

The Silver Lining



The mountains shall bring peace to the people.

August 1999

"NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD"

Sermon by Bro. Dale Stoller, Fairbury, IL
Proverbs 31 and Mark 14:1-42

Have we ever felt totally left alone? Have we ever felt so forlorn and forsaken and thinking that no one ever cared? No one cared a thing about us? No one loved us? We were going to have to face something in our life and we would have to do it all alone? Can we imagine what Jesus felt like when He went out there to pray and yet His disciples could not be watchful? They just did not see the importance and the significance of what was really going to transpire. They just couldn't grasp it, could they? Can you imagine how Jesus felt?

We know that He is so good and so faithful, that He turned unto God. How it is for you and me, when we finally reached that point in our life when we knew we had no where else to turn, that we had to turn to God? There was not a thing that anyone else could do for us—not a thing that anyone we love so dearly here upon this earth could do for us, but only in direct communication with God. We could turn our hearts and just lay it all on the altar where God hears those prayers. God heard those pleas and He heard those cries, those sighs and moans. He heard them all, and He answered our prayer, didn't He?

Not a one of us would be sitting here today as a child of God on our works or our deeds, but it is only by the grace of God and His mercy and Him hearing our cry unto Him that we needed help. He could hear our plea and He answered our prayer. We were able then to come unto Him in repentance and find our salvation.

Do we appreciate it enough, dear ones? Do we appreciate enough the merciful God and Fa-

ther in Heaven who does answer prayer? As brothers and sisters, we are still faced with the trials throughout our life. There are times in our life when we know that we cannot do it alone. We cannot do it alone any day of our life. When the trials and burdens are heavy upon us, we have that faith and confidence we know that God does hear our prayers, and He will once more hear.

So there is nothing that is impossible with God. All things are possible with God, but impossible with man. So if we can just put our faith and our trust in God, He will help us through each situation in our lives. We don't have to carry that burden alone. We don't have to walk alone upon this earth, but God will walk by our side. Jesus Christ is dwelling within our hearts and interceding for us, and the Holy Spirit is directing our paths. The Holy Spirit is giving us direction, warning us, and advising us on what to do or what not to do.

As we think back to our unconverted life, dear ones, isn't it wonderful when we can think of how the Holy Spirit works within us and warns us and guides us compared to the conscious of an unconverted person? The conscious only made us feel bad after we did it, but the Holy Spirit warns us that we don't have to do those things.

We have read here that the spirit is strong, but the flesh is weak. (see Mark 14:38). We all carry flesh and blood, dear ones, for we are all human. We are all fighting those battles. Inwardly, we want to do what is right and by the grace of God, we can. We can overcome! But the flesh is still

there, isn't it? We have to battle that flesh every day of our life. It is a daily battle.

When we can overcome, what a joyful feeling that is! When we are tempted to do something and the Spirit speaks to us and warns us, we can fall upon our knees and thank God for that Spirit. How joyful it is when we feel that nearness to the Lord. We can feel the presence of His Spirit within us so that we don't have to succumb to the things and the wiles of the

Sermon continued on page 44

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

August 1999

Marriage in Faith II

The previous article dealt with preparation for a marriage in faith and following God's direction in finding a mate. This article will expand upon some of the scriptural passages that provide sound principles upon which a marriage of faith can grow.

Parents have a responsibility to set a proper example to their children in all aspects of their lives, including their relationship with each other. We are taught "that the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience" (Titus 2:2). These are characteristics that husbands need to exhibit to be a proper head of the household.

Older women are given very specific direction to follow in helping younger women learn their role in a godly family. "The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; that they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed" (Titus 2:3-5).

If we as parents provide this example to our children, they will see the Word of God in action. They will have the opportunity to learn the scriptural directives that provide the foundation for a godly marriage and be in a better position to heed the scripture in their own marriage.

Young women who observe older women fulfilling a godly role in the home will know how to "be in subjection to your own husbands" (I Pet. 3:1). They will know to obey the Word, have chaste conversation, and proper adorning. Young men will know to "dwell with them (their wives) according to knowledge, giving honor to the wife, as unto the weaker vessel,...that your prayers be not hindered" (I Pet. 2:7).

The Apostle Paul gives much sound advice to husbands and wives. In Colossians, Chapter 3, he was inspired to write about the attitude that a child of God should display. The following are related to having a godly attitude:

*set our affections on things above

*mortify our members which are upon the earth

*put off anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication

*lie not one to another

*put on bowels of mercy, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering, forbearance, forgiveness

*put on charity, the bond of perfectness

*let the peace of God rule in your hearts

*let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly

*do all in the name of the Lord

With our attitude tempered by the above concepts, it will be natural that "Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and be not bitter against them" (Col. 3:18-19).

Additional instruction is given in the Epistle to the Ephesians. The atmosphere of our home, how we use our time and the thoughts that control our mind, all have an impact on our marriages.

We are taught to "...walk circumspectly...Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:15-16). We should give serious thought and prayer about the impact that our decisions have on those we love.

Husbands and wives must use wisely the time they are given to be together. Time spent together doing the work of the Lord will do far more to strengthen a marriage than time spent together in pursuit of worldly entertainment of the mind. If we fill our minds with holy thoughts, we will establish a pattern of life that will serve us well throughout our marriage. By "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;" (Eph. 5:19-20) we will give the Lord the proper place in our homes.

Husbands have a special charge to "be the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church;" (Eph. 5:23). Wives need the comfort and assurance that their husbands are fulfilling their godly role in the home. To accomplish this the scripture

teaches "Husbands (to) love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it;...so ought men to love their wives as their own bodies..." (Eph. 5:25 & 28).

Christ never made a decision nor used His authority to hurt the church in any way. He always worked to strengthen and support the church. Husbands are charged with the same responsibility in fulfilling their role as the head of the wife. If husbands are willing to fulfill their role in the home as Christ fulfilled His role in the Church, even to the point of giving their life for their family if necessary, wives will have no reason to fear to follow the scriptural directives to be submissive to their husbands.

Wives provide a support to their husbands. The commandment to wives that they "...submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord..." and "...as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything" (Eph. 5:22 & 24) can be fulfilled much more successfully in homes with a godly atmosphere.

It is very difficult for wives to submit to husbands who rule the home in a selfish manner. It is very difficult for husbands to be the proper head of the wife if the wife refuses to be a submissive mate. However, if both husband and wife follow scriptural directives it will be a blessing for a husband "...to love his wife as himself..." and for the wife "...to reverence her husband" (Eph. 5:33).

Both husband and wife must be willing to be totally committed to following the scripture in a way that will bring stability to their marriage and to their home. Pursuing selfish interests will bring a strain into a marriage that will bring sorrow. Following the Golden Rule while applying the Word of God to our lives will assure us of a fulfilling relationship with the one that the Lord has provided to be our lifelong partner.

The next article will examine some of the problems that are likely to result from basing our marriages on the customs of the world rather than the principles of God.



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

Helping Hands Give Hope to Haiti

In Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Apostolic Christian World Relief efforts have been brightening the lives of Haitians for many years. In 1982 we came in contact with a Haitian missionary, Eris Labady, who has helped guide some of our World Relief work teams to different areas of Haiti that would benefit from our labors.

He, like his father, believes that education is extremely important. Our efforts have helped to build one school administration building and 8 schools within 20 miles of where he was born. Eris, with the Lord's providence, was one of the few children in Haiti to complete an education to our high school level.

At one point, an individual told Eris he would pay half of his education for a year. However, he only paid for half of the first three months. Since Eris could not pay the tuition, he would jump out of the window when the officials would come to school to collect. It took several years to repay his debt to the school. He has used his education to bring hope to the lives of his fellow Haitians by focusing his efforts on providing better education and the basic necessities of food and water.

The first World Relief project with Eris was a school lunch program. This was started when some of our brethren met him for the first time and accompanied him to the school at Puits Sales. The children walked to school, some up to 10 miles, sat there from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., then had to walk home again, having had nothing to eat. The reddish color of their hair was evidence of malnutrition. There were no funds for school lunches. The school at Elgin, IA donated school lunch plates, and ACWR sponsored the food shipments

to provide daily hot lunches. The program is still ongoing, and the children's hair is black once again.

Brethren in Indiana donated and built a grain bin in Haiti that is used for storage of supplies, food, and grain. This has helped store ACWR grain shipments, especially during times of famine. Another project recently completed is a water project that brings water to the village of Puits Sales. A well was drilled, and the water is pumped by a solar powered system into a 25,000 gallon reservoir from which it is piped down to Puits Sales.

Haitians gathered eagerly to dig the two-mile trench in rocky ground, in anticipation of having fresh water to drink. The trench was dug by hand within three weeks. The water flows by gravity from the reservoir to five distribution stations. A smaller reservoir at the school is filled each time water is available. Although fresh water comes only twice a week, it is a great miracle for the people of this land which experiences frequent drought conditions.

There are always ways to help the people of Haiti. One of the projects in which brethren have assisted is a trade school that would be added to the back of the current administration building. This would help young Haitians further their education by learning a trade.

The Apostolic Christian World Relief Child Sponsorship Program is yet another way for us to help the people of Haiti. This sponsorship program is in place, and many of our brethren have begun to help more Haitian children gain an education. Two of the above mentioned schools already participate in the program, with more planned.

A "Self-Help" project has recently been started to assist people living in the Puit Sales area. This program will help various individuals start a small

business, providing a way to make a living for themselves. ACWR is cooperating in this in hopes of assisting several people in each new endeavor. The recipients will make payments back into a fund that will be used to assist more people. The program is especially offered to those who attend church regularly, and have abilities, ideas, and ambition, but lack capital to start a business.

Efforts are being made to research the possibility of a major irrigation project in the area of Gode. There is a sizable river that goes through two or three hundred acres of fertile land which is farmed by many small farmers in the area. Due to continual lack of rain, this fertile land does not produce very well. Although very costly, this irrigation project, completed over a period of time in small segments, would improve the lives of many Haitians. It is hoped that a percentage of the increased crop yield would be given back to a co-op that would market it and use the funds to start new projects or expand this one.

World Relief has been involved in Haiti for many years. Our brethren have completed many projects with several faithful contacts and organizations in Haiti, and it is a blessing to see God's work unfold.

We always appreciate it when we find faithful, God-fearing natives of Haiti, or for that matter, any other land, with whom we can work. They provide an essential link to the residents of the country, and help us to channel our efforts where it can be most beneficial.

When asked if Apostolic Christian World Relief could better help by sending additional funds instead of spending so much for travel expenses, Eris said, "No, your work teams give our people hope and that is something money alone cannot buy."



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

Mission Committee

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

North American Church Building Fund Building Advisory Committee

Several years ago, the Mission Committee appointed a National Building Advisory Committee (BAC), which was approved by the Elder body. The purpose of the committee is to assist local congregations as they consider building projects. Members are Bros: Brad Eisenmann (Chicago) Chairman, Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) Sec.-Treas., Bill Masters (Bloomington, IL), Orin Rufener (Rittman, OH), and Bob Schieler (Goodfield, IL), who has recently retired. The Mission Committee will appoint another brother to take his place. Counseling Elders are Bros. Phil Stettner and Gene Marti.

Available to all churches

These brothers have been helpful in working with small congregations such as Atlanta, Prescott, Kitchener, Portland, as well as several others. However, their guidance is not offered just to small or beginning churches, but also to assist in church building for the entire brotherhood, whether the congregation is large or small.

How does a congregation proceed?

So often a new congregation begins when a few brethren move into an area. This is quite consistent with the spread of our faith over many decades. We do our best to support these groups as they grow and need a place to worship.

Finally there comes a point where they need to provide a permanent place of assembly, and are faced with the problem of how they can pay for it. What should they do next?

Brethren counsel together

After discussion of this matter among themselves, the Mission Committee brought the subject to the entire Elder body. Their recommendation was that we should establish a North American Church Building Fund to further the effort.

Purpose of this fund

For many years we have used our European Church Building Fund to assist our brethren in Europe to finance houses of worship in several countries. Actually several million dollars have passed through this fund and without this help, church buildings could not have been constructed or repaired in these areas.

We are very thankful that the Lord has provided that assistance could be given in Europe, but we also feel there is a need here in the United States to assist our new or needy congregations. This is the purpose of the North American Church Building Fund.

The source of the money

In years gone by, our Brotherhood Assistance Programs were created and used to cover losses incurred from misfortunes. After prayerful consideration and much discussion, it was agreed that these programs should terminate. It was also agreed that \$4,000,000 from the reserves of these Assistance Programs be transferred to the North American Church Building Fund. The administration will be by joint counsel of the Mission Committee, the BAC, and the Elder body.

Small congregations

The brethren hope to use some of this money as grants to small or needy congregations that need help in providing a place of worship.

Local congregations who feel they

could qualify should proceed according to the following method. The information printed here is very general, and specific needs should be forwarded to the BAC at the address listed at the end of this article.

- The first step is approval by the local brethren and elder, after which the BAC can become involved. They will assist in developing a plan for building or remodeling a suitable facility.

- The BAC will assist in the development of a financial plan. Members and friends of the congregation will be asked to estimate the amount they hope to contribute over the next 5 years.

- The local congregation must be incorporated and legal documents submitted for approval to the Mission Committee.

- Approved projects will be financed from the fund as needed to supplement local resources.

- As contributions come in after the project is complete, wherever possible, money should be returned to the national fund so that other congregations can also benefit from this program.

Established congregations

Loans from this fund may be approved for congregations that have a building or remodeling project but are not eligible for a grant from the fund. These loans should be of a relatively short duration, no more than 5 years. Loans must be approved by the above channels, with a reasonable rate of interest being charged.

CONTACT FOR
BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Brad Eisenmann
12333 Cashlan Lane
New Lenox, IL 60451
(815) 463-0697

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Summer is a time for rest and renewal. Jesus said to His disciples, "Come ye apart...and rest awhile" (Matthew 6:31) and the people who live at all our homes also enjoy some time away from their jobs and daily routine.

For some people, this means a "day out" such as a group of men from Timber Ridge enjoyed in June. A group participated in the Illinois Special Olympics, others went to a horseback riding show in the Chicago area, and several have gone on short trips in this area. A busload from Timber Ridge enjoyed their annual Six Flags visit.

Everyone who lives at the group homes has the opportunity to save money throughout the year and choose to go on a mini-vacation with friends. The men at the home on Hazelwood Street decided to go on several "day trips" to New Salem, Chicago, and maybe St. Louis. All seven ladies from the homes on Detroit and Minnesota are excited about spending two days in Chicago including a visit to Chinatown!

Several men from Linden Estate will spend two days in Dixon and a group of guys from Oakwood plan to explore the Champaign area in August. Ladies from Linden will enjoy shopping and touring the Amana, IA area in August as several ladies from Oakwood and Timber Ridge enjoyed these activities in Arthur in June.

A mixed group from Oakwood Estate had an exciting two days in St. Louis complete with rides at Six Flags! Another group from

Linden Estate spent their mini-vacation in the Quad Cities. These trips take a lot of energy to plan and carry out but are wonderful times for all who go!

Back at home some other "summer renewal" is going on! Residents in all the homes are enjoying caring for the beautiful flowers they planted this year. The north living room at Timber Ridge has a new look with beautiful new furniture. At Linden Estate they rearranged the furniture to have a sense of "renewal" and people at Oakwood Estate appreciate their new carpeting.

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

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Jodee Bauman

Another Fourth of July has passed. The celebration of fireworks and of the freedoms that Americans get to enjoy in the United States should be a reminder to us to bless others. As Christians, are we grateful for the freedom to preach to the

world about Jesus? "And he said unto them, Go ye into the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)

We are not only thankful for the freedom we have living in this nation, but we have freedom in Jesus Christ to proclaim His name, obey His command, and to tell someone about Jesus!

We would like to thank our many volunteers this month: Bros. Arlan Miller (Gridley, IL), Klint Fiechter, Mark Reinhard, Bryan Gerber and Austin Smith (Bluffton, IN), Paul Hangartner (Indianapolis, IN), Paul Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Blake Stahl (Chicago, IL), Chris Eland (Iowa City, IA); and Sisters Dawn Sutter, Tami Fiechter, Kami Isch, Margo Stettner (Bluffton, IN), Christine Taylor (Perth, Australia) and Chelby Kaeb (Bloomington, IL). Also, thanks to Bro. Andy and Sis. Jill Lehman (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Kory and Sis. Megan Kaeb (Chicago, IL).

We are excited that the 23rd Annual Auction and Sale is on Saturday, August 21, 1999. We are truly blessed by all of the donated items and those who come to support us. The proceeds go toward blessing the kids at Gateway Woods. We appreciate all of the hard work that our church family does to make the auction a success!

The East House will be going through quite a bit of transition during the month of August. We would like to thank Bro. Ed and Sis. Deb Graf for 5+ years as Houseparents. Bro. Ed will become the Child Care Supervisor while Deb continues her calling as a mom to their two boys, Ryan and Jason.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Jodee Bauman will become the new Houseparents in the East House. Also, Sis. Lisa Waibel, who has been the Assistant Houseparent in the East House, will be getting married in August to Bro. Mick Laukhuf (Latty, OH). It is exciting to see who God will bring to fill her position. Thanks, Bro. Ed, Sis. Deb, and Sis. Lisa for your hard work, dedication, and willingness to always serve the Lord! (See notice in this issue about staff openings.)

Due to the growth and intensity of Gateway Woods School which serves residents, we have hired an additional teacher for the next school year.

We welcome Sis. Janice Anliker (Elgin, IL) and trust that God will work mightily through her. She is an answer to prayer.

Former Board Member Bro. Bill Eisenmann (Latty, OH) has answered the Lord's call to a career change and has begun as our Business Manager. We look forward to the experience and commitment that he brings to our ministry.

We would like to welcome Tracy M. at the East House, Erin A. at the New House, and Lydia H. and Melissa H. at the West House. May God bless you during your stay with us!

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"...I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die..."

John 11:25-26

June 26, we gathered at the church to hear Morgan Langhofer give his testimony and be baptized on June 27. Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich presided at this great event. His parents are Bro. Erik and Sis. Cindy. Many relatives and friends came from out of state, including grandparents, Bro. Al and Sis. Judy Langhofer and Sis. Carol Huber (late Bro. Wayne).

In the evening, Elder Bros. Jon and Wendell served us Holy Communion.

VBS was half finished at "news time" last month. The messages were very timely for the difficult times we live in. "Be ye reconciled to God" had our cups running over. The Spirit is alive and well if we believe in the Lord and live what the Bible teaches.

The children shared what they learned on Sunday, June 20. Our future church surely can praise the Lord in song. Thanks to every one who served the Lord to make VBS a joyous occasion.

We extend our sympathy to Joe Schumacher on his wife, Dottie's, death on June 20. Sis. Helen Fischer came from Illinois to spend time with her brother and attend the memorial service in Chandler, AZ.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life." "Come and see."

John 3:36 & John 1:39

Bro. Paul Emch entered Heaven's gate July 3 after spending 63 years with his beloved wife, Sis. Irene.

Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and Bro. Ken Lawson had fu-

neral services July 7 at the church. Internment was at East Resthaven Cemetery. Bro. Paul leaves many survivors, including sons, Bro. Don, Bro. Jerry, Bob, Bill, and daughter, Sis. Shirley Zollinger. The choir sang many of Bro. Paul and Sis. Irene's favorite hymns. Along with the comfort in song, may we all find more in Psalm 23 and Romans 8.

Bro. Paul left us a legacy of love. Don't let it wither away. He loved our church.

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly..."

Ephesians 3:20

We rejoiced as Sis. Nicole Baum and Bro. Todd Steffen exchanged wedding vows on July 11. God's house was overflowing with love and many guests. Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) had the sermon before Elder Bro. Jon pronounced them man and wife at 1:23 p.m. Their parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum and Bro. Keith and Sis. Cathy Steffen (Washington, IL). The reception was at the Arizona Biltmore. We wish them God's blessings as they make their home in Illinois.

We are grateful for visiting ministers during a very busy summer of Vacation Bible School, weddings, funerals and a baptism. May the Lord bless each of you. They were: Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) for VBS, Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bros. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Richard Aberle (Altadena, CA).

A World Relief project of as-

sembling health kits for the Balkan countries was well attended despite our monsoon season downpour on July 14.

Fill your heart with God's love; oh, the blessings you will receive!

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

Building on the foundation of the new church started on July 8 with the arrival of Bro. Orin Rufener (Rittman, OH) who is supervising the workers. By July 15, the frame and trusses were in place with volunteer help from Taylor, Leo, Oakville, Wichita and Phoenix.

We have been getting rain somewhere in the Prescott area daily, since July and August is considered our "monsoon" season, but most of the rain has skirted around the building site or has lasted a short time—so the building continues.

We want to thank all of those that have come to help and given their time, abilities and finances.

Our annual corn-on-the-cob picnic is planned for Saturday, August 21. Anyone visiting in the area is welcome to attend. For updated information, contact one of the Prescott members.

Ministering brothers in Prescott the last two months have been Bros. James Emch (Phoenix, AZ), Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ).

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) visited recently, a visit that probably was most appreciated by his grandson, Ben Gudeman, who is living here in Tucson. It's always good to see Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella. We hope they will visit Ben often. We thank Bro. Wendell for his service on the pulpit.

Our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) was also with us this month and as always we appreciate his efforts of love towards us.

We also received a visit from Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne Lehman who spent so many years in Tucson with us. It was so good to see them again and enjoy catching up on their lives.

We are enjoying our summer monsoon season which has been especially active this summer. We have been having regular afternoon and evening thunderstorms, some quite severe causing alot of flooding in our washes and heavy road damage on Mt. Lemmon. Our temperatures have been in the upper 90's which is a nice break from our 100 degree and higher readings prior to the monsoons.

Several families in our congregation have done some traveling this summer and we are thankful for everyone's safe return.

We are still on vacation from Sunday School and Fellowship Suppers; we will resume both in August.

CALIFORNIA

ALTADENA

Jim Klotzle

Greetings from Southern California! During the past month here in Altadena we have received several visiting families on west coast vacations. What a blessing it is to witness the light of truth that shines brightly across our nation, yes, even the world! The ability to fellowship with believers while traveling is truly a special heritage, and our hearts warm as we receive greetings from distant brethren.

Reading the letters of the Apostle Paul to the early church, we observe that his hearty greetings were always followed by earnest exhortation. Now, as we greet nearly two thousand years later, the words of Hebrews 3:13 remind us, "But exhort one another daily, while it is called To Day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

Our dear retired Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger has had hernia surgery and is recovering well. We're thankful that he is able to worship with us again.

Bro. Jeff Luthi has received some encouraging test results recently. His treatment for cancer has been debilitating but he continues in prayerful good spirits, able to worship again. We continue to lift him up to the Lord for healing. He and his family express their gratefulness for the many, many prayers that have been lifted up to God for his healing.

Bro. Joe Klotzle has been elected as Sunday School Superintendent. We pray God will direct him and all the teachers as

they teach our dear young souls.

Our dear friend, Dale Graf, has relocated to Illinois where he attends the Eureka church. We pray that this will be a fruitful experience for both his soul and body.

May the Lord be with each one during the coming month.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Peggy Jevremov

We are thankful for the many visitors that we have had the past month. The fellowship and added voices as we worship the Lord in song is a wonderful blessing and encouragement to us.

We are thankful Bro. Rory Strahm has been able to go home from the hospital after being in for some time. Our prayers continue to be that the Lord's healing power might strengthen and encourage him in his illness.

July 4 was the wedding of Sis. Yael Howard and Bro. Miklos Bozzay. May the Lord bless their union of hearts and give them an even greater zeal and love, to first serve Him together, and then to serve each other as they walk hand in hand in this life.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the Jevremov family in the loss of their sister and aunt, Brenda Jevremov, of San Diego. She was a member of our sister church.

Our friend, Julie Topolchanyl, has expressed a desire to give her testimony to our congregation and become a part of our fellowship. We look forward to hearing that on July 31.

CANADA ONTARIO, KITCHENER Laura Baxter

Come then to the feast of His
New Covenant,

Members of His Church, your
faith renew;

Thank the Founder of this
precious Covenant

Through the chalice He pours
out for you.

Here your hands in faithfulness
uniting

And the fire of brother-love new
lighting.

Let your common prayers rise to
His throne.

Thank and praise Him who hath
made you one!

Zion's Harp #26

On July 2, our congregation was again able to partake of the beautiful Communion Feast. We are thankful that our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) served us. What a wonderful time to reflect on our relationship with God, with our brethren, with our families, and to make the proper corrections if needed. We were also able to take that extra time and reflect on the great price of Jesus' blood that was shed for each of our sins.

With much sadness we said farewell to Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard as they have moved to the Bluffton, IN area to live. We have truly enjoyed their time in our small congregation and are extra thankful for all their help on the church project and their hospitality to our many volunteers. May the Lord bless them.

We have enjoyed many visitors this past month. Our visiting

ministers include Elder Bros. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL). We thank you all for your labors to serve the Lord and us.

We welcome all visitors to worship with us. Please contact Bro. Mike Ursu (519) 669-8515 or Bro. Wayne Saddler (519) 662-6834 for directions and more information. Please note that we are meeting at our new church four miles west of Waterloo on Regional Road 15 in the town of Heidelberg: 52 King St. East, Heidelberg, ON NOB-1Y0.

CANADA SASKATCHEWAN, REGINA

On July 8-10, we were blessed to have a group from Morris, MN working on renovations to our Church. Many thanks to everyone who helped to make such a wonderful difference to our house of worship. May the Lord bless all those who participated.

This group included Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Sandra Nohl, Bro. Roy and Sis. Jenell Koehl (Lucas, Kurt, Levi, Adam and Martha), Sis. Ruth Feuchtenberger, Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam Schaefer (Elizabeth), Bro. Dewayne and Sis. Janice Nohl (Kevin, Michael and Sara), Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce Wulf (Myra, Byron and Mary), Bro. Arnold and Sis. Sharon Koehl (Harlan), Sis. Emily Koehl, Sis. Brenda Koehl, Sis. Barbara Lesmeister, Bro. Quinn Messner and Bro. Harlan Wulf.

A special thanks to Elder Bro. Art Nohl and Bro. Roy Koehl for ministering God's Word to us.

A young soul, Kelly Shipley, has heeded to repentance. May God grant him grace to continue on the path of righteousness submitting his will unto Him.

COLORADO, DENVER

Mark and Kelly Ramseyer

We've had a lot of coming and going in the Denver church lately. Besides the week long visits of many friends and families, we've also had some more permanent arrivals and departures.

On Sunday, June 27 at 4:00 p.m., Jack Kenneth Schambach was born. His arrival went well but he soon developed pneumonia and had to stay in the hospital longer. His mom and dad, Sis. Erica and Bro. Eric, weren't especially pleased with the events, but handled it well. Jack's brother and sister, Joseph (almost 3) and Kathleen (1 1/2), are probably just now realizing that Jack is going to stay in the same house as they are since he's been there for a couple weeks without leaving. Jack's grandparents are Kenneth and Anita Anderson from St. Charles, IL and Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne Schambach from Elgin, IL. While we wish Jack plenty of God's grace and wisdom, we also wish a double portion of His patience to Jack's parents.

On Sunday, July 4, we enjoyed a potluck supper at Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman's to say "adios" to Esmeralda. She is a student from Mexico who has been staying with the Lemans for the past several months learning English. Esmeralda always had a smile and a "buenos dias" for everyone. She will be

missed by all.

We'd like to extend a special welcome to Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Berg and their family who have moved to the Denver area from Portland, OR. Bro. Bill has been here for a few months starting a nursery. Now that his wife and daughter, Carrie, have joined him, everything seems more permanent. Their son, Billy, is attending college in California. It's already been a joy having them here and we hope they feel the same way.

Last month I failed to mention that our summer long residents are back again. Sis. Glenna Pflederer has been back for quite a while already and again is enjoying her time working at a youth camp in the area. Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Margaret Pflederer have also returned to enjoy the beautiful Colorado mountain country, as well as Bro. Norm and Sis. Eleanor Geyer. While we welcome them back, it's unfortunate that their stay is always during the summer months when it seems difficult to spend much time with them due to the influx of many visitors. Also this summer we will welcome the company of Todd Schambach from Elgin, IL as he works with his brother, Bro. Eric (the new dad), and visits his new nephew.

Several weeks ago we enjoyed the visit and preaching of Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) as he was vacationing in Colorado. More recently we heard from Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL). We're just so glad people take the time on Sunday and break up their vacations to still remember God and spend some time with us. I'm certain that

God is pleased with every moment that we can give to Him, in praising, praying, serving and spreading His plan.

We've heard two pieces of sad news recently. Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Leman have heard that their daughter's (Sis. Kris Bauman from Goodfield, IL, wife of Bro. Ben) cancer is inoperable and terminal. Also, Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcel Huber along with Sis. Lanette Meyer, just lost their young nephew. We all know that God is in control and His plan is best, but sometimes it can still hurt. The Denver church would just like to reiterate that we are praying for them and their families as they endure these tragedies.

CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE Cherie Galat

Our annual Sunday School Picnic turned out to be a beautiful day. It is a blessing to be a part of young lives who will be the future church. Many thanks to teachers fulfilling their service and a warm welcome to our new teachers.

We thank our dear visiting brethren who share with us out of God's Word and who offer prayer on our behalf: Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA).

"And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man."

Genesis 2:22

The engagement of Bro. John Garrow (Bro. Bernie and Marie) and Sis. Rhonda Zahner (Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally) was made known to the brethren.

May 22 was the wedding day of Christopher Kozak and Trudi Schneider. Parents are Ken and Laura Kozak and Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Verona Schneider. May God be the center of their union.

It is wonderful when we hear that more are seeking the Lord in repentance. We rejoice with John Hoffman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella) and Erin Doyle (John and Gail) as this most important step is taken. May we as brethren continue to pray for God's calling to continue to go out in the time and day of grace.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Alma Luginbuhl (Bro. Ed) who has undergone surgery. May God be by her side as she recovers.

"Ready in life, ready in death, Ready for His return." (Hymns of Zion #124). Our dear Sis. Edna Gottier passed out of this life on July 4. May God comfort the family in this time of loss of their loved one: Nelson and Karin Gottier, Warren and Sis. Carol Gottier, Nancy and Jack Murphy, and the extended family and friends.

During the summer months we have been blessed with visits from dear brethren from across the country. It is such a privilege to be able to travel in peace and without fear and spend precious hours in worship with loved ones.

High school graduates this year are: Chuck Crary (Bro. Ken and Sis. Deb), John Goric (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Lou), Jason

Hany (Brian and Sandy), Richard Hany Jr. (Bro. Richard and Sis. Betsy), Matthew Mangold (Bro. Ed and Sis. Terry), Sharon Manning (Ray and Mary), Sis. Colleen Ryan (Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl) and Jessica Skipper (Don and Cindy). We pray that they will seek the Lord's guidance to help them make wise choices in life.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Albert Schneider would like to thank everyone for the support, love, cards, prayers, etc. during the recent passing of our loved one. May God bless all kind deeds.

Sis. Gladys Schneider

Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy

Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra

Bro. Ralph and Sis. Tina and families

**DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON**

Henrietta Meyer

The members of our congregation were blessed when we were able to travel to and join the Philadelphia congregation for Holy Communion.

Several from our area are under the care of a physician. We pray the Great Physician and Comforter may be with them and their families.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Wes Moser (Lester, IA), Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA) and Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH). Bro. Wes was part of a group from the Lester area attending a convention and many of them came

along to church. Other visitors this month were from Morris, MN; Mansfield and Rittman, OH; Francesville and Bluffton, IN; Goodfield, IL; Oakville and Burlington, IA; and Rockville, CT. What a joy to hear greetings from so many churches. We appreciate all who include this area in their vacation plans.

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. Barry Steffen (410) 569-3635 or Bro. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749.

**FLORIDA
FT. LAUDERDALE**

Gretchen Webb

This month our Sunday School students attended Vacation Bible School. The theme was how to use your talents and gifts for God. It is truly a blessing to see the enthusiasm and joy the children exhibit as they learn. We thank everyone involved for their time and effort.

Last month we neglected to mention our high school graduates. They are Christy Sutter, Michael Hejja, and Kristen Pinto. We congratulate them and pray that as they begin a new phase in their lives, they will look to God for direction.

July 2 we had the opportunity to host visitors from Haiti. After a church dinner we were privileged to hear them sing and speak through an interpreter about World Relief efforts in Haiti. They expressed to us their thanks for the gifts, blessings, and prayers from our churches across the nation.

We would like to thank visiting minister, Bro. Brace Wieland (Leo, IN), for bringing God's Word to us. We pray that God will bless him and our local ministers for being willing servants.

FLORIDA NORTH FT. MYERS

Anjie Baum

During these summer months, visitors are a welcome blessing. We want to, in particular, thank our visiting minister this past month, Bro. Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL).

Our Heavenly Father has gifted us, Bro. Rob and Sis. Anjie Baum, with a baby boy. Lukas Michael was born on July 13. Shelby and Joel are so proud of their little brother and like to take turns holding him. Lukas' grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Jody Baum (Morton, IL), Victor Heinold (Valparaiso, IN) and Sheryl Heinold (Shelby, IN).

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Rachel Sabo

Kelly Price (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Sandee) and Todd Hebert were united in marriage on July 10. We want to wish this young couple God's nearness and guidance as they walk the path of life together.

Sarasota recently had an appreciation dinner for retired Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach. Many thanks to all who helped make this such a memorable occasion.

We are thankful to have Sis. Aldine Martin (Bro. Rich) with us once again and for God's continued healing of her burns.

Our convert, Shaun Knepp, has been announced for baptism in the near future. We want to encourage him to continually strive to grow deeper in the Lord day by day. All of us should make this a life-long priority, so we don't become lukewarm or complacent.

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

Matthew 16:24

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Keith and Carol Kaufman

Greetings! We want to extend a hearty thank you to all who came to fellowship with us, especially the Bradford-Princeville, IL young group. The fellowship of the brethren is so encouraging and reminds us we are not alone.

Also, this month Bros. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH) and Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) came and ministered God's precious Word to us. May God richly reward them for their labors.

Last week the children enjoyed Vacation Bible School. A special thanks to the teachers for their efforts.

We look forward to more visitors. Sunday services begin at 10:15 and 12:30. We meet at 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth

Wednesdays. The church is located at 6225 Campbellton - Fairburn Rd., Fairburn, GA. Take I-85 south to Exit 13. Go west four miles. The church will be on your left. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554, Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 or Bro. Keith Kaufman (770) 304-8335 to let us know your plans.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Doreen Moser

"Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them."

Psalm 22:4

What a blessing it was to spend Father's Day honoring our fathers here on earth. How thankful we are to have Christian fathers who trust in our Father in Heaven. As some of our fathers are getting older, we cherish the time they have left here on earth. Many prayers are laid at the altar that our family circle will not be broken in Heaven. Our minister on Father's Day was Bro. Edward Strahm (Elgin, IL).

Our June Bible study was conducted by Bro. Art Mueller and the topic was "God and the Devil".

"In my heart there rings a melody", was one of the many songs we sang at our monthly rest home singing. What a joy to sing with our beloved brothers and sisters here on earth and to bring joy to those who are confined to a rest home.

Our church was filled to overflowing on July 4 as Elder Bro.

Joe Braker and his wife, Sis. Shirley (Morton, IL), and most of their family spent the day with us. Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) was our other visiting minister that Sunday. There were many other loved ones visiting, too. We are thankful for each one of you that come to visit our small church. How wonderful the singing was with all of your added voices and the fellowship of other believers. Please come and see us again.

We welcome Bro. Shannon Stahl from Rockville, CT to our congregation. He is teaching at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Shannon's new address is 1481 Carver St., #105, Madison, WI 53713.

Our summer potluck was held this month. It was a beautiful day, not too hot and for once no humidity. What a blessing to fellowship one with another.

Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) was our visiting minister on July 18. As he has been in the hospital, we are glad to see he has recovered.

May you all be enjoying the summer. The Lord has blessed us with so many wonders in the great outdoors. The beautiful wild flowers, the colorful birds, the fireflies that light up the night, the sunrise and sunsets...all God's creation. We have so much to be thankful for.

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-
NORMAL**

**Janice Horner
Carol Sauder**

The week of June 14-18 was our Vacation Bible School. This

year our theme was "Beyond the Damascus Road...A God inspired road map for life sketched by Paul." We thank Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL), Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL), Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), and Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) for being with us and sharing God's Word throughout the week. It was a very inspiring week and we thank everyone who was involved and made the week so special.

On June 23, we recognized twenty-five years since the dedication of our current church facility. We had a special worship service recounting events in history. We praise God for all that He has done and will continue to do.

We enjoyed hearing the testimonies and witnessing the baptisms of Amber Finley (Mike and Sis. Kathy) and Steve LaFont (Robert and Marjorie, Edwards, IL) on the weekend of June 26 and 27. We praise God for His hand in the lives of these two dear souls. Visiting us for the weekend were Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL).

On July 6, Willis Baurer from Schenectady, NY passed away. He is a brother to Sis. Helen Hoffmann. May the Lord comfort Sis. Helen and her family at this time.

Bro. Ron Heiniger, our beloved servant was given support by the congregation to take on additional responsibilities as an unordained deacon, on July 7. We know he and Sis. Kayleen could use our prayerful support as he begins to take on new re-

sponsibilities.

Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Bro. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN), and Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL). May the Lord bless you.

On July 9, our Bible Class students and numerous others from our congregation flew to Tobago, a country which is in the West Indies, for a mission trip. The purpose of the trip was to share the gospel, develop compassion for the needs of others by visiting an underdeveloped country, develop a servant's attitude by serving the people of Tobago, and develop contentment by encountering a lifestyle different than we are accustomed to. The group of sixty-eight put on three Vacation Bible School's and worked on a building project. We all look forward to their safe return on July 17.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Brad &
Cheryl Kupferschmid**

"Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end. There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand."

Proverbs 19:20-21

Once again it is that time of the year when the Elders from across the land and from overseas get together to counsel with one another and discuss the matters that are of concern to our church. Let us pray for them fervently, not only now but also at all times, that the Lord would

give them His wisdom and understanding. Let us also have our hearts prepared to follow their instruction and exhortation, knowing that it is for our benefit and that it is directed by God's Holy Spirit.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Katie Endress were blessed with the arrival of a baby boy, Corbin Benjamin, on Father's Day, June 20. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress and Bro. Richard and Sis. Marilyn Slutz. May God give His wisdom to Bro. Ben and Sis. Katie as they endeavor to rear Corbin up in the fear of the Lord, and may He continue to bless their family.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held on June 27, and most of the Church got together to enjoy a meal, fellowship, and singing. God's blessings were abundant.

We are so thankful that Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) was with us again. We pray that God will bless him for his labors of love.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank everyone who sent us beautiful cards for our Golden Wedding Anniversary. It is truly a milestone in our lives and each verse is a special inspiration to us. May God bless you all!

In Christian Love,

Bro. Nate and Sis. Martha Stoller

ILLINOIS

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Samuel and Pamela Furrer

Once again, it seems like the summer is just flying by faster

than ever! The shift from children being in school to being around the house and busy with all sorts of summer activities happens quickly and seems to accelerate the passage of those little numbered squares on the kitchen calendar. What we looked so forward to when we were stuck in the house in January is now vanishing like those January snow drifts finally did. I really doubt that my summer goes by with greater speed than my Granny's did when she was a child in the early 1900's—we tend to fill all the time we have with activities of one kind or another. Running into a former co-worker while shopping, I was recently reminded of the importance of enjoying every moment of our busy lives. Bev is a busy farm wife, teacher, and mother of several children. She was shopping for fair supplies with her twin daughters who will be entering high school. We said our hellos, introduced our children to each other, and made small talk about the busy summer flying by. Bev looked at my young Joel, age 7, and told me to "Just make sure you enjoy every minute. Every minute." Earlier this summer, Bev's oldest child, Ben, was taken from life at age 24 in an auto accident. It was clear that she has, through that great loss, learned the true importance of enjoying and treasuring every moment that God gives her, no matter how busy life becomes. As I stood there, I knew what she was really telling me with those few words, and I just said "I know. We do." She likely figured that while I said that I knew, I really had no idea of the little mo-

ments that we all allow to slip away and the changes we'd make if we could relive a few moments—making the time we are given even more precious. As summer activities come to a close, the school year resumes, and the seasons begin to change, we should make a point of paying a little less attention to the days flying off the kitchen calendar and making the most of the time we are given.

"A happy marriage is like mountain climbing—the climbers are safe only so long as they are tied securely together."

—Robert W. Burns

Although she is not close enough to commute to our church on Sundays, we still claim Rebecca Wiegand as one of our own "Urbana-Champaign kids." Becca, the daughter of Bro. David and Sis. Ethel, has lived in Montana and Idaho for the past few years. In late June, God's beautiful mountains and trees provided a lovely setting as Becca became the bride of Bill Wilson. The Wilsons make their home at 14 Sellman Drive; Lowman, ID 83637. We wish Becca and Bill the bountiful blessings of God as they continue their life's journey.

Bro. Scott and Sis. Shayna (Aberle) Mangers were married in Altadena, CA in late May, but had their local reception in late June. A large number of family and friends gathered at a building beside Homer Lake to congratulate the happy new couple.

Cody Blunier, the young son of Bro. Darin and Sis. Keri, had his tonsils removed. The surgery left

our church's little cowboy with a sore throat for a while, but he is now feeling much better. We are thankful for God's healing touch.

Our Bro. Derek Sauder, who has been with us for the past several years, has received a job transfer and will be moving to the Peoria area. A potluck and singing were held as our way of thanking him for his contribution to our church over the years and to wish him God's richest blessings as he makes this transition in life.

Ministering Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) spent a Wednesday evening with us and spoke on the topic of "Holiness". Other visiting ministers over the past month were Bros. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), and Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL). Each of these brothers and their families gave of their time to come minister to us, and we do appreciate their efforts.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

Whew! This may seem like an odd way to begin this month's report, but it kind of describes where I am. We are leaving for a family vacation tomorrow and my week has been filled with preparations for the trip. It seems no matter how hard I try to be organized, there are always a few loose ends to tie up at the last minute. One or two more things to iron, one more watering of the garden so it is still alive upon our return, one more thing to tell the neighbor who is watching the house, etc. If I was not ready for a vacation before all the

preparations, I certainly am afterwards! It makes me glad that we do not know the day and the hour of the Lord's return, but at the same time it awakens me to the fact that we should continually be preparing for that day when we shall meet Him in the air. We will not need suitcases, but we should be wearing the armor of God. We will not need to lock up the house, but we should be sure our house is in order. We will not need to tell the neighbor anything about the house, but we should tell our neighbor about God's plan for salvation and live it as they watch.

June 21-25 we enjoyed a week of Biblical learning during our Vacation Bible School. The children's theme was "Growing in Jesus" and the Bible class adults' theme was "Dangers of the End Times". We want to thank all of the visiting ministers who came to teach us: Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), and Will Schieler (Milford, IN). We also want to thank Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) for sharing God's Word with us on a Sunday.

We congratulate Bro. Miklos Bozzay Jr. (Bro. Miklos Sr. and Sis. Aranka) and Sis. Yael Howard (Kent and Mervi) on their marriage July 4, in San Diego, CA. We pray God's blessings on this new couple as they establish their home in San Diego and warmly welcome them to visit often.

We have several newcomers to welcome. Bro. Joe Bohart (Elgin, IL), Sis. Sara Rumbold (Bradford, IL) and Heidi Knapp (Goodfield, IL) are attending our

congregation. Another special newcomer to our congregation is little Adam Taylor Pflederer, the precious son of Bro. Kurt and Sis. Dana Pflederer. Big sisters, Hannah and Gloria, are very excited about having a baby brother. Grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Ruth Pflederer (Tremont, IL); and Nancy Trumbower, and great-grandmother, Martha Perry, both of Philadelphia, PA.

We had several families this month who had heartaches to bear in one way or another. Ken Eckel (Christina) was hospitalized for surgery. Mildred Siepka lost her husband Joseph on June 14. Gretchen Zimmerman (Mike) lost her grandmother this month. Bro. Blake Stahl suffered an arm injury in an accident. We pray that these families can feel God's comfort as they heal from their wounds, whether they be in body or in spirit.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Cheryl Eisenmann

Darlene Walder

Isn't it amazing how quickly the days move by when we are busy with so many activities? Summer is a season for rest from school for the children but for many, there is Vacation Bible School, County Fairs, vacations with the family, etc. just to name a few. Moms and Dads really have to stay organized to get everyone going in the same direction at the same time! We had our two weeks of VBS June 7-18. It was a very rewarding experience to see young people learn more of God's teachings. I taught in the Kindergarten this year

and these children really seemed to love coming and learning about Jesus. The visiting ministers for the evening Bible Class were: Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) - Worldliness; Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) - Hard teachings of Jesus; Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) - Heaven/Hell; and Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) - The Broad and Narrow Way. We had our program on the evening of the 18th to finalize our two weeks of learning and crafts.

Other visiting ministers this month have been: Bros. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL), Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL). We were also blessed to have Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) come on July 16 to give a presentation on Eastern and Western Europe.

Sis. Lorraine Kaufmann was hospitalized for a time after having surgery. She is recovering and up and about again.

The Sunday School teachers hosted our annual Sunday School picnic in the park in Cissna. It was a beautiful evening of potluck, games for the students, and a few songs. We appreciate very much the efforts of our teachers and the time they spend in teaching our children God's Word.

We think of Sis. Nettie Oberghel, Sis. Clara Hofer and Diane Hofer in the passing of their brother and uncle, Bob Hofer. Time has a way of softening the separation from a loved one and we know when those we love reach the golden years of

their life, death and eternity is a part of it.

Sis. Marie Kaufmann has moved to Restmor in Morton. We will miss seeing her smiling face and sweet disposition.

**ILLINOIS
CONGERVILLE
Glenna Rinkenberger
Sandy Steiner**

The Sunday School is our delight,
We love it more and more;
'Tis here we learn to do the
right

And live forever more.

Hymns of Zion #73

Our annual Sunday School Picnic was held on Sunday, June 27. This is a special time for our children and a good opportunity for our congregation to enjoy food, fellowship and song together. Sunday School is an important part of our children's training, and their teachers play a vital role in their lives. We thank our outgoing teachers for their efforts in the past years and wish the new teachers much of God's grace and wisdom to teach the true ways of the Lord.

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Bros. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) and Bill Gerst (Alto, MI). May God richly bless these brothers for their efforts and grant them willing hearts to continue to minister for Him.

On June 23, Elise Danielle was born to Bro. Ben and Sis. Kathy Zimmerman. Eric, Erin, and Evan welcome her home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Orville

and Sis. Lulu Zimmerman and Bro. Walt and Sis. Betty Miller.

Jodi Schrock (Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri) and Eric Hoffman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann) of Roanoke are engaged. They are planning an October 2 wedding.

Bro. Orville Zimmerman recently spent some time in the hospital and at the nursing home. We are glad that he is now back at home and wish him God's strength and nearness.

Note of Thanks:

With gratitude, we wish to express our thankfulness and appreciation for the many cards, prayers, visits, memorials and loving support during the passing of our dear father, grandfather and great-grandfather. May the Lord richly bless you, each and every one, for the many deeds of kindness.

*The family of Charles (Ed)
Steffen*

**ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Peggy Heiniger
Norma Schambach**

We have had the blessing of many visiting ministers with us recently: Bros. Brad Gudeman and Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Wayne Wiegand and Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Dan Koch (Tremont, IL).

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Cora (Bro. Bill) Schambach and Bro. Georg (Sis. Hilde) Schumacher who both lost a brother. We also think of Karen McMullin whose husband died suddenly in Prescott, AZ. Karen is the daughter of Sis. Marilyn and the late Gerry Kellenberger.

May God comfort them in their sorrow.

Bro. Earl Moser spent some time in the hospital. We miss seeing him in church.

July 10 was the wedding of April Schifferer (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy) and Michael Swanson. On July 14, Gary Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida) and Yoko Sugahara were married in Honolulu. We wish both these couples much happiness and God's blessings.

It is with sadness we bid Bro. Ernie and Sis. Marcelle Dapper farewell as they move to the Winthrop, MN area. We have enjoyed their fellowship and been blessed by their presence. May God go with them as they move to be closer to their children.

We also bid farewell to Sis. Janice Anliker (Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie) who has taken a teaching position at Gateway Woods. She will be missed by all, especially the young group.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Janet Zimmerman

"God with us! We need not fear." We were reminded in a sermon recently that God is in control of every situation and He knows what is around the curve for each of us. Aren't we thankful?

Visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL). May God's blessings be with each

one.

We are thankful that Connie Stoller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola) is back home and recovering after being in the hospital with a kidney infection.

Our loved ones, Sis. Lucy Blunier (Bro. Daryl) and Sis. Milly Prather (Bro. Jack), have also spent time in the hospital. We pray a special prayer for those who are enduring afflictions of the body and trust that God will provide for them as He sees best.

Vacation Bible School for our Bible Class students was held the week of June 14. We were glad that the Washington Bible Class could spend the week with us. Each night a different topic was spoke on by visiting ministers: Bros. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), John Laukhuf (Latty, OH) and Dean Steffen (Elgin, IL). We sincerely thank the ministers, teachers and parents who helped in this endeavor and may God bless them.

We rejoice when we can tell of souls who are repenting and turning their backs against the world. We are thankful for Matthew Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Kary) and Josh Gerber (Bro. Neil and Sis. Leesa) and we pray that God will grant them grace to surrender all unto Him.

Likewise, we are happy and thankful for these dear ones who have received peace from God through a submissive and obedient heart. They are Nathan Wiegand (Dale and Sis. Freidora), Crystal Blunier (Bro. Duane and Sis. Eileen) and Kate Frank (Bro. Scott and Sis.

Elaine). We look forward to hearing their testimonies.

"Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever."

Psalm 106:1

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Mark and Sis. Lisa Schmidgall and their family on the tragic death of Sis. Lisa's step-brother, Darrell Leininger, of Mason City. He died on Sunday, June 27. May God be with them and may they feel an extra measure of His comfort during their sorrow.

We bid a fond farewell to Bro. Philip Nenadov as his work is taking him to Minneapolis, MN. May God be with him as he begins his job there and as he assembles with our brotherhood in Minneapolis.

Notes of Thanks:

A special thank you to everybody who sent cards, flowers and gifts to make my 90th birthday such a special day and also to the grandchildren who planned the occasion.

Sis. Verna Lehman

We want to express our sincere thanks to everyone for their cards and gifts for our 50th anniversary. Thanks also to those who came to our open house and those who helped. God bless you all.

Bro. Eli and Sis. Helen Fisher

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY**Sally Fehr****Joann Zehr**

We had a blessed evening on July 14 when we partook of Holy Communion and were reminded of the great sacrifice that was made for each one of us. A special thanks to Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) who were willing to help Bro. Art Bahler. We appreciate their service to us.

We thank our other visiting ministers, Bros. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL). May God bless each one.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was June 27. We wish God's help and grace to Sisters Dawn Steidinger (Bro. Randy) and Jane Steidinger (Bro. Dennis) who have been elected as new teachers; as well as Bros. Alan Walter (Sis. Linda) and Keith Steidinger (Sis. Christine). Also Sis. June Slagel (Ron) was willing to continue teaching. May God bless the retiring teachers: Sisters Shirley Fehr (Bro. Warren) and Lola Steffen (Bro. Henry) for teaching our small children, and Bro. Quinn Zehr (Sis. Joan) who also was song leader for our Bible Class and spent time with our youth.

We ask God's healing power to Bro. Melvin Hartman and David Steidinger (Deann) who have had surgery.

Sis. Kathryn Gerber has moved to Fairview Haven and may God be near her in this change.

Bro. Randall and Sis. Janis Fehr were blessed with a baby boy on July 16, Marty Reuben. He is a brother to Sarah, Heidi, and Troy. Happy grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to extend a special thanks to all my family and friends who participated in my "surprise birthday card shower". Also thanks for making my birthday so special and one I will never forget. God bless each of you!

Sis. Eldora Walter

ILLINOIS, FORREST**Jean Knapp****Linda Anliker**

Blessed he, who does not follow
The ungodly counsel's course,
Shuns deceitful thoughts and
actions
And the way of sin ignores;
Who the mockers' horde does
spurn
And whose thoughts to wisdom
turns.

Zion's Harp #82

We are thankful that in his youth, Matthew Schaffer (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Martha) has chosen to turn from the way of sin, and seek wisdom, to walk the path of righteousness of our Lord through repentance.

Solemnizing their wedding vows on June 23 were Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss and Sis. Doris Steffen. We thank Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) for his kind words of expres-

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and John Stoller (Leo, IN). May the Lord grant special blessings to our ministers who tirelessly give of themselves week after week.

Three boys were born to those of our congregation. Entering parenthood are Damon and Mandy Lanz with the birth of Tristan James. His grandparents are Carl and Diana Tull (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne Lanz.

Matthew Thomas is welcomed in the home of Bro. Brian and Sis. Marie Ricketts, Emily, Laura, and Philip. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Janice Steffen and Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean Ricketts.

Also delighted to have a new brother are Janae, Amber, Shannon and Weston Stork. Tyson Warren was born to Bro. Reuben and Sis. Devra. His grandparents are Elmer and Darlene Stork (Chatsworth, IL) and Sis. Betty Ifft. May these couples continually seek God's counsel and wisdom in raising their children.

In giving to those in need, we often think of sharing with willing hands, monetarily, or spiritually. Kay (Jay) Davis however, shared of her own body - a kidney to her sister, Julie (Mark) Schambrook, who had been on dialysis. May the Lord bless them both with renewed health.

Also spending time in the hospital were Sis. Lavonne (Bro. Elmer) Lanz, Shelly Lanz (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne), and Bro. Jim (Sis. Sandra) Schneider. May strength and healing from God be their portion.

Note of Thanks:

Many thanks brethren, friends and family for cards, visits and prayers, gifts and deeds of kindness shown to me during my knee surgery. May God bless and reward as only He can.

*Your least brother in faith,
Sidney Leman*

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Jan Beer

Our area has been experiencing extreme heat lately. The heat index (combination of actual temperature, plus the humidity) has been as high as 110.

July 7 is Brady Christopher Kloter's birthday. Chad and Kalene (Kupferschmid) and sister, Taylor, welcome him into their family circle. Beaming grandparents are Sis. Joyce and Bro. Barry Kloter. Great-grandparents are Sis. Lorene Kloter and Sis. Phyllis and Bro. Howard Zobrist.

Maxwell James Hinrichsen was born on July 7 to Sis. Gerri and Bro. Mike. He joins his eight siblings and loving grandparents, Sis. Arlene and Bro. Hans Hinrichsen and Sis. Corrine and Roy Roth.

Great-grandparents for the first-time are Bro. Floyd (Shorty) and Sis. Evelyn Hofmann. Cameron David Payne was born July 12 to David and Aimee (Hofmann) Payne. Grandparents are Bob and Barb Hofmann.

Sis. Shirley DeBolt who has been confined to a wheelchair for many years has now become housebound. We miss seeing her in our assembly. Our prayers are with you, dear Sister.

Bro. Elmer Grusy had knee surgery and is doing well. "Thank you to everyone who sent cards, visited and made phone calls and sent flowers and especially for the prayers sent our way while in the hospital. Pray God will richly bless you."
Bro. Elmer Grusy

We look forward to Bro. Elmer rejoining our assembly.

Sis. Laura Steffen gave us a scare when she fainted during morning services recently. "My sincere thanks to everyone that helped me when I became ill at church. A special thank you for the rescue squad team and all the prayers which helped in my recovery. May God bless you all."
Sis. Laura Steffen

It was so good to see Sis. Laurie, Bro. Matt, Grant and Maci Hohulin in Goodfield church one Sunday. They are on assignment with Caterpillar and recently moved from Brussels to Holland. Within a couple years we hope to welcome them back "home".

This poem entitled "Let the Lamb Come Back to School" seems timely since our children will be returning to school soon.

Mary had a little Lamb,
His fleece was white as snow.
And everywhere that Mary went
the Lamb was sure to go.

He followed her to school each
day,
when it wasn't against the rules
He made the children laugh and
play
to have a Lamb at school.

Then the rules changed one day,
against the law it became

To bring a Lamb of God to
school,
or even speak His name.

Every day got worse and worse,
and days turned into years.
Instead of hearing children laugh
and play,
you heard them crying tears.

What must we do to stop the
crime that's in our schools
today?

Let the Lamb come back to
school,
and teach our kids to pray.

—*author unknown*

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

As the years unfold, it's an on-going blessing to worship in the sanctuary.

An inspiring aspect of worship, along with preaching, prayer and reading of the Bible is singing.

The content of our hymns is outstanding, and accurately descriptive of our Christian walk. As we gather before service to sing hymns, and as we praise God in song during worship, we can find a rich blessing if we concentrate fully on the words of our hymns.

There are countless verses with powerful messages. An example is verse three from hymn number 198, "Our Conversation is in Heaven". It reads:

Jesus, like a magnet raises
Our faint spirit to the skies;
And we seem in prayer and
praises
As on eagle's wings to rise.
All our life and conversation
Is before our Saviour's face;

All our thoughts and occupation
This vain world cannot embrace.

On June 27, Sis. Arianne Howell was married to Bro. Paul Gramm. She is the daughter of Jim and Sis. Eloise Howell. His parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Rosie Gramm. We wish this couple God's richest blessings as they walk hand in hand with God and each other.

Ashton Carter Schieler was born on June 24. He is the first child of Bro. Glen and Sis. Charity Schieler. Grandparents are Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein. A great-grandparent is Florence Schultz, Normal. Sis. Marilyn Schieler, Gridley, is a special great-aunt.

The engagement of Heidi Schlipf to Hadley Welsh was announced. She is the daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Vicki Schlipf. His parents are Harold and Marjorie Welsch, Secor.

New Sunday School teachers were selected at our business meeting. They are Bros. Keith Zimmerman, Thad Walter and Arlan Miller; and Sisters RaeJean Kuntz, Peggy Stoller and Jamie Knobloch.

On July 22-23, several brethren gathered to put new shingles on the Fellowship Hall roof. The building is over 20 years old, and has been refurbished, both on the inside and outside.

We are praying for our Elder brethren that their August meetings will be fruitful and beneficial for the churches. May God bless all their efforts.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Sunday, June 20, found us rejoicing with Sis. Megan Zimmerman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue) and Bro. Jonathan Hodel (Bro. John and Sis. Linda, Roanoke, IL) as they were united in marriage and became one in Christ Jesus. May our Heavenly Father richly bless them as they travel life's pathway together.

A warm welcome to Bro. Brandon and Sis. Melinda Rinkenberger as they have made Morton their home church. We hope that you will feel "at home" with us.

We are rejoicing with Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen Hermann as they have recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. May God continue to richly bless them.

We wish to thank Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) for ministering God's Holy Word unto us. May God richly bless him for his labor of love.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

After Jesus left Joseph's carpenter shop and the tools he likely taught Him to use, He began His ministry and performed His first miracle at the wedding of Cana (maybe for a relative), changing water into (excellent) wine. The temple cleansing showed that Jesus doesn't provide convenience and was not here to do physical things for us, but wants to help us. He enabled the lame man to walk physically, but, more importantly, let him walk into eternity. Satan can de-

feat our physical bodies but Jesus delivers our soul. When we read about the miracle of Cana, and others, we are reminded miracles still happen in our lives, one of which already has taken place — our conversion (6/23/99, Bro. Dave Oberghel on John 2).

Jesus spent about 12,000 days on earth and only 51 days of His work and ministry are recorded in the four gospels. No wonder John wrote in 21:25 "and there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written."

We thank Bros. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) for providing the Word for us on June 27. Do we walk the talk?

Amos, one of the twelve minor prophets, was a herdsman and gatherer of sycamore fruit (Amos 7:14) in the Judean desert when the Lord asked him to go to Jeroboam, king of Israel, to preach against his Northern Kingdom's luxury and idolatry, saying "high places shall be desolate, sanctuaries laid waste and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword" (7:9). Then Amaziah, high priest at Bethel, said to Jeroboam "the land is not able to bear all his words" (7:10) and advised Amos to go back to Judah and prophesy there (7:12). Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer made an analogy to today's conditions, stating that while we still enjoy many blessings of liberty, our freedoms are being taken away gradually and we could face similar judgments (Independence Day 7/4/99).

The Sunday School year concluded June 27 with a picnic at the Fellowship Hall (somewhat shortened by a shower). We thank students, parents and faculty, especially outgoing superintendent, Bro. Carl Hoerr II, for their efforts, and wish his successor, Bro. Dan Hoerr, God's guidance for his 2-year term.

The King of Kings died while we were yet sinners, touched us in our ugliness and took all the bad things in our lives away and put them on Himself. Philip said to Nathanael in John 1:46 "Come and see." We all need to see Jesus of Nazareth, check Him out and see what He has to offer. Nathanael says in John 1:49, "Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel." Jesus forgave our sins and does much more for us, as every time we have a trial, Jesus is there. When doubting, read some of the prophecies which have come to pass. "I thirst" shows His humanness and that our thirst can be stilled with His righteousness. In John 19:30, one part is finished but the other part blossoms as He is now our advocate before the Father. When "they led Him unto the brow of the hill that they might cast Him down headlong" (Luke 4:29), He didn't then, nor at any other time, give up and God only gave up once: His only begotten Son...for us (Bro. Dave Obergefel 7/11/99).

We welcome Margaret Gunther (Skylines June 29) and Ralph and Karen Hofstetter (July 7) into our brotherhood...a boost to them and the Church. The importance of prayer was stressed, which is far superior to all technical means of communi-

cation available today. Thanks, Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), for your presence.

Sis. Maizie Thomas is recuperating at home after a short hospital stay and Sis. Barb Hunziker is back and forth to Chicago for more treatments and we trust both feel the concern and prayers of the congregation.

Congratulations to Bro. Kurt and Sis. Janet Kieser for Jessa Morgan (#2) born on July 6 and Bro. Brice and Sis. Julie Teubel for Tucker Benjamin (also #2) born on July 14.

The topic for our family night service on July 14 by Bro. Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) was "Helping each other to stay spiritually sharp in a dulling society." Awareness, Challenge and Train (ACT) are three practices to help us stay spiritually sharp as stated in Proverbs 27:17, "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." We need to have an awareness of our brothers and sisters, strengthen and encourage each other to a closer walk and realize "two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour" (Eccles. 4:9), such as David and Jonathan; Mary and Elisabeth; Peter, James and John; Elijah and Elisha; Paul and Silas. We are accountable here and will be accountable there; how are we, when nobody but God is watching? We should bear one another's burdens with love, reprove mildly but seriously and be totally devoted to God and not just be teaching, but be a model in behavior and living it. Let's cross the finish line together for that joyful reunion. Thanks, Bro.

Wayne, for your visit and bringing these essential ingredients for our Christian walk to our attention.

Breaking bread together over the Sunday noon hour has been a time tested and cherished tradition of our faith since it's beginning 160 years ago. The menu in Europe generally is soup, sausage, bread and a glass of wine and/or coffee/milk. In Union City, NJ in the 40's, the Ballasy family used to go shopping after morning services for soup, lunch meat, chips, bread and something to drink, and at Green Street Church it was buttered bread with a light coating of sugar and a tassli kafi or milk. Today, lunch has evolved into assortments of donuts, sweet rolls, longjohns, cookies and sandwiches, which would do the 5th Earl of Sandwich, England proud. (He was too busy for the customary sit-down dinners and asked his 1st butler to serve him a piece of meat between two slices of bread, thus becoming the father of the sandwich). How pleasant it is to gather around our lunch tables, and how glad are we when our turn to serve lunch is behind us again for another year+. Thankful would be many of our brethren in foreign lands to be able to partake of such bountiful church lunches.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks for the cards, love and especially the prayers for our son, Bro. Andrew, after his fall in Tennessee during the Memorial Day weekend. We are so thankful that, by the grace of God, he is

alive and should recover completely in a few weeks.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane Honegger

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Sheryl Martin

“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. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves to the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”

I Peter 5:1-5

As the Elders gather together for the preservation of our heritage, may each of us with a prayerful heart and a ready mind be willing to submit to the exhortations that are brought forth.

On June 19, our friends, Brad Herrmann and Christy Hillman (Morton, IL), were married. Parents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Betty Herrmann and Bill and Linda Hillman (Morton, IL).

Our friends, Chris Knobloch and Kelly Witheff, were married on June 26. Chris is the son of Bro. Al and Sis. Vicki Hartzler

and Kelly is the daughter of Merle and Judy Witheff (Herscher, IL). As these two couples begin their future together, may they keep God as the head of their home.

Our sympathy and prayers are with the Bauer family in the loss of their brother, Willis.

May our friend, Harry King, and Elder Bro. Joe Stoller feel the healing hand of God.

Ye of my blessed pilgrimage,
Dear and beloved companions,
Who have the precious privilege,
The Holy Ghost’s communion,
God’s blessings on you I acclaim,
and greet you in the Saviour’s
name.

May each one then in his own
place
On Him, the Rock be grounded;
By His good Spirit, Word and
grace
At all times be surrounded;
May all be hallowed by God’s
might;
He is our star and shining light.

This is the wish from all my
heart
For you, my loving comrades;
In our alliance may the Lord
Be felt in blessed nearness.
The power of His cross and blood
Unites us in true brotherhood.

Zion’s Harp #173

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Boni Stoller Linda Hodel

“Grace be unto you, and peace,
from God our Father, and from
the Lord Jesus Christ.”

I Cor. 1:3

What a precious way to begin a letter, as the Apostle Paul did in his letters, and may this find each one in that state.

We give thanks to our Heavenly Father for His servants who have brought forth the Word and include those who visited us: Bros. Mike Leman and Tom Leman (Denver, CO) and Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA). Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene have been staying with their daughter, Sis. Kris Bauman (Bro. Ben), as she struggles with the afflictions of her earthly body, and we continue to pray for them, including the small flock in Denver. Bro. John and Sis. Lois came to visit a new little granddaughter, Rachel Lynn Sauder, born to Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy on June 28. Jonathon, Steven, Jesse, and Hannah are excited siblings. Every new baby is a reminder of the miracle from our Creator, and our congregation rejoices with them!

We also rejoice in the Holy Matrimony of our Bro. Jonathon Hodel to Sis. Megan Zimmerman of Morton (Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue) and welcome her into our congregation and pray they will look to God daily for His guidance.

As a congregation and individually we have been praying that God will provide the comfort to Cara Blunier Manning (who is a niece to the Blunier and Martin families here) in the tragic loss of her three dear children in Florida.

God knows the way, He holds
the key,
He guides us with unerring hand;

Sometime with tearless eyes we'll
 see;
 Yes, there, we'll understand.
 Then trust in God thro' all the
 days;
 Fear not, for He doth hold thy
 hand;
 Tho' dark thy way, still sing and
 praise,
 Sometime, sometime, we'll
 understand.
Hymns of Zion #165

By this reading, the Elder brethren will have met and finished another Conference to plead for the Holy Spirit's guidance for each one in our precious faith. I'd like to reflect on a hike recently taken through a wilderness, barren land, where there was a "rough" path to follow. At times it was quite difficult to see where it was, and those who have traveled on it before set up "markers" along the way to help those coming later to follow the right way. And what a relief it was to follow those markers. Surely this is how our Heavenly Father would like to use these Conferences. He wants to continue to lead His children on the straight and narrow pathway. When Satan would like to make our path "cloudy" and difficult to stay on, we do have help, and even the "markers" of our forefathers to look to. We were able to reach our destination on that hike because of that help, and may we all strive to make our final destination, Heaven, because of the help from our Heavenly Father and through His Holy Spirit and His servants.

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to

present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen."

Jude 24-25

Our prayers are for Sis. Verla Lemman and Bro. Bill Hodel who have undergone surgery and our continuing prayers for Bro. Jerry Fischer who has been in the hospital for five weeks now with a rare virus called transverse myelitis, and is slowly making progress toward recovery.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill

Barb Kaeb

On July 3, Sarah Koch (Bro. Ken and Sis. Amy) and Chad Hooley (Judy and Winston) were united in marriage. Our love and prayers are with them for many happy years together.

God has sent a baby boy, Brandon Jesse, to bless the home of Bro. Terry and Sis. Christine Koch. He was born June 15 and is welcomed by his brother, Kevin, and sisters, Lindsey and Ashleigh. Happy grandparents are Bro. Jess and Sis. Amy Koch.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). We thank each of them for their messages of inspiration and encouragement.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Sue Ruppert

Denise Romersberger

"But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel."

Philippians 1:12

Can something good come out of something bad? Just ask Moses, Joseph, Daniel, or Paul. Moses was banished from his homeland for a period of time, Joseph was sold into slavery, and Daniel was taken away from his family to Babylon. Paul saw God use persecution, imprisonment, shipwrecks and stonings to advance the cause of the gospel. All of these situations would have seemed awful to us had we gone through the same things. Would we not have wondered how God could use these bad situations for good?

The God of Moses, Joseph, Daniel and Paul is the same God who is our God. He works in our lives in much the same way today. When adversities arise, we can be sure that God is with us in spite of our present circumstances. He will remind us of His promise that all things (not some things, ALL things) work together for the good of those who love Him and are the called according to His purpose. (see Romans 8:28)

The greatest example of God's ability to bring good out of bad is found in the cross of Jesus Christ. Were it not for the horrendous sufferings of Jesus, you and I would not be forgiven and saved. Surely, then God can use the trials and sufferings of our lives in a fallen world to bless and strengthen us. These trials pro-

vide unique opportunities for the power of the saving gospel to be proclaimed and displayed to others.

Bro. Doug Wagenbach and Elder Bro. John Klotzle visited our congregation and shared in the Word with us. Thank you, Brothers.

Sis. Emily Simon was hospitalized this month. We wish her God's presence and strength.

We welcome Bro. Ben and Sis. Karen Knapp and their three children, who come to join our church family from the Taylor congregation. But, we sadly say farewell and God Speed to Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna Steffen, who have moved to the Princeville area. A farewell potluck supper was held for them.

Two weddings were celebrated this month. Carrie Hoerr and Mike Sherman were wed on July 3. Parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Dee Hoerr from Taylor, and Gale and Sharon Sherman. Bro. Tod Steffen and Sis. Nicole Baum were joined in matrimony on July 11. Their parents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Cathy Steffen of Washington, and Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum of Phoenix.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Gene Funk, whose sister, Hulda Meiss, died in Gridley.

The Washington congregation hosted several visiting pastors from Haiti. Thank you for being with us.

The annual Sunday School picnic was held on July 11. Work is progressing on the addition to the Sunday School, which is much needed for our growing congregation.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Catrina Rinkenberger
Beth Aschliman

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

Luke 15:10

We are rejoicing with the angels in Heaven that two more dear souls have surrendered their hearts to God in repentance. We are thankful for Sarah Gerber (Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb) and Rachel Schwartz (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jan). May God grant these two young ladies grace as they begin their walk with Him.

On May 27, Grahm Richard was born to Bro. Shawn and Sis. Marci Reinhard. Big brothers, Cole and Gage, are happy to have a new brother to play with. Grahm's grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Marcene Gillion, Karen Reinhard and Bro. Clem and Sis. Joni Reinhard (Bluffton North). Bringing much joy on July 16 was little Liana Joy. Her thankful mom and dad are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jodi Reinhard. Big brothers and sisters are Clint, Audrey, Logan, Crystal and Andrew. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine Ringger and Bro. Ezra Reinhard. May God bless both of these families as they raise their little ones for Him.

We've had some loved ones in the hospital this month. They are Bro. Rod Maller (Sis. Pat), Adam Stoller (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sharon), Sis. Mae Strahm, Sis. Dorothy Frank and Bro. Harold Isch. We certainly pray

for each one of these that have been ill and pray He will lay His healing hand on them all.

God continues to bring together His children who wish to become one in Christ Jesus. The engagement of Bro. Luke Gerke and Sis. Tina Raber was made known. Bro. Luke is the son of Dennis and Lori, and Sis. Tina is the daughter of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary. As they begin their future together, may they continue to look to God for His guidance.

The union of hearts became complete on June 20 for Bro. Phillip Stoller and Sis. Aimee Meyer. Phillip is the son of Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan while Aimee is the daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Anne. We wish them the Lord's blessings.

Sis. Julie and Sis. Rachel Reinhard (Bro. Larry and Sis. Deb) along with Sis. Faith Clough (John) were welcomed into the fold on July 18. We rejoice with them during this very special time in their lives.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this past month. They were Bros. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA), Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL), Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise) and Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane), both from Bluffton North, and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS). We thank each one of these ministers for giving and coming to be with us. May God bless you.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Ann Meyer
Rhonda Maller**

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation, to everyone that believeth."

Romans 1:16

We have been blessed with two new converts who have repented of their sins and claimed the gospel of Christ unto salvation. We rejoice with Abby Ringger (Bro. Sam and Sis. Becky) and Ashley Meyer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann). May the Lord bless them as they look to the cross for redemption. We know that Christ will draw near to them and the Holy Spirit will lead them in the way they should go. Converts Jenna Mueller (Bro. Dave and Sis. Terri), Chad Smekins (Mike Smekins and Sis. Melissa), Benji Jolloff (Bro. Bob and Sis. Bev), and Jenny Bynum (a friend of the Jolloff family) have found peace and were all announced for baptism.

Our congregation enjoyed the teaching of several visiting ministers this past month. We appreciate the willing service of Bros. John Stoller (Sis. Patsy) and Brace Wieland (Sis. Brenda), both of Leo. Our thankful prayers uplift them and Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN). May the Lord richly bless each of them and their families.

"The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him."

Nahum 1:7

We continue to pray for Sis. Clarice Isch (Bro. Harry), Sis. Diane Mason, and Daniel Shorb (Bro. Brett and Sis. Cindy) as they deal with hospital stays, chemotherapy, and/or surgeries. We know the Lord will hold them close in loving arms of comfort. Our prayers also uplift Gretchen Kaehr who faces the uncertainty of tests.

June 20 was a day of rejoicing for Sis. Aimee Meyer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann) and Bro. Phillip Stoller (Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan, Bluffton) as they were united in Holy Matrimony. We pray that God will bless them as they live for each other and for Him. May both of them and each of us be a living witness to the world of Christ's redeeming love.

**INDIANA,
FRANCESVILLE
Pam Huber**

"But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand."

Ezekiel 33:6

As we returned home late one evening, I heard the call of a bird. It was already after dark and everything else was asleep, but this one bird. I recognized it as the Killdeer we had seen around the yard, pretending to have a broken wing to lead us away from it's nest. Now here it was again, crying it's warning signal, even

when the hour was unexpected. I pray it would become an "instinct" in me, as it is with this creature, to sound forth the story of Christ's love to those around me as we too will be accountable.

Joshua Spiker (Joe and Sis. Cyndi Daniels) and Tracy Nattinger of Pine Village were united in Holy Matrimony on June 21. We pray the Lord blesses them as they start on this new path of their lives together.

"The Kingdom of God" was the theme for Bible School this year which was held June 21-25. Our thanks to the many hands that helped throughout the week and to the ministers who took the time to prepare for our benefit. They were Bros. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL), Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Brace Wieland (Leo, IN), Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH).

Glen Boehning (Sis. Eileen) was announced as having peace with God. We look forward to hearing his testimony of the Lord's work in his life and pray for his continued strength and grace.

Our dear Bro. Joe Gray (Sis. Esther) has been in the hospital and is in earnest need of our prayers. Also, Cameron Salyer (Sandy and Tom) has been in Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. We pray for his full recovery and for the strengthening of his parents also.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Lauretta Schafer
Gail Bradford**

We thank Elder Bros. Phil

Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IN) for ministering to us. We especially appreciate how willingly ministers share their summer traveling plans with other churches!

Our high school students traveled to Christian Endeavor this month. They enjoyed a precious time of fellowship and learned once more the importance of applying God's Word to their lives. Three of our young people have responded to the call.

Makito Inoue (Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie, Tokyo, Japan) has given his heart to the Lord and begun his repentance. He is attending Butler University in Indianapolis. His aunt and uncle, Bro. Ron and Sis. Marcelle Gress, reside in Indianapolis.

Melanie Levy (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue) has also recognized the need for a Saviour. Melanie and her family recently moved to the Indianapolis area from Francesville, IN. She will be a sophomore in high school.

Matthew Freed (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy) has also made a commitment to place Jesus first in his life. Matt will be a junior in high school this fall.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Galatians 2:20

We rejoice with everyone and remind ourselves once again of our responsibilities to all those seeking the Lord. We can either

be an encouragement or an obstacle in their path. Will watching us bring others closer to a decision for Jesus?

Craig Schafer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lauretta) was married in Oswego, NY on June 26 to Tammy Stone. They will make their home in New Jersey where they are both employed.

Our congregation welcomes Mr. and Mrs. Brad Senkowski (Gina Meylan) to Indianapolis. They were married July 10 in Saginaw, MI. Gina is the daughter of Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol Meylan (Bay City, MI). Brad will seek employment here as an occupational therapist while Gina will continue her course of study in dentistry at Indiana University.

We are glad these precious couples have pledged to make Jesus the cornerstone of their lives together.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Anna Marie Stoller

Two Christians, "thru' Christ", have their "liberty won"! (Zion's Harp #209). Sis. Karina Troxel (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol) and Bro. Mark Heinold (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy) have been baptized and made promises to God of their faithfulness in life and in death. How can one describe in words the process of conversion or the beautiful change that comes over a soul who repents and becomes transformed from this world? The believers were uplifted and encouraged to behold the renewing power of God in the lives of Sis. Karina and Bro. Mark. The vigorous, melodious singing of

the congregation was evidence of the joyful praise toward God for His love and mercy.

Visiting ministers the past month have been Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), and Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL). Bro. Marshall Heinold (Ixtilan, Mexico) attended the testimony of his nephew, Bro. Mark. "Does the yoke seem heavy? Maybe we're pulling the wrong direction from the way of the Lord", was a thought expressed through the preaching of God's Word.

INDIANA, LEO

Ethelyn Schlatter

We had a week of evening Vacation Bible School for the children. The theme was based on Psalm 139.

Two new babies arrived this month. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carla Fritz have a little girl, Moriah Lee, born July 7. She is welcomed by her brothers, Evan and Gavin, and grandparents, Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry Fritz (Francesville, IN) and Otto and Jan Bradtmueller.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Denise Klopfenstein are first-time parents of a baby boy. Grant Michael was born July 10. His grandparents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Chris Klopfenstein and Bro. Donald and Sis. Delores Duckworth (Bradford, IL). We are thankful all are doing well.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Steven and Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), and Elder Bros. Lavoyd Moore (Athens,

AL) and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN). We appreciated the messages they brought to us and thank them and their wives for their visit.

Sis. Christine Taylor from Perth, Australia also visited for a couple weeks serving at Gateway Woods.

As the perfume of the roses
Sweetly fills the morning air,
I would find the Rose of Sharon
In the hour of secret prayer,
And the sweetness of His
presence
Shall go with me all the day
If I pause at early morning
And take time to kneel and pray.

And He gives me living water
So I shall not thirst today.
But go on my way rejoicing
As the Saviour leads the way;
For the presence of the Master
Will go with us all the day
If we ask Him in the morning
Ere we go our busy way.

—author unknown

INDIANA, MILFORD
Marguerite Hoerr
Pam Beer

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...”

Mark 16:16

Our Milford congregation welcomed a new brother and sister into the family of God. Sis. Katy Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Daron Price (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane) gave their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of May 23. We rejoice with them that they now can say with assurance and peace

in their heart...“Yes, my name’s written there.”

We thank Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) for coming and sharing God’s Word with us the weekend of baptisms. Also we appreciate the Word brought forth by visiting ministers, Bros. Glenn Price Jr. (Sarasota, FL), Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) who presented us with a Topical Bible study on suffering.

Jeff Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) and Rob Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy) have acknowledged their need of a Saviour and turned to the Lord in repentance. We are rejoicing with the angels in Heaven.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Ray Haab (Sis. Paula) as he has spent some time in the hospital and undergone a number of tests. We are very thankful that Bro. Ray is back assembling with us.

Bro. Daron Price has felt the Lord’s leading to take employment in the Athens, AL area and will be assembling with the brethren there. We know that Bro. Daron will be a blessing to the Athens church as he was to our Milford congregation.

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Rochelle Ward
Beth Virkler

Visiting us while on vacation at a nearby state park, Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) spoke encouraging words to our congregation. It had been awhile since we had a visiting minister so his surprise visit was appreciated. Several popular family parks exist within a short driving dis-

tance from our church so if anyone would like to enjoy “Indiana” in future summer vacations, your family would be most welcome to fellowship with us on Sunday.

On July 17, the clouds broke and the rain stopped just in time for a lawn wedding in which Stephanie Gish (Joe and Sis. Cheri Frantz) became the bride of Ben Standish (Mike and Kathy, Rensselaer). They plan to finish college together and will reside at: 5601 S. Winthrop Court, Apt. #275, Terre Haute, IN 47802. Our prayers go with them.

Sis. Lois Bahler spent time in the hospital for eye cataract surgery. Are we thankful often enough to God for giving man the ability to fix such intricate parts of our bodies?

The following letter was written by a father to his daughter who had yielded her heart to the Lord in repentance over 50 years ago.

“My Dear Daughter,

I will write you a few lines this evening wishing you God’s grace and blessing. Hope this finds you continuing in your good work seeking the Lord to work out your soul’s salvation. I feel like trying in my weakness to encourage you again not to give up or become discouraged even if the darkness might seem dense and the mountains great. Sometimes, the Lord may seem far from each soul who seeks and wishes to find Him. We must first seem forsaken and lost and during such tests and struggles, Satan tries to tell us our hopes and efforts are in vain. Jesus, our

Leader, went on this rugged path and was also forsaken that it made Him ask, "Why?" Be truthful and keep on praying even if it seems like it isn't heard. God is sure to hear and answer prayer. You will be led the same way as everyone else that asks and you cannot miss finding the right way if you are truthful. Many things make one feel uneasy but it is all for the best. Believe God's Word which tells us that He is nigh to those that are of a broken heart. I will tell you a few songs which may be a help to you. Perhaps, you may have already found them to your comfort: #18, 39, 45, 47, 88, 94, 96, 183.

Hope these few lines can be a comfort to you and will close.

With greetings from your father."

Even though Father's Day is past for this year, may each father take the time to leave a legacy to his children with "words from his heart." What a treasure to be able to hold in your hand a letter or note from your father who has long been in the grave.

Several months ago, Bro. Herb and Sis. Mary Jo Schieler moved permanently to Parkview Haven Retirement Home. Their address is Box 798, Francesville, IN 47946.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Jennifer Mangold
Sue Beebe

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve

the Lord Christ."

Col. 3:23-24

How thankful we can be for ministers who so willingly and heartily serve us each Sunday. May the Lord bless each one. Our visiting ministers this past month were our dear Elder Bro. Jesse Beer and Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL).

We were also privileged to join with the Milford congregation on July 14 for a topical Bible study on "Suffering" by Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI).

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another..."

I John 1:7

We have been uplifted by that precious fellowship a number of times this past month as we joined with the Milford congregation for Vacation Bible School and again for a church picnic.

Our congregation enjoyed beautiful weather and an afternoon of beautiful fellowship and a singing on July 11 at our Sunday School Picnic, which was held at the home of Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer.

On July 10-11, our Sunday School went to Francesville, IN for a youth fellowship weekend.

"And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

I John 2:17

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Cheryl Bucher
Hope Bucher

Our Vacation Bible School was held this month, the topic being "Who Is Your God?" Our guest ministers were Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) whose topic was "Possessions"; Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) who spoke on "Pressures"; and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) whose topic was "Pride". Each topic was covered so well, it was obvious that much prayer and thought had been given to these subjects. May God bless each brother for his efforts. We also don't want to forget the faithful wives who accompanied each brother.

The theme for the Sunday School children during Bible School was "Exploring the Life of Jesus." Each class did special craft projects which were completed during the week. The Sunday afternoon following the week of Bible School the congregation gathered at a park in Valparaiso where we enjoyed a potluck dinner. Following the dinner, we had a short program with certificates given out to students for the year's participation in Sunday School. This picnic is always a highlight of the summer.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Beckie Lehman
Mary Beth Lehman

We were blessed this past month with two visiting ministers. We appreciate the willing service of Bros. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH). May God

bles them for their time and efforts.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

“Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.”

Proverbs 23:12

It's that time of year our students are preparing to return to another year of schooling. As education is needful for employment in this life, how much greater is the need for Godly wisdom and knowledge to gain entrance into that heavenly home.

“Walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

Col. 1:10

“Preach the word...”

II Timothy 4:2

We are thankful for Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) who has visited us here in Elgin. It is such a blessing to have those from afar come and minister to our small congregation. May God bless him for his willingness to be used in His service.

“Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

St. John 3:5

Many of us were able to travel to North Liberty to listen to the testimonies of Jim Butikofer

(Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne, Elgin, IA) and Man Huynh. It was a blessing to witness their baptisms and to greet them as brothers in faith. May God be near them as they start their new walk with Him.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Laura Funk

Visiting ministers this past month include Bros. Wes Moser (Lester, IA) and Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA). We are thankful the Lord continues to provide visiting ministers to assist Bro. Brad. We are thankful for our many visitors and the fellowship we can enjoy. Some of our congregation are not able to visit other congregations, so the fellowship with our visitors is especially precious.

Suppose you got to look into the future to see how your influence affects your family 20 years from today.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Sharon Gerst

We were grateful for all the visitors we had this month. Among the visitors were ministering Bros. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), and Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL). We appreciate them sharing God's Word with us.

This month we said farewell to Bro. Neil and Sis. June and their two sons, Grant and Nelson. Bro. Neil and Sis. June have been in our congregation seven years and have served faithfully in

many positions in our little church. We will miss them very much but we are glad for the Columbus church as they welcome them there.

We welcome two new brothers into our church family. Bro. Jim Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. Laverne, Elgin, IA) and Bro. Man Huynh gave their testimonies July 10 and were baptized on July 11. It is truly uplifting to hear how God is still working miracles of conversion in the souls of men.

IOWA, LESTER
Cindy Leuthold
Sue Warner

On June 27, Sis. Laura Metzger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Beth) was united in marriage to Bro. Joel Metz (Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty), Silverton, OR. We wish them God's richest blessings and hope that Bro. Joel and Sis. Laura will visit us often.

Two couples in our congregation reached milestones in their marriages: Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie Knobloch celebrated their 40 years of marriage and Bro. August and Sis. Florence Knobloch celebrated 50 years of marriage. May God ever be near their sides.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) and Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), and Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), and Brad Funk (Garden Grove, IA). We pray God will bless these brothers for their labors and pray that He will continue to direct them in the ministry of the Word.

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven that Justin and Jodi

Metzger and Monty Van Wyhe (Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Wyhe) have repented for their sins and are now at peace with God and man. Justin and Jodi currently reside in Minneapolis, MN.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Alfred Feucht (Sis. Marie), Bro. Greg Popkes (Sis. Lori), Gwen Meyer (Bro. George and Sis. Charlyn Meyer) and Bro. Freddie Metzger (Sis. Esty). Our prayers are with all of these loved ones and their families, especially Bro. Freddie and Bro. Alfred who are battling with cancer, that God's presence may be felt in their lives.

Note of Thanks:

Words fail me to express my sincere thanks to family, relatives, and friends who assisted me before and after my surgery; for your visits while I was at Lyon Manor Rehab; for your cards, gifts, flowers and money and for the many prayers offered on my behalf. May God bless all of you.

Sister Iola Knobloch

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

Thus united and in concord
Let us walk the path of life;
Hand in hand, O may love bind
us
For each other's welfare strive.

Thus it is our Saviour's pleasure,
As His footprints plainly show.
May God's love, our greatest
treasure,
Richly every heart bestow.

Only he is called a brother
Whom the tie of love does bind;
And the love of God, the Father,
Filleth soul and heart and mind.

With the love of God inspired,
There is joy for us on earth;
May the Spirit, we've acquired,
Grant us blessing, peace and
mirth.

Zion's Harp #237

July 24, Bro. Dave Lanz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet) and Sis. Tammy Bajema (Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla, Lester, IA) were united in Holy Matrimony. May the Lord bless this dear couple as they are now united as one with Him. We welcome Sis. Tammy to our congregation and pray she can feel at home here.

We want to thank Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) for allowing himself to be used in ministering to us this past month. It's always so good to have him and his dear wife back "home" for a visit.

IOWA, PULASKI
Lisa Knecht

"Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people..."

Ex. 19:5

Surely, our prayers have been in earnest for God's presence during the Conference of our Elder brothers. Our desire would be that, through obedience, we would remain a "peculiar treasure" of God's.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Berniece Banwart
Eunice Fehr

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

Ephesians 5:31

Our congregation has witnessed two weddings this past month. Sis. Kendra Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene) and Bro. Ben Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb, Latty, OH) exchanged their vows on June 26. Many visitors were here and among those were Elder Bros. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Eugene Marti (Sis. Mary, Kansas City, MO), and Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN), Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce) and John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia), both of Latty, OH. We are going to miss Sis. Kendra's smiling face but know that the Latty congregation will make her feel welcome.

On July 11, Sis. Molly Skoglund (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori) and Bro. Barry Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice) were united as husband and wife. Among our visitors were Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) and Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX). We rejoice with both of these couples and pray that they will always let God direct them in their married life.

Hospital patients were Alex Banwart (Ron and Carolyn) and Sis. Evelyn Schmidt (Bro. Ivan)

for surgery. Sis. Edna I. Banwart suffered injury due to a fall but has returned home. Our prayers are with all who are ill or suffering and wish them a full recovery.

Congratulations to Pete and Jill Stegman from Minneapolis, MN as they became parents to Maxwell Peter on July 1. Big sister, Cori, is anxious to have a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Marvella Wickman.

On July 8, Bro. Dave and Sis. Melissa Zaugg were thankful to add to their family circle little Abigail Elaine. Excited to have a new sister are brothers, Colton and Dylan, and a sister, Anna. Grandparents to Abigail are Don and Jane Banwart and Bro. Martin and Sis. Doris Zaugg. May these families feel God's love and direction as they raise their little families.

JAPAN, SHIODA **Willis Ehnle**

Recently, Sis. Vicki Ramseyer of Bay City, MI and Sis. Melody Knobloch of Minneapolis, MN visited Japan as guests of Sis. Eiko Nozawa. We appreciate their visit. Sis. Vicki is a former kindergarten teacher. They were here long enough to have some of the peaches in our area which are just being harvested. Lois and I get all we can eat and then some, from our neighbor whose children came to our kindergarten. These peaches are huge, white, and juicy, the best in the world so far as we know.

Yesterday, July 18, Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana Klaus, and their family, favored us with a

visit which we appreciate very much. Theirs is a delightful family with four precious little ones. They seem to like it here in rural Japan, although compared to rural America, we are still crowded, with houses, a temple, a shrine and a store surrounding us.

Our first figs are ripe and they are huge. The later ones are not so big. We have three fig trees. You can start a new tree by cutting off a branch and sticking it in the ground. It will take root and in a few years will be bearing fruit. "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines...yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation." (Habakkuk 3:17-18). Even if we didn't have figs and peaches, we would try to be happy and content.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

"Ring the bells of heaven, there is joy today!" We are all rejoicing in the recent news of Makoto Inoue (Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie) starting on the road of conversion. As was mentioned in a previous month, he is studying in the U.S. in Indianapolis. We continue to pray for him and think of him often. We also continue to lift up in prayer those who have not yet surrendered their hearts to their Lord.

On Sunday, July 11, we enjoyed worshipping and fellowshiping with two Sisters from the U.S., Vicki Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Melody Knobloch (Minneapolis, MN) who were visiting and touring with Sis. Eiko Nozawa from our Shioda church. Vicki is very familiar with Japan

as she was a teacher at the Shioda American Kindergarten and has been back several times to visit, but for Melody, it was a first visit. We all enjoyed a nice supper and singing together in the evening. We hope they come back and see us again!

God be with you all and may each of our summer plans be blessed and safe.

KANSAS, BERN **Jill Hartter** **Holly Meyer**

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father."

James 1:17

On July 6, two families from our congregation were blessed with gifts from above in the form of two precious baby girls. Marissa Jo joined the family of Bro. Matt, Sis. Helen, Marvin and Diana Edelman. Her grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann Edelman and William and Helen Fehr (Fairbury, IL). Bro. Steve and Sis. Loretta Buser became first-time parents as they welcomed Ashton Elizabeth into their hearts and home. Happy grandparents of Ashton are Sis. Marge Edelman and Bob and Ellen Buser (Sabetha, KS).

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Eph. 2:8-9

Babies are a wonderful gift from above, but with them comes

the awesome responsibility of training them in the ways of the Lord. How wonderful when a soul accepts the free gift of salvation and turns to the Lord in repentance. We are rejoicing with Angela Edelman and her parents, Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna, as she takes that most important step in life. What a joy to see such true happiness in her face!

"...the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

Job 1:21

Seven years ago, the Lord gave Bro. Faron and Sis. Jana Strahm the gift of Clay Isaac Strahm. On July 17, Clay was taken back to be forever with the Lord, due to a tragic accident at home. Our love and prayers are certainly with his parents; younger sisters, Jessalyn and Mariah; grandparents, Clayton and Sis. Mariam Strahm and Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois Meyer (Sabetha, KS); great-grandparents, John and Loree Menold (Sabetha, KS); and extended family, friends and classmates ("Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4). Words really fail us at a time like this, but may we all find comfort in God's promises, treasure the wonderful memories of dear Clay, and keep our eyes on that new heaven:

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

Revelation 21:4

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our sincere thanks for the support, kind deeds, cards, and prayers that we received while Colleen and Matthew were hospitalized. We pray that God will richly bless each one of you.

Bro. Alan and Sis. Colleen Meyer

Benjamin, Grant and Matthew

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Joleen Sinn

A late congratulations to Tyler Banwart (Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie) and Sara Sinn (Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen) on graduating from high school. May they seek God's guidance as they decide what direction they take in their future.

We welcome Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ethel Smith back to Fort Scott. They have been living at Prescott, AZ and are in the process of moving back home. We are looking forward to the time they will be here permanently.

Our thanks to Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS) and their wives for spending time with us recently. May our Heavenly Father bless them richly for lending themselves in His service.

KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY Sarah Somerhalder

We appreciated our visiting ministers this past month. They were Bros. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) and Darrell Stoller (Sis. Gloria, Bern, KS). May the Lord richly bless them

for their willingness to labor for the Lord in our behalf.

Our congregation is thankful to God for His healing mercies as Bro. Roy Wernli is able to assemble with us again after a lengthy stay at home.

Our prayers are with Sis. Jill Luthi who recently has been under the care of physicians for two surgeries.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Bertha Beyer in the passing of her niece, Lorraine Shaffer VanCleve.

Let us always remember to pray for our Elder brethren, especially as they assemble for the Brotherhood Conference. They will surely be richly rewarded for the many hours they spend in the Lord's service to preserve our precious faith.

KANSAS, SABETHA Mary Kay Wenger Brenda Grimm

The Sunday School classes are on break during August. When classes resume they will include new teachers, Bros. Jay Kellenberger (Sis. Marilyn) and Kevin Grimm (Sis. Nita) and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger (Bro. Brad).

Bro. Don Strahm has been hospitalized. We pray for God's nearness and strength.

Sis. Marjorie Edelman and Robert and Ellen Buser are grandparents of Ashton Elizabeth Buser born to Bro. Steve and Sis. Loretta Buser (Bern) on July 6.

Luann Aberle (Bro. Fred and Sis. Charlotte) and Brian Strahm (Roderick and Glenna) have announced their engagement. We wish them God's blessings with

their wedding plans.

July 10-11, Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) assisted our Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell with the proving and baptism of Sis. Leona Grimm. Bro. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS) was also present for this special weekend. At age 83, God gave grace to Sis. Leona so she could build a firm foundation in Him. We pray many more of all ages will seek to build on the solid rock.

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and
righteousness;

I dare not trust the sweetest
frame,

But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Hymns of Zion #99

We pray for God's protection on Beat Baumann of Berne, Switzerland who has left our area after residing here a couple months with the family of Bro. Steve and Sis. RoseAnn Knoblock. He is a friend of their family who came to spend time in America to learn our language and see what it was like here in our country. He has graduated from farming school and is a farmer and apprentice. He attends our Sister Church in Berne, Switzerland. We hope his stay made a good impression on him so that he will want to return again. We will miss having him with us.

God be with you till we meet
again;

By His counsels guide, uphold
you,

With His sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet

again.

Hymns of Zion #216

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) was our guest minister on Father's Day, June 20, and again July 11. On the last visit, he and Sis. Helen were accompanied by a World Relief team from the Mansfield area. The work team members were welcomed into the homes of several from our congregation for overnight accommodations. A carry in dinner was served on Wednesday night prior to evening services.

June 27 marked the 53rd wedding anniversary of Bro. Virgil and Betty Barth. They were able to be in church that afternoon and to attend a small reception in honor of the event.

Sis. Lillian Bowers' father, Dewey Brunt, Sr., died June 22. In another six months, he would have been 100 years old. He and his now deceased wife moved to Wichita in their retirement years to be close to their daughter. Sis. Lillian and her sister, Callie McEllar, lovingly ministered to their father's needs. His last few years were spent in a nursing home, but prior to that, he would come to church with the Bowers family and we have pleasant memories of that association.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Kristen Plattner

Michelle Oesch

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

added unto you."

Matthew 6:33

We are rejoicing that another soul has turned his heart to the Lord. Aaron Plattner (Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen) has sought the Lord in repentance and our prayers are with him as he seeks God's grace in his life. While the door of mercy is open, it is our hope that many more will seek the Lord while He may be found.

"I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoso findeth me, findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord."

Proverbs 8:17,33-35

The week of June 21-25 was our Vacation Bible School and we all learned about using our talents to serve the King. Each one has certain gifts and talents that can be used. No matter how small they may seem to us, God can take them and use us to serve Him. We enjoyed having Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) here on Wednesday evening of that week to speak on using our talents. Some of them were "listening, encouraging, and talking." We are thankful to Bro. Andy and his wife for coming and sharing the evening with us.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL) and Lynn Stieglitz

(Leo, IN). We appreciate their labors as they shared the Word with us.

We wish joy and God's blessings to two couples who have announced their wedding engagements. We rejoice with Kathi Byam and Ted Austin (Nancy Austin) and Kristi Byam and Scott Mehal (Robbie and Mike Mehal). The parents of Kathi and Kristi are Doug and Marilyn Byam. We pray the Lord will guide them as they make their future plans.

I Sought My Soul

I sought my soul,
But my soul I could not see.
I sought my God,
But my God eluded me.
I sought my brother,
And I found all three.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Rhonda Knochel

Peggy Jackson

When I married, I was fortunate to receive a patchwork quilt that my husband's grandmother had begun to make before she passed away. After her passing, my mother-in-law took those brightly colored quilt tops and finished them. The other day I was looking at one of those quilts and was noticing all the different prints and colors that were once part of someone's dress or a piece of scrap cloth left from another sewing project. Each piece probably has a story behind it, and someday, maybe I will know them all.

Isn't my quilt a beautiful comparison of the church? When we look across the many people that make up the Body of Christ, we

see many pieces of cloth, all a story of their own. God, in His infinite wisdom and love, takes all of those people and puts them together into something productive and useful to Him. As I see it, hopefully when we work together out of love for God and one another, we provide a warmth and comfort to a cold dark world that no quilt could ever offer.

We were so blessed to have Vacation Bible School this past month. Every year we are challenged by the children who come daily eager to learn, the topic of the year, and the caring ministering brothers who come from many miles away to minister on that topic. Our gratitude is extended to: Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), and Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA). We pray God's richest blessings upon them and their wives and families for their kind and generous service to us here in Bay City.

We rejoice with Bro. Tom Wackerle (Kimberly) as we had the privilege of hearing his testimony and witnessing his baptism. We are always reminded of the joy of our own conversion when we have the privilege of sharing in weekends such as that. We sincerely pray that Bro. Tom will always have the peace and happiness of knowing that Jesus is walking with him every step of the way. Also rejoicing with Bro. Tom are his parents, Bro. Sam and Sis. Lorraine Wackerle.

We were honored to host the Fort Sam reunion here in Bay

City. Bro. Merle and Sis. Elaine Wieland organized the weekend and gave the church a wonderful opportunity to serve. We were so blessed to have so many wonderful brothers and sisters here from across the nation and are so thankful that we could all be involved. Bro. Marvin Stieglitz and his wife, Sis. Joan (Leo, IN), were part of the group and we were very happy to enjoy Bro. Marvin's service in the ministry. May God bless them for their labor of love.

May God be with each of you in the month ahead.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Bonnie Bedolla

Crystal Ramsier

The Lord is so faithful and we have much to be thankful for! This month the Detroit congregation has enjoyed many blessings. We have all been encouraged to see God working in the lives of His children daily. We rejoice with the angels in Heaven that God has given Alexis Gasser (Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue) and Danielle Mojic (Laza and Radojka) the grace to make the decision to turn away from sin and walk with Him. We will continue to pray for both of them during their repentance time and throughout their lives. May God continually guide and direct their paths!

One of the great traditions in our church is the willingness of our brethren to travel to other churches to serve the Lord. This month, Bros. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN) and Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL) visited with us and

taught out of the Word. Also, Bro. Bill Gerst (Sis. Judy, Alto, MI) provided the services for the Tuesday night church at Woodhaven Retirement Community. We are very thankful the brothers allowed God to work through them and speak with us about His teachings.

This is the time again for Vacation Bible School both for children from our church and from the community. As is our tradition, there was a topical presentation to prepare all of us for the upcoming events of the week. This year, Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) was able to join us to talk about the "The Temptations of Today's Lifestyle". We each looked at our lives to examine if we were daily living in a manner that reflects God living in our hearts. It was amazing to see how the Lord works through His servant to provide for our needs so perfectly. We are grateful to Bro. Clark and Sis. Cindy for spending the weekend with us. What an encouragement to us all.

As we go through life, we meet with some unexpected challenges along the way. But, the Lord will keep us strong and He will remain by our side always. Our prayers continue to be with Bro. George Popp as he undergoes radiation and chemotherapy. Also, Bro. Joe Szilagyi (Sis. Martha) and Bro. Frank Denes (Sis. Sanche) have been very ill and our thoughts remain with them. We trust God will see them and their families through these difficult times. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

We would also like to extend our deepest sympathy to Denise and Paxton Williams and their family in the death of her grandmother, Mary Saltz, from Lakeland, FL. Our prayers are also with Dorothy and Chuck Leman in the tragic loss of their relatives in Florida.

As the Elders assemble at the annual Conference in Rittman, OH, we trust they can feel the Lord's guidance and direction as we will be praying for God's grace to be with them.

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Delores Sauder**

The Sunday School students ended this session with a picnic in the park on June 27. They will resume classes on September 12.

We are enjoying the fellowship of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sandy Huber of Francesville. Bro. Nathan is here on an internship. We also wish them God's blessings on their recent marriage.

We are thankful when there are brethren directed to move here. We welcome Bro. Phil Nenadov (Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn, Eureka, IL) and hope that he will soon feel at home here.

The children of Bro. Don and Sis. Bernadine Miller hosted a reception in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary. They have been a great blessing to our church and we pray that God will continue to bless them.

We have enjoyed many visitors this summer, including ministering Bros. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN). We

thank them for their labors in bringing forth God's Word.

We remember our Elders in prayer as they make preparation for the summer Conference.

REMINDER: August is collection month for our congregation.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Dianne Kellenberger
Nancy Wulf**

Follow me, the Saviour calleth;
Come to me, I am the way!
What is lacking I will give you;
Trust in me and watch and pray!
Follow me in true submission;
I have borne all your
transgression;
Learn of me; both great and
small,
Meekly, humbly hear my call.
Zion's Harp #95

We are thankful for ministering brethren who so faithfully issue the call time and time again; would that so many more would heed the Word and come. God is calling you.

Visiting ministers who shared our pulpit this month were Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Bros. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Steve Pamer (Akron, OH).

We rejoice with Amy Reuter and Dirwin Martin (Lester, IA) as they became engaged and look forward to marriage on November 27. May the Lord bless and watch over them as they take this serious step in life. Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn Reuter and Ed and Judy Martin (Lester, IA).

Notes of Thanks:

Many heartfelt thanks to my family and to our many dear friends for all the kindness and love shown to me during my surgery. Thank you for your prayers, visits, calls and cards. Praying God will richly bless each of you.

Bro. Gerald Feuchtenberger

We would like to thank all those who remembered us with cards, prayers, phone calls, and other acts of love during the loss of our baby, Cameron. We cannot begin to express our appreciation for all those who reached out to us during this time of loss. May God bless you all.

Bro. Dwayne and Sis. Kay Feuchtenberger and family

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Carol Ann Messner
Becky Braulick

"Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace."

Luke 7:50

The world talks of peace and safety but lasting peace is only peace within our hearts which God gives!

We welcomed visiting ministers, families and friends traveling together this past month. We thank them all for their time, effort, and love shared with our small congregation. Bro. Steven Pamer and Sis. Arliss (Akron, OH) and Bro. Larry Bahr and Sis. Julie (Ft. Scott, KS) were our visiting ministers.

"For nothing is secret, that

shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad."

Luke 8:17

We have to continue to weed our gardens and our farmlands to have a good crop. It's likened to our Christian walk of life. We as Christians have to continue to weed out impurities in our lives in order to lead a Christian life pleasing to God.

A person could choose any item on earth and label it priceless but it can usually, at some time, be bought if the price is right. Jesus Christ's gift to us of His death on the cross is truly priceless because it cannot be bought or sold for any amount of money.

Our annual pork chop supper was held at our fellowship center. We thank all those who attended and for the fellowship we shared.

Hospital patients this past month for surgery were Bro. Mike Messner (Sis. Joyce) and Bro. Dick Schmidt (Sis. Mary Lou). We pray for God's healing touch in their recoveries.

MISSOURI
KANSAS CITY

Brent Kellenberger

While summer traveling has taken many of our congregation away, we have been blessed with visitors traveling through our area. This month we had two visiting ministers. Bro. Larry and Sis. Julie Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS) were here with many other young couples on June 27. On July 4, Bro. Dave and Sis. Lori Marquart (Taylor, MO) were

with us. We are thankful that these brothers were willing to minister to us, and we pray that God will continue to bless and use them in His work. May we always remember that we are all ministers of the gospel, as we sing in the Zion's Harp #113. It is very convenient to shirk God's commandment to spread the gospel and be the light of the world. On July 18, we were reminded how we, as man, dislike confrontations. We have comfort zones that we don't like to get out of. The Old Testament reading was in Isaiah 51. Verse 12 certainly fit well with the sermon. "I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass." May God help us to stand up for Jesus and be soldiers of the cross.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Kristi Huber

Carolyn Banwart

We were very thankful to have Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forest, IL) and Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) with us. We appreciate their efforts on our behalf in expounding God's Holy Word.

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

Luke 15:10

We rejoice with Nicole Marti (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kathy) as she has turned her heart to the Lord in repentance.

Kyle Kellenberger was announced for peace and we are

looking forward to his testimony and baptism on August 21-22.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Rachel Schrock

"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Romans 10:9-10

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God."

Romans 5:1-2

In a sermon lately, we were reminded that these words often bring peace to searching souls. The St. Louis congregation rejoices with Cindy Baker who has found the grace to repent, has confessed her sins before God and man, has found the peace that passeth understanding, and desires to be baptized into the fold. We also rejoice with Kyle Kellenberger (Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary) who also desires baptism. Kyle has recently moved from St. Louis to Lamar, MO. In the coming weeks, we will continue to hold these two dear ones up to God in our prayers.

"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...a time to weep, and a time to laugh..."

Eccles. 3:1,2,4

We were saddened to hear of the passing into eternity of Cindy Baker's great aunt, Ruth Cagle. May God give her comfort in this life below.

"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named."

Ephesians 3:14-15

We were encouraged not long ago that when a feather from the Lord lands upon our hearts bringing someone's name to our attention that we should pray for that individual. This is how the whole family of God is named in prayer. Our little portion of God's family here in St. Louis held our dear Sis. Cindy Hann up in prayer recently as she underwent surgery. May God be with her as she recovers.

May God also bless those who have given of their time and labored for the Lord on our behalf this past month. Our appreciation is extended to ministering Bros. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL). Thank you for allowing our beloved Father to work through you for us.

We are being blessed in St. Louis by many visitors on summer vacation who share Sunday fellowship with us. Thank you so much for your support of our little congregation. We love you all.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Peg Haerr

The Lord gave us a lovely day to have our annual Sunday School picnic on June 27. After a splendid potluck meal we all enjoyed the program that the children presented.

We wish God's blessings to Carrie and Michael Sherman. They were united in marriage in Morton, IL on July 3. Their parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Hoerr (Taylor) and Gale and Sharon Sherman (Yates City, IL). Danny and Jody Meyers' daughter, Dana, married Tom Pearn on July 10. His parents are Danny and Sue Pearn of Quincy, IL.

We appreciate the Lord's messengers who brought us His Word this month. Our thanks to Bros. Roy Ehnle (Sis. Donna, Bradford, IL), Charles Marti (Sis. Alice, Lamar, MO), Robert Stoller (Sis. Janice, Lamar, MO), Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), Jim Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS) and Richard Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Peoria, IL). May the Lord be their rich rewarder!

NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Anna Mellnitz

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of

things which do appear."

Hebrews 11:1-3

May God be with our Elder brothers as they assemble at the Annual Conference and may God be with all who are traveling to the Conference.

On June 20, we had visiting minister, Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL), and other visiting brothers and sisters. We also had visiting minister, Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI). We welcome all visitors to our congregation.

On June 28 we had our annual Sunday School wiener roast and also had visiting brothers from Kansas with us.

Sis. Alice Virkler had a bridal shower for Kendra Lehman and Noel Virkler as they plan their wedding in August.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

We give best wishes to Bro. Sandor and Sis. Gyongyi Hegedus as a baby boy named Daniel was born to them on June 22. Also welcoming their baby brother is Ruben and Sanyi. Grandparents are Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy Bako.

Bro. Leo Heib will be having his "four score" birthday as he will be 80 years old August 23. Congratulations to Bro. Leo.

Our sympathy goes to Harold and Sis. Esther Fritz in the passing away of their oldest son, Dennis.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

We were blessed with many

visiting ministers this month. Giving Bro. John a helping hand on the pulpit were Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) and Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL). We appreciate the efforts of those who travel the many miles with their families to be with us.

Our little congregation extends a hearty welcome to Bro. Neil and Sis. June Knobloch and their sons, Grant and Nelson. They have recently relocated to our area from Iowa City and are a welcome addition to our church family.

Two sisters in the Columbus congregation have recently experienced the loss of a parent. June 22, Sis. Becky Sauder (Bro. Bill) lost her mother, Margaret Saltz; and Sis. Nancy Banks (Bro. Larry) lost her father, Ray Bush, two weeks later. We are so thankful for the Heavenly Father who provides comfort and strength during these difficult times.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

We enjoyed a blessed time this past month when the Akron Sunday School spent the weekend with us. Many thanks to all who made the effort to come and spend this time with us, and a special thank you to Bro. Steve Pamer for speaking the Word of Truth.

Our Sis. Vera Manz (Bro. Russell) had back surgery recently. We are thankful things went well for her and she is assem-

bling with us again.

What an uplifting evening it was to hear how the Lord had worked in another heart. Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) gathered with us as we listened to the testimony and the next day could view the baptism of our new Sis. Wendy Manz (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra). May we all sincerely pray that others can heed the call and humbly answer while He is still calling. Ministering Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) was also visiting us on this blessed weekend.

Our other visiting minister this month was Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN). We would like to thank him also for coming for our mid-week service; may the Lord richly bless each one who stands before us and speaks His good and Holy Word.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn

Heidi Hackenjos

Our congregation was blessed from listening to the "church of tomorrow" during our Bible School program. The songs which were sung and the verses which were recited reflected their study for the week. As these young children and young adults mature in the coming years, may they continue to remember these times of studying the Word of God. As they learn in the years to come, we trust these thoughts will remain fixed in their minds. And in due time, bring conviction causing them to answer God's call to repentance. We certainly wish to thank everyone who gave of their time and talents to make this week

possible.

We enjoyed several visiting ministers during the past month. Bros. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI), Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) and Ben Manz (Junction, OH) assembled with us and brought forth the truth from the Word of God. We thank them each knowing that the Lord will bless them further on.

In our prayers are included the following brethren who endured a hospital stay within the last several weeks. They include Sis. Arvilla Kipfer, Bro. Ken Laukhuf (Sis. Marge) and Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria Grant. We are grateful for God's healing power as most of these dear ones are again able to assemble with us.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Paulette Sinn welcome another daughter into their family circle. Lily Jo joins sisters, Natalie and Brianna. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn and Bro. Alfred and Sis. Marie Feucht (Lester, IA).

Another name has been written in the Book of Life. We thoroughly enjoyed the testimony of Joni Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. Joann). We then witnessed the new birth of our new sister-in-the-Lord on Sunday, July 4. Our prayers are with Sis. Joni as she continues to walk with and grow in the Lord.

What glorious state, to be a lamb
of Jesus,
To feel the faithful Shepherd's
loving grace.
In all the earth there is no higher
standing
Than this—to follow in the
Saviour's ways.
Zion's Harp #16

Bro. Ben Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb) and Sis. Kendra Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene, West Bend, IA) were united in marriage on June 27. We welcome Sis. Kendra to our Latty congregation. Our prayers are on their behalf as they establish a godly home in our community.

Matt Schlatter (Gus and Sis. Leann) and Marci Lark (Dennis and Kathy) were also joined in marriage during the past month. We ask that the Lord will be ever by their side and bless their lives together.

OHIO, MANSFIELD John and Marci Pfeiffer

"A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear?"

Malachi 1:6

We thank Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH) for ministering to us on Father's Day.

On June 27, our congregation witnessed the wedding of Sis. Stephanie Domka and Bro. Jared Hill. Parents are Sis. Mary Ann and Bro. Dan Domka and Sis. Sieda and Bro. Chip Hill. We ask God to bless their marriage. We appreciated the visit and ministry of Elder Bro. Mark Bahr and Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) on their wedding day.

Bruce and Denise Sauder were blessed with a daughter, Madelyn Elizabeth, on June 28. Her siblings are Jordan, Lauren

and Colin. Happy grandparents are Kathy Besenti and Tom McFarland and Sis. Caroline and Bro. Richard Sauder.

We thank Sis. Caroline and Bro. Richard Sauder for hosting our annual Sunday School picnic. We enjoyed a beautiful time of fellowship.

OHIO, RITTMAN Lynda Beery Lucy Gasser

"Dearest child, we bid thee
welcome
In our blessed brotherhood"
Zion's Harp #34

The weekend of July 3-4 we were privileged to hear of the experiences of four young people as they became acquainted with their Lord and Saviour. We witnessed the baptisms and welcomed into our brotherhood Sisters Sarah Bauman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha), Heidi Rufener (Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori), Anne Widmer (Bro. Darrell and Sis. Alice) and Bro. Joel Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail). Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer with this blessed work. We appreciated the presence of ministering Bros. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) that day and welcome all back again.

Spending time in the hospital were Bro. Ken Steele (Sis. Martha) and Carl Zollinger (Sis.

Martha). Lynn Breece Tollafeld (Bob), Bro. Roy Maibach (Sis. Mabel), Bro. Ken Rupp (Sis. Lillian), Bro. Dwaine Indermuhle (Sis. Joan), Sis. Mary Jane Winkler (Bro. Andy) and Abram Rufener (Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori) were surgical patients. We are thankful for the progress they have made and pray for continued healing and grace for the day for them and others who are experiencing continued health problems.

Bro. Tony and Sis. Cherie Stoller became first-time parents with the birth of a daughter, Bailey Lyn, on July 1. Thankful grandparents are Jeff and Elsie Maibach and Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeannette Stoller.

Dean and Heidi Mills and their three sons, Tyler, Travis, and Trenton, welcomed Tristan Jeffrey into their family on July 6. Also welcoming Tristan are grandparents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn Trent and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Mills.

July 10 was the day Kelly Gasser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane) became the bride of Douglas Hanzie (Ron and Bev). We pray that God will be honored in their home and marriage.

Lord willing, 34 young people from the Smithville and Rittman Sunday Schools, accompanied by a group of adults, will leave this week for a work experience in Jamaica. Our prayer is that God will bless them with traveling mercies and a productive and blessed mission. Others have told us that living with and serving others content with much less than we have come to expect, is a humbling privilege.

OHIO, SARDIS Angie Figel

Hard, wooden benches. A slumping, wooden floor. Sweltering heat. No water. Two out-houses.

This describes our little, almost forgotten, church in New Martinsville, WV. One hundred and thirty years ago, this couldn't be beat. This was the way of life, because this was simply the only way of life, so there was probably very little, if any, complaining. This is very unlike the comfortable churches we have been blessed with today, so it may be the reason why it is so special just to take one Sunday, step back in time (add the squealing sound system), and enjoy church services like our fathers had more than 100 years ago. On June 27, this lonely old church building, built on faith, filled once more with beautiful singing. God's praises rang throughout the ancient hills that surround this holy temple, humble though it may be in our eyes. Thanks to all who came to participate in this momentous occasion.

We also would like to express our deep appreciation to the visiting ministers who shared God's Word with us this month. They were Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA) and Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH). We extend a special thanks to Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Sis. Donna, Taylor, MO) for being with us on New Martinsville weekend.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Ruth Gasser
Edith Miller

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

Gospel Hymns #622

We are thankful to report another soul has answered the call of God and is seeking her soul's salvation. We wish Amber Miller (Bro. Max and Sis. Diane) much grace as she begins her new walk of life.

We were blessed this past month by the visits of a number of ministers. Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Dave Graf (Akron, OH) were willing servants of the Lord in bringing the Word to us. May God richly bless each one.

Boyd Nieman (Terri) and Krissey Lancaster (Boyd and Terri Nieman) both had to spend time in the hospital recently. We wish God's healing to them as well as to all who are experiencing bodily afflictions.

"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

Many of our high school students will be given opportunity to share with the less fortunate through a work team to Jamaica.

A number of Akron, Rittman and Smithville brethren will accompany them for a week in July at the Knockpatrick School for the Deaf. Those who stay at home will have opportunity to pray for their safety and a blessing on the work they do. We are thankful for such avenues of service through our World Relief.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank everyone who remembered our 50th Anniversary with cards, gifts, phone calls and expressions of love. We appreciate everything. May God bless each one.

Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer

OHIO, TOLEDO

Rebecca Beard

Edie Fetter

“Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee...”

Psalm 39:4-5

Whether we live many years or few on the earth, a time of parting comes for each of us. We extend our sympathy to the family of Bonnie Fetter (the late Paul), who passed from this life July 14. May God comfort her children, Bob (Nanette) and Jane (Dave) Smith, and her grandchildren.

We enjoyed having guests with us for the annual Sunday School picnic. One of our visitors was Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), who served us in the minis-

try. May both the spoken Word and the warm fellowship bring forth fruit pleasing to God.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup

Greetings everyone! We have enjoyed both some summer weather and visitors recently. A very nice combination! As summer enfolds here, we see God's bounty all around us, not only in beautiful vegetation, but also in the large variety of berries which do so well here in the Northwest.

On a recent Wednesday evening, we had the pleasure of listening to Bro. Marvin Dotterer's sermon. Bro. Marvin and his wife, Sis. Nancy, were vacationing here from Forrest, IL. We sure appreciate his efforts on our behalf and hope they both had a safe trip home. May the Lord bless them both. We enjoyed visiting with them. We also thank the Silverton brethren who took the time to join us that evening, especially Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) who shared the pulpit with Bro. Marvin.

Our thanks also to our Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) for coming to Portland and sharing the Word with us on a recent Sunday. We wish everyone a good summer and hope some of you might come to Portland to worship with us.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

This past month has been busy for our Sunday School students and teachers. June 19 was the date of the annual Sunday School picnic at Williamette Mis-

sion Park. Early in the afternoon the teachers and students arrive for various activities followed by a picnic supper in the late afternoon. The whole congregation is invited to the meal that is hosted by the Sunday School. Then, two weekends later, the Bible Class Sunday School Weekend was held. This year's invited speaker was ministering Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN). This is always a blessed opportunity for all involved in the coast trip and the sharing of meals and fellowship. Sunday afternoon a potluck meal was held at the Silverton City Park for all. The Sunday School teachers and their families took turns hosting Bro. John, Sis. Pam and their family overnights during their stay in Oregon. May God bless everyone who put forth the effort it always takes for events such as these to take place so smoothly.

Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi Sinn have welcomed another little blessing into their home. Her name is Samantha Anne and she was born on July 2. Brothers, Jonathan and Jordan, and sisters, Erica and Savannah, gladly add her to the family circle, too. Grandparents are Bro. Otto and Sis. Marian Sinn of Silverton and Bro. Ernie and Sis. Freida Aberle (Tremont, IL).

We were pleased to hear the announcement recently that Roseanne Sinn believes she has the peace with God that she has sought through her repentance. Parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Linda. May she feel our Lord's nearness and guidance as she awaits her opportunity to bring her testimony before the church.

As each member of the church has gone this same pathway, we can remember how we appreciated the love and prayers of the brethren.

We are thankful that Sis. Gloria Kuenzi (Bro. Lewis) is again able to come to church after several weeks absence. Pat Hari (Phil) is doing well after her surgery last month. Sis. Joan Dietrich (Bro. Jim) was a surgical patient this month also. May each look with thanksgiving to our Lord, the Great Physician, for comfort and courage during the trying recovery process.

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), and Bros. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) and Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL). Many thanks for your willingness to bring us the precious Word of Life.

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA
Nathan Gasser**

We are very pleased to welcome Bro. Ryan and Sis. Becky Weiss to our area and to our congregation. They moved here from Elgin, IL this month, and we look forward to worshipping with them. We often ask God in prayer that we may grow in faith and in numbers, and truly we can say this year that those prayers have been answered!

This month we were blessed to partake in Holy Communion, and were so appreciative for the continued service to our flock offered by Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT). We thank God for the efforts of Bro. Kevin. We also appreciated the efforts of

ministering Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) who shared God's Word with us last month.

Our nation celebrated Independence Day this month. Let us all thank God for the freedoms and liberties afforded us in our land, and much more for the independence from sin granted us by the victory of our Lord Jesus on the cross.

**TENNESSEE
NASHVILLE
Gwen Leuthold**

Our Master has taken His journey
to a country that's far away,
And has left us the care of the vineyard,
to work for Him day by day.

In this "little while," doth it matter,
as we work, and we watch and we wait,
If we're filling the place He assigns us,
be it's service small or great.

There's only one thing should concern us,
to find just the task that is ours'
And then, having found it,
to do it with all our God given pow'rs.
Our Master is coming most surely,
to reckon with ev'ryone;
Shall we then, count our toil or our sorrow,
if His sentence be, "Well done."

There's a work for me and a work for you,
something for each of us now to do;
Yes, a work for me and a work

for you,
something for each of us now to do.

Gospel Hymns #161

With the approach of the celebration of Labor Day, let us each one look at our labor for the Master. When He comes, may He find us doing His will for our lives.

On July 4, we welcomed ministering Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN). On July 17-18, we welcomed a bus from Peoria, IL carrying brothers, sisters, friends and ministering Bros. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol), Richard Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann) and Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene). Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL) also spent Sunday, July 18 with us. May God bless all of our visitors for their efforts in traveling to fellowship and worship with us and especially the ministers for their willingness to share God's Word.

If you are traveling in the Nashville area, please plan to stop and worship with us. We meet every Sunday with ministers scheduled on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month and tape services held on the other Sundays. The following churches have been scheduled for services—September 5 (Goodfield, IL); September 19 (Morton, IL); October 3 (Wolcott, IN); October 17 (Mansfield, OH); November 7 (Kansas City, MO); and November 21 (Fairbury, IL). Please call one of the contacts listed below if you do plan to be with us for two reasons—to assist us with lunch plans and there may be Sundays

when services are not held due to all of us traveling. Please contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933 or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946.

TEXAS, CENTRAL
Dan and Pam Sauder

We appreciate visitors who make the effort to support our small gathering. Ministers who have shared the Word with us this month include Bros. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO), Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) and Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH).

Central Texas services are held on all Sundays except the first Sunday of the month. The third Sunday we meet in the San Antonio area. The last Sunday we meet at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home at Round Top. The remain-

der 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 having more rain than usual and we appreciate seeing the green landscape. We also enjoy the flowers in bloom and the start of citrus fruit on our trees. We have a grapefruit tree by our home and

the grapefruit start to get ripe in November. They are at their best about February.

"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." (Duane Hulse)

There is a story of a storekeeper who during the depression would carefully weigh out the commodity and then with a twinkle in his eyes, would add a little more. In so doing this, he was guaranteeing his business, even though he himself was in need.

It will likewise help us to reach Heaven if we give not only of our commodities, but also go that extra mile of giving of ourselves.

"Charity of all gifts is the greatest."



Sermon continued from page 2

devil.

Satan is powerful. Satan is crafty. He is our evil adversary, and he doesn't care who he hurts. He just wants to disrupt our life. He doesn't need one hundred percent of us; he only needs a portion to distract us away from that true love of our Heavenly Father...that true love...that close communion with God. Isn't it wonderful to have that close communion and we can feel His nearness? By His grace, we can continue on.

Those disciples just could not quite understand it all, could they? Jesus knew their thoughts and He knew what was in their minds, and He knew how to talk to them. Jesus knows the thoughts in our minds today, too. Through His Spirit, He talks to us. He said what was going to happen and that He was going to have to go to that cross.

"And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered. But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee." (Mark 14:27-28). He promised them that He would be leaving them, but He would still go before them and give them the direction they need.

But Peter said, "I am not going to be offended; not I." We all know Peter, don't we? How many of us were Peters? How many of us have to fight that old Peter nature?

"And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice." (Mark 14:30). We don't read about it here, but we know what transpired that evening, don't we? God's Word was fulfilled when Peter denied Him. Peter knew right away when he denied Him the last time. He knew right away and remembered what the

Lord had spoken to him. He went out and wept bitterly.

Dear ones, isn't that the way it is when the Lord speaks to us...if we don't really pay attention...if we don't really stand fast on the Word of God or if we let the flesh take a hold on us? If we go ahead and do things that we know that we should not really do, isn't that when the Spirit speaks to us and gives us that correction? We are thankful for that correction. We are thankful for the chastisement.

God loves those whom He chastises, just as a mother and a father does. If we don't love our children, or if our parents didn't love us, if we were never corrected, if we were never given a spanking, we were never given that good stern talking to, we would have felt that nobody loved us.

A child wants to be loved. We all want to be loved. If we are loved, we are going to be given that good direction.

Jesus loves each of us, and He will give us that good direction. He will show us the way. He will give us the good stern talking to that we may need. Or, He may just give us that simple feeling, or one word in the Bible. He may speak kindly to us. We are all natured differently. We all need to be talked to differently, and God knows us. He knows us by the hairs of our head.

Our dear friends, the Lord speaks to you, too. He speaks to you and says, "Come. Come and seek out your soul's salvation. Don't let another day go by without coming in repentance. There is no promise of tomorrow; only today." We have been given another day. We have been given a day to come to the house of the Lord. We have been given another opportunity to once more open up the pages of this Book. Let God speak to us.

There is so much joy in serving

God. So much joy in being a brother and a sister in faith. We don't want to take a chance. Some day God will call us from this life and then there is no more chance. We don't know if we are going to have the breath of life tomorrow. Only God knows.

Do we want to tempt God and think with our timetable we can outsmart God? No. God has our lives laid out for us. Come, while the door of grace is still open. If you don't have that conviction on your heart, dear ones, pray for that conviction so God will move your hearts unto repentance. Have that desire to come and be a child of God.

We can read in the Word that we don't have to feel a hurt but that we can open up this Word of God, and just ask God to speak to us. God will speak so freely. We can rely upon God to direct our whole path each day of our life. We are thankful.

Then He said to them, "Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand." (Mark 14:41-42). Each of us were a part of sending our Lord and our Saviour to the cross. Each one of us were responsible for the nails that were driven through His hands and through His feet because we carried sin upon our hearts. That can all be washed away. That can all be rectified by coming in repentance. Rise up, let us go.

The Lord speaks so clear. Are we listening? Are we allowing the Lord to speak to our hearts? Are we allowing Him to have the fullness of the Spirit within our heart as a brother and sister in Christ? If we are not allowing Him to have that fullness in our life, we are missing out on a lot of blessings.

Silver Threads

Eternal Ink

I dreamed I was in heaven
 Where an angel kept God's book.
 He was writing so intently
 I just had to take a look.
 It was not, at first, his writing
 That made me stop and think
 but the fluid in the bottle
 That was marked eternal ink.
 This ink was most amazing,
 Dark black upon his blotter
 But as it touched the parchment
 It became as clear as water.
 The angel kept on writing,
 But as quickly as a wink
 The words were disappearing
 With that strange eternal ink.
 The angel took no notice,
 but kept writing on and on.
 He turned each page and filled it
 Till all its space was gone.
 I thought he wrote to no avail,
 His efforts were so vain
 For he wrote a thousand pages
 That he'd never read again.
 And as I watched and wondered that
 This awesome sight was mine,
 I actually saw a word stay black
 As it dried upon the line.
 The angel wrote and I thought I saw
 A look of satisfaction.
 At last he had some print to show
 For all his earnest action.
 A line or two dried dark and stayed
 As black as black can be,
 But strangely the next paragraph
 Became invisible to see.
 The book was getting fuller,
 The angel's records true,
 But most of it was blank, with
 Just a few words coming through.
 I knew there was some reason,
 But as hard as I could think,
 I couldn't grasp the significance

Of that eternal ink.
 The mystery burned within me,
 And I finally dared to ask
 The angel to explain to me
 Of his amazing task.
 And what I heard was frightful
 As the angel turned his head.
 He looked directly at me,
 And this is what he said...
 I know you stand and wonder
 At what my writing's worth
 But God has told me to record
 The lives of those on earth.
 The book that I am filling
 Is an accurate account
 Of every word and action
 And to what they do amount.
 And since you have been watching
 I must tell you what is true;
 The details of my journal
 Are the strict accounts of YOU.
 The Lord asked me to watch you
 As each day you worked and played.
 I saw you as you went to church,
 I saw you as you prayed.
 But I was told to document
 Your life through all the week.
 I wrote when you were proud
 and bold,
 I wrote when you were meek.
 I recorded all your attitudes
 Whether they were good or bad.
 I was sorry that I had to write
 The things that make God sad.
 So now I'll tell the wonder
 Of this eternal ink,
 For the reason for its mystery
 Should make you stop and think.
 This ink that God created
 To help me keep my journal
 Will only keep a record of
 Things that are eternal.
 So much of life is wasted

On things that matter not
 So instead of my erasing,
 Smudging ink and ugly blot.
 I just keep writing faithfully and
 Let the ink do all the rest.
 For it is able to decide
 What's useless and what's best.
 And God ordained that as I write
 Of all you do and say
 Your deeds that count for nothing
 Will just disappear away.
 When books are opened someday,
 As sure as heaven is true;
 The Lord's eternal ink will tell
 What mattered most to you.
 If you just lived to please yourself
 The pages will be bare,
 And God will issue no reward
 For you when you get there.
 In fact, you'll be embarrassed,
 You will hang your head in shame
 Because you did not give yourself
 In love to Jesus' Name.
 Yet maybe there will be a few
 Recorded lines that stayed
 That showed the times you truly
 cared,
 Sincerely loved and prayed.
 But you will always wonder
 As you enter heaven's door
 How much more glad you would
 have been
 If only you'd done more.
 For I record as God sees,
 I don't stop to even think
 Because the truth is written
 With God's eternal ink.
 When I heard the angel's story
 I fell down and wept and cried
 For as yet I still was dreaming
 I hadn't really died.

Continued on page 48

Let the Lord use each of us in His service. Let us all be a living example of what the Lord has set for us, realizing how He suffered and died for you and me. He paid that supreme sacrifice upon the cross so that today you and I can have a

hope of life eternal.

We can have that living hope within us, dear ones. We can have that hope even though we must die this fleshly death so that we can live.

Someday, dear ones, someday

you will see our Lord and our Saviour. We will see our Heavenly Father, only if we come unto Him in repentance, if we don't betray Him, and we seek out that better life of serving Him.

23rd ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION

GATEWAY WOODS

Saturday, August 21, 1999

EVENT TIMETABLE

7:30 AM
Breakfast
Bake Sale
Pre-priced Crafts Sale
Kiddie Corner opens

8:30 AM
Gateway Woods' Songs
Devotions

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

10:00 AM
Children's Activities

12:00 NOON
Specialty Items Auction

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

The Kids' Corner returns! Children who want to take part in the Auction will be able to purchase pre-priced items such as recreation equipment and toys.

Bring your piggy banks!



Play Mor Play Set

OTHER ITEMS

- Coleman Generator (5,000 watt)
 - H. Miller Westminster Chime Grandfather clock
 - Play Set (includes tree house, slide, jungle gym, etc.)
 - 1950 Harris-Massey Pony tractor-completely restored!
- PLUS our usual quality crafts, quilts, and blankets

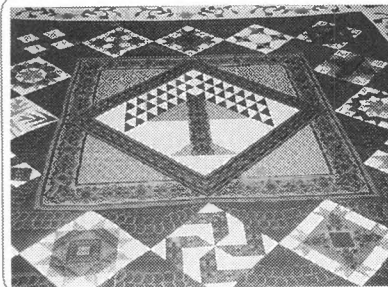
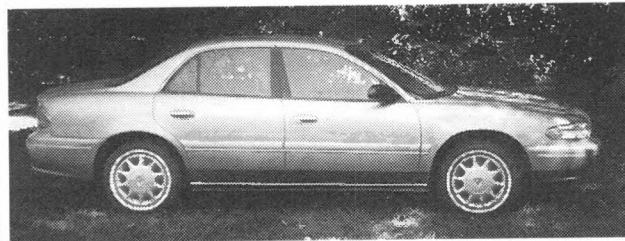


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Go one mile east on Leo-Grabill Road to Klopfenstein Road, then north 1/4 mile. Watch for our signs!

HAITI/JAMAICA WORK SCHEDULE - 1999-2000

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

COUNTRY	GROUP	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAP.	FULL
Haiti	AWA-FRW	Oct 21-29, '99	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Vocational Sch.	4	50%
Haiti	AWA-T	Oct 21-29, '99	Les Cayes	Earl Sauder	Water Aid	4	50%
Haiti	MEBSH	Dec 2-10, 99	Les Cayes	Les Gerber	Grade School	11	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan 6-14, '00	Les Cayes	Craig Emch	Grade School	11	95%
Haiti	AWA-FRW	Jan 20-28, '00	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Voactional Sch.	4	50%
Haiti	AWA-T	Jan 20-28, '00	Les Cayes	Earl Sauder	Water Aid	4	50%
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan27/Feb4, '00	Les Cayes	Dean Pashak	Grade School	11	100%
Haiti	SEED	Feb 17-25, '00	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	11	75%
Haiti	MEBSH	Feb24/Mar3, '00	Les Cayes	Jim Walter	Grade School	11	0%
Haiti	Palm Grove	Mar 3-11, '00	Puits Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11	10%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 3-11, '00	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40	90%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 10-18, '00	Deaf Village	TBA	Work Place	40	100%
Haiti	SEED	Mar 16-24, '00	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	11	0%
Haiti	MEBSH	Mar 23-31, '00	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	11	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	Apr 13-21, '00	Kingston	(1) Roanoke Bible Class	Deaf School	40/50	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	May 12-20, '00	Deaf Village	Andy Bauman	Work Place	40	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	May 12-20, '00	Montego Bay	TBA	Deaf School	40	90%
Haiti	Palm Grove	May 20-27, '00	Puits Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11	0%
Haiti	AWA-FRW	May 25/June2, '00	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Vocational Sch.	5	40%
Haiti	AWA-T	May25/June2, '00	Les Cayes	Earl Sauder	Water Aid	5	40%
Jamaica	CCCD	June 2-10, '00	Montego Bay	(2) Morton Bible Class	Deaf School	40/50	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jul 14-22, '00	Knockpatrick	(3) Mansfield Bible Class	Deaf School	40/50	100%
Haiti	AWA-FRW	Oct 19-27, '00	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Vocational Sch.	4	50%
Haiti	AWA-T	Oct 19-27, '00	Les Cayes	Earl Sauder	Water Aid	4	50%
Haiti	MEBSH	TBA	Les Cayes	Bob Pfloderer	Hospital Lumiere	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

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti
 A.W.A. - B. = Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton
 A.W.A. - FRW = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville,
 Remington, Wolcott
 A.W.A. - T = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX
Earl Sauder	309-387-6357	309-387-6357
Harold Witzig	309-266-6263	309-266-8575
Duane Schieler	765-567-2922	765-567-2922
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	330-939-4591
Dean Pashek	517-662-7685	517-662-7099
Jim Walter	815-692-3158	815-692-2851
Bob Beebe	219-291-2158	219-299-8173
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885
Terry Miller	309-747-2212 or 941-485-4302	
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	TBA
Bob Pfloderer	309-266-5853	309-676-8455
(1) Kevin Fischer	309-923-7684	
(2) Stan Schick	309-263-8010	
(3) Pete Webel	419-529-2998	
Andy Bauman	309-965-2174	309-691-6739
Kevin Sauder	309-965-4171	

**OPENING FOR
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For more information, call:

Bro. John Klopfenstein
219/627-3934
or write:
15028 Reservoir Rd, Box 8
Leo, IN 46765

Continued from page 48

And I said: O angel tell the Lord
That soon as I awake
I'll live my life for Jesus
I'll do all for His dear sake.
I'll give in full surrender;
I'll do all He wants me to;
I'll turn my back on self and sin
And whatever isn't true.
And though the way seems long and
rough
I promise to endure.
I'm determined to pursue the things
That are holy, clean and pure.
With Jesus as my helper,
I will win lost souls to Thee,
For I know that they will live with
Christ
For all eternity.
And that's what really matters
when my life on earth is gone
That I will stand before the Lord
And hear Him say, well done.
For is it really worth it
As my life lies at the brink?
And I realize that God keeps books
With His eternal ink.
Should all my life be focused
On things that turn to dust?
From this point on I'll serve the
Lord;
I can, I will, I must!
I will NOT send blank pages
Up to God's majestic throne
For where that record's going now
Is my eternal home.
I'm giving all to Jesus
I now have seen the link
For I saw an angel write my life
With God's eternal ink.

—author unknown

**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.



Counselor Needed

Gateway Woods, a Christian residential childcare facility, has an immediate opening for a male or female counselor. Qualified persons for this position must hold a minimum of a Bachelors degree in Social Work, Counseling or related field. A Masters degree is preferred. Responsibilities include individual and family counseling, case management, and consultation with the treatment team.

For more information on this position, please call one of the brothers listed below:

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

Phil Stettner
Counseling Elder
219-565-3499



**Assistant
Houseparent
Needed**

Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessings by being fully staffed with Houseparents for some time now. With the engagement of Sis. Lisa Waibel, we will have an opening for a single sister, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time ongoing ministry with troubled children. 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.

Jeff Schumacher
(219) 627-2159

Phil Stettner
(219)565-3499

**USED EYEGASSES ARE
NEEDED FOR FREE
IXTLAN CLINIC**

A free eye clinic is being established in Ixtlan, Mexico, by Bros. Dr. Loren Schrenk and Dr. Bryan Stoller. Used eyeglasses are needed to support this effort. Please send your used prescription eyeglasses (with cases if available) to:

Bryan Stoller
817 S. Locust
Pontiac, IL 61764

- 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.

WE DO NOT ACCEPT ZION'S HARP HYMNALS SINCE WE DO NOT HAVE ANY PLACE TO DISTRIBUTE THEM. Continue to bring used Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle, or Gospel Hymn Books to:

Jerry and Arlene Banwart
Box 181 C, 307 W. First St.
Congerville, IL 61729

Gateway Woods Auction
Saturday, August 21, 1999

**Administrator
or
Administrator in Training**

The Board of Directors of Parkview Haven Retirement Home in Francesville, IN is seeking a Brother or Sister with a desire to love and serve the elderly as the Administrator of Parkview Haven. The Board of Directors will take applications and interview qualified applicants with the following qualifications:

- A four year college degree
- Willingness to complete a six-month Administrator-in-Training program; or
- Have a valid Health Administrator License for the State of Indiana

The Board of Directors would prefer that a person who needs to complete the Administrator-in-Training program would take this training with the present Administrator of Parkview Haven. Information and resume requirements may be obtained from the Brothers listed below:

Wally Bucher, President
Parkview Haven Board of Directors
Post Office Box 518
Francesville, IN 47946
219-567-9138 (work);
219-567-9342 (home)

Ben Metz, Administrator
Parkview Haven
(Apostolic Christian
Retirement Home, Inc.)
Post Office Box 797
Francesville, IN 47946
219-567-9149 (work);
219-567-9636 (home)

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

The Bible Distribution Center which was formerly in Leo, IN has been moved to Bluffton, IN.

All books, including Bibles, in English and other languages, plus Bible Story Books which have been approved by the Apostolic Christian Mission Committee, are available for those who wish to distribute them in the name of Jesus Christ.

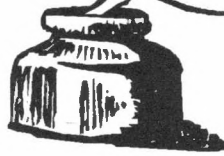
The book inventory is computerized, and the personnel at Bluffton can drop ship to nearly any address.

To order, contact,

Apostolic Christian Church
Bible Distribution
PO Box 30
1254 S. Main Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
Phone and Fax 219/824-5587

E-mail: bibledist@parlorcity.com





REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The series on the persecution of the Nazarenes in Yugoslavia continues. Nazarenes, in this instance, are brethren of like precious faith in eastern Europe; and are not to be confused with the Nazarene denomination in the United States.

Our brethren, during the early part of this century, took a stand for their faith. Their refusal to bear arms (in Yugoslavia) invited severe persecution. Yet, they stood firm and suffered the consequences.

Excerpts from the *Nazarenes In Yugoslavia* follows:

It is said that Nazarenes have been cruelly mistreated. They have been knocked down. They have been loaded down with sandbags until they nearly suffocated. Afterwards they were struck in the abdomen and forced to cry.

Nazarenes were sentenced to one and a half years in prison for belonging to the brotherhood of the Nazarenes.

1925, the Minister of the Interior (Home Affairs) sent out a decree that the Nazarenes are to be prevented from holding meetings, even in private homes, if need be, by the use of force.

Nazarenes are sentenced for "in-subordination" to the severest kind of unmerited punishment, up to ten years in prison at hard labor. Aus-

tria-Hungary released these Nazarenes from taking the "oath" or to "swear," by a law enacted in 1886, Art. 54, paragraph 242, chapter 2. They were treated very humanely by Austria-Hungary even during the World War of 1914-18 whenever there was a question of "swearing" or of taking up arms.

Why are Nazarenes and Nazarenes only, called again and again into the army up to 50 years of age? Is it to punish them again and again, each succeeding time with greater severity? They have been treated badly in spite of the fact that Nazarenes have given demonstrable proof of their love for Serbia before and during the World War by very creditable deeds, and in spite of the fact that their names were even recommended to the king for the purpose of "decorations," and although the public holds them in high esteem.

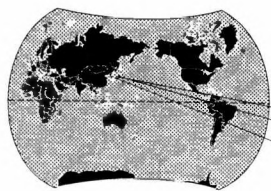
It happened that Nazarenes, some incapacitated by the war, others unfit for military service, were called into the army for "military drill." When they declined to take the oath and to take up arms, they were beaten at times and then sentenced up to 10 years in prison. Under Austro-Hungarian rule the Nazarenes found it possible to do their military duty in the sanitary service of the army.

It happened that priests forcibly baptized children of Nazarenes, from a few weeks up to 14 years of age. When the parents protested, they were sentenced to pay a fine. It is said that children of "Nazarenes" are excluded from the higher institutions of learning, if they have not been baptized in a religion (church) recognized by the state!

The marriage of Nazarenes is not to be considered as valid, unless it was contracted in a church (in a religion) recognized by the state. It is said to have happened that married Nazarenes, who had lived in legal wedlock for many years, were enjoined by church officials: To be married subsequently in the established (state) church, otherwise their marriage and their children would be declared to be "not legitimate." (Treaty of Peace of St. Germain, Art. 2-6).

It was mentioned that on the 7th of March 1927 the king "pardoned" more than 200 Nazarenes. Among them were three, who were not set at liberty in spite of the "pardon," because an ordinary military chaplain prevented their release, and they had to remain in prison.

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein
Next Issue: **More on Europe**



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“Struggles”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Are struggles good for you or bad for you? The discussion is on-going. If you are in the midst of a deep struggle, you probably wish it would go away, and you may even pray to God that He will please take it away. Yet there is much to indicate that struggles build faith and character, that they make you a much better person. It can probably be stated with authority, that the most spiritually minded people are those who have had more than their share of struggles.

In the King James version of the Bible, the two synonyms for struggles, trials and tribulations are often used. In Romans 5:3 we read, “But we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience.” Most of us do not glory in tribulations or struggles; we are not happy about it when it is happening. However, if we think and believe that it will be good for us in the long run, we can accept it better and later we may even glory in what took place in the midst of

the struggle, that is, we were changed for the better, including being made more humble.

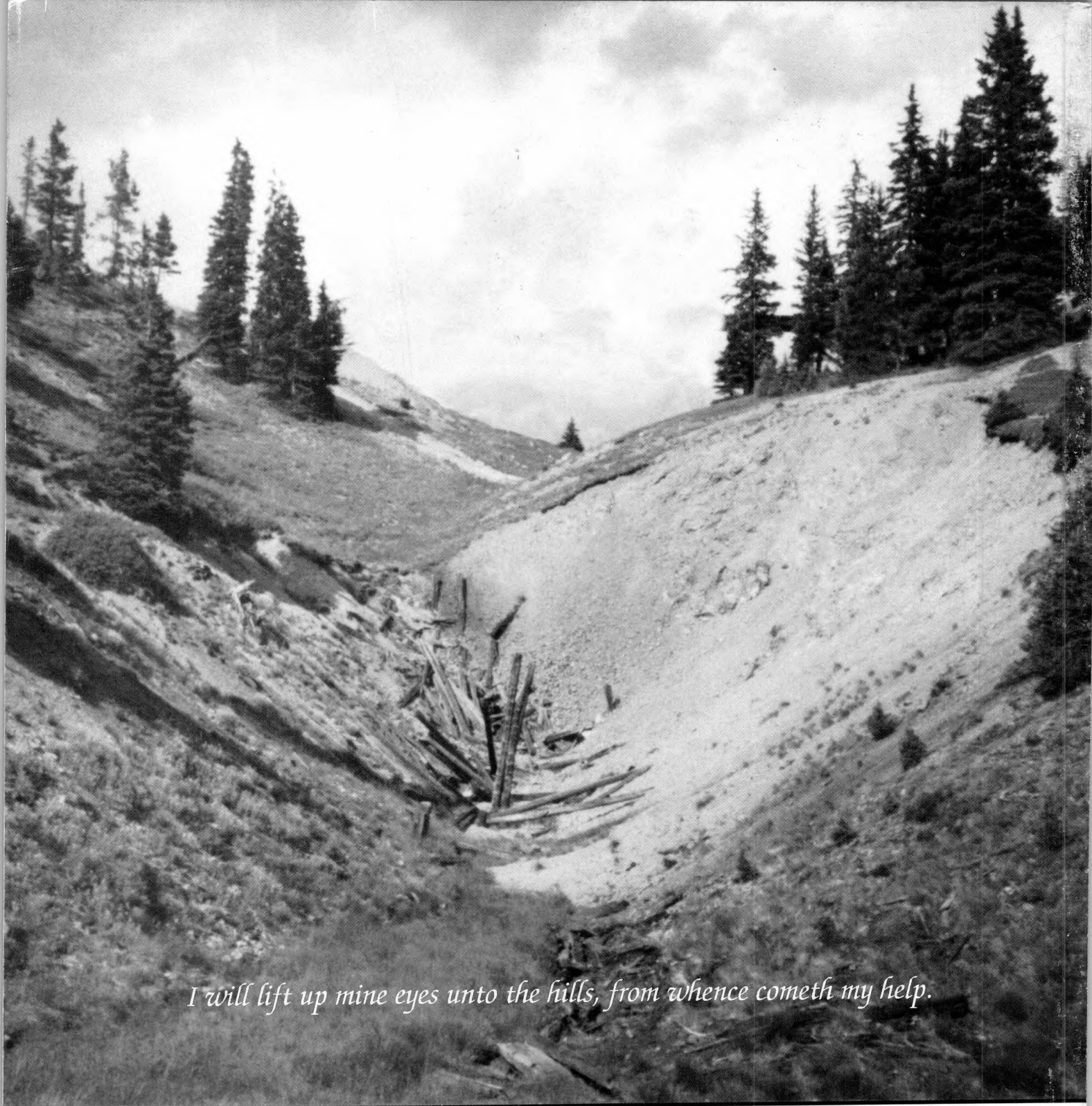
Struggles tend to break a person, leaving neither hope nor desire for recovery. Jesus said in Matthew 21:44, “And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken.” He spoke of Himself as being the stone. Repentance itself is a struggle between the idea of remaining our own boss or permitting the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts and control us. The Bible teaches that we should remain broken so far as confidence in ourselves is concerned, but strong and confident because of our faith in God and in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Many years ago in early American history, there was a man in New England named David Brainerd, who traveled on horseback to preach the Gospel to the American Indians. He felt so sure that he should suffer and struggle for Christ that he purposely prayed out in the cold and did not attempt to keep his body warm

and comfortable. He died of tuberculosis at the age of 29 years. I cannot hope to be as sincere as he was in his calling, but I believe he was mistaken about trying to suffer. I understand that we are to do our best to take care of our bodies which are the temples of the Holy Spirit. I Corinthians 3:16, “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”

Although I realize that struggles are like steps on a ladder which carry us to higher levels of spirituality and holiness, I am ready to leave everything in the hands of God that I can't do anything about anyway, and to sit back and relax in the bliss and tranquility of faith in God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Struggles have their place but let's not go looking for them. If we need to be criticized in order to be made more humble, God will probably permit someone to criticize us. We do not solicit struggles.

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

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