns of Zion #4)

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Lily Pelsy

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

Micah 6:8

We rejoice with Alex Leman (Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret) as he has applied this verse, finding peace with God and man. We wish him God's nearness as he looks forward to sharing his testimony in the future.

Bro. Joe Gray (Sis. Esther) lost his sister, Phebus Dawson. May God comfort their hearts.

May the grace of God be powerful towards Sis. Sharon Denton (Bro. Jim) as she endures treatment for cancer.

We are grateful for the truth that is preached from the pulpit. We thank Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) for visiting us.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Penny Denton have adopted a two-year-old boy, Cody. May God bless them and their other children, Tabitha, Zachary, Isaac and Si-

mone.

May God's mercy and will be done in the lives of Ryan Westfall, Bro. Leon Wuethrich (Sis. Mabel) and Sis. Maxine Novotny (Bro. Art) as they spent time in the hospital.

Closing thought: We can never do too much for Jesus.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Gail Bradford

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Matthew 6:33

We rejoice with our dear Heather Wuethrich who has answered the Lord's sweet invitation to follow Him. The Father yearns for all seekers to approach His throne of grace. We pray we can be an encouragement to the "almost persuaded".

We are delighted for parents Reggie and Lora Wuethrich on the October 17 birth of their first child, a daughter, Olivia Grace. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Harland and Sis. Martha Braker (Roanoke, IL). Uncle and aunt, Bro. Jim and Sis. Kim Bucher, live in Indianapolis.

We appreciate our home ministers who so faithfully preach the Word, and lend themselves in so many other ways too. We also appreciate the efforts of ministers who visit Indianapolis. This month, Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL) helped on the pulpit. Blessings flow as God's Word is spoken in truth and in sincerity.

On a recent Wednesday evening, Elder Bro. Phil Stettner

(Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) presented a series of slides on the work of World Relief and World Missions in Eastern Europe. We were touched by the economic plight of our brethren in this troubled part of the world and inspired by the strength of their faith. We should all do our part to participate in efforts to give aid. "...For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required..." (Luke 12:48)

The Bible Classes from Washington, IL and Indianapolis practiced this scripture on a recent weekend, when they assembled medical kits for Haiti. Afterward they enjoyed fellowship with a group of junior high young people who attended camp in June. It's important to show our children the blessings of edifying activities and shared tasks.

Our Sunday School teachers met for dinner and planned for the year ahead. They take seriously the responsibility the congregation has given them. We need to take every opportunity to show our appreciation!

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

Proverbs 22:6

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Anna Marie Stoller

"There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war;"

Eccles. 8:8

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be

born, and a time to die;"

Eccles. 3:1-2

No man could retain the spirit of life from a 13-month-old child in Alabama, a 19-year-old sister in Ohio, a loved one in Florida, another in Missouri, possibly others from our congregations that we are unaware of, and our own dear sister, Mary Gudeman, from the LaCrosse congregation. Mary possessed a kind, gentle spirit that is a loss to her family, church and community. Surviving is her daughter, Sis. Joyce (Bro. Larry) Wenninger (Latty, OH), and her sons, Bro. Don (Sis. Mary) and Bob, both of LaCrosse, and Frank of California. Her brother, Bro. Ed Frank, also survives. The example of Sis. Mary's life is reminiscent of I Timothy 5:1,3: "...entreat...the elder women as mothers." Sis. Mary was a mother figure in our assembly that was easy to entreat. As an aged sister we observed "behavior as becometh holiness" (Titus 2:3). Praise the Lord for each pillar of faith we have the privilege to follow.

A time of love and happiness has come into the lives of Sis. Julie Frank (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan) and Bro. Brad Rocke (Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth, Eureka, IL) as they have been united, through faith, in marriage. We are thankful to have another home established near the LaCrosse church where Christ is the head and feel confident He will bless their home. The wedding day was supported with the preaching of God's Word by Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and John Laukhuf (Latty, OH).

As the days of each of our lives progress, may we come to Jesus,

hear His Word, and obey. That is all He asks.

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Robert Meyer, Sr. (Bluffton North, IN), and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN). Bro. Meyer conducted our Topical Bible Study. He spoke on "Overcoming Temptation". We thank them for the inspiration and encouragement they brought to us. Our hearts are often burdened with sorrow and distressed with the evil in the world today. May we encourage one another, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." (Ephesians 6:18).

We have many precious promises as we read in I Peter 1:3-5 "...according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

I want to pass along the devotional I read in Morning Glory by Wilbur Nelson. "The Shield of Faith", Ephesians 6:16, "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

"Let us not think of our Christian life as a shield to protect the body and defend us from every physical ill. If we assume that this is the purpose of the Chris-

tian life, to make things comfortable and pleasant for us, then we are going to be startled, confused and frantic when life does not turn out that way.

We should want a shield, not to keep us comfortable, but holy, so that whatever circumstances come to us we might be defended against that which might injure the soul and affect the relationship of our lives to God.

What is our shield of faith? It is the lifting of the heart to our blessed Lord, a fixing of our thoughts upon Him; it is an absolute reliance upon the honor of God to keep His promise. Faith is a steady and constant obedience to the will of God. You cannot have strong faith if you are disobedient. Nothing will take away our strength and leave you weak and spiritually impotent more than disobedience to God.

For years I've said that the essence of spiritual victory is saying "Yes" to God. Without that "yes" you cannot have faith, for faith is not bringing God around to our point of view and persuading Him to do our bidding. Faith is as much, or more, yielding ourselves to Him, trusting Him to work His will and to accomplish His purposes both in and through us.

Take the shield of faith with you in the tension-filled atmosphere of these troubled times—it will never fail you!"

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you...and the very God of peace sanctify you wholly;..."

I Thess. 5:18, 23

"Let us come before His presence with Thanksgiving..."

Psalms 95:2

INDIANA, MILFORD
Linda Beer

"...I have loved thee with an everlasting love..."

Jer. 31:3

"...his compassions fail not, they are new every morning: Great is thy faithfulness."

Lamen. 3:22-23

We are so blessed to have a God that cares and loves us with an everlasting love. Each day our lives should be filled with praise and thanks to Him. His promises never fail. He plans for our welfare to give us a future and a hope. He heals our soul of the bondage and chains of sin. Thanks be unto this most unspeakable God.

Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda Wuthrich are first-time grandparents. Born to Brian and Mandy Wuthrich was a son, Bryce Allen. Bro. Mat and Sis. Karen Pamer also are the grandparents of Darshon born to their daughter, Emily. May God bless these parents with wisdom as they raise these little ones.

We thank Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) for serving us one Sunday afternoon. He had shared in the morning at Camp Mack for the Youth Fellowship Day.

Bro. Elmer Hartter fell and was hospitalized overnight. We hope he soon can return to church.

Sis. Esther Getz, 95, passed away October 3. We always appreciated her warm smile and quiet manner. She is survived by two brothers, Lester Getz of Bonita Springs, FL and Willis Getz of Sun City West, AZ. Also nieces and nephew survive of

which two are Sis. Lois (Bro. Wilis) Ehnle, Japan, and Bro. Vic (Sis. Dot) Beer of Ft. Myers, FL.

We offer our sympathy to Kris (Hirschey) Panowica and her three small children in the death of their husband and father, Timothy. May God's strength, comfort, and direction be felt in their life. Her mother, Sis. Bernice Hirschey (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), has spent time here with her.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda Wuthrich and Bro. Alan and Kathy Wuthrich in the death of their sister-in-law, Nancy (Meyer) Wuthrich. She and her husband, Virgil, resided in Sanford, FL. We pray God's strength and loving arms can be felt by this family.

It is only when Heaven is our goal we are of any earthly good.

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Patti Bahler

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever, Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness."

Psalms 107:1,8-9

We have so many reasons to be thankful. Thanksgiving should be much more than a day of celebration each November—it should be the condition of the heart and mind of every believer.

On October 3-4, our congregation enjoyed a blessed weekend of fellowship with several of the residents from the Home for the Handicapped. We thank them for

visiting Remington and for being an inspiration to us.

We also want to thank Bros. Neal Widmer and Greg Lehman (both of Wolcott, IN) for coming to share the gospel message with us this month.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Jennifer Mangold
Sue Beebe

Oh, Son of God, to Thee we sing!
Unto Thy throne of grace we bring
Our song in chorus, full and clear;
Incline to us Thy heart and ear.
To Thee we sing!

We give Thee thanks, Oh Lamb of God,
That on the cross beam Thou hast bought
For us salvation, peace and grace
With Thee in Heaven's resting place!

We give Thee thanks!
Zion's Harp #199

May Thanksgiving time truly be a time of reflecting on our many blessings, and not just a time to focus on food and earthly-minded things. More than just a "holiday" which happens to precede Christmas. May "thankfulness" permeate our being and become a very real part of who we are. And may we feel humbled as we reflect on our greatest blessings—the salvation, peace and grace of God.

We are thankful for the visits of brethren throughout the year. As we go into the winter season, our place of meeting changes on Wednesday nights. We meet to sing at nursing homes the first and third Wednesday nights, and meet in homes on the remaining Wednesday nights. Please call one of our ministers for the meeting place and time if you plan to fellowship with us during this

time. Bro. Robert Beebe (219) 291-2158 and Bro. Wayne Lehman (219) 773-4373.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Hope Bucher
Cheryl Bucher

Northwest Indiana is a beautiful picture of God's majesty with the vibrant colors and gentle autumn breezes. It reminds us of how great God is and how beautiful a heart devoted to Him can be. Our church family rejoiced greatly this month with Drew Moser as he shared his testimony and was baptized. We pray God's blessings on Drew as he continues his walk with the Lord. We thank our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann for sharing in this special weekend with us.

We wanted to say a special "Thank you" to all the company that visited us this summer and shared the enjoyment of northwest Indiana's beautiful beaches and dunes. We invite many more to come and visit any time.

This summer, God opened up an opportunity for Valparaiso church to become more involved in a certain nursing home in our area. When our Bro. Roy Frieden was at Lifecare Center, we took our Wednesday night services to him and the other residents on a few occasions. After Bro. Roy moved on to Parkview Haven, the residents at Lifecare requested that we continue to come and worship with them on a monthly basis. The second Wednesday night of the month is now spent with the residents there with singing and a short service.

God's blessing to all as we near the special holiday season of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Jody Bahler
Beckie Lehman

We are thankful for the brothers who visited and served us on the pulpit this past month. Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Doyle Frauhofer (Bluffton North, IN) willingly spoke the Word which was a blessing to us. May God bless them richly in His time.

We rejoice with Marla Schieler as she has professed a peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing her testimony and, Lord willing, witnessing her baptism. We are thankful for those who come with humble hearts to the Lord. Renae Bahler (Chris Bahler and Sis. Teresa Bahler) has begun her repentance and walk with the Lord.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Karla Gerst
Judy Gehring

Our dear Sis. Esther Peterson is back in the hospital. May she feel God's presence in this trying time.

We were richly blessed with two visiting ministers this past month. On September 20, Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) was with us. In his ministering to us from John 8 and Exodus 20, he said the first part of the ten commandments are all "Do's" and the second half are "Do Not's". He also brought up charge cards. All of us are prequalified for repentance. We should never overcharge our account to God. We should be accountable to God. He then talked about how we need to keep our eyes on Jesus, and not try to please man. Jesus is going to judge. We need tolerance one to another. We can change until

our death. Jesus is the best light we can have. He closed by saying we know where to find the answers—in the Bible.

On October 11, Bro. David Marquart (Taylor, MO) read I Timothy 6 and Ephesians 6. His two favorite "B" words are "bondsman" and "bridegroom". He is thankful for the church, that the church has based the doctrine and traditions on the Word of God.

What is the first thing we do in the day? First thing we should do is commit our ways to the Lord. God wants His people to be prepared for the day. Put on the armour of the Lord.

He gave us an assignment: Come see, go tell. We need to be about our Lord's work.

IOWA, ELGIN
Heidi Butikofer
Gloria Frieden

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him."

Genesis 2:18

We would like to extend our best wishes to Bruce and Tracy Frieden (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan Frieden and Kim and Julie Grant) on their recent marriage. May God's blessings be upon them as they share their lives together.

"Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms."

Psalms 95:2

With Thanksgiving Day approaching, may it be a reminder to us to ever be thankful to God

for the many blessings He daily bestows upon us.

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

Zion's Harp #236

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Laura Funk

Visiting ministers this past month included, Bros. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL). We are thankful for the messages these brothers share with us and the many visitors who fellowship with us.

Andrea Moser had the misfortune of breaking her leg in a four-wheeler accident. We wish you a quick recovery, Andrea. Bro. Tom and Sis. Dawn Moser are Andrea's parents.

Our hearts are saddened by the death of precious little Joshua Reinhard from Athens, AL. He is the nephew of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky Snodgrass of Garden Grove.

Also mourning the loss of a tiny son are Joshua Funk and Jaime Harne. Joshua Kelly Funk was born prematurely October 13 and lived only a few hours. Graveside services were held October 17 at Garden Grove. Grandparents are Bro. Tony and Sis. Eileen Funk.

We are reminded that everything we have is on loan from God. God was ready for these "loans" to be paid up. These two little boys are now Safe in the Arms of Jesus. Our prayers go

out to the families of these precious bundles.

I'll lend you for a little time a child of mine.
For you to love the while he lives and mourn for when he dies.
It may be two or eight months or years to twenty-three,
But will you, till I call him back, take care of him for me?
He will bring his charms to gladden you, and his stay shall be brief,
You will have his lovely memories, as solace for your grief.
I cannot promise he will stay, since all from earth return
But there are lessons taught down there, I want this child to learn.
I've looked the wide world over in my search for teachers true,
And from the throng that crowd life's loves, I have selected you.
Now will you give him all your love? Nor think the labor vain,
Nor hate me when I come to call, And take him home again.
I fancied that I heard you say "Dear Lord, Thy will be done".
For all the joy a child will bring, The risk of grief we'll run.
We'll shelter him with tenderness And love him while we may,
And for the happiness we have known, Forever grateful stay.
And when the angels call for him, much sooner than we planned
We'll brave the bitter grief that comes, And try to understand.
—author unknown

IOWA, IOWA CITY Sharon Gerst

We appreciated all of the visitors we have had this past month. Among them were Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS), and Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) and Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA).

On September 20 we had our annual College Student/Parent Potluck. We would like to thank

all of the parents and students who attended and made the day special. We pray that God's grace will be with all of the students as they finish up this semester.

We were blessed to have many single sisters here for a Sister's Fellowship Weekend on October 9-11. We extend our gratitude to Elder Bro. Charles Sinn for exhorting us to live a Godly example as we go about in this world. We were reminded that our appearance and actions are "better than a thousand words." May God richly bless Bro. Charles for taking the time to share God's Word with us.

Jessica Simmons has been hospitalized this past month for surgery. We pray that God will protect her and strengthen her family at this time.

IOWA, LESTER Sue Warner Cindy Leuthold

Visiting ministers at Lester this month have been Bros. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Stephen Baner (Gridley, IL), and Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS). We are always thankful for their service to us and pray the Lord may richly bless them as they serve Him.

Strive aright when God in mercy
His compassion turns to you,
That your soul so long o'er
burdened,
Freed from sin might live anew.
Zion's Harp #47

Katie Kellenberger (Bro. Verlyn and Sis. Linda) has answered the loving Master's call to repentance and is experiencing His wonderful love and compassion. We rejoice with her and pray she builds a firm spiritual foundation in Him.

Sis. Evelyn Stickling has been called Home after spending years in the nursing home. Left to mourn her passing are children, Harold (Peoria, IL), Bro. Dale (Lester, IA) and Perry (Luverne, MN), and her daughter, Kristie Klingenberg (Colton, SD), as well as their spouses and nine grandchildren. She is also survived by her siblings, Bro. Art Leuthold (Lester, IA), Sis. Helen Knapp (Roanoke, IL), Sis. Marie Menold and Sis. Martha Kieser (Princeville, IL) and Laura Duffey (Detroit, MI). May they be comforted to know that her days of suffering are over.

A song of farewell was sung by the congregation for Sis. Danielle Stickling (Bro. Dale and Sis. Diane) as she has moved to Leo, IN to begin work at the Gateway Woods. We will miss her and pray God will be near as she adjusts to her new surroundings.

Bro. Vernon and Sis. Chalea Knobloch announce the arrival of a precious baby girl born on September 18. She has been named Janel Dion and is joyfully welcomed home by Chelsea, Garth, Blain, and Damon. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva Knobloch and Gary Tuenissen.

September 20 was the wedding day chosen by Bro. Jerod Metzger and Sis. Carla Hartter in Sabetha, KS. A reception was held at the Lester Fellowship Hall on October 3 when we had the opportunity to welcome and congratulate the newlyweds. Bro. Art and Sis. Kristy Metzger and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter (Sabetha, KS) are their parents. Wedding vows were exchanged on September 26 between Alvin Knobloch and Michelle Lewis. Alvin's parents are Sis. Laurretta Knobloch and

the late Bro. Orvie Knobloch. May God richly bless these young couples as they travel the road of life together.

Our hospital patients this month have been Louis Moser (Tina), Sis. Laurretta Knobloch, and Carrie Knobloch (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Coralee). We are glad to have Sis. Martha (E.A.) Feucht assemble again with us following surgery this past month. Our thoughts and prayers are with these loved ones.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debra Wagenbach

Lydia Luise Wagenbach was born on October 18 and is the first little blessing in Matthew and Aimee Wagenbach's home. Grandparents, Bro. Gerald Sr. and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach, Craig Shafer (Mediapolis) and Becky Wrage (Marshalltown) are thankful for little Lydia's safe arrival. Also, Bro. Clem and Sis. Kate Heiniger (Aimee's grandparents) are thrilled to welcome their first great-grandchild into the family circle. May Matthew and Aimee look to God for direction and help as they accept the weighty responsibility of parents to watch for their child's soul.

Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) has visited our Oakville congregation recently and brought forth the Word of Life. May God bless him and his family.

IOWA, PULASKI
Lisa Knecht

Greetings of love to each of you. We have innumerable reasons to thank our Heavenly Father and only pray we can truly appreciate all He does for us.

The song, "Oh, Wonderful Word!", came to mind after listening to the Conference tapes. May our faith always remain steadfast on this wonderful Word of God.

"Oh wonderful word of the Lord!
 The lamp that our Father above
 So kindly has lighted to teach us
 the way
 That leads to the arms of His love!
 It's warnings, it's counsels, are
 faithful and just;
 It's judgments are perfect and
 pure;
 And we know that when time and
 the world pass away,
 God's Word shall for ever endure."
Gospel Hymns #345

We appreciate the visit from our neighboring minister, Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA), and his family.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Eunice Fehr
Berniece Banwart

Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) was here on the weekend of September 19-20 to assist Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm with the testimony of Twila Banwart. We welcome Sis. Twila (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene) into our church family. May Sis. Twila always keep the special weekend as a precious memory close to her heart.

Other visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. Ron Joos (Sis. Christy, Pulaski, IA) and Robert Stoller (Sis. Janice, Lamar, MO). We appreciate all our visitors and pray that God will bless them, and pray that God will bless all for being a servant for Him, whether being a minister, Sunday School teacher or an obedient listener to God's

Word.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Paul and Martha Demiter on the death of Martha's brother, Bob McQuaid, of Cleveland, OH. May this family feel God's loving arms around them as they grieve the loss of a loved one.

Sis. Darlene Metzger and Archie Banwart were hospitalized for knee replacement surgery and are thankful for good results.

Michelle Wirtz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila) and Daniel Geyer (Bro. Dale and Sis. Barb, Peoria, IL) were married September 19. We wish them happiness and God's blessings as they make their home in Bloomington, IL.

The farmers in our area are nearing completion of a good grain harvest. May we give thanks not only for our material blessings, but even more for the spiritual harvest of souls. Our prayer is that many more would seek Him now while the waters are troubled and His grace is yet available.

As we approach this season,
We thank Thee, gracious Lord,
For harvests truly bountiful
And every rich reward.

We thank Thee for the blessings
Inherited this year,
For love of friends and family
And all of those held dear.

We're solemnly reflecting
Upon Thy tender love,
Thy hand of grace and mercy
Extended from above.

As we approach this season,
Dear Lord, we pray that we
May realize Thy mercies
And give our praise to Thee.

—Georgia B. Adams

JAPAN, SHIODA

Willis Ehnle

At last it appears that Mr. Obuchi, our prime minister and his colleagues, are taking steps to bring Japan out of recession. Most of us in Japan are still living a comfortable life, but for Japan to become a poor country again would not help the suffering people of Southeast Asia. Jesus said, "For ye have the poor always with you." (Matthew 26:11). We need to do what we can to help the poor. Jesus did.

We had a lot of typhoons in September. In America, typhoons are called hurricanes. As those of you living in Florida and surrounding States know, when a typhoon dumps water, it really rains. Some of my fall vegetable seeds, such as Chinese cabbage and spinach, rotted in the ground. I had to replant it, albeit it was quite late to replant. Nevertheless, being quite optimistic, I expect a mild winter with lots of vegetables to eat from our garden. The coldest it ever gets is about 15 degrees above 0 Fahrenheit. The Bible says, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

Peach harvest in our area is completed early in August and the grape harvest is pretty well completed now, except for one variety which can remain on the vine until the first part of November. We have one vine of the Concord variety and those grapes, an abundant crop, were harvested in August while we were in the States. That will teach us to stay home. In any case, some of our elderly sisters and friends who work side by side in the fields with their husbands, have it a bit easier now. Incidentally, our one grape vine covers an area overhead of about 432 square feet. I just stepped it off.

It is just south of the living room in our little home which is owned by the church. Thank you for a place to live. The Lord Jesus Christ said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches. Without me ye can do nothing." (John 15:5)

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew Klaus

Greetings, once again, from Tokyo! Please forgive us for neglecting to report last month. In September, we were privileged to meet Bro. Frank Wackerle's grandson, Reuben Wackerle, as he stopped in to visit our church and take some pictures to send to his grandpa. He is working north of Tokyo teaching English and told us his grandpa, Bro. Frank, was formerly of our Bay City, MI church but had moved to Illinois. He wasn't sure where he had moved to in Illinois, but wherever you are, Bro. Frank, we enjoyed meeting your grandson in Japan! We hope he can visit us again before he moves on.

Sunday, October 18, we were blessed by the visit of three brothers from our Bloomington, IL church. Bros. Hisato Inoue (Bro. Akito's brother), Jason Albritton and Andy Hodel, along with their friend, Cliff Totterer, were here for two weeks on business. We sure appreciated their fellowship and willingness to help with praying and Bible Study.

Our church is now fully remodeled, and we are very happy and thankful with the results. For those of you who have been here before, be prepared for a very different looking church the next time you come! Many, many thanks to those in our church here who put many hours of work in along with the professional

carpenters. Your time and efforts will always be appreciated! We had our annual church cleaning this month, instead of the usual time in September, since we wanted to wait until the remodeling was finished. Several people worked hard and long that day, too. It is wonderful to make the House of the Lord look nice.

This coming Sunday, October 25, we are planning to have our Holy Communion service with Elder Bro. Willis and his wife, Sis. Lois, coming to assist us. Even more important than the outward appearance of our church is the inward state of our "church"—we believers. May we examine ourselves daily, so we are always ready to partake of the Lord's cup and bread.

Several months back I wrote about and included the address of our dear Sis. Yoshiko Sakuta whose poor health does not allow her to attend church very often. I (Jana) recently was able to visit her apartment and she showed me several beautiful cards with precious words of encouragement she had received from dear brothers and sisters in America, young and old, and even from a dear sister in Switzerland. I tried my best to help explain who people were, but whether she or I knew you or not, she greatly appreciated your notes and the time you took to write them. She would like to respond individually to each one of you, but is not able to write so well with her hands, so she asked me to extend her warm thanks in this Silver Lining Report. Please continue to pray for her and her aged mother, Sis Shizuko. God bless you all!

In just the past few weeks, we heard of several accidents and tragedies involving families of

our brethren in America, including our Sis. Marie Inoue's niece, Sis. Shelby Sinn, from Latty, OH. How this has saddened our hearts. Our thoughts and prayers have been with all of you!

KANSAS, BERN
Lori Baumgartner
Holly Meyer

In the midst of wars, famines, and pestilence, and as a plague swept through the town of Eilenburg, Germany in the 17th Century, a pastor by the name of Martin Rinkart wrote the words to this sacred song:

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

Zion's Harp #236

Today as we live in this land of plenty, we should have all the more reason to praise God for the wondrous things He has done. Here in Bern, we have many reasons to give thanks in this special season of Thanksgiving for what God has done in the recent weeks.

Ryan and Nicole Hartter are especially thankful for the blessing of a new life, as their daughter, Allison Lynn, was born on October 3. Big sister, Kayla, is thrilled to have a sibling to play with. We congratulate all of them, and both sets of grandparents, Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn Hartter and Robert and Cora Stauffer (Manitowac, WI).

It is with thankful and joyful hearts that we welcome another couple into our fellowship. Bro. Adrian Strahm and Sis. Harriet

Orcsik (Detroit, MI) were joined in Holy Matrimony on September 27 in Detroit. Parents of the bride and groom are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia Strahm and Bro. John and Sis. Esther Orcsik (Detroit, MI). We want to extend a special welcome to Sis. Harriet and wish her and Bro. Adrian the Lord's blessings as husband and wife.

How thankful we are for the extra time and efforts put forth by our visiting ministers. We appreciate the timely messages proclaimed this month by Bros. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), and Don Braker (Kansas City, MO).

We are also thankful to have Sis. Lila Rokey (Bro. Joe) assembling with us once again after a short stay in the hospital.

Thankful for 40 years of marriage are Leonard and Sis. Anna Edelman. We congratulate them on this milestone and wish them many more happy years together with the Lord's blessings!

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr
Darcy Kisling

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 12:1-2

We deeply appreciate having three visitors to witness to us

from the Word of God this past month. Elder Bro. John Lehman and Sis. Connie (Bern, KS) were with us one Lord's Day; ministering Bro. Doug Wagenbach and Sis. Lillian (San Diego, CA) on another Lord's Day; and ministering Bro. Ted Witzig and Sis. Cindy (Morton, IL) on a third Lord's Day. We know that Bro. Ronald and Bro. Jeff here in Kiowa are thankful for the opportunity to sit and listen to the Word proclaimed by others in God's service, and can therefore go forth refreshed to carry on their work in His name. And we as a congregation so much enjoy the fellowship of visitors, and are revived when these visitors bring others with them or when those of like mind travel through our area. We feel uplifted and strengthened to "run with patience the race set before us", knowing there are others out there doing the same in the name of our Lord.

What a wonderful turnout for Kiowa Manor services. The singing was beautiful if judged by the smile on the face of one dear sister at the home. We received a blessing too, as usual.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Judy Tucker and family at the passing of her father, Wilfred Allen, of Hardtner, KS. May the love and peace of God be with the family in their loss.

Remember our loved ones in prayer at all times: Sis. Edna Reed, Sis. Laverne Roth, Donna Piper and Judy Tucker have all had hospital stays for various reasons and need us to hold them up before our Lord.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Brenda Grimm
Mary Kay Wenger

Love, of all gifts, is the greatest
 Which the Spirit does bestow.

Zion's Harp #37

On September 20 we witnessed the marriage vows of Sis. Carla Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene) and Bro. Jared Metzger (Bro. Art and Sis. Chris, Lester, IA). We will miss Sis. Carla as she now assembles with the Lester congregation.

God's will was carried out once again on October 11 when Bro. Klinton Beyer and Sis. Kara Grimm were united in Holy Matrimony. Parents of the couple are Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen Beyer and Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene Grimm. We wish these two couples God's grace and nearness as they establish their home together.

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven as Seth Hartter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen) is seeking the Lord in repentance. May he build a firm foundation upon the rock of salvation, Jesus Christ.

Sis. Marjorie Edelman has been blessed with two grandchildren this month. Happy first-time parents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Jeanne Edelman on the arrival of Laura Christine on September 29. Maternal grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia Aberle. On September 20, Bro. Barry and Sis. Gina Metzger of Kansas City, MO welcomed little Savanna Nicole into their lives. Two-year-old Taylor is happy to have a new little sister.

October 3 and 4 we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Trent Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon) and Paul and Sharon Mills. Sharon's parents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Mildred Strahm.

We welcome them into our precious fellowship and ask for the Lord's continued guidance in their lives.

We have been very blessed this month with many visiting ministers. They include Elder Bros. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO), Arthur Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bros. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Brad Funk (Garden Grove, IA), Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL), Wes Moser (Lester, IA), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), and Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI). We pray God will bless them for their efforts and love in bringing forth His precious Word.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Don Strahm who was hospitalized this past month.

KANSAS, WICHITA **Emma Miller**

Once again we were privileged to take part in Communion services the weekend of September 19-20. We are so grateful to Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz for being willing to make the long trip to Wichita so we can benefit from this sacrament.

On October 10, a Sunday School church activity was held at the home of Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel in rural Augusta. Pony rides, a hayrack ride, and a bonfire, mixed with food and singing, all contributed to the opportunity for fellowship and bonding for the various age groups. May God bless those who organized and directed the event.

October 10 was an important day in the lives of Kathleen and

Chris Stetser as their son, William Tate, was born. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Sally Funk and Linda Stetser is the paternal grandmother. May we as a congregation help the parents nurture this child in Christian pathways.

Several from our congregation traveled to Newton on October 11 to attend the open house at the new MCC Central States workplace. This is the facility that Bro. Sam Anliker wrote about in the latest World Relief report.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Doug and Rebecca Germann

Once again, the beauty of fall is here and we have been enjoying a nice October with temperatures in the 70's. We appreciate our many visitors this past month which included Bros. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH) and Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH). Many thanks to these brothers who served us from the pulpit.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to the Bro. Keith and Sis. Joanne Klopfenstein family of Latty, OH in the death of their daughter, Sis. Jaymee. Our thoughts are with Joni as she recuperates from her injuries suffered in the same accident. May our Heavenly Father provide for all your needs as only He can do.

One bright autumn day this past month, my son, Scott, noticed a moth that was caught in a spider web outside the kitchen window. "Look, Dad," he said, "the moth is still alive and is moving its wings but can't escape from the web." I looked and noticed that no matter how the poor insect struggled, it was hopelessly caught and destined to be-

come the spider's next meal. I thought to myself, "now this is a teachable moment." "Son," I said, "this is what you might call the web of worldliness. The devil will try to do this to you and me if he can. It is best if we stay as far away as possible from the web, lest we become like this poor moth." May each of us learn the lesson from the moth and live a life far from the world, and teach our children to do the same.

Who shall teach them how to pray?
Who shall lead them on their way?
Lest they fall and go astray,
Before that great Judgment day?

Is it the grandparents' or the
ministers' part?
To reach out in love for the little
lamb's heart?
Ah, my friend, it's the parents'
part too,
To teach them to pray and learn
to be true.

—Mrs. W. Bontrager

MICHIGAN, ALTO Kristen Plattner Michelle Oesch

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."
Philippians 1:6

We bring our thanks again to the Lord for the wonders He performs as two more souls seek to serve Him! Dennis and Jamie Schrenk have made a beginning in their repentance and we pray they may feel God's grace working in their lives.

"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. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world."

Ephesians 6:10-12

We were reminded again of the sacrifice that was made on the cross for every one of us as we shared Communion together recently. What a privilege this is and one we were reminded to not take lightly. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) could be here to lend himself in this work.

Our sympathies are with two families who have recently lost loved ones. We pray God's comfort for Bro. Joe and Sis. Melva Oesch in the loss of Sis. Melva's brother, Dan Crosby, and her brother-in-law, Lou Vanderstel. We also wish comfort for Bro. Dale and Sis. Labeth Dunham in the loss of Bro. Dale's mother, Laura Dunham (Latty, OH).

October 4 was a beautiful fall afternoon for our Sunday School picnic. It was an enjoyable day for the children as they played games, roasted hot dogs, went on a hayride, and sang songs around the campfire. It was such a blessing for all involved.

As the season for Thanksgiving approaches, it comes to my mind that the small blessings that we take for granted are many times a source of great happiness in our lives. I found this poem by Samuel Longfellow and he says it better than I can.

Unexpected Surprises

Into all our lives, in many simple familiar, homely ways, God infuses this element of joy from the surprises of life, which unexpectedly brighten our days, and fill our eyes with light. He drops

this added sweetness into His children's cup, and makes it to run over. The success we are not counting on, the blessing we are not trying after, the strain of music in the midst of drudgery, the beautiful morning picture or sunset glory thrown in as we pass to or from our daily business, the unsought word of encouragement or expression of sympathy. The sentence that meant for us more than a writer or speaker thought—these and a hundred others that everyone's experience can supply are instances of what I mean.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Rhonda Knochel

Peggy Jackson

God's creation is such a testimony of His love for us. Romans 1:20 says "...being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." I am often reminded of that verse when I look at God's handiwork; we are without excuse because we have seen nature and it tells us of Him.

This fall the leaves have been exceedingly beautiful in Michigan. I am enjoying them very much and have felt such joy and love for my God who is so loving that He creates such beauty for us to enjoy. One day while enjoying the fall beauty, it occurred to me that the leaves are dying. They are the most beautiful now, and have made me consider their Creator now more than the other seasons, but they are dying. This left me with a thought to share with you. Is it possible that in times of pain, be it physical death or the spiritual process of dying to our fleshly desires, that we, as believers, have the greatest op-

portunity to radiate Christ's love? Is it possible that in the "fall" of life we can be the most beautiful inside, which causes others to see the beauty of a life lived for Jesus? With winter quickly approaching, may it be our prayer that, inside, we will still be radiating the beauty of Jesus no matter the circumstances. Keep your eye on the beauty of the fall.

We were so excited to embrace another soul who has come to the Lord in repentance. Char Wieland (Bro. Brian) has heard God's call and answered it and we are rejoicing with the angels in Heaven. May Char feel the love, grace and mercy of God as she walks hand in hand with Him.

Several people in our church family spent time in the hospital this month. They are: Bro. Howard Wieland (Sis. Pauline), Bro. Lawrence Wieland (Sis. Lena), and Sis. Marlene Mosher. It is our prayer that each one will be restored to health according to the will of God. It is such a blessing to be under the care of the Great Physician.

Last month we neglected to mention that Andy Wieland (Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn) answered God's call to repentance. We are so thankful for God's tender mercies in calling lost sheep to Himself. May Andy feel the joy of walking with the Lord and may God's loving guidance be his stay.

May God bless each one in the month ahead.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Manuela Denes

Kristie Meyer

It is hard to believe that summer is over. We've had some wonderful weather and so far the fall season has been spectacular. The leaves are more beautiful than any other fall and in their beauty we can truly see the hand of God in every glorious color.

Every September, the Sunday School hosts a picnic for the entire church. It was a warm Sunday afternoon as we gathered together to eat, fellowship and sing songs by a blazing fire. Times like these are what memories are made of.

Our Sis. Harriet Orcsik and Bro. Adrian Strahm made their wedding vows on a beautiful Indian summer day. We wish them God's richest blessings as they make their home in Bern, KS. Ministering brothers for the weekend were Bros. Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Canada) and Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS).

The power of our Lord has once again been evident as another young soul has made the decision to repent. May the Lord bless and guide Kevin Rauhe (Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay) and the other converts in their new lives.

There were many visitors with us as the Detroit Bible Class hosted a Jamaica reunion with fellow travelers from our Chicago, IL congregation. This was an opportunity for them to reminisce about their experience there, to look at slides and just renew friendships. What a blessing it is to be able to minister unto those who are less fortunate than us. May such activities always be available to us. We appreciate ministering Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) for being with us for the weekend.

With the falling leaves and the cooler weather we are reminded

that Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner. May we always remember the goodness and love of our Heavenly Father with each beautiful day that is granted to us.

Thanksgiving Time

November leaves come tumbling
down
To sweep the cloud-gray sky.
And from the empty cornfield
rows,
The bronze-tipped pheasants fly.

Gold pears adorn the orchard
trees,
And squash reflects gold days.
Ripe apples gleam in shining
bowls,
Near hearth fires all ablaze.

Large pumpkins line the roadside
patch,
The barn holds fragrant hay.
We thank our God for nature's
gifts,
Given to us this day.

This treasured harvest feast we
share
With those we cherish best;
With happy hearts, we bow our
heads
In gratitude expressed.
—*Elisabeth Weaver Winstead*

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Delores Sauder

God has blessed the home of Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae Dill with the arrival of Joseph Edward born September 19. Meg, Ben, and Claire are excited to have a little brother. Grandparents are Bro. Warren and Sis. Delores Zehr (Fairbury, IL) and Sis. Barb Dill (Tremont, IL).

Bro. Ray Schmidgall (Sis. Millie) is home recovering after having knee surgery.

The harvest is being completed and Thanksgiving will

soon be here. We are reminded to be thankful each day of the year.

Let Us Give Thanks

Let us give thanks for
Everything—
The charm of fall, the cheer of
spring,
The unmatched splendor of the
skies,
Songbirds, brooks and
butterflies—
Let us give thanks for all Good
gifts,
Inspiring words and faith that
lifts,
Enduring health and peace of
mind—
Let us give thanks for all that
cheers,
Home and family, fruitful years,
Abundant blessing on our land,
Neighbors, friends who lend a
hand,
Knowledge, ventures to pursue,
Sleep and rest when day is
through,
God's love to guide us on our
way—
For all these things, on this glad
day...
Let us Give Thanks!
—*author unknown*

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Nancy Wulf Dianne Kellenberger

We had many visitors this past month but no visiting ministers. This gave us more time to appreciate our home congregation ministers. We thank each one for their work and labor of love.

We're so thankful the Lord's call has been answered by three more souls. They are Randy and Lori Fehr and Rachel Schmidgall (Bro. Tom and Sis. Ruth). Rachel has been attending school in Peoria, IL. We pray for each of them a humble heart and a meek spirit.

We extend our love and greetings to Sis. Rebecca Schaefer

(Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam) who has been spending time in Hungary caring for a young handicapped woman. We remember you often in our prayers, Rebecca!

Bro. Trevor and Sis. Jody Schmidgall are thrilled to be first-time parents to a healthy baby boy, Luke T. Happy grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Eileen Nohl and Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane Schmidgall.

As time draws nearer to Christ's return, how important it is for us to let our lights be burning, that those who may be observing our example will be drawn to the way of salvation.

Oh may God grant it that up
yonder
Some ransomed soul might say to
me,
"God bless thee, for when I did
wander
In sin, I saw God's light in thee."
How blest, indeed, must be the
part
Of Him who saves a sinful heart!
Of Him who saves a sinful heart!
Hymns of Zion #57

And let us never forget, dear ones, where our help and strength comes from.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Carol Messner Becky Braulick

"O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord."

Psalms 117

What a fortunate people we are that our government has set aside a national day of Thanks-

giving. Let us remember as Christians we are to be thankful to God in heart and spirit in all circumstances each and every day of the year.

We are thankful for all the visitors we had at our annual pork chop meal. Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Sis. Mildred, Elgin, IA) and ministering Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Twila, Lester, IA) assembled here, too. We were reminded that we are daily fighting in our lives the giants of life. We can have victory by our faith in God just as David defeated Goliath.

Our Sunday School was host to classes of Elgin and Garden Grove, IA churches. Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) assembled with us also. It gives us encouragement to see our youth gather together with each other. Thank you for coming.

The message given was on Galatians 5:22, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance...". As Christians we should exhibit all the fruits of the Spirit. God is our fruit inspector but also a God of love. We also are to remember God calls us one by one not as a family or as husband and wife. We are each accountable for our own life.

Jodi Messner (Sis. Carol Ann and the late Dennis Messner) and Jamie Pelzel (Jerry and Marcia, Fairfax, MN) were united in marriage by Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner on September 19. Their home is in Northfield, MN.

Andrea James (Carol James) and Jeff Miller (Tom and Maggie) were married on September 26. They will be living in Michigan. We wish both couples God's blessings.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Brent Kellenberger

We joyfully welcomed Savanna Nichole into our lives on Sunday, September 20. We are thankful for another precious little child. Happy parents are Bro. Barry and Sis. Gina Metzger. Grandparents are Sis. Marge Edelman (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Doreen Metzger (Lamont-Gridley, KS).

Tonight we officially bade farewell to Sis. Lanette Meyer. Lanette spent 11 years in Kansas City and we will miss her when she moves to Denver. We are thankful for the time Lanette has spent with us and our prayers are with her as she continues through life.

We are thankful that ministering Bro. Bill (Sis. Susan) Emch was with us this month. May God bless him for coming to minister for us again.

My brother read me a little statistic a few days ago from the newspaper that bothered me. When dog owners were asked if they would save their dog or a stranger from drowning, 33% said they'd save the stranger, 33% said they weren't sure, and 33% said they'd save the dog. In many things around us we can see the devaluation for human life. Let us be sure never to lose our high regard for human life, which is given and should only be taken by God.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Martha Kellenberger

Carolyn Banwart

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, may we take time to count our many blessings that God has bestowed upon us again

this year.

Sis. Corrine Marti (Bro. Dale) was in the hospital this past month. We trust God will grant her health and strength again.

Bro. Martin and Sis. Edith Hohlman celebrated their 50th anniversary on October 17. May God bless them as they continue their lives together.

Sis. Anna Marti was 100 on October 15, which is really a milestone in life. She lived in her own home in Lamar until this past year when she moved to Eureka.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

We are thankful for the ministers who came to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to our St. Louis congregation this past month: Bros. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Wayne Banwart and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN). Our Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) visited one Wednesday evening while in town on business.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Tina Sutter

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in His wonderful face;
and the things of earth will grow
strangely dim,
in the light of His glory and grace.
—Helen Howarth Lemmel

We were pleased to have two visiting ministers with us this month: Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL). Thank you for coming to Taylor and ministering to us.

Those hospitalized were Jody

Meyers and Jim Sutter. May the Lord continue to be with them.

NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Anna Mellnitz

We had a potluck supper on September 26 for Bro. Fred and Sis. Barb Ebersol's 25th wedding anniversary, and because Bro. Dave and Sis. Lois Schambach were moving to the Home at Rittman, OH. They left September 27 and we are going to miss them. We pray they will be happy there.

"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine."

I Timothy 5:17

We hosted the Eastern Regional Elder Conference on Saturday, October 3. Elder brothers who stayed over for Sunday were Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH). On Saturday afternoon we had a potluck supper and services.

Dr. Paul Virkler and Emily Eshelman were married on October 4. Paul's parents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Mae Virkler Jr. and Emily's parents are Paul and Barbara Eshelman. They will be going to Sicily, Italy, as Paul has a six month work assignment there.

On October 11, visiting ministering Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA) was with us. We always welcome visiting ministers to our congregation.

On October 23 we have work night at church for World Relief.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

In our Akron congregation, we have two new baby girls born just a couple days apart.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Marcy Graf's baby girl was born September 22 and they named her Sheila Joy. She has two brothers, Isaac and Jacob, to also welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Leon Graf from here and Bro. and Sis. Lowell Bahler (Wolcott, IN).

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jane Klotzle's baby girl was born September 24 and they named her Jodi Lin. She has two sisters, Meredith and Kaitlin, to also welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Irwin Klotzle (Rittman, OH) and Sis. Donna Metzger (Lester, IA).

Bro. Dave and Sis. Lois Schambach of the Croghan-Naumburg church have moved here, and we welcome them into our congregation. They are residing in one of the apartments by the Nursing Home. Their address is: 10710 Steiner Road, Apt. 10, Rittman, OH 44270. The phone number is 330-925-6271.

We appreciated the recent visitors we have had. Ministering Bro. Frederick Knapp and his wife, Sis. Marjorie (Congerville, IL), were with us on a Sunday. We also appreciated ministering Bro. Michael Baumann (Mansfield, OH) and others of their congregation who accompanied them. This made a nice addition to our normal Thursday evening.

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Nancy Banks

Oftentimes, this writer speaks of the hurried times we live in.

Never has it hit home more than when it was discovered that I had already missed the deadline of my Silver Lining column by several days. My apologies to all for missing last month's column.

This has to be a favorite time of the year for many. The golds, rusts, reds and greens that paint the treetops make this a beautiful time for walks, hayrides, bonfires and wiener roasts.

Sis. Theresa Hunyady (Bro. Andy) had a very special day recently when she celebrated her 90th birthday. We are very thankful that she has been able to assemble with us and we wish her many special birthday blessings!

We have had so many visiting ministers with us these last two months. We appreciate the efforts of ministering Bros. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT), Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI), Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) and Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH), as they traveled the many miles to bring God's precious Word to us.

September 20 was our College Welcome Day and a picnic was held following church services to get to know the students who would be attending Ohio State this year and their families. Several of these students joined in to help one evening with World Relief. After the work was completed, pizza and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

OHIO, JUNCTION
Sandra Manz

Johnathon and Connie Rose, along with daughter, Chelsea, are experiencing the joy of a new

baby boy in their home. Johnathon Bradley, Jr. was born September 17. Bro. John and Trish Rose are his grandparents. On September 25, Bro. Neil and Sis. Sandy Stoller welcomed their first child, Emil Alan. His grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller and Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn, all of our Latty, OH congregation. May these precious gifts from Heaven be raised on Godly principles.

Sis. Anna Manz spent a few days in the hospital, then returned to the nursing home where she resides. May she find a silver lining during times when her physical health fails.

A family reunion brought Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Sis. Sue, Mansfield, OH) to our area. We thank him for his faithfulness in the ministry and elder body.

“Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.”

Psalm 97:12

The book of Psalms is filled with praise and thanks to God for His marvelous ways and His merciful nature. We in America still enjoy a blessed life reasonably free from persecution. Without reservation we gladly offer a special prayer of thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father during the season that our government set aside years ago for this purpose.

On a personal note, my husband, Bro. Paul Manz, and I are experiencing the joy that only parents can know when their children begin their repentance. Wendy and Greg have submitted their lives to the Lord. Our congregation was thrilled to hear that Matt Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Kay, Latty, OH) who has attended our congregation for

some time, has also expressed his need for repentance. Although he will return to the Latty congregation, we will remain close to him in thought and prayer. Our converts all covet the prayers of our wonderful church family that their new walk of life will be as a sweet savor to Christ.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn

Heidi Hackenjos

We thank Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), and Bros. Bob Meyer, Jr. (Bluffton North, IN), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) for sharing the Word with us this past month.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Charles Dunham with the passing of his wife, Sis. Laura. Our sympathy is extended to her children, Lydia Dorschler (Paulding, OH), Elizabeth Dunham (Fort Wayne, IN), Walter Dunham (Van Wert, OH), Bro. Dale Dunham (Alto, MI), Chuck Dunham (Haviland, OH), and Bro. Byron Dunham (Latty, OH). She is survived by several sisters and brothers from our congregation: Sis. Elizabeth Weiland (Bro. Clem), Sis. Ester Schlatter, Sis. Josephine Wenninger (Bro. Don), Bro. Dick Schlatter (Sis. Viola) and Bro. Joe Schlatter (Sis. Elsie).

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Merrill Laukhuf (Sis. Dolly) and Bro. Ken Laukhuf (Sis. Marge) on the passing of their brother, Bro. Alvin Laukhuf (Phoenix, AZ).

We would also like to remember Sis. Joyce Wenninger (Bro. Larry) who lost her mother, Sis.

Mary Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN). Our thoughts and prayers are with all who have lost loved ones this past month.

Bro. Judd Stoller (Sis. Ruby) was hospitalized this month for a heart attack and surgery, Sis. Wendy Williamson (Bro. Jason) and Sis. Vera Laukhuf spent time in the hospital recently. We are thankful the Lord has granted His healing touch to these individuals.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Sheila Sinn are thankful for Jonathan James. His big brother, David, welcomes a new playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn and Jackie Foor and James Franklin.

Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee also welcome another grandchild. Bro. Neil and Sis. Sandy Stoller (Junction, OH) are first-time parents of Emil Allen. Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller (Latty, OH) are thankful for their first grandson.

Marvin and Jennifer Manz are thankful for their precious bundle of joy, Lauren Christine. Grandparents are Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori Stoller and Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz (Junction, OH).

We are thankful that our friend Darrin Laukhuf (Bro. Rod and Sis. Edie) has been announced to the church as having peace in his heart and is looking forward to baptism. We rejoice with Bro. Rod and Sis. Edie as their daughter, Shane Gerber (Shawn), has turned from the world and given her life to Christ. Our thoughts and prayers are with Shane as she begins her new walk of life.

Earlier in the month, our congregation was privileged to hear the testimonies and to witness the baptisms of Sis. Jaymee

Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. Joanne) and Bro. Corbin Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb). What a joy it was to welcome our new sister and brother in faith.

Two weeks later the Lord called our Sis. Jaymee Home in an auto accident that involved four others from our congregation: Joni Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne), Sis. Shelby Sinn (Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee), Sis. Shelly Grant (Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria) and Sis. Amy Hopkins (Chris).

Sis. Jaymee's parents are Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne Klopfenstein. She has a brother, Jay, and three sisters, Joni, Julie and Kallie. Her grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Klopfenstein (Latty, OH) and Kathryn Waltz (Van Wert). May the Holy Spirit be a Comforter to the family in this time of loss. The prayers of the congregation are with the family now and in the weeks ahead. We are reminded in the hymn #46 in the Zion's Harp to put our trust in Jesus.

In sorrow and pain
thy trust do retain
in Jesus the merciful Saviour.
When burdened with care,
when thou wouldst despair,
then call on thy loving Redeemer.

We want to correct an omission in the October issue. We failed to include that Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) assisted Elder Bro. Ray with the serving of Holy Communion. We appreciated that Bro. Mark and his wife, Sis. Bev, were in our fellowship for the weekend.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Cari Mann

"To every thing there is a sea-

son, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die;..."

Eccles. 3:1-2

We are saddened this month by the many deaths in families of our loved ones. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Sis. Tammy Beer (Bro. Chuck) in the passing of her grandmother, Sis. Pauline Hartzler (Rittman, OH). Our prayers also go to Sis. Becky Moser (Bro. Lonny) in the passing of her grandmother, Sis. Mary Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN). We hope they can feel our loving support during the loss of their loved ones.

Closer to home, we are saddened, yet rejoicing in the death of Bro. John Webel who has won his victory over cancer. We know that Sis. Anna and her family, which include Bro. Pete and Sis. Linda Webel, Bro. Bill and Herta Green and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Julie Webel and their families, will miss him terribly. Also surviving Bro. John are children: Rudy (Olga), Frieda (Martin) Gottschling, Anna (Dave) Brauchler and John; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren and his sister, Magda Webel. Many of his loved ones have gone on before him and now are re-united with him on the other shore. May these loved ones ever feel our loving prayers, especially during the lonely times.

"And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny."

Matthew 20:9

So often we hear the ministers use this story as analogy for those who don't repent until

later in life. How thankful we can be that even those who wait until what seems to be the "eleventh hour" will receive the same reward as those who have been true and faithful for a longer period of time. We are rejoicing that Ollie LaRue has accepted the gift of grace and started on the road of repentance. May he ever feel our prayers of encouragement as he takes this most wonderful step.

We are thankful that Bro. Dave and Sis. Edna Eyerly escaped serious injury when they were involved in a car accident this month. We always know that God is watching over us and protecting us but it is never as evident until something like this happens.

We rejoice with Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sheila Sabo in the birth of Heidi Melissa who joined big brother, Nathan, at home on October 11. Sharing the joy are thankful grandparents, Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda Sabo (Sarasota, FL) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake (Sardis, OH). May this happy family always look to God for guidance in raising this precious gift.

Recently, I had the opportunity to view the ocean for the first time. As the waves rolled in and crashed upon the beach from the vast beyond, the thought came that there was a lot of power being unleashed from that vast expanse of water. Immediately upon the heels of that thought, came the thought that God's love is even more vast and more powerful than the ocean waves that He created. The power of the waves was limited because the beach was there and boundaries had been established. How often do we as humans limit the power of God with

our very human ways? How often do we not trust 100% but only 99.9% therefore limiting God in what He can do for us because we have not given Him complete and total control? My prayer is that each of us is willing to even give up that 1/10 of a percent so that we may experience the wonderful things He has promised us.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank all those who have sent cards of encouragement, flowers, food and most of all, the many prayers during my recent cancer surgery and chemotherapy treatments. Please continue to remember me in prayer. May God richly bless you.

*In Christian Love,
Sis. Laura Ramsey*

OHIO, RITTMAN

**Lucy Gasser
Lynda Beery**

Two of our young single sisters have moved to other areas for employment. They are missed by our congregation. Sis. Sandy Zollinger lives in Pennsylvania and has been worshipping with the Philadelphia church. Sis. Lynn Hartzler has moved to California and has been assembling with the Altadena and San Diego congregations.

Bro. Arlyn and Sis. Barb Zollinger are thankful for their new baby boy, Elmer Charles. Julia and Roy are glad for a baby brother. Elmer's grandparents are Sis. Elverna Zollinger and Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher (Kitchener).

Bro. Brad Widmer (Bro. Harold and Sis. Carole) and Sis. Jody Moore (Randy and Sis. Bev) were united in marriage this past month. We wish them God's rich-

est blessings in their life as one in the Lord.

On September 27, we welcomed two souls as new lambs in Christ. Sis. Karen Stoller (Bro. Joseph and Sis. Marian) and Bro. Alan Steiner (Bro. Carl and Sis. Carol) gave their testimonies and were baptized, becoming our new brother and sister in faith.

Sis. Pauline Hartzler was granted her desire to go Home to be with the Lord. We extend our sympathy to her children, Bro. Ken (Sis. Jane), Ben (Sandy), Sis. Kate, Sis. Lynell Palitto (Bro. Ron, Akron, OH), Bro. Dean (Sis. Jan), Bro. Dick (Sis. Karen), and Sis. Nancy Bauman.

Also, our Bro. Willard Steiner passed from this life. His children are Bro. Carl (Sis. Carole), Bro. Bob (Sis. Betty), and Don (Sis. Deborah). May God comfort these families as only He can.

We have had several visiting ministers this past month. They were: Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Elder Bro. Robert Walder (Congerville, IL), Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), and Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL). We thank these brothers and their families for visiting us and for laboring on our behalf.

Several of our loved ones have had to spend time in the hospital this past month. Sis. Barbara Mathys, Sis. Linda Stoller, Ken Gasser, Sis. Anna Blough, Sis. Margaret Winkler, Sis. Lillian Maibach, and Sis. Jean Bauman have all been hospitalized recently. We hope and pray that our loving Lord will bless and strengthen them each day.

**OHIO, SARDIS
Joy Indermuhle**

The Saturday of October 10 was our annual Pig Roast. We appreciate the efforts made by all for an enjoyable day in the outdoors. Here for the weekend was Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and we thank him for bringing the Word to us on Sunday. May God bless him for his efforts.

Rejoicing that the Lord has blessed their family with another grandchild are Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake. Heidi Melissa was born to their children, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sheila Sabo (Mansfield, OH), on October 11. Welcoming her home as well is big brother, Nathan. May Heidi's parents and grandparents find grace sufficient to raise her in the fear of the Lord.

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

We continue to pray for those in ill health. Sis. Hazel Riggensch became ill while in the Rittman area. She was hospitalized in the Wooster, OH hospital. She is planning to spend some time at her son and daughter-in-law's home, Wayne and Clara Riggensch. We pray God will supply all her needs.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Edith Miller
Ruth Gasser**

"Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving..."

Psalms 95:2

We recently were reminded

the importance of a thankful heart. This is essential every day, not only when we celebrate Thanksgiving Day. We are thankful for those who admonish us in the Lord as watchmen on the walls. We listened to tapes of the Brotherhood Conference at midweek services in September.

We are also thankful to hear that Jenny Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Janice) has turned her back to the world and has found peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing what God has done for her when she gives her testimony at a future date.

A number of our congregations have experienced afflictions of the body and have been hospitalized. Those recovering from surgery are Sis. Rose Luginbuhl (Bro. Marvin), Bill Rhoads (Marge), and Sis. Elizabeth Fetter (Bro. Andy). Sis. Luzelda Stoller (Bro. Don) is undergoing radiation treatment and chemotherapy at this time. We pray that God will touch them with healing.

We extend our sympathy to many of our loved ones who have lost someone near and dear to them. Bro. Kenneth Hartzler (Sis. Jane) and family have laid to rest their mother, Sis. Pauline Hartzler (Rittman, OH). Sis. Mildred Hartzler has lost a brother, and Bro. John Zollinger (Sis. Marge) a brother-in-law, Bro. Alvin Laukhuf (Phoenix, AZ). Sis. Beverly Indermuhle (Bro. Brian) grieves the loss of her step-father, Robert Baisden. Sis. Larisa Maibach (Bro. David) has lost her grandmother, Sis. Mary Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN). May the Lord console each saddened heart.

Does Jesus care when I've said
"good-by"
To the dearest on earth to me,

And my sad heart aches till it
nearly breaks;
Is it aught to Him? Does He care?

O yes, He cares; I know He cares.
His heart is touched with my
grief...
When the days are weary, the long
night dreary,
I know my Saviour cares.
Gospel Hymns #751

OHIO, TOLEDO
Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter

"...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 2:38

We rejoiced to see this commandment fulfilled in the life of Suzanne Beard (Bro. Dave and Sis. Geralyn) as she gave testimony of her faith and was baptized. May God's grace give her strength to remain faithful each day.

The willing service of our ministers is a blessing to our fellowship. May God bless our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter and Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) for bringing forth the Word of truth on our behalf.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Louisa Gallup
Mary Berg

"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; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."

1 Peter 5:1-4

We just feel that surely our beloved Elder brethren await that crown of glory that is promised in the above verses. We just want to thank them for their labors of love to the church. We have been listening to the Conference tapes and certainly appreciate the love and labor that goes into not only the general Conference but to the day to day tasks of all the Elder brethren across the land. May God richly bless them!

We thank ministering Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) for his faithful and frequent trips to minister to our congregation. May God bless him and dear Sis. Judie.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Rosa Lee Kuenzi

With joy we greet our new brother in faith, Bro. Joel Metz (Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty). Bro. Joel gave his testimony, made his covenant with God, and was baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, all according to the Holy Scripture, on the weekend of October 10-11. Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) was here to join our Elder Bro. Art in this wonderful work.

Silverton has begun the process of setting up committees to plan the February 1999 mid-winter Elder Conference that will be

held here. Bro. Loren Dettwyler, Bro. Ed Zollinger, Bro. Chuck Walter and ministering Bro. Ed Knecht have been meeting to make the preliminary outline of plans and basic committees. Now all the members have an opportunity to volunteer for the various duties and responsibilities that it takes for this Conference to be hosted here. As with any large undertaking, many hands working smoothly together make it happen successfully. The meeting began and ended with a prayer that God will bless our working together to bring about a harmonious, comfortable and blessed atmosphere and setting for our dear Elder brothers.

An all-church shower and farewell singing was held for Bro. George Schuster. Bro. George is moving to Smithville, OH where on November 15 he will marry Sis. Carol Kiser (Bro. Henry and Sis. Bertha, Rittman, OH) of Smithville. We will miss Bro. George and pray that he will feel God's continued guidance and blessings in the future as he has in the past.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Suzanne Sauder (Mansfield, OH) for coming. Elder Bro. Ken was our only visiting minister this month and we pray that God will bless him for his willingness to serve.

Hospital patients this month were Kiara Snook (Bro. Jason and Sis. Colette) and Sis. Joan Dietrich (Bro. Jim). Thankfully, both are back in church and doing fine.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Merle and Bev Rocke

"There is beauty all around!"
(Hymns of Zion #64).

It is that time of year when once again we are experiencing the beauty of God's creation all around us. The beauty of the trees turning their magnificent colors—they are so radiant! Then one by one the leaves fall until the trees are bare, and they go into resting to be ready to bloom anew in the spring. As we sit and enjoy God's creation all around us, we just can't help it but to thank Him once again for all He has done for us.

We rejoice with Bro. John and Sis. Kay Lanz and their family as they welcomed a new little baby girl, Kierstin Kay, into their home. Their little blessing arrived on October 1.

We were also thankful for our visiting minister, Bro. Gary Anliker, and his dear wife, Sis. Edith (Elgin, IL), who were with us this past month. We are very thankful for our visitors and encourage you to come and visit us any time.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Gwen Leuthold

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High."

Psalm 92:1

Since 1941 due to Congress passing a bill, we have been able to celebrate Thanksgiving Day on the fourth Thursday of November. I am so thankful this day has been set aside as it is truly a day to reflect on all of the blessings that God has given us. I know in my own life I should be as thankful every day to God for all of His blessings as I am on Thanksgiving Day. August Ludwig Storm was inspired in 1891 to

pen the following words to a song called simply "Thanks to God!".

Thanks, O God, for boundless
mercy from Thy gracious throne
above;
thanks for ev'ry need provided
from the fullness of Thy love!
Thanks for daily toil and labor
and for rest when shadows fall;
thanks for love of friend and
neighbor and Thy goodness unto
all!
Thanks for thorns as well as
roses;
thanks for weakness and for
health;
thanks for clouds as well as
sunshine; thanks for poverty and
wealth!
Thanks for pain as well as
pleasure—all thou sendest day
by day;
and Thy Word, our dearest
treasure, shedding light upon
our way.
Thanks, O God, for home and
fireside, here we share our daily
bread;
thanks for hours of sweet
communion, when by Thee our
souls are fed!
Thanks for grace in time of sor-
row and for joy and peace in Thee;
thanks for hope today, tomorrow,
and for all eternity!
—*Amazing Grace #354*

One of the books I was reading suggested making a list of all of God's blessings and sharing the list with friends and family.

This past month, we were privileged to have Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH). We thank these brothers for their efforts in traveling and ministering to us and pray that God will richly bless them and their families.

If you are in the Nashville area, we encourage you to stop and worship with us. Upcoming services are scheduled for December 6 (Bluffton, IN); January

3 (Oakville, IA); January 17 (Roanoke, IL); February 7 (Detroit, MI); and February 21 (Rittman, OH). On the second and fourth Sundays of each month, we are meeting for a tape service. Please contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 353-8835; or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940 if you are planning to worship with us.

"A grateful person is a happy one." (*Amazing Grace #354*)

TEXAS, CENTRAL

Dan and Pam Sauder

We are grateful to those who travel many miles to worship and bring God's Word to us. Visiting ministers this month include Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Bros. Robert Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN), Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN) and Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL). A special thanks to

Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) and their children for traveling to our area for services, even though we were unable to gather due to flooding on October 18.

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 Zeltwanger (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.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz Melva Messner

We have been listening to the tapes of the Brotherhood Conference held in August. We are so thankful that our Elders have spent so much thought and prayer to help preserve our church.

Do we take the Lord's goodness for granted? Do we thank Him for our heritage? As Thanksgiving Day draws near, let us specifically name our many blessings one by one.

Surely the first Thanksgiving Day feast was a humble one compared to the feast we have today. Indeed, we have much to be thankful for.

Our forefathers taught us much about keeping the faith through adversity. This has encouraged me to do better.

We are thankful for the much needed rains we have been having. It is so nice to see the green lawns.



Sermon continued from page 2

from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.” (Luke 24:1-3). Surely as they came there, they brought spices they had prepared.

We read this morning, in the chapter before, how they had prepared spices and had them ready for the first day of the week. They brought the spices to prepare the body of our Lord and Saviour. It was their custom in those times to wrap the body of those who had gone on in these spices.

They found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. It must have been a funny feeling for those dear ones who were traveling there with that great love for the Lord Jesus and wanted to do even yet after His death to prepare His body for the grave.

“And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?” (Luke 24:4-5). Surely these were angels of God sent there.

“Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words.” (Luke 24:5b-8). Perhaps many times we hear someone say something and we don’t think too much of it. Perhaps something turns up and, even as this case here, it all of a sudden comes to us, “Oh, I remember them speaking of those things.”

Perhaps they just felt that Jesus would always be with them

as they walked this pathway. They just couldn’t understand that He would have to go to that cross and shed His blood for each one of us. They could not understand that. Yet, that was His mission here upon this earth, wasn’t it, to come here and to teach us and to walk along this pathway with mankind and to speak to those?

We read of the many multitudes of people that came together and He spoke to them and they listened. We think of this day where many people are gathered across this land in different places of worship. We surely hope and pray that God’s Word is spoken, even as it is written in His Holy Word and the teachings, wherever they are taught, could come from God, and not from the mind of man.

Sometimes I think the Word of God is so simple. It seems that man kind of complicates it, doesn’t he? It is not that hard, dear ones, to follow God’s Word, but it must be done. He spoke there to teach repentance and remission of sins. He spoke in one place, “Except ye repent, ye shall in no wise enter in.” Very simple words spoken by our Saviour.

“Except ye repent, ye shall in no wise enter in.” Simple words, but yet, we find that in this mind of man, pride comes in, doesn’t it? The evil one puts that into our heart, and pride wants to cause us to hold back and doesn’t want us to admit that we have made a mistake. It seems that the evil one has a good hold right there, hasn’t he? It seems that when one makes a mistake, it is pretty hard to admit it.

It is hard for us to stoop down perhaps and say, “I did this.” Yet, that is what Jesus wants, humbleness—just a humble heart, one that is willing to pour our

heart out to Him down on our knees. We have been given this precious opportunity.

We read of prayer throughout the Word of God. We still find wonderful power in prayer, where we can get down on our knees wherever we are and we can pray to God and we can reap the blessings thereof. He answers those prayers. Many times perhaps it takes a little time for those answers to come, but we also must be patient and we must trust in our Heavenly Father.

We hear it spoken often, don’t we, that perhaps many times we might have a prayer and we pray fervently that such and such would happen, and it just doesn’t come to pass. Sometimes a little longer down the road we will find out that we just were not praying for the right thing. We were praying a little amiss.

We find then that our prayer really was answered. We probably didn’t receive what we prayed for, but the Lord provides for us what He sees we are in need of. That is why we always have to remember that we pray that His will, and not ours, be done. He is an all-seeing, all-knowing God and He knows what lies before us, dear ones, and He will provide for those who ask.

Here they are on the road to Emmaus. “And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know him” (Luke 24:13-16).

Sermon continued next page

Sermon continued from page 47

Here these people were talking of Jesus Christ and perhaps it is no different in this day and time as we would be talking together in some of the events that would happen. Many times we find ourselves talking together of these things. Surely this was really the greatest event that ever did happen here upon this earth, when we think of it, Jesus Christ shed His blood upon the cross. They were talking about these things.

Our Lord and Saviour taught so many and then He was delivered into the hands of those who would crucify Him there upon that cross. As these people were walking, they were talking about these things. We can just about imagine Jesus coming along and perhaps they came to Him or He crept upon them.

“And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered

him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him” (Luke 24:17-20).

Surely these people were followers of Jesus Christ. They knew He was a prophet and they knew He was mighty in deed and in word before God and all the people. That was their answer when Jesus said, “What things?”

“And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, today is the third day since these things were done.” (Luke 24:20-21). Surely these men perhaps have heard the words that Jesus had spoken, but in three days He would overcome that death and grave. He spoke besides this, that today was the third day.

“Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not. Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to

have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?” (Luke 24:22-26).

Surely our Lord and Saviour was sent here for this reason. We read in the Old Testament, we find that we have spoken this many times before, but it just seems how the sacrifices had to be blood shed.

The perfect lamb had to be picked from the flock. They just couldn't take any lamb, but it had to be the best of the flock to be sacrificed for the sins.

There was not one here upon this earth whose blood was pure and clean that could be sacrificed for the sins of mankind. Jesus Christ had to come here and leave His Father in Heaven and walk this pathway so His blood could be shed as the supreme sacrifice for the sins of each and every one of us.

That blood was shed there for you and me and it is sufficient to take away the sins of each and every one that is willing to humble themselves and to repent. That blood is sufficient today yet and has the same effect today and could mean the difference, dear ones, of spending eternity in Heaven, or eternity in hell. We still have that choice and it is up to us.



Silver Threads

The First Thanksgiving Day

The pilgrims left a foreign strand
And sailed across the main,
And landed on New England's shore,
That faith they might retain.

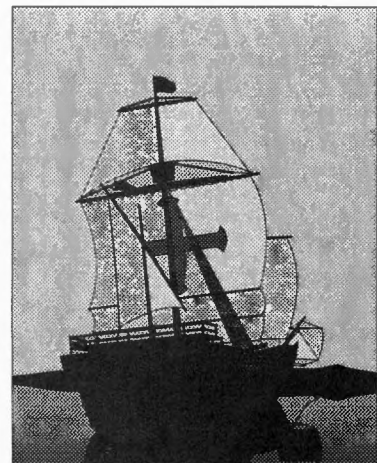
Some say the first Thanksgiving Day
The pilgrims did ordain
Was when they offered thanks and praise
For life and food and grain.

It was a day of gratitude
When stormy voyage was o'er,
When they had landed safely there
On cold New England's shore.

The rolling sea behind them lay,
Before them, trees of pine.
With thankful hearts they knelt in prayer
And praised God's help divine.

The pilgrims marked the Plymouth Rock
Where they had knelt to pray.
And still it stands memorial of
That first Thanksgiving Day.

—Henry Beer





Elder Henry Geistlich of Switzerland spent a few months in 1866 visiting the American congregations. His trip was often tiring. He kept a detailed diary of his trip.

Wednesday, August 15 - Leo, IN: This region is very swampy and unhealthy, it seemed. In many houses one can see thin and sickly people who are weakened from fever. For this reason I would not care to live here.

Thursday, August 16 - Leo, IN: Today Bro. Conrad and I drove to Fort Wayne. I got very tired as the road was very rough and uneven. The State of Indiana is settled mostly with Germans. The brethren here live mostly close to the village of Leo. I did not care to stay here long for I felt quite sick again today.

Oh, how often have I been tired out and exhausted on my trip. But we owe it to the Lord to offer our entire life to Him for Christ gave His life for us and did not complain. Therefore, it is our duty to do His will. After we have borne the burden and heat of the day, we can rejoice in sweet rest. We can find in Revelation 14:15, "They rest from their labors and their works do follow them."

And in Psalm 126:5-6, "they sow in tears and shall reap in joy and bring their sheaves rejoicing;" and Paul says in Romans, 8:18, "for I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us." How glad we will be, when the Lord will wipe the tears from our eyes, and we can peacefully rest with the Lord in all eternity, where there will be no sorrow, no pain and no tears; only joy, peace and glorious living.

Friday, August 17 - Leo, IN: Last night I slept very well. I had a good bed by the dear brethren. This is a good place to live. The hospitality of these brethren reminded me of Abraham, how he said to Sarah to go and make ready three measures of fine meal and knead it and bake it, and dress a tender calf and prepare it and then they gave it to three men or angels. I really had blessed hours with the brethren here.

ren here.

Saturday, August 18 - Leo, IN: Today many brothers of all the churches assembled here. I enjoyed their arrival and presence. If we enjoy meeting each other here on earth, how much more will our joy be when we meet in that Heavenly Home after we have won and overcome that last battle.

Sunday, August 19 - Leo, IN: Today the goodness and mercy of God was revealed to us in such a manner that I cannot thank God enough for it. Before our assembly this morning I had to say to Brothers Benedict Weyeneth and Joseph Bella that I feel not gifted from the Lord today and as forsaken as I felt, so richly and greatly did the Lord help and bless me, which was a great enlightenment to me. Oh, how good and merciful is the Lord every day through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Monday, August 20 - Leo, IN: Today we had a conference or Brother meeting. Brothers were assembled from far and near. We opened our assembly with singing and prayer. We talked about many important things concerning the welfare of the church. On the whole, it was a blessed day.

Tuesday, August 21 - Archbold, OH: Today Bro. Joseph Bella and I and 16 brethren arrived here at Archbold. Bros. Swartz and Conrad took us to the depot at Leo.

Wednesday, August 22 - Archbold, OH: Today the fifth Psalm became a special blessing to me. We can find how David in the Spirit could see the promises of the New Testament. We first learn to know the Scripture if we must go through the many experiences here in this life, for only knowing the letters of the Scriptures, is as water, but the experience of it is as wine and oil. From it comes strength and life.

Thursday, August 23 - Mansfield, OH: Today I saw another large fire here at Mansfield. This is the second one I saw on my trip. The thought came to me that if the fire of love would be burning like this fire at Mansfield, then God will be glorified and the people would be burning for

God and Jesus who gave His life for all.

Friday, August 24 - Akron, OH

Saturday, August 25 - Akron, OH: Today the dear Bakodi family took me to Chippewa (near Rittman) where there will be church services tomorrow. There is a small church here. This is a nice region, but the land is more expensive. An acre is worth from \$40 - \$120. It is also more thickly settled.

Sunday, August 26 - Chippewa, OH: Today quite a few people came here to church. I had a blessed day but was a little homesick and tired from my trip.

Monday, August 27 - Girard, OH: Today we traveled from Chippewa to Girard. Here there is only a small number of brethren, and also a brother who is being persecuted by his wife. When she heard he had been taken into the church, she raged furiously and beat him.

Tuesday, August 28 - Girard, OH: Today we traveled from Girard to Nellsville, OH. This region was very interesting to me because of the oil wells here. Here are also found iron, lead and coal mines, around which have been built many factories. The wages are also good.

Wednesday, August 29 - Nellsville, OH: How many times have I been tired on my trip so that I had no rest day or night and yet we cannot let our courage fail. For if we think of the many afflictions the Apostle Paul had, we can well be satisfied.

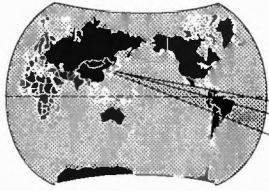
Thursday, August 30 - Sardis, OH: Today there was church here. As Bro. Isaac Gehring and myself were driving home, the horses became frightened and ran away, throwing us both out of the wagon. I was slightly injured.

Friday, August 31 - Sardis, OH: Today we visited a sister who lives eight miles from Bro. Gehring. I was blessed in our meeting, but Satan tried to disturb my peace through temptation and trials. This is the battle we must fight daily. We arrived home tired and exhausted.

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

The Geistlich Diary continues



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



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“Rest In The Lord”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

I was day dreaming one day, as I usually do when it's daylight, and I was thinking about Peter's conversation with Christ where he asked, "Where shall we go, Lord? Thou hast the words of eternal life." I was thinking about where we should go to find rest, peace and eternal life. Upon looking it up in the Bible, I was surprised that the word "where" is not used in that quotation. The exact quotation is, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." The meaning is the same but my idea of writing an article on the word "where" was given a setback. In any case, I have been thinking with Peter about to whom shall we go, where can we go, to find rest, peace and eternal life.

Recently in the classrooms of our local Jr. High School where I help teach spoken English, I have been asked what I think about rock music. It is one of the topics in the text book. I tell the stu-

dents that rock is very bad for the nervous system and I want to live a quiet and peaceful life. The Japanese teacher responded that young people in America listen to rock music, don't they? I responded that many do, but that half of the marriages end in divorce and violent crime with guns is rampant, insinuating that it is at least partly due to rock music. Obviously, rock music is not the place to find rest, peace and eternal life.

None of the pleasures of this present world can meet our deep-seated needs so we may turn to philosophy or religion. Most philosophers leave God out of their thinking and try to rationalize the meaning of life and how to get the most out of it, simply by their own effort. Some feel they need outside help so they turn to religion, which is quite mystical and requires faith. The great religions of the world offer good moral teaching but none of them offer a divine Saviour, except Christian-

ity, or the New Testament. Here the Son of God dies on the cross in our place and invites us with these words, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Christianity is criticized by some as removing responsibility from the individual. You can do all the terrible, immoral things you want, just so you repent and believe before you die, is what we are accused of teaching. Our response is that we want to live the best moral life we can from our youth, but we still are not perfect and need a Redeemer.

As we bounce around in our thinking, trying to find the purpose of life and what it all means, we need to remember that the evidence is in favor of Christ. Let's remember with Peter, "To whom shall we go, Lord? Thou hast the words of eternal life." Let's rest in the Lord, and let the rest of the world go by.

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Union City - NJ 1892

Picture taken in 1964

The Union City Church was built in 1892 by brethren who settled in that area to work in the Silk Mills. Over the years the church building underwent a number of alterations, none of which appreciably changed the basic appearance either inside or outside. Many brethren and friends who served in World Wars I and II found refuge in the Union City Church as they passed through or were stationed in the New York City area. The church family flourished for many years but as time went by it began to suffer a steady decline until 1992, one hundred years from the year it was built, when the church building was sold to another congregation. Apostolic Christian Church services were continued in the area after the building was sold on a once per month basis in a rented location for two years until August 21, 1994, when all services were discontinued.

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