

The Silver Lining



Follow peace with all men, and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord.

September 1999

“THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS”

Sermon by Bro. Frank Sauder, Roanoke, IL
Exodus 28:31-43 and Luke 1:57-80

In our first reading, we read about the priests. The priests—especially the high priest—of Israel were there to intercede for the nation of Israel. But today, we have a different high priest, we have Jesus Christ. If we would read through the explanation of the role of the high priest, God was very specific in His directions to them.

To us today as we read, it can be somewhat confusing about exactly how everything had to be; because today, it is so simple, so easy because our priest is Jesus Christ. The Bible is not complex. It is not difficult to understand, but when I read through the Old Testament and all the laws, the rules and regulations, it causes me to stop and think and wonder why. Why all these details? There was a reason for them and some of them we understand and some of them, I think, our eyes are blinded to and we will never understand. But our eyes are not blinded as to who Jesus Christ is and how He is our high Priest and how He intercedes for us.

As we were reading about the raiment of the high priest, one of the things that touched me was the use of color. In verse thirty-three, it says, “And beneath upon the hem of it thou shalt make pomegranates of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet,” (Exodus 28:33). Blue, purple, scarlet—those are colors of royalty. When I think of those colors, I think of blue, being that of heaven...our goal. When I think of scarlet, I see Christ’s blood and it is because of His blood that makes

heaven a reality for us who believe in His shed blood. Purple—that is the two colors combined together.

Purple throughout time has always been the symbol of royalty. But to us who believe in Jesus, it is not a symbol of earthly royalty. It is a symbol of what our hope is. The blue is heaven combined with the blood of Christ which makes heaven possible for us. Then we have purple. Each one of us can be clothed in purple, the cloth of royalty if we are covered in the shed blood of Jesus.

Now in the New Testament reading, we start out with the beginning of the beginning—the resurrection and the death of Christ. The resurrection had not happened, but God had set the world in place that this was the generation. The time had come for the way for us, the Gentiles, to be able to know God. Up until this time, God is the Father of the Jewish people and the door—the way of salvation—had not been made open for the Gentiles. This was the beginning.

When we look at Zacharias’ prophecy, it is amazing. So many people in that day at that generation were waiting for the Messiah to free them from the Roman Empire. They were waiting for their earthly king. But if you read Zacharias’ prophecy, the words that God gave him, “The Spirit of the Lord was upon him,” did not talk of an earthly king. It talked of a Spiritual King.

Let’s look at some of the things Zacharias said. “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,”

(Luke 1:68). He hath visited. Christ, the Son of God, came here as a visitor. He was here for a short time in flesh, as a human, to redeem all of us.

“As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:” (Luke 1:70). From the beginning of Genesis, and from the moment of the fall of Adam and Eve, God had prepared a way. The prophets across time talked about Jesus’

Sermon continued on page 45

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

September 1999

Marriage in Faith III

The two previous articles described some of the scriptural basis for finding a lifelong partner and for developing a godly relationship between husbands and wives. This article attempts to examine some of the customs the world follows that often contribute to unstable marriages.

The steps one follows in seeking a help meet have a lifelong impact on the stability of our marriage. If we build on a weak foundation, we cannot expect to build a strong home.

Many of our youth are unaware that God has brought thousands of people happily together to marriage through faith without their ever having had a formal date. In the scripture we have the illustration of Abraham's servant depending wholly on God to show him the wife God had chosen for Isaac. The result was a marriage based on faith in which love developed. Isaac took Rebecca "into his mother Sarah's tent, ... and she became his wife; and he loved her, and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death" (Gen. 24:67). Faith was the guiding force. Physical attraction, infatuation, and compatibility had no part in establishing Isaac's marriage.

Dating, as a method to find a lifelong partner, is a custom that has spread to many parts of the world and is certainly the prevalent method used in the United States. Our culture permits unchaperoned dating which supposedly enables couples to get to know each other and determine if they are compatible. And yet, Americans cannot boast of their record of happy marriages. Well over 60% of teenage marriages result in tears and separation and many children's lives are marred by these failed marriages.

Nearly 50 percent of all marriages end in divorce.

The question may be asked, "Can a Christian date if it is prayerfully considered?" This question is a primary concern for parents when they have teenage children in their homes and is a serious concern of the Church when brothers and sisters are involved. Parents have a responsibility to exercise a

realistic home discipline with proper supervision and wise restraining if friends of the truth date. The Church has the responsibility to teach young people to have faith in God's leading.

In the Lord's Prayer we pray, "lead us not into TEMPTATION, but deliver us from evil" (Mt. 6:13). Do we realize that dating invites and exposes young people to temptation? Do we believe that God would have us walk into a situation of danger deliberately, and then expect Him to "deliver us from evil"? Do we realize that if we deliberately expose ourselves to danger, and then expect God to deliver us out of it, that we are tempting God? One of the temptations the devil used against Christ occurred when he asked Jesus to cast Himself down from the pinnacle of the temple, saying He would not be hurt, if He was the Son of God. The devil suggested that He was in no danger, that God would "...give his angels charge concerning thee; and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone" (Matt. 4:6). The Lord Jesus said "it is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God" (Matt. 4:7).

Peter was bold and confidently said: "Though I should die with Thee, yet will I not deny Thee" (Matt. 26:35). Yet he did deny Him. He warned himself at the fire of sinners and exposed himself to their influence. Peter did not know his own heart, even though he was a foremost disciple and a Believer in Christ. But he also believed in self and trusted himself and he came to grief. He learned by bitter experience, that God does not always deliver from evil those that trust in themselves and their own strength. God permits them to learn the hard way. "And he gave them their request but sent leanness to their soul" (Ps. 106:15).

Can a Christian be a light in dating? We cannot be a light in a dark world when we do the same things the world is doing. Dating is certainly a widely accepted practice. However, dating feeds youthful lust, of which the Apostle Paul wrote young Timothy: "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteous-

ness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (II Tim. 2:22).

The Lord Jesus said: "Ye are the salt of the earth;...Ye are the light of the world...Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:13-16). If Christians date as the world does, is our light shining? Is it a thing of purity, of loveliness, of good report, of virtue, of praise or does it more often destroy purity and virtue, and further the unfruitful works of darkness done in secret?

We may believe that we are able to keep our place as a Christian. However, when we appear to do the same thing that the world does, we will be associated with the same evil works of darkness and shame that the world is practicing. Would not the world soon feel justified in this evil practice, saying: "Why shouldn't we, the Christians are doing it?" We should "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (I Thess. 5:22). As Christians we have responsibilities not only to our Lord but also to our Brother, for whom Christ died. Romans 14:13 teaches "that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way". Would you want some other young person to go wrong because of your example, or would you rather encourage parents and children to avoid the pitfalls of getting too close to sin?

By abstaining from the unfruitful works of darkness and by not being "conformed to this world" (Rom. 12:2), the Christian reproves its evil works. Since God joins together, the Psalmist's advice is still good to follow: "Delight thyself also in the LORD:...trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass" (Ps. 237:4-5).

After considering the many scripture teachings, a spiritually awakened Christian will follow faith rather than dating. The Apostolic Christian Church teaches the advantages of marriage through faith. The scriptural path is clear. We have an opportunity to follow the scripture or to follow the world.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. GALATIANS 6:10

The road to vision

Many of our brethren who serve on various committees as well as the individuals who go on work teams have developed a heart for our efforts in Mexico. Several years ago as he worked in establishing a spiritual out-post in Ixtlan, Mexico, Bro. Marshall Heinold saw that an ongoing need existed for eye care. This need was discussed among our family of brethren, and in due time medical people have found a place of service in this program.

God provides brethren trained for the work

We are fortunate to have qualified and trained people in our brotherhood who can provide these vital services. Bro. Loren Schrenk of St. Louis, an ophthalmologist, learned of this need and desired to assist. After preliminary e-mail correspondence with Ixtlan, Dr. Schrenk discussed this desire with professional eye care groups who were dedicated to similar efforts in third-world countries. They discouraged such attempts to help because of recent hostile actions by the federal health ministry in Mexico.

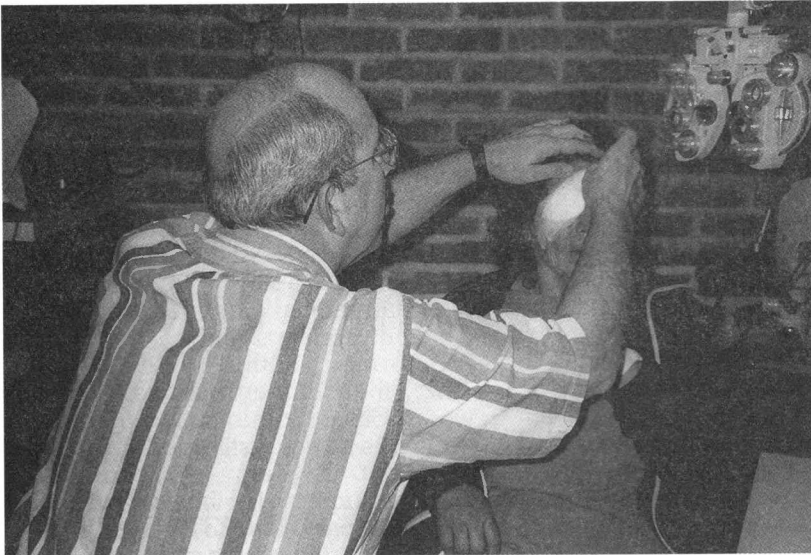
Jose grew up in Ixtlan and continues to have family and other contacts there.

Local approval and assistance needed

Because of the governmental opposition to this type of medical effort, it appeared that the only avenue for a successful program was to enlist the approval and assistance of the local medical community. Jose suggested a meeting with Dr. Martin Sanchez, a relative who was a boyhood friend and neighbor, and is now a family doctor. Dr. Martin, as he is called, felt there might be some benefit through such a program, and referred Dr. Schrenk to Dr. Jaime Cortes, an ophthalmologist in Zamora, Michoacan. Zamora is a city of approximately 100,000 persons located about 20 miles from Ixtlan. Brethren met with this doctor and discussed their desire to deliver medical and surgical eye care to the underprivileged in that part of Mexico.

Need for proper equipment

Due to lack of funding, some of the equipment necessary for modern cataract surgery was not available in Zamora. Since it was our team's desire to provide up to date surgical care as part of any effort, they offered to share equipment with and provide training to the local ophthalmologists in Zamora. Dr. Cortes agreed to assist our brethren in obtaining clearance from the ophthalmologic society in Michoacan State to allow them to proceed with a medical-surgical mission in Ixtlan and to make the operating facilities associated with the clinic housing his office available to them.



A beginning is made

Although the Heinolds also received similar information when they made inquiry, they still encouraged brethren to come and explore the possibility of developing an eye care assistance program. After prayerfully considering this information, in August 1997, the Schrenk family made a trip to Ixtlan. Their trip was coordinated with a visit there by Jose and Cathy Cervantes from Tecate, Mexico. The Mission Committee has had contact with this couple as the Ixtlan project developed.

Mission Committee approves the effort

The entire mission in Ixtlan is under the guidance and directions of the Apostolic Christian Mission Committee. Since it appeared that an eye program was a possibility, Bro. Loren sought approval and further direction from them. This was granted in late 1997 and equipment and supplies were assembled in early 1998. Through the efforts of several brothers and sisters, a van destined for use by the Ixtlan congregation was loaded with the eye equipment and

other material and taken to the Mexican border.

Obstacles to overcome

Not only are there severe restrictions on foreign delivery of eye care in Mexico, but also on the importation of equipment designed to deliver eye care. Through prayer and diligent efforts, brothers were able to cross the border and drive the van to Ixtlan only after more than six months of bureaucratic delay. It arrived early in August 1998, filled with not only the

equipment but also many other useful items for the needy donated by World Relief.

Providing a place to work

During the next few months, a room was constructed in the new church building to serve as a clinic and a base for the delivery of care. By March 1999, the room was finished with cabinetry, electricity, and a suspended ceiling. This allowed us to assemble and make the clinic functional for the first time. Although it is perhaps primitive by standards in our hospitals and clinics in the U.S., the functional facility provides an adequate place where the necessary procedures can be carried out. God alone knows how many unfortunate souls this small room will assist as years go by. As with every effort in reaching out to the less fortunate, this has been blessed by help from many willing and caring brethren and friends. Both the World Relief and Mission Committees are grateful to all who lent a helping hand or financial support to make this work possible.

A shipping casualty slowed the work

Unfortunately, the operating microscope that had been delivered to the hospital in Zamora had not survived the trip intact and needed repair. There was considerable difficulty in repairing this intricate piece of German manufactured equipment in rural Mexico. With information gathered in March 1999, we were able to remove and bring back circuit boards from the microscope to the U.S. and have them tested in New York. This made it possible to replace a malfunctioning circuit board in May of this year.

Surgery began in July

This resulted in finding several patients who would benefit from cataract surgery. With the equipment in place, and the operative suite functional at last, our eye care team performed cataract surgery on four patients in late July. As is the case everywhere, only a relatively few people out of a great many can receive our aid. However, those that do consider it a great blessing from God, which otherwise they could not have received.

Just one example of human need

Exemplifying the need that is found among these people is the case of Rosa, a 60 year old resident of a nearby village. She had been told eight years earlier that she needed cataract surgery. She was unable to afford the surgery and by this summer had an advanced cataract in her right eye, which left her with only light perception. Rosa was legally blind from a cataract in her "good" left eye. Very few people in this



impoverished region of Mexico are able to afford glasses. The team of brethren was able to operate on her right eye and restore most of her vision in that eye.

Other brethren volunteer services

Bro. Brian Stoller, an optometrist, is planning on future trips to the same area. Glasses collected from within our churches can hopefully be distributed through his and other efforts. There is no question that the needs will continue to exceed the availability of help for many years to come.

As a result of this beginning, surely God will provide that larger numbers of poor people can receive quality medical and surgical care for their eyes. The team involved in this effort hopes that it will bring physical vision to the less fortunate. The greater hope for a spiritual blessing impels us to proceed with the work.

"Occupy until I come."

Our merciful Savior and Redeemer gave specific instructions that we should continue in His service to the needy until He returns again. None of us had any control over the circumstances of our birth or our opportunity to learn the gospel truth. However, having once received these untold blessings, may God inspire us to continue in the work.

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. ACTS 26:18



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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

We pray to God for His wisdom,
His guidance, His provision.

Do we bring all things before
Him?

We become impatient when we
don't (seemingly) see results or ex-
pectations are not (seemingly)
met.

We begin to act upon situations.
We take these things into our own
hands.

What happens when we don't
wait upon God for His working,
His timing?

Would it have been different if
we had stepped out of the way and
let God take over?

Did we listen to Him and Obey?

It is only a tiny rosebud
A flower of God's design;
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine.

The secret of unfolding flowers
Isn't known to such as I.
The flower God opens so sweetly
In my hands would fade and die.

If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
This flower of God's design,
Then how can I think I have wis-
dom
To unfold this life of mine?

So I'll trust in Him for His leading
Each moment of every day.
And I'll look to Him for His guid-
ance
Each step of the pilgrim way.

For the path that lies before me,
My Heavenly Father knows.
I'll trust Him to unfold the mo-
ments
Just as He unfolds the rose.

It has been a perfect summer
for activity. The warm (hot) days
have been great for swimming.

Many of our residents enjoy the
freedom of movement they can ex-
perience in the water. Some who
are confined to wheelchairs be-
come buoyant in the water and are
able to "stand up" without being
lifted to this position. Their arms
and legs are more easily moved
through ranges of motion with the
freedom the water offers.

The cooler days have been great
for picnics. We usually get a
carry-out and take it to the park.
Here we can talk about the huge
trees around us, the songs of the
birds, a plane flying overhead,
other persons picnicking, children
playing, and of course the variety
of bugs which inevitably strive to
enjoy some of our picnic, too.

We become more mobile on the
double-seated tricycles and golf
cart that we usually ride evenings.
Some of our seats have been
adapted so that residents who can-
not sit up on a seat, can still enjoy
being out riding around.

Our location at the large facil-
ity, as our new name "Timber
Ridge" suggests, offers a beautiful
setting for walks and "wheeling"
around the Home.

The residents have also had a
hand in the courtyard gardening.
There is a bed of flowers and also
potted flowers which they assisted
in planting. Watering these plants
is a full-time job that they also en-
joy. There are swings and other
seating in the courtyards which of-
fer views of the colorful plantings.

October birthdays for **TIMBER
RIDGE** are: Tricia O'Donnell (1),
Carol Fahrni (5), Mark Mulnix
(6). At **OAKWOOD**: Lois Baum-
gartner (4), Bryan Tiezzi (30). At
LINDEN: Kent Knobloch (14). At
652 DETROIT: Anita Schuon
(13).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Chuck and Naomi Wiegand

Christian greetings across the
many miles! As summer flies by
and we gear up for school starting
we are reminded that time just is-
n't stopping. It seems like no mat-
ter how much we get accomplished
in one day we still can't get it all
done. We've tried staying up later
to cram just one more project into
an already full day. We've also
tried getting up early to see how
much more we can do before
breakfast.

It seems like the only thing that
multiplies our time is when we
freely give it. Our days are most
productive when we take extra
time in the morning to commit our
day to God, instead of hitting the
snooze button and getting that ex-
tra fifteen minutes of sleep. Or
when we take an hour and go to the
Cedars to sing even though we re-
ally don't have the time to spare.
Or even when we take a few min-
utes to sit down and read with our
little boys or play with them out-
side.

We're sure that many of you
share this same struggle with us of
being "poor" when it comes to
time. When we look into God's
Word we are convicted by the giv-
ing attitude of the poor widow
(Mark 12:41-44). Not many of us
have an abundance of time. How
willing are we to give all of our
time to God?

We want to welcome Grant Mi-
chael into the world. His mom and
dad are Bro. Mike and Sis. Denise
Klopfenstein. Sis. Denise has been
a counselor here since 1991. We
ask God to bless them with wis-
dom as they begin their new ad-
venture as parents.

We want to thank Bros. Gabe
Stickling, Derek Menold, Ryan
Menold, Ed Teubel, Shawn

Aberle, Michael Schneider, Nathan Kelson, Jeremy Schieler, Andy Bucher, Aaron Zeller, Drew Leman, Shane Knapp, Nathan Wiegand, Darren Freidinger, David Scaggel, Steve Lafont, Hans Smidgal, Tim Stoller, Tim Wiegand, Bryan Gerber, Kyle Wettstein, Joel Gehrig, Kirk Plattner, Brett Plattner, Grant Heinold, Josh Steffen, and Sisters Heidi Huthman, Keri Kaeb, Jami Ringger, Kristen Rinkenberger, Janel Blunier, Rena Braker, Emily Wiegand, Katie Hodel, Molly Gutwein, Shalome Knobloch, Natalie Leman, Hope Knapp, Tonya Scott, Gina Kloter, Susanne Wiegand, Gina Kloter, LeeAndra Schnell, Summer Rushle, Emily Endress, Cara Baumgartner, Maxine Sauder, Delores Sauder and former resident Jeremy Slawson for the time they were willing to share with us this past month as volunteers. We always appreciate the warmth and energy that our volunteers bring with them, along with the help they give us to get our work done on campus.

We are especially thankful for Bro. Clint Kaeb and Sis. Rachel Huber. Clint was the Summer Volunteer Coordinator and we will miss his ready smile and kind heart now that summer is over. Rachel helped us in the West House this summer with our young boys. We will certainly miss her and appreciate all the work she did for us.

Bro. Kent Kloter (Goodfield, IL) has joined the Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Family Services Staff. He will be working with Bro. Jeff Thames in the Illinois Program. Thank you Bro. Kent for heeding the Spirit's call.

We would like to welcome Rueben O. to the Kipfer House and Nickolas B. and Heather B. to

the Wiegand House. We wish you God's blessings as you make changes in your lives.

We are enjoying the constant buzz of action around here this week as many willing volunteers prepare our campus for the Annual Sale. We are thankful so many faithfully donate their time and energy so we can continue to offer care and tell of God's good news to those who come here. We want to extend our appreciation to all those who helped from our coordinators to those who simply came to the sale with a cheerful attitude. We trust that all the sacrifices were made out of pure hearts and were pleasing to our Father in Heaven.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama
Erin Witzig**

Time has traveled fast the past few months and another school year has officially begun at the Preschool. There has been a lot of excitement about new crayons, pencils, and especially some new children. Right now we have 33 students enrolled for the fall semester and we look forward to adding more! Since our summer's theme was so big, we decided to finish it during the last few weeks of August, along with back-to-school projects. Therefore, our fall themes won't actually begin until September 6. During the rest of the month, we will learn about community helpers, safety, and the color blue.

As our summer comes to a close, we would like to again thank all of those who came and volunteered their time with us. We are always grateful for those who come and help with willing hearts and hands. There are many things which never could have been ac-

complished without their help. We also extend our many thanks to Sis. Monica Steffen who worked here over the summer. She is very special and has touched many lives here in Athens. We pray the Lord will richly bless her as He continues to lead and guide her.

Even though our school year has begun, we still encourage anyone who wants to volunteer. We appreciate your help any time of the year! So, if you or anyone you know is interested, please contact the Preschool at (256) 233-0591 or Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (256) 232-2035.

Lastly, we humbly ask for your prayers as we begin our new school year. We ask that the Lord's work will be done here as we touch not only the lives of our students, but also of their families and friends—for this type of work is the everlasting kind.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Pam Moore**

So quickly time is flying by. The cotton fields are white unto harvest here in Alabama, although they are predicting a poor harvest this year. During the preaching Wednesday evening, we were reminded, are we talking to others about Jesus and salvation? The "harvest" may be sooner than we think.

This past month we have enjoyed visitors, as they stop and worship with us in Athens during their vacation. We have also appreciated the fellowship of those who have come to help at the Preschool this summer. May God bless each one of you.

We have been concerned for Alfred Perry who has spent much time in the hospital. Please keep him in your prayers.

As always, if you are in the area or passing by, please stop in and

visit. Church is 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday and 10:00 a.m. on Sundays.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

The sin we try to cover up will eventually bring us down.

As our Elders meet in Rittman on August 11-13, may God reveal His will to our leaders; we need Christ to lead the way, not the sins overtaking man in "anything" is acceptable.

We are grateful to Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bro. Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) who came to preach Godly messages.

Sunday School classes resumed August 15 and what a joyful time for high school to 3 years old to "take heed unto yourselves, that ye love the Lord your God." (Joshua 23:11). May God bless and direct our Sunday School superintendent, Bro. Herbert Knochel, Jr. and staff.

We are happy Bro. John Gerber and Sis. Kathy Labudde can worship with us after long recoveries from major surgery.

Sis. Gladys Fisher was pleasantly surprised on her 95th birthday with a card shower and ice cream and cake.

Our sympathy to the Massner and Reber relatives on the death of "Dutch" Clarence Reber; to the M. Bradford family on Gene (Shirley) Brown's death; and to Bro. John and Sis. Donna Gerber on his dad's death in Lester, IA.

Jeff and Candice Klopfenstein became first-time parents on August 13, when Erin Leigh was born. Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein are Erin's happy grandparents and Mary Ella and Floren Klopfenstein are her great-grandparents.

We appreciate your ongoing prayers for our homebound loved ones and their caretakers. And, yes, we felt and saw our Lord's healing touch just days ago, as Sis. Ruth Baer had surgery, Sis. Stefanie a broken foot, Bro. Richard Schupbach and Bro. Kim Huber had outpatient studies.

Planning ahead for future needs, Bro. Floyd and Sis. Clara Banwart are moving to Tucson to be near Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Lemons. Sis. Madeline Knochel and Bro. Darby moved to Mayer, AZ to be near Susan and Ed Suever. Likewise, Sis. Sophie Huber and Bro. Kim are going to Washington, IL where daughters, Sis. Charla and Sis. Cheryl, live.

Sis. Carmen Langhofer and Holly Kokanovich will be going into nursing school in Champaign, IL.

Note of Thanks:

To all my brothers, sisters and friends,

I would like to sincerely "thank" all of you for the prayers, cards, flowers and gifts of love, also all the phone calls I received while I was in the hospital and recuperating from my knee replacement surgery.

Also a big thank you to the first and second graders at Vacation Bible School for the "get well" letters they sent to me. I really enjoyed them.

I thank all of you so much. God bless you always.

Love, Sis. Toni Bentley

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

"When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain; but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again." (Hymns of Zion

#156)

It was with great sadness that our congregation bid farewell to Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ethel Smith, as they moved from our area to Fort Scott, KS after living here 15 years and getting our Prescott church started. They have been "pillars of the faith" for all of us, and we miss them. We wish them God's blessings, wisdom and guidance.

At the time of this report, windows of the church building have been installed and the roof is getting tile. The doors will be installed next and volunteer help will be here in September to do the brick work. We are excited as we watch the progress each week.

Bros. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL), Ken Lawson and James Emch (both of Phoenix, AZ) were our ministering brothers this last month. We pray God will bless them and their families for their service.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Our summer weather has not left but we are returning to "normal" in just about every other way.

Our summer visitors have left. Bros. Lee Hoffman, Steve Lehman, Todd Heiniger and Trent Steidinger have all returned to Illinois to resume their studies. It was a blessing for our young people to have them visit us for the summer. We wish God's blessings on their lives as they return to college.

We have also resumed our Sunday School classes and our monthly fellowship suppers and of course, our children have returned to school. Some of our children are just starting their formal

education in preschool and kindergarten and others are entering their final year of high school and others still are continuing in college. We pray God will watch over our dear children as they start a new year in school, and if possible, that they might have a chance to be an example of a child being raised in a God-fearing home.

We are still enjoying some wonderful summer monsoon storms. As I write this column, we are in the middle of a late evening thunderstorm that has brought quite a bit of rain. The storms are expected to continue for at least the next few days.

**CALIFORNIA
ALTADENA
Jim Klotzle**

It's back to school season across our nation this month. Whether we go to learn or teach, we can be bright lights to the world around us in this important mission field. We should all pray for a safe and profitable school year, as we never know what challenges our Heavenly Father has for us.

"And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

Eccles. 12:12-13

The Apostle Paul had good advice for Timothy: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15). This is another instance where the Word of God retains it's appli-

cability for generations.

Our brother Keith Klotzle was involved in a biking accident this month. We are thankful for God's protection and pray for his continued recovery. Sis. Judy Crockett has undergone another series of cancer treatments, leaving her immune system so low that she is not able to fellowship with us as frequently. Bro. Bob and Sis. Judy appreciate our prayers.

We have enjoyed having Sis. Sarah Aberle in California this summer and we wish her God's blessings as she moves on to the Chicago area for her new job.

Our dear ministering Bro. Fred Witzig has relocated his family to the Indianapolis area to further pursue his education. His decision to move saddened the hearts of our congregation because of the special place and purpose he and his family have had in our fellowship. Yet we believe that God is in control of his future and ours. May God provide for all of us as only He can. We entrust Bro. Fred, Sis. Nancy, Marta, Erica and Rachel into the all powerful hands of God as they begin this next step of their lives.

We have appreciated the visits of ministering Bros. James Emch (Phoenix, AZ) and Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA). May the Lord bless them for their faithful and humble service.

We also enjoyed the visit of Dr. and Mrs. Parkhe from India where they labor with the Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India. They shared with us the status of the anti-Christian movement and persecutions in India and continue to solicit our prayers for God's protection and intervention.

**CALIFORNIA
SAN DIEGO**

Peggy Jevremov

Our congregation rejoices with the angels in Heaven as two young souls have decided to repent, make a change in their lives and become soldiers of the Lord. Our prayers are with Rachel Petrovic (Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian) and Bobby Fulop (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Joy) as they strive to forsake the world and live for God.

As always, we appreciate and enjoy visitors and welcome all to worship with us that travel our way.

**CANADA
ONTARIO, KITCHENER
Laura Baxter**

"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

Eph. 4:21-23

Recently, I was reminded again of the importance of putting off the old man and leaving it off. When we repented, we put off the old man, filled with corrupt lusts, we renewed our minds and bodies with the Holy Spirit, and put on that wonderful new man to begin to live according to God's righteous and holy ways. But as we go on in life, have we put on some of the old man's nature again? Some characteristics of the old man are listed in the following verses (Eph. 4:25-31): lying, sinful anger, giving place to the devil, stealing, corrupt communication that doesn't edify, grieving the Holy Spirit, bitterness, clamour (noisy shouting

or vigorous demands), malice (ill will), evil speaking, and unforgiveness. If we have put on some of the old man's nature again, let us recognize those areas, repent for them, and again be renewed in the spirit of our mind. Then we can once again live the abundant life that is a glory to Christ and a blessing to others.

We are very thankful that our convert, Maria Toth, has peace with man and God and is striving to live that overcoming life in Jesus. May we all continue to pray for her and encourage her in this beautiful walk of life.

I embrace, O Lord, Thy servants,
 Joined to them in love so fervent,
 Asking, Lord, that from Thy face
 They receive a thousand blessings;
 In Thy ways, Thy strength possessing,
 Lead them in Thy light and grace.
Zion's Harp #189

We thank our visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Bros. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS) and retired Bro. Earl Gerber for their labors in the Lord on our behalf this past month. We also thank all of our other visitors who have come to fellowship with us and encourage us to a closer walk with God.

We welcome all visitors to worship with us. We also ask for your prayers as we look forward to the dedication of our new church building to the glory and service of God on October 2-3. Please contact Bro. Mike Ursu (519) 669-8515 or Bro. Wayne Saddler (519) 662-6834 for more information and directions. Our new church address is: 52 King St. East, Heidelberg, ON NOB-1YO (519) 699-4129.

COLORADO, DENVER Mark and Kelly Ramseyer

Before I left for work on July 30, I received a phone call stating that Sis. Kris Bauman had passed away. Sis. Kris was the daughter of our Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Lemman, and sister to our Sis. Kathy Lemman and Bro. Mike Lemman. A few hours later at work I received an e-mail from a friend in the Detroit church who mentioned that Bro. Joe Szilagyi had passed away. Bro. Joe was a kind, true, older brother we had known from our previous home church. A few minutes later I heard that a co-worker and friend had passed away after battling cancer for several years. Just a few days before I had heard of the death of Bro. Frank Denes, another faithful brother from the Detroit church. I had never experienced so many friends and acquaintances dying so close together. I had never even had so many sad news messages so close together. I went home for lunch and cried.

After lunch, as I was on my way back to work, I kept wondering what difference this would make on my life. What had I learned from these four lives and deaths? Am I making a difference in anybody's life? It bothered me so much that four wonderful people had just died and I couldn't figure out how it was going to affect my life. I realized that others, certainly family members, would be affected. But I had personally met and talked with each one. I had greeted and talked with Bro. Joe and Bro. Frank hundreds of times. I had spent many hours in meetings with my co-worker. It just seemed like such a waste that their deaths wouldn't have some effect on my life. It was even sadder to re-

alize that I hadn't let their lives make a bigger impact on me.

Why do so many of us go through life without getting to really know so many others? Why do so many of us go through life without letting many people really get to know us? Sure, we talk about the weather, the crops, the job, the Sunday School picnic or program, the tasks required to keep the church clean and functional, the tasks required to keep the gatherings organized, etc. Why can't we tell people where our struggles are, where we need help and where we need prayers? Why don't we ask people where they need help and prayers? I think our church is wonderful and caring compared to most churches, but we should be concerned with how each one of us compares to Jesus. He was deeply concerned with every person He knew and didn't know. How often does the Bible talk about the weather, the crops, the job, the Sunday School picnic or program, the tasks required to keep the church clean and functional, the tasks required to keep the gatherings organized...? It rather discusses how people are affected by the Word of God and the Son of God, and the effect of people on each other. After all, all that truly matters is the condition of our hearts. Shouldn't we be spending the vast majority of our time helping people?

The drought of visiting ministers early in the summer was overcome by a flood late in the summer. We enjoyed the visits of Bros. Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA), Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Garth Steffen (Portland, OR), Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), and El-

der Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL). I must also apologize for neglecting to mention that Bro. Bob Miller (Portland, OR) visited us a couple months ago. I spent many months in Oregon several years ago and have a special love for all of them there. Seeing Bro. Bob and his wife, Sis. Pearl, and Bro. Garth and his wife, Sis. Connie, was a real thrill. "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." (Phil. 1:3)

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Cherie Galat**

Hear our prayer, O Lord,
Hear our prayer, O Lord;
Incline Thine ear to us,
And grant us Thy peace.
Hymns of Zion #96

We who were blessed to attend the Brotherhood Conference in Rittman, OH surely felt the peace of our Heavenly Father. May we apply the teachings we learned to our life so that we might continue to feel His nearness to guide us to our Home in Heaven.

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

Proverbs 18:22.

The engagement of Bro. Steve LaPlante (Bro. Leo and Sis. Sherri) and Sis. Shannan Bocchino (Carlo Bocchino and Sherrie Bocchino) was made known unto our congregation.

August 7 was the wedding day for Michael Rose (John and Cathryn) and Jennifer Hany (Raymond Hany Sr. and Judy Hany). May the Lord guide their steps as they walk this pathway of life to-

gether.

We are grateful for the loving service of our dear visiting brethren. May God bless Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) who shared with us out of God's Word.

Our hope is that Justin Scheitlin will bring back loving memories of the Rockville brethren as he returns home to Remington, IN.

Prayers arise for loved ones who have recently undergone surgery: Sis. Janet Goric and Sis. Shirley Luginbuhl. May God heal according to His will.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

One of the real estate agents in my office buys roses every week. Often she gives me a few. They usually come on Thursday. One week she told me on Friday she had left some for me, but when I was leaving my hands were full, so I stopped by Saturday morning to get them. Then I had another stop to make. By the time I got home, they were looking very droopy. I wondered if I should bother with them or just throw them out. I did cut them to fit the vase and stripped the leaves. In a few hours they had perked up. I had to think how like those roses we are when we receive attention from the Master Gardener, our Lord and Saviour.

Roberta Belsley has been under the care of a physician. We pray the Great Physician may be with her.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), and Bros. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) and Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT). Other visitors this month were

from Bern, KS; Francesville and LaCrosse, IN; Princeville and Peoria, IL. 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
FORT LAUDERDALE
Gretchen Webb**

Ft. Lauderdale wishes to extend a warm welcome to Staci Hohulin (Bro. Tim and Sis. Cathy). She will be attending school at Florida International University. We look forward to getting to know her.

We are thankful that Josephine Gudeman is once again assembling with us after a short period of convalescence.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL) and Dave Zehr (Sis. Vicky, Gridley, IL). We thank them for their time and service.

The strong South Florida economy has many employment opportunities available. Brothers and sisters considering relocating should prayerfully consider Ft. Lauderdale. We will give you a warm welcome into our fellowship.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS**

Anjie Baum

Many of our permanent residents have been traveling north during these past summer months to visit family and friends. We have had a few visitors, however, and we're grateful for all who have come to worship with us. Our thanks to Bro. Glenn Price (Sarasota, FL) for coming and ministering to us this past month.

We recently feasted on yet another barbecue dinner. We were pleased to have our dear friend, Clarence Peters, with us to serve as our "head chef".

Children are a priceless gift from the Lord. School has just begun, and we need to keep the children in our prayers. Satan has certainly set out to attack our youth. Let us work diligently to teach them to boldly stand for their faith.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Rachel Sabo

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kristine (Price) Krieger are here for several months before moving to Michigan. It is such a blessing having them with us again, even if it's just temporary!

We have certainly appreciated having convert Brent Bigger (Don and Sis. Millie) with us this summer. Our prayers go with Brent as he returns to college in Illinois.

Our latest monthly potluck was in honor of Bro. Erv and Sis. Lorane Martin's 50th wedding anniversary. They are the third couple from Sarasota to reach this milestone in recent months.

**GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Keith and Carol Kaufman**

"And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"

Luke 2:49

Are we truly being about our Father's business? With the cares of this life all about us, are we fully remembering that God has adopted us into His family? Are we remembering that this world is not our home, but that we are pilgrims and strangers passing through? God has used my sister's struggle with cancer and her death to vividly remind me that my sole purpose on this earth is to live my life for Him; that I may honour and glorify Him. If God told you that your life would be over tonight, would you have lots of regret? Or would you say, "I'm ready, Lord."?

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our dear Elder Brothers as they gathered together to seek God's help and direction. As we hear the exhortations from them, may we each examine our hearts; that we would support them not only in word, but in true obedience.

We are so thankful to have had four visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO), Dan Beer (Milford, IN), Glen Dill (Tremont, IL) and Vic Beer (North Ft. Myers, FL). May the Lord richly bless these brothers for their willingness to speak God's Word allowing the Spirit to have free course.

May the Lord richly bless each one who came to Atlanta and worshipped with us. We extend a hearty welcome to all. Please give us a call so that an evening of fel-

lowship and singing can be planned, or we can let you know of one that is already planned. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554, Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 or Bro. Keith Kaufman (770) 304-8335.

Sunday Services begin at 10:15 and 12:30. Song service is held the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. 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.

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Hebrews 10:24-25

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Doreen Moser

Greetings from Belvidere!

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

Hymns of Zion

This month our church has been filled with many visitors from near and far. Many were traveling through our area on vacation. Thank you for including us in your travel plans. What a joy it has been to meet and greet each and every one.

Should I restrain the Spirit's
course
For fear of man so feeble?
Though Satan's hosts are raging
here,

Should I not be more faithful,
 Awed by a mortal's frown, shall I
 Conceal the work of God Most
 High!
Zion's Harp

May our Elders and ministers never restrain the Spirit. We have been blessed this month with many visiting ministers. They were Bros. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL). May the Lord bless each of you and your precious families.

Welcome to Bruce Banwart. He is a Pediatrician working in the Milwaukee area. His address is 3500 S. Stonegate Circle, #201, New Berlin, WI 53151. Welcome, Bruce!

Many of our congregation spent the weekend of July 24-25 in Elgin, IL at the proving and baptism for George Eason, formerly of Belvidere. Joy fills our hearts here on earth when a soul is brought into the fold! The angels in Heaven must rejoice over one more soul that has a hope of seeing Heaven some day.

"It is wonderful what miracles God works in wills that are utterly surrendered to Him; He turns hard things into easy, and bitter things into sweet. It is not that He puts easy things in the place of the hard, but He actually changes the hard thing into an easy one."

—*Hannah Whitall Smith*

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

We welcome four baby boys and one baby girl to the families in our church. Steven and Diane

Kauzlarich had their fourth boy, Thomas Sander, much to the delight of brothers Christopher, Nicholas, and Lucas. Grandparents are Ernest and Dorothy Kauzlarich, Naperville, IL, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach, Tremont, IL. Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary Lemman became grandparents twice this month. Aaron Bradley is the first-born child of Bro. Brad and Sis. Erica Lemman (Goodfield, IL) and Cameron Dale is also the first-born child of Jeff and Janet Lemman (Chicago, IL). Quinn Frederick arrived on July 28, to Bro. Brian and Sis. Roze Strassheim and brothers Sant and Killian. Grandparents are Bro. Mikles and Sis. Aranka Bozzay (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Strassheim. Bro. Dennis and Sis. Pam Zimmerman are thankful parents to Leah Joy. Leah joins Jacob, Alex, Hannah, Lydia, and Grace. Grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Mildred Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) and Dick and Betty Lawrence (Fairbury, IL). We pray for God's protection and guidance in their tender years.

We are thankful that John Steffen (Bro. Earl and Sis. Betty) has trusted Jesus as his Saviour. We look forward to worshipping with him.

The weekend of August 7-8, three young men shared their testimonies and were baptized: Jaron Huber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Debbie), Kale Farney (Bro. Ron and Sis. Ellen) and Aaron Kachelmuss (Jim and Sis. Ann). Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) shared the pulpit and helped Elder Bro. Everett Hari. May God be glorified. Also on August 1, Bro. Mark Gerber

(Bluffton, IN) blessed us with God's Word.

Our church heard the engagements of two couples this month and both are from the same family. Bro. Bart Hodel was engaged to Sis. Jenny Hoffman (Merle and Elsie Eisenmann) and Bro. Andy Hodel to Sis. Marla Knobloch (Bro. Loris and Sis. Pat Knobloch). Busy parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine Hodel.

We wish to express our sympathy to Tim and Trish Virgil. Trish's grandfather has passed away this month. May God be near you.

On Saturday, August 14, we had a ladies luncheon. We were invited to wear old or new hats, wimsies or bonnets. We enjoyed seeing many hats the women used to wear to church and we enjoyed hearing the stories behind some of the hats.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
 Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid**

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family of Lucy Herncjar (Pekin, IL) who passed away this month. We especially think of her sister, Velma (Peoria). May God be near her family during this time of their life.

Bro. Chad and Sis. Laura Lee Plattner have agreed to take over the Silver Lining writing. We pray God will bless their efforts and direct them in their new duties.

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

Another summer has neared its end, and the events surrounding that have come into their time. We held our annual Sunday School Picnic at the church because it was very hot, yet everyone had an en-

joyable time as the end of the year was marked by students and teachers. We have been blessed with milder weather patterns as school starts again. Our college students, both new and returning, will again fill our church with their presence beginning in late August. Our returning students have been off doing work "back home" or doing internships to develop skills and knowledge. Our new students will likely be leaving home for the first time and encountering all sorts of new people and experiences. These are all things marking both an end and a beginning for which we are thankful. We wish each one of these students, whether a youngster starting Sunday School or a college student beginning graduate school, the fullest of God's blessings on their beginning.

Some rather sad news reached us as we heard that our long-time Champaign resident, Sis. Verna Roth, passed away in Bluffton. Verna was one of the more "original members" of our Champaign church for many years, living here from the days of assembling in the YMCA to the church on Mumford to the new church where we presently worship. During her many years in Champaign, she was a solid example of resolve and love. She opened her home to others, cared for the sick, and shared her talents unselfishly through the love of God. We have missed Sis. Verna since she moved to the Bluffton North congregation to be near her daughter, Carol; yet we have the confidence that she is gone on to a wonderful eternity.

In other news, Courtney Plattner, daughter of Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue, had a brief hospital stay for pneumonia. We are thankful for God's healing touch

that she is now doing much better. We were also thankful that, just prior to her hospital experience, Courtney's grandfather, Bro. Marshall Heinold, of Ixtlan, Mexico was in town and ministered to us.

As we welcome our students back, we extend a special invitation to their families and friends to come visit them. Although they are busy with school and a variety of other activities, they do appreciate the love, fellowship, and treats (food) that come with a visit from their loved ones. Families, please do your part in coming to visit your students and being interested and involved in what they are doing—it is very important to them and they appreciate it more than you will know. We welcome you to worship with us.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

As the days of summer draw to a close, it is a bittersweet farewell for me. I enjoy the more relaxed activities of summer, but at the same time am "recharged" and ready for the more structured schedule of autumn. As schools resume, we want to pray for the teachers of our children, both academic and spiritual, that God would be their ultimate curriculum guider.

It is with much support that we welcome five new Sunday School teachers this year. Sisters Anne Anliker, Devon Rinkenberger and Janell Hofstetter and Bros. Tom Gudeman and Matthew Rassi have agreed to assume the responsibility of teaching our young people, and we express much gratitude for their willingness. We also want to support Bro. Dale Steiner as he steps into the role of Sunday School superintendent.

Sis. Pauline Schrenk (Bro. John) has also had to bid a bitter-sweet farewell to her brother-in-law, Bro. Carl Engle (Sis. Louise). It is comforting for her to know that this earthly farewell is not a final one.

We have appreciated all of our summer visitors. Whether you were visiting our city, or just passing through to another destination, it is always a treat when travelers make a point to worship with us. Special thanks go to Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) for not only stopping in, but serving us from the pulpit as well.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Darlene Walder

Cheryl Eisenmann

As you read this, our church Conference is over for this period of time. There are concerns that are present and we trust that each reader of this publication will pray each day for all the problems that confront us.

The last weekend in July we experienced the blessings and joy of three souls who were born into our church family: Bro. Matt Waldbeser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan), Bro. Grant Heinold (Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Rebekah Laubscher (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria). These souls left the ways of the world and completed the salvation plan by a true conversion. May God direct their paths as they grow in the Spirit.

Bringing us the Word of Truth this month were our visiting ministers, Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Wendell Gudeman (Francisville, IN), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), and Bros. Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA) and Jaye

Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL).

A baby is such a wonderful miracle and gift from God. Joyful parents over the birth of Josie Marie are Bro. John and Sis. Tresa Maul. Josie's grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Wanda Maul and Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Bazzell (Fairbury, IL). We pray for much Godly wisdom for this family as they raise the gifts they have been blessed with.

August 7 was the wedding day for Kara Hoffman and Josh Haley. Kara is the daughter of Merle and Elsie Eisenmann and Josh is the son of Don and Sandy Haley of East Lynn. We wish God's blessing on this couple as they begin their new life together.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Bob Greiner and Matthew Young (Melvin and Marilyn). We are glad that they could return home again and trust God's healing touch will be with them.

**ILLINOIS
CONGERVILLE
Renaë Dietrich
Glenna Rinkenberger**

"But ye art a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."

1 Peter 2:9-10

Our General Conference was held in Rittman, OH on August 13. Our prayers went with our Elder and ministering brothers as they gathered together. We now look

forward to listening to the tapes of their conclusions over the next few weeks. We encourage everyone to listen to the tapes when they become available. The unity of the brethren depends on each one of us individually.

"The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust."

Ruth 2:12

Sis. Kris Bauman has the hope of receiving her reward as she passed away recently. We express our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Ed and Sis. Gail Leman and Bro. James and Sis. Lisa Knapp and their families as they endure this earthly sorrow.

"But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints."

Romans 15:25

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL), Tom Leman (Denver, CO) and Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN). We appreciate their service.

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people."

Matthew 4:23

Convert Beka Zobrist is finally back home after five weeks at Mayos. We are thankful to have her and her family, Bro. Clarence and Sis. Luann, home, too. Bro. Ken Schrock (Sis. Janet) and Sis. Ginny Zimmerman (Bro. Chuck) were also hospital patients. We

pray the Lord's healing hand would be upon them even as He healed in time past.

As our children of all ages will soon be heading back to school, let's remember them in our prayers. We must keep our homes free from the world so our children will know the difference. Whether it's kindergarten or college, we as parents have a big responsibility to our kids. May God grant us grace.

**ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Peggy Heiniger
Norma Schambach**

We experienced a blessed weekend on July 24-25 as Lori Battuello and George Eason (Carole) were baptized and added to the fold. We rejoice that these two souls, after much seeking, were led to the truth.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Martha Greiner, Sis. Jeannette Moser and Bro. Bill Gudeman, all who have recently had surgery. May God grant them returning health and strength.

We rejoice with two dear young souls who have come to the Lord in repentance. Dan Kellenberger is the son of Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida; Craig Weiss is the son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen. May God give the needed grace each day to build a firm foundation.

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing." (Proverbs 18:22). July 31 was the wedding of Scott Heiniger (Bro. Don and Sis. Peggy) and Andrea Kellenberger (Bro. Tim and Sis. Marcia); August 1, Bro. Greg Anliker (Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie) and Sis. Joni Schambach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne); August 8, Bro. Brad Schmidgall (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) of Oakville, IA and Sis.

Megan Schambach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne); and August 14, Robbie Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida) and Jamie Noga (John and Linda). May their love continue to grow as they walk through this life together.

We have been blessed this month with the following visiting ministers: Bros. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL). Also here for our Vacation Bible School were Bros. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Dave Obergfel (Peoria, IL), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL). We appreciate their willingness to travel many miles to share the Word with us and our young people.

Recently several in our congregation have suffered the loss of a loved one. Bro. Gene Moser (Sis. Libbie Ann) and Sis. Lois Schock (Bro. Frank) mourned the passing of their brother-in-law, Bro. Duke Feucht, of Lester, IA. We were also saddened to hear of the death of Sis. Kris Bauman of Goodfield, IL. Our hearts go out to her brother, Doug Leman (Melinda) and the Bro. Tom Leman family of Denver. They all have our love and prayers.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Janet Zimmerman

"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already for harvest."

St. John 4:35

Harvest time is upon us and we

certainly can see God's beauty in His creation. How refreshing this new season is after a very warm summer.

We are especially thankful that we can report four more souls who have sought the Lord and have found grace to repent. We are happy for Kalsey Leman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Chris), Jared, Todd and Jake Fehr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy).

Bro. Trent and Sis. Lucy Meiss are thankful and happy parents of a new baby boy, Cade Joseph, born on July 26. Cade has two sisters, Amelia and Serena. Grandparents are Ed and Sis. Barb Meiss of Eureka and Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet Kuenzi of Silverton.

We rejoice with Bro. Darin Kupferschmid (Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth) and Sis. Tami Bauman (Glen and Sis. Becky) who announced their engagement recently. May God be with them as they plan for their wedding.

Our prayers are with Bro. Joe Dotterer (Sis. LaVina) who had heart surgery. We are thankful for his quick recovery and glad that he is doing well.

March 13 was the wedding day of Kent Kupferschmid (Bro. Ed and Sis. Donna) and Rebecca Anderson (Lien and Linda) of East Peoria. May God bless their union together. I apologize for this oversight.

We extend our love and sympathy to Bro. Leroy and Sis. Clara Huber on the death of Sis. Clara's sister, Sis. Anna Freidinger, of Morton. She died on July 25.

We want to thank Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA) for coming to Eureka and sharing God's Word with us on a recent Sunday. May God's blessings be upon Bro. Kent and his dear family.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Sally Fehr Joann Zehr

Why do I drift on a storm-tossed sea,
With neither compass, nor star,
nor chart,
When, as I drift, God's own plan
for me
Waits at the door of my
slow-trusting heart?

Down from the heavens it drops
like a scroll,
Each day a bit will the Master un-
roll,
Each day a mite of the veil will He
lift.
Why do I falter? Why wander and
drift?

Drifting, while God's at the helm
to steer;
Groping, when God lays the
course so clear;
Swerving, though straight into
port I might sail;
Wrecking, when heaven lies just
within hail.

Help me, O God, in the plan to be-
lieve;
Help me my fragment each day to
receive.
Oh, that my will may with Thine
have no strife!
God-yielded wills find the
God-planned life.
—James McConkey

Beginning in this walk of trust in the Lord for her life's plan is new convert Traci Fehr (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda). Our prayers are with her that in her repentance she will lay a good foundation on which a Godly life can be built.

A baby girl arrived to brighten the home of Troy and Terri Rieger. Tristin Elizabeth was born July 23. Grandparents are Steve and Sandy Rieger and John and

Teresa Franey.

Thy messengers Thou sendest,
By them to us extendest
The living Bread of heav'n...

Zion's Harp #207

Messengers God has sent into our midst in the past month include Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA); and Bros. Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL), Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) and Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA). May God bless your efforts.

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy Schneider, formerly of Rockville, CT, who have been led to gather with our congregation. Also we welcome their daughter, Sis. Melanie Schneider, who has been assembling with the Forrest brethren and will now be joining her parents in Fairbury. May they find among us the living Bread of the Word to sustain them.

Those who recently suffered illness include: Bro. Ezra Steffen (Sis. Aldine), Sis. Louise Hartman (Bro. Warren), and Sis. Gwen Knapp (Bro. Kirby). We pray that each one may feel the healing power of the Spirit.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp
Linda Anliker**

Summer has gone as the fields become ripe for harvest and the children return to school. We pray God will watch over our children as they receive further education and may their most positive teaching be our living example from day to day.

As the Master calls for reapers, we are thankful Kelly Leman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy) has answered the call to labor for Jesus Christ. With humbleness of heart,

may she accept the grace from God, which will enable her to walk a new life with Him.

Seeking the Lord's direction in their lives, Bro. Shane Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne) and Sis. Sarah Schneider (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra) make known their plans to marry. As they plan for their wedding, may they continue to ask the Lord for guidance.

Exchanging wedding vows on July 31, were Ryan Koehl and Michelle Campbell. Their parents are Ken and Kathy Campbell of Winfield, IL and Barry and Sis. Rosemary Koehl.

Becoming united in marriage on August 7 were Chris Gerth (Tom and Kay) of Chatsworth, IL and Shanna Schaffer (Bro. John and Sis. Sally). May these two couples seek the Lord's presence as they establish their new homes.

We thank visiting ministers Bro. Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) for sharing God's Word with us.

Experiencing parenthood for the first time is Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sarah Mueller, with the birth of Clarrisa Renee. Enjoying their new granddaughter are Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee Wenger and Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida Mueller.

Returning to the area and taking residence at Fairview Haven Assisted Living are Bro. Eli and Sis. Bertha Leman of Morton, IL. Bro. Eli was the first administrator for Fairview Haven many years ago.

Our congregation was reminded again how life can be snuffed out at a moment's notice with the death of our Bro. Robert Leman (Sis. Donna). Our hearts weep for those who sorrow, as he leaves behind his wife, Sis. Donna; children, Charles (Diann) (Fairbury, IL), Sis. Elaine (Dale)

Dotterer (Smithville, OH), Sis. Beth (Bro. Chuck) Mogler (West Bend, IA), Bro. Fred (Sis. Brenda), Bro. Ernie (Sis. Carol), Bro. Phil (Charlotte), Earl (Krista), Ben; many grandchildren; two brothers, LeRoy Leman (Canton, IL) and Willis Leman, (Elgin, IL); one half-brother, Richard Anliker; two stepsisters, Lucille Peters, (Pickering, MO) and Carolyn Ahle (Carpentersville, IL) and one step-sister-in-law, Millie Anliker (Elgin, IL). We miss his presence; but may we learn, from his example of steadfastness in Christ, to be a good soldier for our Lord.

Bro. Jim (Sis. Sandra) Schneider underwent surgery due to complications from an accident in prior months, but is assembling with us again.

Notes of Thanks:

Words seem so inadequate in expressing our heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, cards, gifts and kind deeds given on our behalf in the loss of our dear one. May our great God be your rich rewarder.

The family of Robert Leman

Sincere thanks to all my friends and family who remembered me with cards, thoughts and prayers on my 80th birthday. May God bless each of you for your kindness.

Sis. Marian Rieger

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Jan Beer

Bro. Bruce Hohulin spoke to us about Faith in this morning's worship service. He noted that we may think it would be easy to have faith if we could see miracles happen like in Biblical times, yet we can see miracles today:

...the miracle of the Holy Spirit

speaking through selfless men to bring us the Word of God. We are grateful to these ministering Brothers who fed us the Bread of Life and Living Water this month from the Goodfield pulpit: Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), and Bros. Kenneth, Loren and Frederick Knapp (Taylor, MO, Tucson, AZ and Congerville, IL), Don Manz (Junction, OH), Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL), James Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Steve Baner (Gridley, IL).

...the miracle of new life. Sis. Lindsay and Bro. Kevin Wiegand welcomed Taylor Leah into their family circle on August 3. Excited first-time grandparents are Sis. Lori and Bro. Larry Wiegand. Sis. Jane and Bro. Russ DesCarpentrie are very pleased to add Taylor to their little flock of adorable granddaughters.

...the miracle of immortality. "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." (I Cor. 15:50-54). On July 30, our dear Sis. Kris Bauman entered into that sleep to wait for the trumpet to sound. Faith is the victory!

...the miracle of God's provi-

sion. Our Sis. Kris left behind her husband, Bro. Ben, and four children, Luke, Anna, Bethany and Abby. Please continue to pray for them, as well as her family of origin and Ben's family, Sis. Marlene and Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) and Sis. Betty and Bro. Larry Bauman.

"We wish to express our sincere thanks to all for the support that has been shown to us through the past 2 1/2 year struggle and passing away of our dear wife and mother, Kris Bauman. We truly appreciate the prayers, gifts, meals, and time that has been spent in visiting and transportation to treatments. May God richly bless each and every one in a special way. We continually feel your support. Trusting in Him, *Bro. Ben Bauman and Family*"

Bro. Ben told me today that his sister, Sis. Sarah Bauman, has moved in with him and the children, but will maintain her job at Nussbaum Trucking. A mother in their neighborhood, Jamie Householter, has enthusiastically offered to care for his children in his and Sarah's absence, and the children love Jamie. In the midst of sorrow, God still provides for His dear children.

...the miracle of changed lives. Heidi Knapp (Sis. Kathy and Bro. Rick) and Daniel Wiegand (Sis. Lori and Bro. Larry) gave their testimony of saving grace and were baptized the weekend of August 7-8. We thank God for their salvation and welcome Sis. Heidi and Bro. Daniel into the fellowship of believers.

...the miracle of the establishment of a Godly household. August 15, our Sis. Joan Wiegand and Bro. Kurt Plattner pledged themselves to each other and to the founding of a Christian home.

Grateful parents are Sis. Rosemary and Bro. Wayne Wiegand and Sis. Pat and Bro. Sam Plattner. Our love and prayers are with you, dear Joan and Kurt, as you allow your marriage and your home to be a testimony of the love of God.

...the miracle of faithfulness. Our Bro. John Hohulin was laid to rest August 17. As a young man waiting to "ship out" during World War II, Bro. John turned his life over to God. He was 97 years old when he died. Bro. John did not marry and is survived by one brother, Bro. Ben, and one sister, Lydia Heiniger, and many extended family members. Although a very private person, Bro. John's life was a testimony of faithfulness to the Living God.

...the miracle of guardian angels. On August 19, Terri Hinrichsen, the 20-year-old daughter of Sis. Gerri and Bro. Mike, suffered head trauma in a car accident just hours before she was to leave for college at Northern Illinois University. At the time of this writing, she is expected to make a complete recovery and is scheduled to be released from the hospital very soon. We thank God that He kept her safe.

...the miracle of the bond we have in Christ. Our Sis. Tonya Scott recently left for college in her home state of Missouri. Her little note on the church bulletin board caught my eye. It said, "Please write to me or call me. I'll be so lonesome." Sis. Tonya and her mom, Sis. Janell, are special to us because their dear dad and husband left this earth quite suddenly a few years ago. We feel the bond of Christian love and pray God will keep our Sis. Tonya very close to Him while she is away from us. No doubt, Sis. Janell will be feeling

lonesome, too, so please pray for both of them. A note or a call would be nice, too! Tonya Scott, 1200 E. Broadway, Columbia, MO 65215. A call can be made to Roldee Hall #121, 573/815-9760.

If you feel your faith is weak, try looking for the miracles that are happening all around you every day. You may be surprised at what you see!

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

The last chapter in Revelation indicates that we as God's children are not to "add to" or "take away" from God's Word. Over the years we have taken these teachings seriously—and we've tried to follow God's Word, by His grace.

The General Conference in Rittman, OH (on August 13) surely continued on in the pattern of emphasizing that we follow the Bible as it is written. A common application of the Word has wrought a wonderful tie that binds us together in Christ Jesus. May it continue on as long as the Lord tarries!

Sis. Anna Marie Reutter, formerly of Cissna Park, has moved into Sunrise Manor here in Gridley. We welcome her to our congregation. Her son, Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT), was a recent visiting minister.

On August 1, a wedding reception was held for Bro. George and Sis. Willow Gramm. They had been married earlier in Phoenix. Bro. George is a Gridley native. Parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie Gramm and Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Beres (Phoenix, AZ).

Visiting ministers were Bros. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Ron Bollier and Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) and Mark Gerber

(Bluffton, IN).

Elder Bro. Earl Ringger had eye surgery. Also, Burton Grusy was a surgical patient. Sis. Lucille Hofmann fell and broke her hip. May God be with each of them, and heal them.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney

Cheryl Wuthrich

We are happy to report the marriage of Steve Michel and Cathy Norman. They were married July 4. Their parents are Bill and Sis. Doris Michel and John Norman and Roger and Carole Hoffman (Peoria, IL).

Bro. Brett Grimm and Sis. Lena Sauder (Peoria, IL) were united in Holy Matrimony on July 18. Their parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Becky Grimm and Bro. David and Sis. Rita Sauder. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings and guidance as they establish their Christian home and take their place in the family of God as a married couple.

We wish God's richest blessings to Bro. Kent Steffen (Morton, IL) and Sis. Joanne Hemmer (Peoria, IL) as they were united in marriage in Christ on August 1. Their parents are Sis. Elenor Steffen and Elder Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marian Hemmer. We know the Lord will continue to guide them in service for Him.

Sis. Anna Freidinger gained her eternal rest as she passed away on July 25 at the age of 92. May the Lord comfort and bless her stepdaughter, Gloria Campo; her five brothers, Bro. Arnold (Lydia) Rassi, Bro. Carl (Marjorie) Rassi Jr., Bro. Elias (Pearl) Rassi, Bro. Solomon (Sharilyn) Rassi, and Robert (Janet) Rassi; her five sisters, Marie Pfaffman, Margaret

Romersberger, Sis. Matilda Legal, Leah Warren, and Sis. Clara (Bro. Leroy) Huber; her three step-grandchildren; and her 36 nieces and nephews.

We welcome two couples who have decided to make Morton their home congregation. They are Bro. Todd and Sis. Wendy Sauder and Bro. Brandon and Sis. Mindy Rinkenberger. We rejoice that God has led them here and are looking forward to the blessings God has in store for our church family.

Restmor's annual Ice Creme Social was held August 10. Good desserts and good fellowship was enjoyed by residents, families and friends.

A church potluck dinner was enjoyed Sunday, August 15, at the Fellowship Hall. Our special guests were Dr. and Mrs. Parkhe of the Rural Gospel Medical Mission of India and Bob and Vera Stewart of MEBSH in Haiti. Fellowship and singing made the evening complete.

The annual Sunday School teachers' dinner and meeting was held on August 16. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger was present to bring encouragement and instruction.

We wish to thank Bros. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) for their messages to our congregation. We are thankful for the fellowship and visiting among our churches.

Note of Thanks:

Sis. Vi Funk wishes to thank everyone who remembered her during her surgery and recovery. The prayers, cards, gifts and food were so very welcome and she appreciates all who were so kind.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

We thank Bros. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL: we are the strongest when we feed the soul which is in us and take time to pray and be holy) and Jaye Rinckenberger (Good-field, IL: do we have a relationship with Jesus so His Word comes out in our lives? Think about it today, study God's Word so He can create a clean heart in us, and strive to be in Heaven together some day) and other guests who visited us July 18 for the wedding of Bro. Brett Grimm (Morton, IL) to Sis. Lena Sauder. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer performed the ceremony and we wish them God's blessings.

The fulfilled prophecies are only an indication of what's yet coming. There are over 300 in the New Testament of the Second Coming of Jesus. It is so simple to come to Jesus, but Satan makes it so difficult. If we have Jesus in our heart, we are looking forward to His second coming and today we are waiting for this corruptible to be changed to incorruption. Only the new spiritual body can go into Heaven; how prepared are we to be caught up in the air? There will be great destruction before the Lord comes. Watch, be ready (stay ready), be faithful. If you are not a Christian, you are on the road to Armageddon. Change your focus from the world to Jesus and be on the road to glory. Death can be swallowed up by victory, and a time to go on living with the Lord. Death has a sting if you have sin in your heart, but the Lord took the sting. We must be a Bible-believing church and stand on the Word, which was in the beginning. These are true sayings of God; let's make sure we are part of

the Kingdom of Heaven. If you are ready, praise God; if not, give your heart to Him. (Bro. Ken Hoerr, 7/25/99, I Cor. 15:45-58; Rev. 19).

Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) ministered on James 2: faith without works is dead. Jesus did not cater to those who have, but died for all. It's easy to pray for someone, but it's essential that we have works and show we are a servant, ready to be used. If we want to go anywhere, we need the paddle of faith and one of works, otherwise we go in circles. When we work for the Lord, blessings come and He will provide. Thanks, Bro. Andy and Sis. Diane, for your visit.

The small church of Nashville, TN hosted 39 young people and 8 adults on July 18. They enjoyed to worship and fellowship with them, and other summer visitors, and wish to express their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all who helped make it such a blessed experience, especially Bro. Don and Faye Sauder.

On August 1, Bros. Marshall Heinold (Ixtlan, Mexico) and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) were our visiting ministers. Exodus states the Israelites were to examine the lamb very carefully before it was accepted for the sacrifice. Now God provides His Son to remove our sins. To come to salvation, we must know we are lost and have a servant heart and attitude. Today teenagers take more instructions from peers than parents. Does our light shine for the Lord?

To begin the wedding ceremony of Bro. Kent Steffen and Sis. Joanne Hemmer in the afternoon, Bro. Mike Rieker stated God is the best Matchmaker and if things are right in Heaven, they are also right on earth. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer mentioned what a special occasion it is for two of God's

children to meet and then marry in the Lord. In the home, which is established today, Jesus is first in their lives "and whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" (Col. 3:23). Continue to do that and give all to Jesus to spend eternity in Heaven in the end. May the Lord bless you and keep you.

"Standing up for Jesus" was Bro. Byron Stoller's (Gridley, IL) topic for our family night service on August 4. We must stand firm and hold to a position, much like a ship holding its course at sea. To stand up for Jesus is to follow the Word - Jesus, Who became flesh and is the author and finisher of our faith. We need an inward fear of God, not outward fear of man. At his inauguration, President Reagan said he was afraid to do what he is about to do, but more afraid not to do it. Some Biblical examples are David, ready to go against Goliath; Daniel stood for the Lord because of the spirit which was in him, serving God continually; Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego literally stood up for the Lord, saying "God Whom we serve is able to deliver us" (Daniel 3:17); Elijah (standing alone) defied the 450 prophets of Baal; John the Baptist was beheaded; Stephen stoned; Paul received 5x 39 stripes; the Philippian jailer, chosen by God, stood up for Jesus. We must be willing to suffer for our belief and enter into the Kingdom of God through much tribulation. We are purified when we suffer in the flesh. And Peter, after receiving the Spirit, could stand up for Jesus. Could we stand up for Jesus, like these men did? "For when I am weak, then am I strong" (II Cor. 12:10). Thanks, Bro. Byron.

We mourn the deaths of Marion Unsicker (85) of Morton, IL; Bro.

Alfred (Duke) Feucht (79) of Lester, IA; and Sisters Frieda Joos (89) and Stella Bessler (79), both of the Skylines, and we express our sincere sympathy to their families. Marion was a brother of Ed and Bro. Wayne Unsicker and Bro. Alfred was a brother of Sis. Martha Wagenbach.

Hospital patients were Sisters Martha Bittner, Amy Hodel and Matilda Suttor. May the Lord restore them to good health.

Bro. Wes and Sis. Lena Kieser added Julia Rose (#4) to their family on August 3; Tammy Hoerr made Bro. Bob and Sis. Myrna Hoerr grandparents on July 12 with Gavin Robert; and Seth Matthew was born to Daniel and Michelle Geyer on July 20 at Bloomington, IL. First-time grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila Wirtz (West Bend, IA) and he is the third grandchild of Bro. Dale and Sis. Barb Geyer. Sincere congratulations to the happy parents and grandparents.

On August 1, the marriage engagements of Sis. Marla Knobloch to Bro. Andy Hodel (Bloomington, IL), and on August 15 Bro. Ken Ober's to Sis. Stephanie Pflederer (Tremont, IL) were announced and we wish them the Lord's blessings to this important undertaking.

Can we believe in things we can't see? Nicodemus was intrigued and came to Jesus by night, asking: "How can a man be born again?" (John 3:4). Somehow...something clicks in our mind and we receive faith to believe. May we examine our hearts and ask: "What shall I do with Jesus?" and make the right choice...for eternal life (Bro. Mike Rieker 8/8).

The passengers on the "Titanic" were listed in just two cate-

gories: "Saved" and "Lost", which is the way God sees us. If only my name were listed in the Lamb's Book of Life...! (Bro. Ken Hoerr on Rev. 21:22).

In a recent letter, Mrs. Barbara Bush told of a boy who picked up a starfish on the beach and tossed it back into the ocean. When an onlooker said to him that millions of them wash ashore and all will die, the boy replied, "This one won't!" Are there similar opportunities out there for us?

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Sheryl Martin

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint."

First-time parents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Stephanie Streitmatter, rejoice in the Lord as a son, Keenan Kird, was brought into their home on August 2. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane Streitmatter and Holmer and Karen Andrews and Ron and Connie Cargnino.

Michelle, Melinda, and Ethan are happy for a new sister, Elisabeth Marie, as she was born into the home of Bro. Ed and Sis. Gladys Martin on August 10. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Edna Martin (late Bro. Ray) and Bro. Ray Klumpp (late Sis. Eunice, Bradford, IL). As these two families seek the Lord for His guidance and direction while raising their children, may grace and faith always abound in their lives.

May our converts, Rachel Baer (Ron and Sis. Deanne), Taunya

Rumbold (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jacquie), Brian Joos (Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda) and Lee Streitmatter be a light to those around them and feel the grace and strength of God as they work out their repentance and turn their back on the world.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Nick and Sis. Gladys Knobloch in the passing of Sis. Gladys' brother, Rosco Hornback.

Jesus lives! And I shall find
Life in Him and full salvation.
Ne'er oppose Him; He shall then
Make your heart His habitation.
Weakness is o'ercome in Thee;
This my confidence shall be.

Jesus lives! No pow'r of night
From the Lord my soul shall
sever.

Sorrows may come o'er the way,
Yet I'll cling to Him forever.
Light and Faith I find in Thee;
This my confidence shall be.

Zion's Harp #120

Note of Thanks:

A sincere thanks to each one that remembered me with cards, gifts, phone calls, food, visits and your prayers during the three months that I was laid up with my two hip surgeries (replacements). May God bless each one as He alone can.

*In Humble Love,
Martha Jane Siebenthal*

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Linda Hodel Boni Stoller

One of the blessings of our church fellowship is to have visiting ministers from our other congregations. May God bless Bros. Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Don

Braker (Kansas City, MO) for lending themselves in His service.

Bro. Nate and Sis. Chris Fehr are so thankful for the safe arrival of their fourth precious son on August 10. Little Samuel Benjamin made his entrance a little early but is doing fine. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen Fehr and Roger Herbst and Sandy Herbst.

It was a joyful weekend August 14-15 when we welcomed two new sisters in faith. Sis. Betsy Braker (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge) and Sis. Wendy Hodel (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Rita) will be a real blessing to our church family.

Our prayers are with Leigh Getz (Bro. John and Sis. Lynn) and Bro. Ervin Kempf who have spent time in the hospital this month. Also we continue to hold up our Bro. Jerry Fischer who has now been in the hospital for over 9 weeks struggling with earthly afflictions.

We extend our congratulations and best wishes to two young couples who have announced their engagements. Milt Getz and Jennifer Jenkins will marry on September 11. Their parents are Rod and Patti Jenkins of Princeville and Bro. Merlyn and Sis. Jan Getz. Choosing October 2 as their wedding date are Eric Hoffman and Jodi Schrock. Happy parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock of Congerville and Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann Hoffman. We pray these two couples will look to God for guidance throughout their married lives.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill

Barb Kaeb

We were privileged to host a Fort Sam Reunion July 24-25; we

enjoyed many visitors. Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Robert Walder (Congerville, IL), Bros. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). We also enjoyed ministers, Bros. James Kaeb (Bern, KS) and Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) on August 15. We thank God for the instructions our ministers deliver to us and pray God will richly bless them and their families for their labor of love.

Our sympathy is extended to our Bro. Arnold and Sis. Lydia Rassi as his sister, Sis. Anna Freidinger (Morton, IL), has gone to her long awaited reward.

Bro. Chris (Sis. Ruth) Pfloderer has spent time in the hospital. May God's healing power be with Bro. Chris and all that are unable to enjoy the blessing of good health.

Thankful parents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel Steiner who welcome Claire Joy born August 9. Heather, Emily, Lena and Noah welcome a new sister into their home. Grandparents, Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy Knobloch (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner, are thankful for a healthy granddaughter.

The wedding engagement of Sis. Stephanie Pfloderer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Barb) and Bro. Kenny Ober (Bro. Ken and Sis. Pam, Peoria, IL) was announced on August 15. May they continue to look to God to lead them as they plan their lives together.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Sue Ruppert

Denise Romersberger

"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"

Matthew 5:44

There are some people in the world who are so caring that you can't help loving them. There are also a few people who make it difficult for us to love them, people who are negative or hateful, people concerned only with themselves. We tend to ignore them or treat them the way they treat us.

Then we encounter Jesus' words: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." It almost seems impossible. Impossible for us maybe, but not for God, who does love His enemies. Left to ourselves in our sin, we are enemies of God, we are the people who are difficult to love, concerned only with ourselves. As the sun rises on the evil and the good, so God's Son sacrificed Himself for all people. God loves us. We are to love one another and also our enemies. Our daily failure to live up to God's commands drives us back to His love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness won for us on the cross by Christ. The storehouse is full of those good gifts. The sunshine of God's love rises over us each day to be reflected in our lives to others.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Sis. Dolly Schick and her family, who recently lost a brother and brother-in-law. Her brother, Bro. Alfred Feucht, and brother-in-law, Bro. Ted Gerber, both died in Lester, IA. May the peace of the Lord be with all who will miss these two loved ones. We don't always understand God's timing but know He is always there to grant us support and com-

fort.

We were privileged to have two guest ministers this month. Bros. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) lent themselves to the Spirit of God and taught us God's Word. We thank them for all their efforts and welcome them to return anytime.

Work on the new Sunday School addition is coming along nicely. We wish to thank all who have so diligently put forth effort in this endeavor.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Catrina Rinkenberger
Beth Aschliman

"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil: cleave to that which is good."

Romans 12:9

We were reminded of this verse at testimonies on July 24. It was an awesome weekend hearing the testimonies and seeing the baptisms of four young ladies. We welcomed Sis. Nicole Ploetz (Norbert and Jeanne), Sis. Beth Tonner (Bro. Eric, Sis. Rhonda), Sis. April Kipfer (Bro. Ron, Sis. Linda), and Sis. Brandy Ringger (Bro. Kendall, Sis. Sandy). Bro. Brace Wieland (Sis. Brenda, Leo, IN) had the closing prayer Saturday night. Other visiting ministers that weekend were Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North), Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL) and Bro. Dave Sinn (Sis. Joleen, Ft. Scott, KS). A big thank you to all of you for coming and giving of yourselves.

Two new converts this month make our hearts rejoice. They are Ryan Bertsch (Bro. Mike, Sis. Carmon) and Jill Schwartz (Bro.

Jim, Sis. Jan). We pray God will give them grace to surrender all unto Him.

We were so excited to hear the engagement of Sis. Erin Kipfer and Bro. Darin Laukhuf (Latty, OH). Erin's parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda and Darin's parents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Edie (Latty, OH). May God be with this couple as they plan for the big day and living their lives together for Him.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Gene and Sis. Elaine Baumgartner in the passing of Bro. Gene's mother, Sis. Mary (Bluffton North). May God be their strength.

These summer months have been busy with many weddings. July 10 was the wedding day of Corey Bedwell (Bro. Bruce, Sis. Nancy) and Anna Wemhoff. Lyle Isch (Bro. Stan, Sis. Genny) and Julie Meyers joined hand and hearts on July 24. Kerry Frauhiger (Bro. Tom, Sis. Rose) took June Slater as his wife on July 31. Jay Frank (Bro. Herb, Sis. Nancy) and Heather Glass (Norman and Dianne) became husband and wife on August 14. August 15 was a beautiful day for the wedding for Sis. Tonya Raber (Bro. Bruce, Sis. Mary) and Bro. Blaine Isch (Bro. Les, Sis. Ann). We wish each one of these couples God's richest blessings and pray they will lean on Him always.

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Brittney Isch welcomed a new son, Dustin Lee, into their lives on July 2. Dustin's big brother is Braden and his grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny Isch and Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda Maller (Bluffton North).

Jon and Angie Leyse are first-time parents of a sweet little girl, Samantha Rose. Samantha

was born on July 23. Her thankful grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Becky Leyse.

Ron and Lyla Gerber had a son enter their family on July 23. They named him Beau Dillon and he has 5 big sisters to help with him at home. Beau's grandparents are Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lucille Gerber.

Sis. Ilene Steffen is a thankful new grandma to a little boy named Ayden James Allen. He was born on August 8 to Sam and Janelle Steffen along with big sister, Carissa.

Kyle and Karli Pfister welcomed their new baby brother into their family on August 11. Clay Daniel is the son of Bro. Chris and Sis. Shari. Clay's grandparents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose Pfister and Bro. Rich and Sis. Arlene Stoller (Bluffton North).

May God be with each of these families as their little ones are being raised.

It is such a busy time in the world today but let us not forget to be prayerful in all things. Those needing prayer for hospital stays this month are Bro. Mike Bertsch (Sis. Carmon), Michelle Wolf (Bro. Kent), Zachery Agler (Jim and Sis. Pam), Sis. Jeanette Tonner (Bro. Curt), Sis. Mae Strahm, Galen (Dean) Gerber. Brockton Tonner (Bro. Dean, Sis. Julie) has had a rough summer with a broken elbow and now faces a long stay in the hospital with an infection in it. May God be with all of you and may He be the One you lean on.

We extend a hearty welcome to Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard and Bro. Steve and Sis. Tonia Price along with their two daughters, Heather and Amber, as they now make Bluffton their home. We hope you'll feel welcome here in our congregation.

We said goodbye to Sis. Kami Isch (Bro. Perry, Sis. Becky) as she leaves once again for Cameroon, Africa, after a short visit. We'll be praying for her that God will keep her safe and bless her for following His will.

A big "thank you" to Bro. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar, MO) for coming and sharing the Gospel with us on August 11 and again on the 15th.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Rhonda Maller
Ann Meyer**

"The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him."

Lamentations 3:25

What a blessing that we had four souls that did seek the Lord with their whole hearts and were baptized on August 1. Our new brothers and sisters in Christ are Sis. Jenna Mueller (Bro. Dave and Sis. Terri), Sis. Jenny Bynum (Ron and Brenda Werling), Bro. Chad Smekens (Sis. Melissa Smekens and Mike Smekens), and Bro. Benji Jolloff (Bro. Bob and Sis. Bev). May the world see their lights shining bright each day. Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) came to assist with the baptisms. We also had this month Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) visit and share with us on his way home from the Conference. We appreciate their willingness to be used to preach the Word.

Mary Jo Ringger was united in marriage to Joe Schlarman on August 7. May the Lord watch over them and their son, Cedric. Their parents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Becky Ringger and Gerald and Helen Schlarmen.

Our baby room at church is going to be busy because the Lord has sent sweet "blessings" to several families. On July 21, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Brittany Isch had Dustin Lee join their family. He joins brother, Braden, and grandparents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda Maller and Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny Isch. Likewise, the family of Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Tina Stoller and son, Hunter, were overjoyed to receive another son, Karsen Jeremy, on July 29. The happy grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy Stoller and Cynthia Greenway. Anxiously awaiting the arrival of James Jeremiah on July 30 were first-time parents, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Heather Drayer. Becoming new grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois Drayer and Jim and Karen Brudi. We also want to congratulate Bro. Ben and Sis. Kara Beer on their sweet baby daughter, Courtney Rae, born on June 15. Her playmates include Bret and Kelsey and her grandparents are Bro. Perry and Sis. Becky Isch and Bro. Phil and Sis. Millie Beer (Milford, IN).

Along with the joy of new additions to our church, the Lord sprinkled sadness along the way as we said our earthly goodbyes to three of our elderly loved ones. They were all called Home within one week. On July 27, our Sis. Verna Roth left for her eternal reward. We enjoyed having Verna in Bluffton in her latter years. Our sympathy goes to her family, Sis. Carol (Bro. Dale) Gerber, Chuck and Laurie Roth and Barb and Bill Thomas. Also, Sis. Edna Neuenschwander will be missing her husband, Bro. Walter, who passed away on July 30. Their children include Bro. Walter "Junior" (Sis. Joyce) Neuenschwander, Sis.

Marilyn (Bro. Charles) Gerber and Sis. Carolyn (Bro. John) Meyer. The Lord next called Home our oldest sister that had been serving Him for many years. Sis. Mary Baumgartner left her frail body on August 2 for a new one. She will be missed by her daughters, Sis. Carolyn (Bob) Yergler, Delores (Bill) Shady, Lillian (Kent) Sprunger, Helen Woodward, Anna Rose (Donald) Lloyd, Lois (Lloyd) Tackwell; and sons, Bro. Truman (Sis. Marj), Bro. Howard (Sis. Joyce), Bro. Galen (Sis. Joyce) and Bro. Gene (Sis. Elaine).

We are glad to have Daniel Shorb back at church after his long stay in the hospital after his liver and kidney transplant. The Lord heard the prayers of his parents, Bro. Brett and Sis. Cindy Shorb, and renewed some health. We miss seeing Sis. Clarice (Bro. Harry) Isch at church while she endures her chemotherapy treatments, but we remember her in our prayers. Also in the hospital was Bro. Lynn (Sis. Valerie) Kipfer.

When we feel down because of our imperfections and failings, let us remember to rejoice in the goodness of the Lord's mercy.

"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22-23

**INDIANA
FRANCESVILLE
Lily Pelsy**

"For we are the circumcision which worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and

have no confidence in the flesh.”

Phil. 3:3

We were abundantly blessed from God as a result of the following ministers: Bros. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Lester Huber (Lexington, KY), Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO), Victor Beer (North Ft. Myers, FL) and Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN). We sincerely thank each one for their labors for the glory of God.

Our heritage is priceless. We believe God blessed the Conference. May the Lord's name be lifted up as we heed the Conference conclusions.

As our ministering Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla Wuethrich returned home from the Conference, their oldest son, Levi, had been in a mowing accident. After many surgeries on his feet, our convert Levi is recuperating. May God heal him according to His will.

We rejoice that Luke Gutwein (son of Sis. Donna), by God's grace, could turn from the world and be converted. He said, "Restitution gives us opportunity to develop humility." We could feel the Holy Spirit and welcome him as a brother.

Closing thought from a sermon: We have hope in Jesus. Cut a hole in the back-pack of burdens and let Jesus bear them.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Gail Bradford
Lauretta Schafer**

We appreciated having Sis. Alivia Metzger (Francesville, IN) working in Indianapolis for her summer employment.

Our sympathy is extended to

Bro. Bill Bradford, who experienced the loss of his brother-in-law, Gene Brown, of Phoenix, AZ.

August 3 was the birth date of Savanna Grace, daughter of Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle Cook, and sister of Noah. Rejoicing grandparents are Bro. Mick and Sis. Connie Cupp (Bluffton North, IN) and Herb and Sis. Suzanne Cook (Francesville, IN).

We pray for healing mercies for Sis. Conni (Bro. Bill) Witzig's mother, Sis. Clarice Isch (Bluffton, IN), who spent some time in Indianapolis in the hospital.

We are grateful for our visiting ministers: Elder Bros. Wes Knapp (Sis. Mildred, Goodfield, IL) and Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN), and Bros. Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN), Victor Beer (Sis. Dorothy, North Ft. Myers, FL), and Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO). May the seeds of truth that have been planted bring fruit into our lives.

It is with great joy that we heard the news of another soul turning her life to God and taking Jesus Christ as her Saviour. Torey Guingrich, youngest child of Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy Guingrich, confessed her need of a Saviour. Pray for all the new lambs in Christ.

August 15 we had our annual Sunday School picnic and started our new Sunday School classes. Newly elected teachers are: Sis. Debbie Anliker, Sis. Abby (Bro. Scott) Klopfenstein, Sis. Doreen (Bro. Jerry) Leuthold, Sis. Sandy (Bro. John) Lichtle, Sis. Kara (Bro. Aaron) Klopfenstein, Bro. Doug (Sis. Jeni) Hart, Bro. Corey (Sis. Erika) Gerber, and Bro. Aaron (Sis. Kara) Klopfenstein.

The Sunday School is our delight; we love it more and more.

'Tis here we learn to do the right and live forever more.

Sing ye all in one accord.

Shout forth the praises of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna to the Lamb of God.

**INDIANA, LACROSSE
Anna Marie Stoller**

Strive aright when God in mercy
His compassion turns to you,
That your soul so long
o'erburdened,

Freed from sin might live anew.

Zion's Harp #47

Kristi Massner (Bro. Randy and Mary Lynn) is seeking relief from the burden of sin through repentance toward God.

Bro. Lynn Feller has been hospitalized, and the prayers of our brethren arise for him.

A season of birth has occurred in the life of Jenny Massner as she welcomes her little daughter, Jorrie Lynn. Grandparents are Bro. Randy and Mary Lynn Massner.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and Richard Plattner (Peoria, IL).

New Sunday School teachers are Sis. Judy Gudeman and Bro. Brad Rocke.

**INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter**

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:"

Phil. 2:5

In the home Christ-likeness is kindness;

In business it is honesty;

Toward the weak it is burden bearing;
 Toward the sinner it is evangelism;
 Toward ourselves it is self-control;
 Toward God it is reverence, love and worship.
 —*unknown*

Our prayers are with little Grant Klopfenstein, Sis. Denise and Bro. Mike's six-week-old son, who is in intensive care unit at the hospital with a respiratory infection.

On August 8, many of the parents and children involved in home schooling stayed over from their Saturday convention. We had a full house.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) and Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH). We were blessed by their being and sharing with us.

We welcome Bro. Jaret and Sis. Sharlin Wieland to our congregation. They will live in Harlan, IN as they relocate from Bloomington, IN.

We rejoice with the many new converts who are putting their trust in the Lord Jesus and following in their parents' footsteps.

A number of Gateway Woods children are returning home and new ones taking their place. Bro. John Stoller mentioned from the pulpit, after bidding goodbye to two of the boys returning home, "every child is a success story if they hear about Jesus" which they all do. Many keep in touch with Gateway Woods and even return to church on occasion. I feel this prayer is their deep heart cry.

My Prayer

Today I stopped, dear Lord, to

think of all the things You've done;
 Of all the tears You've dried for me and all the battles won—
 Of all the times my head hung low without a friend to care,
 Now looking back, I clearly see that You were always there.
 You've heard my prayers, when no one knew the pain I felt inside,
 So many times, no words would come and I just knelt and cried.
 Sometimes it would be easy, Lord, to give in to defeat,
 To let old Satan have his way, admitting I am beat.
 But somewhere deep inside of me I hear Your gentle voice,
 That circumstance is not excuse and victory is a choice!
 Lord, one more thing I ask of You, as I go on my way,
 That all the love and blessings sent I may, somehow, repay.
 May those I meet, wherever I go, see Christ in all I do.
 And may all my deeds and my ways say, Lord how much I love You.
 —*Rebecca J. Rogers*

This is my prayer too. As I write today (the day before Gateway Woods Auction), it's an exciting time here and very busy time also.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Pam Beer Marguerite Hoerr

Our community received welcome rain, after a very long dry period. It's human nature to always wish we had a bit more, but we heard appreciation voiced in many conversations.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Tonya Price, with their daughters, Heather and Amber, are moving to Bluffton, IN. They have both been active helpers in our congregation, and we will feel their absence keenly. It's an old cliché, but

Bluffton's gain is our loss. We wish them happiness and God's blessings as they make their home there.

Sis. Dorothy Martin recently spent some time in the hospital but was released to attend the visitation and funeral of her husband of nearly 70 years.

Bro. John Martin passed away on August 14 at the Lakeland Healthcare Center where he'd been for a short time. Deep sympathy is extended to Sis. Dorothy and to their children. There are three daughters: Verla (Allen) Suttor of Bremen; Joyce (Bob) Wolferman, Milford; Ruth (Pete) Blaettner, Fort Wayne; and two sons, Gerald and wife, Sherry; John and wife, Leona, of Milford. John and Dorothy came to Milford from Morton, IL in 1950 to take over the Martin family farm. They became an integral part of our community and church. He will be missed by family, friends and our congregation. Elder Bro. Jesse Beer and Bro. Walter Steffen conducted the services.

Our Milford church is always enriched in the summer months by visits from families vacationing at the surrounding lakes. It's a good feeling to hear greetings from the various churches. Florida churches swell with winter visitors and we feel extremely fortunate to have our summer visitors.

School has started again and our college students make their way back to the various Universities they're attending. One of last year's college graduates, Sis. Holly Beer, is teaching first grade in a local school and we're thankful to have her close by once again.

Sis. Monica Steffen spent her second summer months in Athens, AL. She taught the pre-school

classes. She's returning to Purdue and will do her student teaching in that area. Her degree will include special education.

Bro. Roy Lehman has moved from his home where he lived and cared for himself for many years. At this time he is a resident at Lakeland Healthcare Center and welcomes visitors.

Bro. John and Sis. Pam Lehman are the grandparents of a little girl, Sierra Anne, born to their daughter, Michelle, and Brett Devenney, on August 13. Alexis is the big sister who welcomed her home. We ask God's blessings on their family.

Bob and I experienced a rare joy of grandparents on a weekend this past month. Two grandchildren and a great-grandchild visited our home for the first time. Our son, Bob, and his wife, Lilliam, brought little Allison, who was adopted into their family, and their two older sons, Matt and Theo. They visited from their home in Minnesota. Coming from Chicago was our son, Doug, and his wife, Tracy, who brought little Malcolm, their first child, for us to enjoy. To make it all complete, our grandson, Scott Pelath, and his wife, Kim, visited with our first great-grandchild, Israel, from Michigan City, IN. Our hearts were full of God's blessings on this particular weekend.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler
Rochelle Ward**

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

I Timothy 2:3-4

We are happy to receive Sisters Alisia Kilgus (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna) and Rachel Virkler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth) into our church family. We rejoiced as we heard their testimonies of how God is working in their lives. The following day as we witnessed their baptisms, we too could go back to the time when we stood in baptismal waters and made that special covenant with God. We encourage these two young souls to continue seeking out God's will for their lives. We would also like to thank Elder Bros. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN) for their service in this blessed weekend.

On August 12, Gretchen Vaughn (Joe and Betty) went into the hospital for back surgery. Our thoughts and prayers will be with her, as she has a long road to recovery.

Every day we are seeing more and more progress being made in the building of our new church. It is exciting to see everyone working together towards the same goal. We have currently started brick-ing and we thank all the volunteers who have given their time and effort. We appreciate each and every one of you. We pray for God's blessing and for the protection of the workers as the building process continues.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Jennifer Mangold
Sue Beebe**

"As ye have, therefore, received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him, rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding with

thanksgiving."

Col. 2:6-7

We rejoice with Keyna Langhofer as she has found peace with God and man and looks forward to bringing her testimony in the near future. Keyna's parents are Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer.

On August 15 we witnessed the wedding vows of Sis. DeAnn Beebe and Bro. Otto Schlatter, both of our congregation. Bro. Robert and Sis. Sue Beebe and Bro. Otto and Sis. Pat Schlatter (Alto, MI) are their parents. How thankful we can be for the "three-fold cord" which binds us more closely to one another.

Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) were with us on this day.

This union of our hearts shall stand through grace in Jesus;

We walk the path of life, while cheer and trust increases, where God in truth abides, where two join hand and heart, We find a three-fold cord, not lightly rent apart.

Zion's Harp #79

Our thoughts and prayers go with Heather Mangold and Like Schafer as they leave home to attend college. As parents, our prayer for our children is that they will always remember what they have been taught of God as a child, for "He is the Rock, his work is perfect; for all his ways are judgment (justice): a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he." (Deut. 32:4).

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Hope Bucher

We would like to extend a spe-

cial thank you to all who visited the Northwest Indiana area and joined us at our Valpo congregation during your stay. We enjoyed having you worship with us. Among our summer visitors was Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL). We are thankful for his encouraging messages and teachings from the Bible. We also want to thank our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann for his ministry to us this month.

The Valpo church hosted a farewell dinner for Bro. Tim Ames and his family. We regret that the Ames family will be leaving us, but we pray God's blessings on their move. They will be living in Lafayette, IN.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Beckie Lehman

Mary Beth Lehman

Summer seems to be slowing down a bit as our students prepare for and head back to school. We pray daily for their minds to be challenged and to grow with necessary education, and also to be protected from any ungodly influence they are exposed to. We appreciate more than ever the positive Christ-like examples they have among their homes and church family.

We welcome Luke Schaeffer (Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi) from South Bend to our congregation as he is beginning his college education at nearby St. Joseph's College.

Josh Furrer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa) broke both of his arms in a fall. It's amazing how quickly an active boy can compensate and be self-sufficient again so quickly. Josh's grandpa, Bro. Don Furrer (Sis. Rita), suffered a broken leg also. God bless you both to a full recovery soon.

We appreciate the ministry of Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL). Thanks for your willingness to proclaim God's Word.

God has led and directed our Sis. Mary Basham and daughters, Jessica and Brooke, to relocate in the Bloomington area. We will miss them and yet trust the love of that congregation will enfold and embrace them as they become a part of the Bloomington church. We rejoice that Jessica has begun seeking the Lord in repentance, and pray for His guidance and blessing as she grows in His grace and love.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Judy Gehring

Karla Gerst

There ev'ry lab'rer shall be bring-
ing

Ripe sheaves of joy, from
tear-sown fields.

Oh hear the victor's chorus sing-
ing

Through heaven's halls the music
peals.

There pain and suffering find an
ending,

No access there shall death be
finding,

There we shall see God face to
face.

He'll dry our tears with hand ca-
ressing;

The stream of life shall be refresh-
ing

Beyond all hopes we now embrace.
Hymns of Zion #246

Sis. Esther Peterson was called to her rest this past month. Our thoughts and prayers are with her son, Lyle Peterson; her sisters, Sis. Martha Beuhler, Sis. Leola Heiniger, Sis. Betty Baker (all of Burlington), and Sis. Liberty Gerst (Bro. Richard, Oakville); and her grandchildren and

great-grandchildren.

Along with sorrow this month, there has been joy. We are thankful for the safe arrival of a baby boy into the home of Matt and Monica Eisenmann. Big sisters, Madelaine and Lydia, welcomed home little Ethan Matthew. Bro. Paul and Sis. Elaine Eisenmann are the happy grandparents of little Ethan.

We are also thankful that we have ministering brothers who are willing to come and serve on our behalf. May the Lord richly bless Elder Bro. Ed Lanz and ministering Bro. John Steiner, both of Oakville, for their efforts over the past two months. What a blessing to enjoy such a fellowship with those of like mind and faith.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

Heidi Butikofer

Backbone State Park was the location for our annual Sunday School picnic again this year. Together the young and older enjoyed the beauty of God's creation, lots of good food and Christian fellowship. What precious memories!

Serve the Lord with gladness...

Our annual election was recently held. As we thank those who have completed their terms of service, we also want to remember those in prayer that will soon begin their elected duties. Bro. John Schupbach (Sis. Janet) will replace Bro. Scott Fehr as Jr. Bible Class teacher and Sis. Marcy Knobloch (Bro. Jim) will replace Sis. Heidi Butikofer in the preschool class. Also, Bro. Charles Schneider (Sis. Sue) will replace Bro. Scott Fehr as trustee. May each feel the direction of the Holy Spirit and be richly blessed for

their efforts.

We appreciated the mid-week visit of Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue Steiner (Smithville, OH), and thank Bro. Mark for serving us from God's Word.

We rejoice with Paul and Sis. Evelyn Pulfer at the birth of their new granddaughter, Marta Ruth, daughter of Kent and Jodi Pulfer.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Laura Funk

We were reminded by one of our visiting ministers that if we are singing praises of ourself, the tune is usually too high. Our tongue and mouth can be used for the Lord's honor and glory if used properly, or they can be very destructive if used improperly.

"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness."

Proverbs 15:1-2

Visiting our congregation this month were Bros. Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO). We thank you for lending yourselves on our behalf. We've also enjoyed many visitors. We appreciate the fellowship we enjoy with those of like mind and faith.

Sis. Jan Webber has been ill for several weeks and unable to assemble with us. Megan Funk was hospitalized but is home again. We pray for a speedy recovery for both of you.

Standing Room Only On Judgement Day!

Last night I had an awful dream that the end of time had come. The trumpet had been sounded

and life on earth was done.
An Angel stood one foot on land,
the other foot on sea,
And as I tried to kneel and pray, a
voice said unto me...
There's standing room only...this
is Judgement Day!
People filled each church and
churchyard, just as far as I
could see.
I heard a pitiful cry for mercy and
then I realized it was me.
I saw the Saviour then appear as
He split the Eastern Sky!
I saw tears of Joy on a Christian's
face and I heard the Sinner's
Cry.
And as I tried to touch His hand
with one last feeble plea,
I cried again have mercy, have
mercy, Lord, on me!
I saw a tear come to His eye as He
turned my soul away.
I didn't know Him yesterday and
He knew me not today.
The earth was burning all around,
the world went up in smoke,
And as the flames engulfed me,
thank God I awoke!
Then I got out of bed and got
down on my knees,
You should have heard me
pray...for in my dream I wit-
nessed,
GOD'S GREAT JUDGMENT
DAY!

Haste and seek your soul's salva-
tion;
Heed the Word of God today!
Haste to flee His condemnation;
Seek the straight and narrow
way.
Evil are the worldly pleasures,
Leading to eternal fire;
Seek the everlasting treasure,
Ere the day of grace expire.
Zion's Harp #52

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Sharon Gerst

We had a very busy, but blessed month here in Iowa City. The Sin-

gle Brothers' Retreat was held in the Iowa City area the weekend of July 23-25. Among the visiting brothers were several visiting ministers. We appreciated Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), and ministering Bros. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS) speaking God's Word to us that weekend.

On August 1, several of us from Iowa City went to West Bend to attend the wedding of Sis. Carrie Gress (Bro. Cloyce and Sis. Carol, West Bend) and Bro. Jason Rauhe (Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay, Detroit, MI). We look forward to having them assemble with us the next two years as Sis. Carrie finishes her schooling. We wish them God's guidance and blessings in their lives as they start down the path of life together. We also appreciated Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) coming to minister at our church in Iowa City so that Bro. Joe Gerst could attend the wedding.

On August 8, Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) came to help break the Bread of Life. We thank them as well for their efforts in our behalf.

This summer we have enjoyed having Bro. Neil Banwart (Campaign, IL) assemble with us as he completed his intern at Cargill. May God grant him direction and support as he finishes his schooling.

IOWA, LESTER

Sue Warner Cindy Leuthold

August is the month for vacation time for many families, so we have been blessed with many visitors from far and near. The following visiting ministers have

willingly spent time with us: Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), and Bros. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR). We appreciate these brothers along with their families for their visit to Lester and hope they will come to see us again.

Many of our visitors were also here to share in the joy of the marriage ceremonies of Bro. Dave Lanz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet) of Oakville, IA to Sis. Tami Bajema (Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla) on July 25; and for the uniting of Bro. Kurt Sinn (Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann) from Latty, OH to Sis. Lisa Wulf (Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky) on August 8. We will miss seeing the faces of Sis. Tami and Sis. Lisa each Sunday as they take up residence at their respective new homes. May God bless their marriages. Likewise, we congratulate Bro. Paul Metzger (Bro. Eli and Sis. Alice) and Sis. Delores Gerber (Bro. Noah and Sis. Emma) who were married on July 18 in West Bend, IA. We extend a warm welcome to Sis. Delores with her move to Lester. A reception was held for the couple on July 29 at the Fellowship Hall.

With great sorrow we bid fare-

well to Bro. Alfred Feucht. We are thankful his suffering is over but his presence will surely be missed. Our prayers and sympathy is extended to his wife, Sis. Marie, and his daughters, Sis. Paulette Sinn (Bro. Gary) and Sis. Joy Sinn (Bro. Steve), and granddaughters, along with his brothers and sisters.

Two weeks later we laid to rest another dear soul. Sympathy is expressed to the family of Bro. Ted Gerber, 89, who died after an extended illness. He leaves to mourn his wife, Sis. Emma, and his children, Bro. Bob (Sis. Nancy), Bro. John (Sis. Donna), Wayne, Sis. Pauline Teubel (Bro. Dave), Ernie (Sharon), Bro. Bill (Sis. Erma), and Jim (Marlene), along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We share in the grief of our loved ones and pray for God's comfort for the dear families.

We rejoice that Sherri Doorneweerd and Marti and Martha Knobloch have been announced to have found peace and are awaiting baptism. Susan Knobloch, formerly of Lester, and who now worships in the Chicago, IL church has also found peace. We share in the joy of the "precious pearl" that these souls have found.

The engagement of Bro. Monte Gerber to Sis. Karla Schmidgall has been shared with us. Parents of the couple are Bro. Bill and Sis. Erma Gerber and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby Schmidgall of Morris, MN. We also wish special blessings to Bro. Dudley Knobloch and Sis. Sara Metzger on their engagement. Parents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch and Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb Metzger. May these dear ones seek guidance and direction as they make future

plans.

Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle Leuthold are the happy parents of a sweet little daughter, Mikayla Marie. She joins her sisters, Ashley and Monica. Grandparents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki Leuthold and Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam Schaeffer (Morris, MN). Also, Noah Dean was born to Doug and Sis. Lisa Van't Hof and joins his brothers, Wil and Jed, and his sister, Lauren. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie Knobloch.

Our prayers are with those who submitted to surgery recently. Bro. Andy Mogler (Sis. Freida), Sis. Sherryl Knobloch (Bro. Larry) and Whitney Metzger (Bro. Blair and Sis. Julie) all spent time in the hospital but have returned home and are recovering. May God's healing hand be with them.

We bid farewell to Bro. Bill Stahl as he leaves us to return to his home after being employed in the area during the summer months. We hope he returns to visit us often.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debra Wagenbach

Bro. Brad Schmidgall (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Megan Schambach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne) were married in Elgin, IL on August 9. They will make their first home in Ames, IA where Brad will finish his schooling. We wish them God's richest blessings. May their daily example inspire others to walk closer to God.

Our sympathy is extended to our Sis. Liberty Gerst in the loss of her sister, Sis. Esther Peterson (Burlington, IA).

Bro. Regan and Sis. Tricia Lanz welcome their second little girl. Claire Allison joins big sister,

Raiann, to complete their family circle. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Jean Lanz and Dave and Phyllis Tapp of Marion, IA.

We have had one visiting minister this past month. May God bless Bro. Dave Marquart (Taylor, MO) and his family for sharing a Sunday with us.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Eunice Fehr

Berniece Banwart

We have appreciated all of our visiting ministers. May God bless them for serving us so faithfully. Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Eugene Marti (Sis. Mary, Kansas City, MO), and Mark Bahr (Sis. Beverly, Detroit, MI); and ministering Bros. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA), Rod Bajema (Sis. Twyla, Lester, IA), Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN), Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA), Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL), and Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL), have all been in our midst.

On July 18, Sis. Delores Gerber (Bro. Noah and Sis. Emma) and Bro. Paul Metzger (Bro. Eli and Sis. Alice) of Lester, IA were united in marriage in the Lord. They will make their home at Lester. On August 1, Sis. Carrie Gress (Bro. Cloyce and Sis. Carol) and Bro. Jason Rauhe of Chicago, IL (Bro. Warren and Sis. Kaye, Detroit, MI) also shared their marriage vows. They will be making their home at Davenport, IA and attend the Iowa City church. We wish these two couples many blessings and may they always look to God for direction along life's road.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Bro. Chuck and Sis. Beth Mogler and their children on the death of her father, Bro. Robert Leman, of Forrest, IL. We have always enjoyed having Bro. Robert and Sis. Donna visit West Bend and we are going to miss him. May this dear family feel God's loving arms around them and the needed strength to continue on till we meet our loved ones on that heavenly shore.

Our prayers have been with many of our loved ones who have been in hospitals. Sis. Frances Zaugg, Travis Fehr (Bro. Darren and Sis. Nora), Gina Bruellman (Bro. David and Sis. Yvonne), Jesse Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee), Gabriel Banwart (Stephen and Sis. Kris) all needed medical or surgical care. Minny Bruellman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Deb) suffered severe fractures of her leg in an accident. May God grant comfort, patience and complete healing if it is His will.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila Wirtz are first-time grandparents to Seth Matthew Geyer born to Michelle and Dan Geyer of Bloomington, IL. On July 20, Bro. Mark and Sis. Janet Fehr, Erica, Jessica, and Trevor welcomed Laura Jill into their family circle. Grandparents are Bro. James and Sis. Sharon Fehr and Bro. Maurice and Sis. Marge Schaefer (Tremont, IL). Joel and Wendy Schmidt and Harrison are happy to welcome Garret Joel, born on July 31. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Judy Schmidt along with Stephen Williams, Danville, IA and Marty Williams, Burlington, IA. Children are blessings from God and may all the parents seek Godly wisdom and direction to raise these little ones.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Akihiro Ito

Bro. Jay Braker (Roanoke, IL) visited our church on August 1. He visited Japan for two weeks. I took him to many beautiful places and made him try to eat Japanese food. When he went back to the States, I asked him what was the most interesting. He said, "How awesome Mt. Fuji is!" We climbed up to the top of Mt. Fuji and saw the sunrise. How wonderful what God created is! He went back with a lot of souvenirs. We had wonderful fellowship although we live on opposite sides of the Pacific Ocean.

We had our Shuyokai on August 10-11. Shuyokai means fellowship meeting. There were 30 people who were there from our Shioda and Tokyo churches. We met at Kobuchizawa, which is at the bottom of Mt. Yatsugatake. The climate is so cool there that we were quite comfortable. The theme of our Shuyokai was "The Holy Spirit". We read the Bible which was written by the Holy Spirit. He is our Teacher. He is our Helper, etc. Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle told us to remember that the Holy Spirit is our best friend. That was easy for me to understand. When we were baptized, the Holy Spirit came to live within us. We praise God for sending Him to us. We can't meet Jesus Christ in the flesh anymore at this time. But we can go the holy way by following the Holy Spirit. May the Lord bless and keep you all by the Holy Spirit, in Jesus Christ.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

We are thankful to report that the Lord has indeed answered our prayers and greatly blessed the

summer plans and travels of us in Tokyo.

August 10 and 11 we had our annual summer "Shuyokai" (fellowship meeting) in the mountains of beautiful Yamanashi-ken with attendees from all three churches. The theme was "the working of the Holy Spirit" which was presented and discussed during two meetings by the Brothers from the country churches. We thank them for their labors. We also had an hour-long singing, took a walk enjoying the beauty of nature and fellowship with one another, ate an interesting supper of Japanese cuisine, and of course, ate plenty of white Yamanashi peaches! Special guests from America were able to attend Shuyokai, also. They were Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois' two children, Tom Ehnle (CA) and Jewel Maeda (IL) along with grandchildren Hannah (4) and Noah (2) Ehnle and Matthew Maeda (3). Since Tom and Jewel grew up here, it feels just like home when they come back and they were thrilled to share Japan with their children. Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana's 4 young children enjoyed their new playmates and together they could have Sunday School sessions during the adult meetings. After the second meeting they even presented a sweet little program for us with teachers Sis. Lois and Sis. Marie. What a blessed time we all had—praise be to God!

The next Sunday, Tom and Jewel and children were able to worship with us in Tokyo church. Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois then joined them and several others after church for one last get-together, a picnic at Kinuta Park, before their departure the next day back to the U.S.

Back in July, we enjoyed a first-time visit from Bro. Jay Braker (Roanoke, IL) who came to spend time with Bro. Akihiro Itoh from Shioda church. They met in America a couple years back and we are glad they can be friends and Brothers in Christ! Thanks to Bro. Jay for giving the afternoon Bible Study message.

Many from our own congregation had safety and blessings in travel, also for which we thank God. Bro. Teruyo Sanada, Bro. Takaaki Miyagawa and Makoto Inoue's friend, Tatsuya Fujita, spent two weeks together visiting our churches in California and Oregon. It was Bro. Sanada's first visit to the States, and along with being awed by the vastness of America, he really enjoyed meeting Brothers and Sisters there. Bro. Miyagawa has been to the States before, meeting many faithful and committed Brothers and Sisters and his desire is that "many will come to Japan to help out here." College student, Tatsuya Fujita, plans to stay on in Oregon until early September. He has hopes of attending college in the States sometime in the future. Thank you very much to all of you who showed kindness and hospitality to the three of them there.

At the time of this writing, our Elder Bro. Akito Inoue is in Indiana on business. It worked out very nice as his son, Makoto, is attending college there and recently started repenting, so father and son can have some special time together—a blessing from the Lord. Sis. Marie plans to visit Makoto and her mother this September, Lord willing.

Andy and Chris Aberle and boys recently returned to Japan after a couple months' stay in the States and we're glad to have them

back.

Bro. Andrew Klaus' sister Joy is involved in out-reach to the homeless in the Shinjuku area, and recently several homeless people have been attending our services. Many of them seem to be earnestly seeking the Lord, perhaps because they aren't bogged down with materialism as so many are in this affluent country. They add interesting flavor to our congregation and we are thankful. Please pray for their eyes to be opened to the Gospel and for us as we seek to help them.

We want to extend our thoughts and prayers to our Sis. Marie Inoue's great-nephew, Bro. Levi Wuethrich (14 yrs., Francesville, IN), who met with great injury in a lawn mowing accident. His grandmother, Sis. Yvonne Gutwein, is Sis. Marie's sister and our prayers are also with her and her husband, Bro. Carl, and the whole family during this very trying time. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1)

KANSAS, BERN

**Jill Hartter
Holly Meyer**

Our congratulations go to Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy Baumgartner on the birth of another grandchild. Tanner Marshall Ukele was born to first-time parents, Carmen and Lee (the late Marshall and Geneva, Sabetha, KS). A host of cousins and friends also welcome little Tanner into this world.

Another year of Sunday School came to a close. The children, parents and teachers had an evening of fun and fellowship at Mulberry Creek on July 13. Bros. Paul Kaeb and Jeff Baumgartner have fin-

ished their term as Sunday School teachers. Many thanks to both of them for all their labors of love. Our prayers and support go to Bros. Duane Meyer and Adrian Strahm and Sisters Carla Meyer and Donna Edelman as they will begin their term in September.

We want to extend our appreciation to Bro. Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS) for assisting Elder Bro. John Lehman with Sunday services on August 1. May God bless you.

Note of Thanks:

Our sincere heartfelt thanks to so many who sent cards and had us in their thoughts and prayers at the time of Clay's death. We miss him very much, but know he is in a much better place than we are. Knowing the Lord will show us the way, we put our trust in Him awaiting that great reunion.

Bro. Faron, Sis. Jana, Jessalyn and Mariah Strahm

Clayton and Sis. Miriam Strahm

Let us continue to uphold these loved ones in our prayers.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Joleen Sinn

On August 6, we had an interesting evening learning more about our Apostolic Christian heritage. Bro. Perry Klopfenstein spent the evening sharing many fascinating facts of our forefathers and what they went through. I have to wonder, if I would be strong enough to endure the trials and persecutions that they went through. Having their families torn apart, having their tongues cut out, being burned at the stake. It is so good for us to be reminded of these things, and to

look at what our brothers and sisters in different lands are going through, all for the name of Christ. To be reminded to pray for them and to also pray that if persecution should come our way that we will be close enough to the Father that we can endure.

We would also like to thank all those who came from Lamont - Gridley, Lamar, and Kansas City to share the evening with us.

We want to thank Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL) for sharing God's Word with us.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Jenny Stewart
Laura Wagenbach

We rejoiced as another lamb was gathered into the fold. Sis. Komari Neal's baptism was August 8. We welcome her into God's family. Our prayers are with her as she begins her new life in Christ. Many visitors were present to attend this joyous occasion. We are always thankful for the visiting ministers who come and share God's precious Word. Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) shared with us on this blessed weekend.

We had one high school graduate this year, Craig Hamilton (Bro. Phil and Sis. Sandra). May the Lord be with him and direct him as he continues his education.

Sis. Alice Tanner was hospitalized for a minor surgery. She is having a slow recovery. Please keep this dear sister in your prayers.

School is starting again. As the children are getting into the swing of things, may we not forget to pray for His guiding hand of protection over them.

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Sarah Somerhalder

Our visiting minister this past month was Bro. Jim Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS). We thank him for bringing us the Word of Life. May the Lord richly bless him for his labors of love.

Bro. Glen Anliker (Sis. Lorean) was a hospital patient this month.

We rejoice with Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorean Anliker who recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. We were thankful Bro. Glen was out of the hospital and able to attend the reception their children held for them. May God continue to bless their union together.

A number in our congregation traveled to Ft. Scott to hear Bro. Perry Klopfenstein speak on the history of our Church. We heard of those men and women who were killed for their faith in Jesus Christ and were reminded of how the Lord richly blesses us with our freedom of worship which we tend to take for granted.

Note of Thanks:

Our sincere thanks to the brothers, sisters, friends and family in the Lord. Thank you for the cards, gifts and other expressions of love shown to us on our 40th wedding anniversary. May God richly bless each and every one of you.

Our sincere appreciation,
Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorean Anliker

KANSAS, SABETHA
Brenda Grimm
Mary Kay Wenger

We do not always understand God's timing in our lives and are sometimes reminded how quickly

life here on earth can end. Clay Strahm, the seven-year-old son of Bro. Faron and Jana Strahm (Bern, KS) was taken Home to be with the Lord on July 17 following a tragic accident. We offer our prayers and words of comfort to his family, including his grandparents from our congregation, Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois Meyer.

Our dear Bro. Carl Engle was called to his eternal rest on August 3. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Luise.

May God bless Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bros. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) and Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) for ministering God's Holy Word to us.

Best wishes are extended to two young couples who have recently been married. Brian Strahm (Roderick and Glenna) and Luann Aberle (Bro. Fred and Sis. Charlotte) exchanged wedding vows. Also August 7 was the wedding day of Myra Aberle (Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia) and Jared Hartter (Alan and Sally). May God always be their guide in the days ahead.

On August 7, Reese Jordan was born to Jeff and Tamra Emert, Topeka, KS. Rejoicing in his arrival are his two brothers, Kyler and Tate, and his grandparents, Bro. Jay and Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger.

This month our Junior and Senior Bible Classes met to assemble care kits for those victims who have experienced great loss in the war in Kosovo.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Fred Aberle (Sis. Charlotte) as he has undergone radiation treatments during the last several weeks. May the Lord strengthen him during this trying time.

It was recently announced that if all goes as planned, the Sabetha

congregation will be holding services in the Fellowship Hall from mid-September to mid-November while our remodeling project continues. Our Sunday School vacation is normally during the month of August, but it is now postponed until the time when we assemble at the Fellowship Hall.

Note of Thanks:

Our heartfelt thank you to all who have sent cards, offered prayers and helped in so many ways following our loss of Clay.

Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois Meyer and families

Note: A lady's size 12R London Fog coat, tan with black trim, has been left in the Sabetha church.

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

The weekend of July 17-18 was special for our Wichita congregation. Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) was here to read the Memorandum on Saturday evening and then Sunday afternoon we had the blessed opportunity to share the Communion service. We cannot appreciate enough the personal sacrifice made by Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan as they traveled the many miles to Wichita in their service to us.

On Saturday, July 24, those who were able gathered at Watson Park for a Sunday School picnic. Those who attended enjoyed the relaxed activity in spite of the heat.

Bro. Al and Sis. Judy Langhofer's family circle has been blessed by the birth of a great-grandson born earlier this summer to Chad and Sarah Langhofer. He was named Elliot Michael and is the grandson of

Steve and Jeannie Langhofer.

A delegation of singers frequently go to Bro. Virgil Barth's home after Sunday services. Bro. Virgil and Betty welcome this opportunity for fellowship.

Bro. Phillip Bowers has gained a bit of independence, thanks to modern technology. He has the Bible and the lyrics to all the songs in the Zion's Harp and the Hymns of Zion on his lap top computer. He is able to operate the computer with a mouth stick. Bro. Phil credits an Illinois brother, Bro. John Walker, for giving him the software for the hymns. Bro. Phil and his nephew, Matthew Long (Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Ruth), processed the material to meet Phil's needs. Bro. Phil said he receives such a blessing because he is able to follow along with the scripture readings and the songs. God be praised!

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Alex Neukomm

Many were present from Smithville, Rittman, Morton, Tremont, Roanoke, Eureka, Francesville, and Milford on Memorial Day weekend when we were able to witness the proving and baptism of Alex Neukomm (Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda). It was a blessed and uplifting weekend for us. Our Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) were present to share this special event, along with ministering Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL). We could feel a rich measure of the Spirit present as the Word came forth. We appreciated them making the effort to come and minister the Word and carrying out their important responsibilities that contributed to the weekend. May the

Lord bless them for their many labors of love toward us.

Matt Huber was our graduating senior in May. He is the son of Maurice and Monica Huber. His plans are to major in music and attend the University of Kentucky. We wish him God's blessings on his future plans.

My grandpa, Bro. Lester Huber, remarked in a service this past month about how a water droplet is formed. It begins with a little speck of dust and as condensation builds on the speck of dust it gets heavier and eventually falls to the earth making a splash. He likened this to our lives in that we can be like that speck of dust, hardly anything. But, when God fills us with His love and as we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives, that speck of dust becomes much bigger and ends up making a small splash on the earth. Let us make a "splash" on the world, not because of us, but by the help of the Holy Spirit. Let your light shine.

Our visiting ministers for the past few months have been: Bros. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Ralph Garber (Morton, IL), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), Sidney Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL), Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH). We appreciate their willingness to come and visit, sharing the Word with our congregation. It is our prayer the Lord will richly bless you.

Help me, Lord, when I start to look away.

The world is all around;

I can see it too clearly.

Looking at my Saviour's face has kept me from all harm.

So why, right now, do I want to

look
at something I know is wrong?
When basking in Thy light so
warm,
I am content, complete.
Then, why am I so tempted
to walk into the shade?
Please, dear Lord, take my face;
hold it in Thy hands.
Like a mother, gently leading,
show me where to go.
Guide me with Thy love so tender.
Let me look at Thee.

—author unknown

It is such a privilege to come before our Lord and Saviour and ask for help through the changes, struggles, or any other situation that may come our way in this life on earth. With school starting back up again and vacation time over, many of us are becoming very busy. Let us remember to keep our focus on Jesus and let Him be the center of our lives.

We appreciate visitors and extend a welcome to anyone. Please contact Bro. Lester Huber (606) 745-2541 or Bro. Jan Neukomm (606) 273-8574.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Kristen Plattner
Michelle Oesch

Anyway

People are unreasonable, illogical,
self-centered...love them any-
way.

If you do good, people will accuse
you of selfish ulterior mo-
tives...do good anyway.

If you are successful, you win false
friends and true enemies...be
successful anyway.

The good you do today may be for-
gotten tomorrow...do good any-
way.

Honesty and frankness will make
you vulnerable...be honest and
frank anyway.

What you spend years building
may be destroyed over-
night...build anyway.
People really need help but may
attack you if you try to
help...help people anyway.
If you give the world the best you
have, you may get kicked in the
teeth...give the world the best
you have...ANYWAY.
—author unknown

This poem really sums up the human nature in all of us. It is not easy to try again when we either fail or are knocked down by life. It is hard to make ourselves vulnerable to ridicule or possibly rejection when we make a stand for our strong beliefs. It is not easy to love someone who does not return in kind. Sometimes we have to force ourselves to do some of these things that we know are right. That is why we need the Lord in our lives and in our hearts to give us courage, and strength when our own efforts fail.

We rejoice with Fritz and Kim Byam at the birth of their new bundle of joy, Christine Isobel. Big sister, Carly, welcomes her home. Grandparents are Doug and Marilyn Byam.

The weekend of August 15 many traveled to South Bend, IN to witness the marriage of Bro. Otto Schlatter (Bro. Otto and Sis. Pat) and Sis. DeAnn Beebe (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue). Our prayers go with them as they begin their life together.

We recently voted in two new Sunday School teachers, Sis. Laurie Pardo (Jack) and Bro. Scott Schambach. May we remember to uphold them in prayer as they teach our children about God's Word.

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

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

Hebrews 13:17

This verse comes to mind this month as Elders from across the land recently gathered for the Elder Conference. Many are the concerns for the church in these latter days and we need to remember our ministers and Elders in prayer and each of us do our part by remaining true and faithful.

Our prayers are also with our children as they head back to school. The summer with its warm days seems to be gone all too quickly and those precious days with our children home seems as fleeting moments. As they enter their classrooms this fall, whether it be grade school or college, it's with hope and prayer that they take the lessons taught at church and home with them.

We are thankful for these visiting ministers for being willing servants this past month as they passed through Alto on their vacations: Bros. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), David Graf (Akron, OH) and Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH).

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Rhonda Knochel

Peggy Jackson

This summer has really been a wonderful summer weatherwise here in Michigan. It seems that every heat wave is relieved by a rain and cooler temperatures. Last summer was so dry here in Michigan, that we are still feeling the effects of it this year. Fortunately, however, rainfall has been good in our area and the crops seem to be

doing very well. Our garden also thrived this year on the warm temperatures and plenty of rain. We live on a sand hill, however, and so even when precipitation has been good, we start drying up quickly and, unfortunately, so does our garden. It has only been a short time since we've had a thorough wetting of the soil through rain, but already we are so dry that our plants are showing signs of death.

Isn't that like us? We need to be fed and watered daily by God's Word or we, too, begin to show signs of death, spiritual death. The soil of the world we live in is so sandy that it drains us of life-giving water quickly. The sprouts of repentance and Godly living, that just a short time ago, looked so healthy, wither and die. Unless, that is, you water it daily with the richness of the Word of God. Have you watered your heart today? We can live as Christians in this world, we can even thrive and bring fruit, but we have to be supplied with the appropriate nourishment.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with those who have been hospitalized this month. They were: Bro. Henry and Sis. Helen Meylan, Bro. Dave Schlatter (Sis. Margaret), Sis. Leah Ramseyer and Stan and Seth Schlatter (Bro. Ken and Sis. Pam). It is our hope that each of them will feel God's loving nearness and His provision in their lives as they recover.

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this month: Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI), Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN), Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH), Will Schieler (Sis. Sue, Milford, IN) and James Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS) all blessed us by being willing to preach the Word

in truth and sincerity. We are very thankful when visiting ministers lend themselves to being used by God to minister to us. It is our prayer that God will richly bless them for their work and labor of love.

God bless you in the month ahead.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Bonnie Bedolla

Crystal Ramsier

The Detroit congregation rejoices that Danielle Mojic (Laza & Radojka) has made the wonderful decision to give her life to God and has started on the road to serving our Lord. We will continue to pray for her during her repentance period and when she makes that final covenant with God.

Along with rejoicing comes sorrow and Detroit has lost two members of our brethren over the past month. Bro. Frank Denes (Sis. Sanche) and Bro. Joe Szilagyi (Sis. Martha) have gone to be with our Heavenly Father. Our deepest sympathies go out to both of their families. They will both be deeply missed by all those who have worshipped with them over the past many years.

We would also like to express our condolences to Sis. Kathryn Losiewicz as her sister, Pauline Simrak, has passed from this life. We will continue to pray that God will comfort all those who have lost loved ones so recently.

Sis. Mary Weigele (Bro. Ernie) underwent surgery and we pray that God will grant His healing power to her. May He give her grace during this recovery period.

Recently, Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane) shared the Word with us. On Sunday, Detroit suffered a power outage due to a severe thun-

derstorm but we were still able to hear of God's "light" even in the darkness of our sanctuary. We thank Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane for their visit.

Sis. Penny Geyer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Melanie) has returned to her home in Peoria, IL after working here in Detroit. We are sad to see her leave but know that God is directing her path.

We rejoice with Bro. Jason Rauhe (Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay) and Sis. Carrie Gress (Bro. Cloyce and Sis. Carol, West Bend, IA) as they were united in marriage on August 1 in West Bend, IA. They will join the Iowa City congregation while living in Iowa. We pray God will bless them both as they begin their walk as husband and wife.

The Detroit congregation would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the Rittman, OH congregation for hosting the annual Conference this year. It was a blessed event to all those who attended. May God richly bless those who labored to prepare for the week.

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Delores Sauder**

We enjoyed a blessed week July 19 at Vacation Bible School. The theme was "Be Ye Fishers of Men". Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) was the guest speaker on Friday evening.

July 30 we hosted "invite a friend". We enjoyed the Christian fellowship of many visitors from far and near and had a blessed weekend.

We have been blessed to have visiting ministers share God's Word with us. We thank Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Winthrop,

MN), Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) for their labors of love.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Nancy Wulf
Dianne Kellenberger**

Once again, concern, support and prayers have been offered for our church leaders as they have met for their annual Conference. More and more as time passes, we need to draw closer to God, and encourage one another to uphold our precious faith.

We appreciate the many visitors we've had, whether they've come to visit loved ones, or to spend time here on vacation. We're especially thankful for those who so willingly give of themselves to speak God's Word to us. Our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN).

Believing that God has brought them together, the engagement of Sis. Karla Schmidgall and Bro. Monte Gerber (Lester, IA) has been announced. Parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby Schmidgall and Bro. Bill and Sis. Emma Gerber. We wish them God's guidance as they begin their life together.

Two precious babies have been added to our church family. Little Jamie Doug was born July 10 to Amy Schmidgall. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. June Schmidgall.

Allan and Sis. Ilene Burnham have announced the arrival of their first grandchild. Jacob Wayne was born on August 4 to Wayne and Rane Grunklee.

May our prayers uplift those who have been hospitalized.

Those we know of are Bro. Harv Joos (Sis. Debra), Bro. Leonard Wulf (Sis. Vi), Bro. Alhai Moser (Sis. Pearl), and Bro. Harold Gramm (Sis. Ila). We pray for them and their loved ones that God will remember each one in their need and strengthen and heal according to His will.

Our dear children will soon be back in school again. We pray God will watch over and protect them.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Carol Ann Messner
Becky Braulick**

"Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you and ye shall be clean: A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God."

Ezekiel 36:25-28

The annual Zapata "snowbird" reunion was held in Winthrop this month. We were thankful many could come and attend our small church. Fellowship shared is only a sample of what God has in Heaven waiting for us. Many visiting ministers and their wives were able to be here. Retired Elder Bros. Sam Anliker (Sis. Clara, Lamont, KS) and Paul Fehr (Sis. Anna, Morris, MN) were here. Other ministers here were Bros. Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise, Bluffton North, IN), Bill Gerst (Sis. Judy, Alto, MI), Roy Ehnl (Sis. Donna, Bradford, IL), and Tom Schrenk (Sis. Joan, Athens, AL).

"...Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another." Christians are to be the salt of the earth. Salt is a preservative. If we lose our saltiness, how then can we season our lives and be an example to others? (see Mark 9:50)

Sunday School is once again in session for us. Bro. Verl Schmidt was voted superintendent for the year. We pray for God's guidance and wisdom for the teachers.

We welcome Bro. Ernest and Sis. Marcelle Dapper from Elgin, IL to our congregation. Bro. Ernest also had surgery this month. We pray his recovery will go well for him.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Brent Kellenberger

On Wednesday evening of August 18 we gathered together in the dining room at church to listen to Dr. Surendra Parkhe tell us about our church supported mission in India. I can't begin to explain all that we learned, but I know that we certainly have a duty to pray that God will strengthen and help His children in India. Protestants account for less than one percent of the population, and they are persecuted in many ways. Besides this, our brethren in India are extremely poor. They depend on our contributions to survive. May we all look to God's Word for instruction on how to give. There was also some timely instruction on giving at the general Conference in Rittman, OH. We thank Dr. Parkhe and his wife, Damayanti, for visiting us and pray God will allow them to do so again.

Our visiting ministers over the past month were Bros. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne) and Doug Grimm (Sis. Jeryl) from Sabetha,

KS and Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN). We are thankful that these brothers and their families could be with us. Special thanks to Bro. Doug, who came on August 8 when all our ministers were down in Kiowa.

On August 7-8, many of our congregation traveled to Kiowa, KS for the testimony and baptism of Sis. Komari Neal. We had a blessed weekend, and rejoice with Sis. Komari and her family. We are also thankful to the Kiowa church for their love and hospitality throughout the weekend.

Our congregation joyfully welcomes two more souls into our midst. Sis. Lori Lehman (Bern, KS) has finished her schooling at Kansas State and is now attending nursing school in Kansas City.

Today, August 20, Sophie Claire entered the world. The second Sophie in our church is the first child of Bro. Ken and Sis. Amy Beyer. We not only look forward to seeing little Sophie in church, but the family that is sure to visit her. Among the visitors will be her grandparents, Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen Beyer (Sabetha, KS).

Lord willing, this month will find many children going off to school. For some it will be the first day of school ever, while others are college veterans. Our prayer is that God will protect and direct each child and parent through the school year.

MISSOURI, LAMAR Carolyn Banwart Kristi Huber

Once again we were blessed to have several visitors with us this past month. Among them were Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL),

Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), and Bros. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) and Don Braker (Kansas City, MO). May the Lord richly bless them for ministering to us.

Bro. Raymond Braker (Sis. LuEtta) was in the hospital. We are thankful he is feeling better.

Bro. Carl Engle passed from this life on August 3. We wish to extend our sympathy and prayers to his dear wife, Sis. Luise, at our church home in Sabetha, KS. They attended our church here at Lamar until they moved to Sabetha in their later years.

Bro. Ray and Sis. Vi Luthi were doubly blessed with the birth of two new grandchildren. Lane Forest was born on August 8, and welcomed home by Bro. Leon, Sis. Teresa, Melinda and Courtney Luthi. His maternal grandparents are Danny and Nancy Neher. On August 10, Mary Lyn was born to Bro. Troy and Sis. Vanessa Luthi. Happy siblings are Maranda, Jordan, Jennifer, Matthew, Jacob, and Mark. Mary's maternal grandparents are Howard and Mary Zartman.

We are thankful Nicole Braker (Bro. Jay and Sis. Sharon) has turned to the Lord in repentance. We pray that she may feel God's grace and guidance.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS Rachel Schrock

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."
Matthew 5:4

In a sermon recently we heard that even though friends and family will try to comfort a grieving individual, they will not be able to completely fill the void. However, God promises that the mourner

will be blessed, that is, happy. God will fill this void in His time. What an encouraging thought for anyone who has lost a loved one!

There are other types of voids left in our lives here on this earth. We are feeling one here as our Bro. Rustin Meister returns to Indiana for the school year. We enjoyed having him in our midst this summer as he interned in St. Louis. May God bless him in all that he sets out to do.

We have been blessed here in St. Louis by many visiting brothers and sisters as they are vacationing. On one recent Sunday we had a record attendance with the exception of our dedication service and a baptism Sunday! Our visitors this month have included the following ministering brethren: Bros. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN), Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), Arnie Gerst (Sis. Marjorie, Taylor, MO), Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) and Darrel Stoller (Sis. Gloria, Bern, KS). May God bless these brothers for their efforts spent on our behalf. May He also bless those who stopped in at our little church during their vacation.

Visitors are always a welcome addition to our little gathering!

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Peg Haerr

Our Vacation Bible School was held June 26-30, the theme being "Christ as our Treasure." Thanks to all who participated!

We're thankful that God provides faithful messengers to bring us His Word. Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy) and Bro. Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte), both from Chicago, IL ministered unto us this month. God's blessings to them.

We pray that God will be near our recent hospital patients: Sis. Rosie Massner (Bro. Allen), Bro. Ralph Knapp (Sis. Linda), Darin Heimer (Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan), Sis. Jerylyn Yackley (Bro. Joe) and Nikki Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally).

Bro. Stephen and Sis. Pamela Kiefaber are happy to welcome a new granddaughter, Bralynn Byron Kerley, on July 19. Her parents are Brad and Allison.

Terah Jordan Sutter was born on July 28 to Jared and Terra Jo. Sis. Marcia Sutter is the happy grandma, and Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marge Sutter are her great-grandparents.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Anna Mellnitz

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass."

James 1:22-23

Our annual business meeting was held July 26 to elect a Sunday School teacher and other positions.

Our visiting minister was Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL) and some visitors from Congerville, IL.

On July 8, the General Brotherhood Conference was held in Rittman, OH. Some of the topics were the benefits of being faithful to our calling, true faith results in obedience, encouragement to maintain Godly marriages and characteristics of deceit contrasted with the Apostolic truth and many more. Our Elders do a good job.

On August 14-15, we had visiting Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN). We had a covered dish meal and services on Saturday and they stayed for Sunday services. There were 15 young brothers and an older brother and sister from other churches here on Saturday and Sunday.

A baby girl was born to Sam and Laure Villenti on July 18. Her name is Maria Saraio Vallanti. Her grandmother is Sis. Bernice Hirschey. On Wednesday night, August 18, we had five young brothers with us. We welcome all visiting brothers and sisters.

"And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake; and be at peace among yourselves."

1 Thess. 5:12-13

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

We have been blessed to have the General Conference in our area, at Rittman. Attending the Conference was a blessing, and for some of us to have the fellowship to host guests in our homes was so enjoyable.

We were blessed to have visiting Elders and ministers in recent weeks: Elder Bros. Art Bahler and John Klotzle; and Bros. William Emch, William Gerst, Greg Lehman, Gary Maibach, Peter Petrovic, Loren Schrenk, Thomas Troxel, Mike Ursu, Warren Zahner and Jon Zeller.

We appreciated all our guests that were here and attended services with us.

A 40th wedding anniversary will be observed by Duane and Sis.

Marjorie Collins, as they were married September 19, 1959.

Bro. Don Steidl, his son, Mark, and Carlos Soto from our congregation joined a work team to Jamaica to work on projects for the school for the deaf.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to sincerely thank everyone for the prayers, gifts, cards of encouragement, etc. on behalf of our daughter Mara's recent stem cell transplant due to leukemia. At this point, Mara is doing very well and the doctors are pleased with her progress. The recovery for a medical procedure such as this is very long and slow, and we covet your prayers in the months ahead.

In Christian Love,

Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah Henico

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

The "end of summer" vacations usually bring many visitors to the Columbus church as they travel to and from their destinations. We are so thankful for the company and also for the many visiting ministers who help Bro. John. This month we welcomed Elder Bros. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Bros. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH), Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI), Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Kent Getz (Elgin, IA) and Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI).

Our sympathies are extended to our dear sister in faith, Ophelia Liuba, in the recent loss of her aunt, Ophelia Voykovic, and to Bing and Lois Tackwell in the loss of Lois' mother, Sis. Mary Baumgartner of Bluffton, IN. May

the Lord comfort these loved ones and their families during this difficult time.

We wish to extend our love and congratulations to Larry and Emily Leonhard (Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy Banks) on their marriage August 6. May they build their life together on the firm foundation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Saying farewell is something we have to do so often and it never gets easier. We say "goodbye" to Martha Strahm as she returns to Kansas State University for the next school year. We will miss her bubbly personality and wish her God's richest blessings as she resumes her school career.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

Our Sis. Anna Manz has spent time in the hospital this past month. We pray God will continue to be with her.

On August 7, Melissa Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily) was united in marriage to Mark Benware (Stan and Pam). May they always seek the Lord for direction as they walk the pathway of life together. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings on their marriage.

We were blessed with visits from two ministering brothers this past month, Bros. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and Eugene Metzger (Lester, IA). May we continue to pray for the truth to go out each time we are gathered around the Word of God.

Our children were again able to attend the annual Youth Day held in Mansfield. Many thanks to the Rittman, Smithville and Mansfield congregations for their efforts during this weekend each year. Many of us did not fully appreciate the blessings of this

weekend while we were attending, but now as we have grown older, we are thankful as we enjoy the lasting friendships with those of like mind and faith.

We appreciate the labor of our Sunday School teachers as they lovingly teach our children Sunday after Sunday. Many thanks to Bro. Dennis Schlatter (Sis. Laurie) and Sis. Jennifer Manz for your past years of service and we extend our support to Bro. Lester Manz (Sis. Karen) and Sis. Elizabeth Reinhard (Bro. Doug) as they begin this work.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn

Heidi Hackenjoss

Our congregation appreciates visiting ministers who come and share the Word with us. Visiting on our pulpit this past month were Bros. Walter Rager (Toledo, OH), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH). May the Lord bless these brothers for their efforts.

We rejoice with Marvin Manz (Jenny) as he was announced to the congregation as having found peace with God. We look forward to hearing his testimony and witnessing his baptism.

Bro. Curt Sinn (Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann) and Sis. Lisa Wulf (Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky Wulf) of Lester, IA were united in marriage. May the Lord walk with them as they begin their new life together.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Dorothy Stoller became great-grandparents this month. Their granddaughter, April, and her husband became first-time parents of quadruplet boys. Our prayers are with Isaac, Caleb, Simon, and Eli as they begin to grow and develop.

Bro. Alfred Feucht (Sis. Marie), originally from Lester, IA was laid to rest in the Latty cemetery. He is the father of Sis. Joy Sinn (Bro. Steve) and Sis. Paulette Sinn (Bro. Gary). Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family. May God comfort them in their sorrow.

Also facing sorrow is Bro. Roger Miller (Sis. Kay) with the passing of his father, Elmer Miller. Our prayers go out to Sis. Beulah Stoller who lost her daughter-in-law, Nola Stoller (Dennis), this past month.

Sis. Josephine Wenninger (Bro. Don) and Bro. Ralph Stoller (Sis. Tootie) had surgery. May the Lord grant healing to them.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

John and Marci Pfeiffer

"...Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." "...Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Our friend, Nathaniel Ramsey (Bro. Ed and Sis. Laura) is repenting. We pray that Nathaniel, by God's grace, would do as Peter, Andrew, James, and John did.

"And they straightway left their nets, and followed him." "And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him." (Matthew 4:17,19,20,22)

Many gathered on July 25 at Pleasant Valley Ranch for the 27th Ohio-Michigan Youth Day. "Come let us reason together" was the theme. We thank our Sunday School teachers and ministering Bros. John Grimm (Columbus, OH) and Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH) for their services.

Dale and Dannette Sauder and their children, Kali, Kasy and Paige, welcomed into their family a baby girl named Brooke Jean on July 25. Also welcoming Brooke are grandparents, Dan and Shir-

ley Iceman and Bro. Richard and Sis. Caroline Sauder.

Our prayers are with Bro. Phillip Keiper (Sis. Theresa) who was hospitalized. May God continue to be with him during his recovery.

May God bless the Rittman congregation for hosting the annual Brotherhood Conference. It was joyous to have so many visiting ministers this month—one of the many benefits of the Conference!

On Wednesday evening, guest ministers were Bros. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT), and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL).

On Friday evening, worship services were also held. Visiting ministers were Bros. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), and Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL).

On Sunday, our visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Art Metz (Silverton, OR) and Bros. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO).

OHIO, RITTMAN

Lucy Gasser

Lynda Beery

We pray God's blessings on the marriage of Tony Beery (Bro. Stan and Sis. Karen) and Sammi Shahan (John and Patty Shahan, Philippi, WV), who were united on July 24. May God grant them much happiness in their married life and fill their hearts and home with His love.

Bro. Aaron and Sis. Deb Gasser

were blessed with a precious baby girl, their first child. Kayla Jane was born on July 29. Her thankful grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler (Smithville, OH).

Our congregation was richly blessed on the weekend of July 31-August 1 when eight precious souls gave their testimonies and were baptized. Our new brothers and sisters in faith are: Bro. Matt Bauman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha), Bro. John Calame, Sr. (Sis. Margaret) and his grandson, Bro. John Calame III (Bro. John and Sis. Jody), Sis. Julie Hartzler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Bev), Bro. Ryan Riggerbach (Bro. Don and Sis. Gail, Smithville, OH), Bro. Matt Rufener (Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna), Sis. Anna Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy), and Sis. Laura Steiner (Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat). Assisting our Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer that weekend were Elder Bros. Kenneth Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), and Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH). Other visiting ministers that Sunday were Bros. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH). We thank our Heavenly Father for His faithfulness and our Brothers for their willingness to serve.

The angels in Heaven are rejoicing, and so are we! Three more souls have seen their need for a Saviour and are seeking Him in repentance. They are Kathleen Shane (Charles), Jennifer Ryan (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Kathy), and Ryan Winkler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Margaret). We wish them and all seeking souls much grace as they humble themselves and allow God to convert their hearts.

Our prayers ascend heavenward for those who suffer physical pain and discomfort. Our retired Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier and Bro. Ralph Weber have been hospitalized this past month. May God comfort them, and all those with various afflictions, and grant grace for every need.

We have been privileged and blest to be able to host the Annual Brotherhood Conference in Rittman. We surely appreciate the efforts of our dear Elder Brothers as they gathered for the benefit of our precious faith. Many thanks to all those who came for the General Conference. Your presence was a blessing to us!

During Conference Week, several visiting ministers brought forth the Word of Life on Tuesday and Friday evenings and on Sunday following the Conference. We give praise to God and thank Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Charles Hemmer (Peoria, IL), Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), and Ron Messner (Washington, IL), and Bros. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA), Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS), Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA), and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN). We trust the Lord to add His blessing to their labors.

OHIO, SARDIS

Angie Figel

We are thankful for our visiting ministers, Bros. Mark Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH), Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH), Brad Gudeman (Sis. Theresa, Bradford, IL), Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN) and Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL) who

came and shared the Gospel with us.

David and Valerie Fisher were blessed with a precious baby girl, Kelly Michelle. May God richly bless this new family. Joyful grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Doris Miller.

I traveled down a lonely road and
no one seemed to care.

The burden on my weary back
had bowed me to despair.

I oft complained to Jesus, how
folks were treating me,
and then I heard Him say so tenderly,

"My feet were also weary,
Upon the calvary road;
the cross became so heavy,
I fell beneath the load.

Be faithful weary pilgrim

The morning I can see.

Just lift your cross and follow
close to me.

—*Ira F. Stanhill*

There is more wonderful news this month of the very best kind. We have heard the happy testimony and witnessed the baptism of a new sister in Christ, Sis. Charla Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry). It is our prayer that Sis. Charla will always look to God for guidance in each step of her new life in the Lord.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Edith Miller

Ruth Gasser

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls..."

Hebrews 13:17

The General Conference held at Rittman has been a blessing to us in more ways than one. We have been exhorted by our Elder brethren as to the safe way to walk on

our heavenly journey. We have enjoyed the fellowship of those who have traveled many miles. And we have been fed from God's Word through the inspiration of His Spirit to faithful servants.

Those who have served us from the Smithville pulpit were Bros. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Arnold Gerst and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Glen Braker and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), and Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). May God richly bless and reward each one, and may we always support them in prayer.

It was announced recently that Bro. Brad Maibach (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Barb) and Sis. Jessica Rigggenbach (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Louise) have faith to pledge their lives to one another in the Lord. May He guide them during this time of engagement and help them build their marriage on a firm foundation of faith and love.

We rejoice with Jon Bauman and his parents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie, as Jon has found grace to turn to the Lord in repentance. We are thankful a merciful God is still calling souls to Him. May each of our converts be encouraged to continue in His leading that they may find true peace of heart and mind.

With joy we have heard that Laura Zollinger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky) has found that peace and awaits to give her testimony in the future.

Our loved ones, Dale and Sis. Elaine Dotterer and family, have sustained a great loss when Sis. Elaine's father, Bro. Robert Leman (Forrest, IL), was quickly taken from this life. We offer our

prayers and sympathy to those who were near and dear to him.

Bro. Ed Stoller (Sis. Verla) has spent time in the hospital recently, as well as their little Heidi, who suffered an injury. Sis. Mildred Hartzler is recovering from surgery. May the Great Physician also be a comforter to all those in need.

Correction from July issue: Bro. James and Sis. Susan Maibach became first-time parents on June 16 with the arrival of Clint James. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann Maibach and Sis. Linda Dotterer and Keith Dotterer. May the Lord give grace and wisdom with this added blessing and responsibility.

If we could know beyond today
As God does know,
Why dearest treasures pass away
And tears must flow;
And why the darkness leads to
light,
Why dreary paths will soon grow
bright;
Some day life's wrongs will be
made right,
Faith tells us so.

"If we could see, if we could know"
We often say,
But God in love a veil does throw
Across our way;
We cannot see what lies before,
And so we cling to Him the more,
He leads us till this life is o'er;
Trust and obey.

—from *Streams in the Dessert*

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter**

Babies are special blessings of God. Sis. Janet Kipfer welcomes a new granddaughter, MacKenzie Carla, born to Tim and Michele Merritt and Madison. Bro. Dave and Sis. Geri Beard also are thank-

ful for a new granddaughter. Brooklyn Victoria joins the family of Jesse, Gina and Wyatt Beard. May these little ones be raised to know and love our Lord. We wish God's blessings to Mark and Melissa Benware, who were married August 7. Parents are Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Stanley and Pam Benware.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup

This time of year is busy with the comings and goings of visitors and members of the congregation going on vacation and returning. We are so thankful for God's protection during all these travels. We are so blessed to be able to see loved ones from a distance and to be able to travel in mere hours to see them!

We thank everyone for coming to Portland this month. Our small congregation enjoyed quite a number of visitors so far this summer. We hope this trend will continue! Our special thanks to Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie, Silverton, OR) for his efforts on our behalf.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

We are enjoying our summer visitors and thank them for including Silverton in their travel plans. God be with us all until we meet again.

Once again our dear Elder brethren have completed their summer Conference and we take courage in their binding together to "strengthen that which remains." We want to follow this example and renew our efforts to each do our part. Silverton plans to begin listening to the tapes of the Brotherhood Conference the

Wednesday after Labor Day. "Thus united and in concord, let us walk the path of life..." (Zion's Harp #237)

We were all encouraged by the uplifting weekend of August 21-22 when four new lambs were added to the fold. Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) was here to help our Elder Bro. Art Metz with this wonderful work. Our new brethren are Sis. Ruth Kuenzi (Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane), Bro. Kyle Walter (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen), Sis. Tyrene Kuenzi (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Rosanna Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda). We pray that they will ever abide in our Lord's nearness and heed the still small voice of the Holy Spirit that now lives in their hearts.

The new "Oregon Cookbook" that has been in progress here the last few months has now gone to press. It has been sixteen years since the "Silverton Cookbook" was printed and it has long been unavailable so we are excited to see this project reaching completion.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Shirley Zollinger (Bro. Ed) in the recent death of her father, Bro. Paul Emch (Phoenix, AZ). Our thoughts and prayers to the family of Vance Snook (Sis. Liz) also at the passing of his mother.

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL). We appreciate their efforts to bring us the true Word of the Lord. May they feel His nearness in their lives.

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA
Nathan Gasser**

There shall be showers of blessing
Precious reviving again
Over the hills and the valleys,
Sound of abundance of rain
Showers, showers of blessing,
Showers of blessing we need;
Mercy-drops round us are falling,
But for the showers we plead.

Gospel Hymns #315

We have been thankful for the showers of rain that have fallen over the last month here in PA. We now see the revival of the brown grass to its green color. It reminds us of the living water from above that is freely flowing and available to each one of us every day. May we continue to drink from the Source.

We are thankful that God has answered prayer and has sent His tender healing mercies to our dear Bro. Jerry Isch. Bro. Jerry had been hospitalized with an aneurysm earlier this month. He has just recently come home, and our church was encouraged to see him attending church last Wednesday night. We should never forget that "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." As he recuperates at home, we know that he and his family would continue to covet your prayerful support.

We were blessed to have two visiting ministering brothers with us this last month. We want to thank Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and his family, and Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and his wife for their willingness to serve. May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

**TENNESSEE
NASHVILLE
Gwen Leuthold**

This past month we welcomed ministering Bros. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and Will Schieler (Milford, IN). We thank these brothers for their willingness to minister God's Word to us and pray that He will bless them and their families. We also want to take this opportunity to thank all of our other visitors for stopping to fellowship and worship with us.

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 first and third Sundays of each month and tape services held on the other Sundays. The following churches have been scheduled for services: October 3 (Wolcott, IN); October 31 (Mansfield, OH); November 7 (Kansas City, MO); November 21 (Fairbury, IL); December 5 (Detroit, MI); and December 19 (Gridley, IL). Please call one of the contacts listed below if you plan to be with us to assist us with lunch plans: 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. Ken Weerts (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL), Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) and Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN).

Central Texas services are held on all Sundays except the first Sunday of the month. The third

Sunday we meet in the San Antonio area. The last Sunday we meet at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home at Round Top. The remainder of the month we meet in Austin at the Omni Hotel at I-35 and Hwy. 290.

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**

The 16th annual Zapata reunion was held at Winthrop, MN on August 7-8. Twenty churches were represented and 72 people came for this special occasion. Among the visiting members and friends were the following ministers: Bros. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL), William Gerst (Alto, MI), Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL) and Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN). We wish to thank the visiting ministers for bringing us the Lord's Word and the Winthrop congregation for their hospitality.

Dallas Plattner and Carmen Prew have announced their engagement and plan an October wedding. They will be living in Laredo, TX. Dallas is the son of Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary Plattner.



Sermon continued from page 2

coming and about the Messiah coming. One prophet after another each shed a little more light as to who that Messiah was going to be.

"That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;...That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life." (Luke 1:71,74-75). Our enemies.

Who are our enemies? As humans, we think of people. We think of individuals or that person that I don't get along with him. They are out to get me. That is not our enemy.

At this time, a lot of people saw the Roman Empire as their enemy. No. That was not an enemy. The enemy is Satan. What is Satan's desire? Satan's desire is to have your and my heart. He will do anything to get our heart, and to get our focus off of Jesus Christ. One way that Satan goes about it is by working in us to look at people and to see them as our enemies.

Also, to see people that we have a conflict with and leave to see the conflict there as a person to person problem. But it is much greater than that. It is a spiritual war being fought. Our conflict is not with an individual...our conflict is with Satan.

Friday night we had talked about the word betray and how Jesus Christ, as He looked at Judas' coming to betray Him, He could still see Judas as a friend, and that is what Jesus called him, a friend. We don't have conflict with individuals. We have conflict with Sa-

tan. Now what happens when we have our conflict with individuals, is Satan starts distorting things.

We can begin to justify things in our heart, justify why we are right, why they are wrong, but what does God want us to do? What does God say we should be like? He says we are to be like Jesus. As I think on that, a verse comes to my mind that I would like to read from Philippians, chapter two. What are we to be like? How are we to deal with our enemies?

"If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." (Philippians 2:1-2). It is God's desire that all of us have the same mind, and the same way of thinking.

What does it mean to be likeminded? It says, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." (Philippians 2:3-4). We tend to look at ourselves and say, "I feel hurt or I was wronged." Is that what Jesus did when He saw Judas coming? "One of My disciples have betrayed Me. I feel hurt. I feel wronged." No. He was able to look on the things of others. He saw Judas as a man who Satan had got hold of. His love for Judas was still there. He was still able to call him a friend.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee would bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:5-11).

Why can we confess that Jesus Christ is Lord? Because He totally submitted Himself. Because He was willing to lower Himself and to suffer for us, and because of that example, we look at Him and call Him Lord. That is the mind that is supposed to be in each one of us. Are we willing to suffer in those little things of life?

I can remember at different times thinking where I was put in a situation where, let's say, to suffer a little bit. I would say in my heart it is pretty hard to do it here in that situation. But give me a big situation and I will be able to do it. I could do it, but, no. If the little things in life, the willingness to make ourselves lower, if that means being used by others, then that is what happens. That is what Christ was. That is the mind that we are to have.

If we have that kind of mind, Satan can never get a foothold into our heart. It is when we justify ourselves, and it is when we try to raise ourselves above someone. Maybe we raise ourselves above someone because we say we have a

Sermon continued next page

Sermon continued...

good reason to. But in the example of Christ, there is never a reason to raise ourselves above someone else. In that submissive nature of Jesus Christ, we are delivered out of the hands of our enemies.

Zacharias had mentioned about the prophets of the past, from the beginning of time until now. One person that comes to mind is Joseph, and his willingness to all of his trials. He never asserted himself up and over the other people. Even though he had a right to. He willingly accepted what came to his life and worked with the situation that he was in. He didn't let the enemy get a foothold in his heart.

Yet, for a long time there were struggles, hardships, false accusations over and over again, but in the end look what happened to Joseph. He became the number two man in all of Egypt. Are we willing to wait? Are we willing to endure? Are we willing to have the mind of Jesus Christ? Are we willing to be like-minded?

"And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;" Here he is speaking about his son, John. "To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins," (Luke 1:76-77). The knowledge of salvation. What did John preach? What was his message? It was repent!

What is repentance? It is when you make yourself lower, and when you acknowledge the wrong in your life. You are not out looking at the other people and saying, "I may have done wrong, but they did this and they did that." All that matters is the condition of your own heart.

Where does your heart stand? Our heart needs to be soft and looking at itself and looking at Jesus to know that we are so far from being like Him. A heart like that is what God can work with. It is

what brings us to the knowledge of salvation. When our heart justifies, we don't have the knowledge of salvation.

Each one of you think of the time when you repented, and at that moment when you let go of yourself, let go of your control of your little world, then the Spirit came rushing into your heart and you had the knowledge of salvation. My preaching is not going to give you knowledge of salvation. It is the work of the Holy Spirit. I am not going to prove anything...I can't convince people of anything. I can share what the Lord has done in my life. But each one of us needs to let the Holy Spirit open our heart to give us the knowledge of salvation.

"Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1:78-79). This generation, as every generation before and it will be to sit in darkness until we can see the light of Jesus.

It is Jesus that gives us a purpose in life. It is Jesus that allows us to see beyond the shadow of death. The shadow of death. We have all had those shadows in our life, where there is a trial, or a struggle that comes our way and we wonder what is the purpose of this. Sometimes we fight against the trial, but that trial is there for a purpose, because God wants to see us through it. He wants to

have us to look beyond it.

God is there developing our heart to teach us of more and more about Him. How we deal with the shadows in our life is how we are going to determine how much light we see or don't see. If we can give thanks to God for all things, if we can see a purpose, if we can see God's hand working in our heart through the struggles rather than fighting against it, laying blame on other people for the struggles that come our way, then we can see these things that God has brought to us to teach us so that we can grow in the Spirit. We can be like a Joseph who grew from his trials and learned from them rather than being overwhelmed by them, rather than being angry at the people who treated them wrongly. If we can do that, then God will guide our feet into the way of peace.

Jesus, He showed us the way of peace. He suffered. He suffered greatly for a time but in the end Sunday came. We are here today celebrating in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. Celebrating because of Him, we have a hope that is beyond our imaginations. We have a goal. Our goal is Heaven. Our eyes need to be fixed on Him.

At times in our lives, we see the cross, but we have to look beyond that. We have to look beyond the pain and the suffering of the moment and see to the day of resurrection.

May each one of us experience the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour in our hearts—not only today, but in the days ahead.

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	100%
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	100%
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	100%
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 Pflederer	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 Pflederer	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
Les Gerber	219-824-2734	

**OPENING FOR
DIRECTOR OF NURSING AT
CEDARS RETIREMENT
HOME, LEO, IN**

We have an opening for a Director of Nursing.

Requirements: R.N. background, managerial skills, love for the elderly.

For more information, call:

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

Mexico Work Teams

**Construction - Juarez
December 3-10, 1999**

Contact Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara)
(515) 929-3377

**Medical - Juarez
February 23 - March 1, 2000**

Contact Sis. Cheryl Herrmann
(309) 385-1082

**Construction - Juarez
March 4-11, 2000**

Contact Bro. Kurt Ifer (Sis. Angie)
(219) 824-2829

**Construction - Juarez
March 11-18, 2000**

Contact Bro. Jeff Sauder
(217) 367-1427 or (309) 925-3215

**Construction - Juarez
March 18-25, 2000**

Contact Bro. Mike Fiechter (Sis. Shari)
(219) 597-7330

**Construction - Juarez
March 25 - April 1, 2000**

Contact Bro. Mike Fiechter
(Sis. Shari)
(219) 597-7330

Gateway Woods Auction
Saturday, August 19, 2000

**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:

<i>Tim Sauder</i>	<i>Phil Stettner</i>
<i>Box 151</i>	<i>Counseling Elder</i>
<i>Leo, IN 46765</i>	<i>219-565-3499</i>
<i>219-627-2159</i>	



**Assistant
Houseparent
Needed**

Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessings by being fully staffed with Houseparents for some time now. We 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.

<i>Jeff Schumacher</i>	<i>Phil Stettner</i>
<i>(219) 627-2159</i>	<i>(219)565-3499</i>

**USED EYEGLASSES 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

Work Team

Funds were allocated at the August World Relief meeting for the Children's Home-Orphanage in Imeros Mexico, 40 miles south of Nogales, for the completion of the boys' and girls' rest rooms, consisting of metal roof, wood ceiling, painting, piping water heater, server lines, setting of bath fixtures, electric wiring and so forth. Also the footing for the masonry fence at the parameter of the property. I am looking for a team leader to coordinate the team. I would like the work completed by November 15, 1999.

Please contact Bro. Dick Beery

Day: (602) 625-7244

Evening: (602) 266-1517

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

Work Team

Prescott, Arizona

Brick Layers & Helpers

October Time Frame

Robert (Duckey) Baum

Mobile (602)918-1871 Home (602)998-9560

HMO Coverage in Nursing Homes

With the increased marketing of Medicare HMO programs, it is important that individuals are aware that many of these programs do not cover the cost of nursing home care unless the HMO has a contract with the nursing home. This means that if you are covered by one of these HMO programs you may not receive coverage for your care if you choose one of our church homes and the home does not have a contract with the HMO. Instead you may be required to be admitted to a home that is under contract with the HMO. If you are considering coverage by an HMO, you may want to specifically ask and get in writing if there are any limitations on the choices you have where you may go and receive nursing home coverage. You may also want to discuss the matter with the church home administrator.



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The Nazarenes in Yugoslavia experienced harsh treatment by the government for their refusal to swear an oath, and to bear arms. Brethren of like precious faith held fast, however, and many endured long prison terms.

It is noteworthy to understand that the Nazarenes (Nazareans) refers to the offspring of the Froehlich movement. They are not to be associated with America's Church of the Nazarene, which has a Methodist background (Mead's Handbook of Denominations in the United States, page 90).

The following are excerpts from the booklet, *Nazareans In Yugoslavia*. They are taken from newspaper articles in the 1920's which cite the ill treatment accorded brothers from our Yugoslavian area churches.

Scandal Concerning the Nazarenes

The Nazarenes are the best citizens. They are not a threatening menace, neither for the state, nor for the army, and to our regret, not for war. They agree to perform all military and war services, even to serve in dangerous places, even to cut the wire entanglements in front of the enemy trenches. In future wars they will have opportunity to perform similar military services, for the direct weapon is to play an ever decreasing part in the future.

We have no sympathy for any religious sect, but we raise our voice in a sharp protest against this scandal caused by the treatment of the Nazarenes, who are usually the most respectable, industrious, and orderly citizens.

We are told by our fellow-men,

wherever such Nazarenes are to be found: "Would we all were such Nazarenes."

Repeated Persecution of the Nazarenes

Yesterday more than 300 Nazarenes, who refused to take the "oath", were led through Novi-Sad. Most of them had already spent long years in prison for the sake of the beautiful principles of faith. Now these same men have again been arrested by order of the military authorities. To take action in behalf of these men, a large deputation is being organized here, to entreat His Majesty, the king, to set the prisoners at liberty. We have heard that the Nazarenes have offered to serve twice as long in the army, provided they are not obliged to handle arms. Besides, the deputation will lay the facts before His Majesty, the king, and tell him how they were deceived by the Radical Party, with which they had made an agreement in regard to their voting in the recent election. (September 19, 1926)

The Nazarenes and the Army

We have occupied ourselves twice with this question and we have ascertained that the War Office (Ministry of War) has now taken a more liberal view of these requests and problems, which was brought about chiefly by the attitude of General Dusan Trifunovic. We have received the assurance that this problem of the Nazarenes will be considered separately.

We have been informed from a competent source that the War Office has issued an order how to proceed

when the older Nazarenes, who are subject to military service, are asked to take the oath. In fact, there is a large number of such Nazarenes, who belong to the earlier years of conscription, in the military district of Stari Becey, and these have not yet taken the oath.

A few days ago a deputation came to the Ministry in Belgrade, as we have learned, and presented a petition in accordance with the principles of their faith in this matter and at the same time they made an official declaration of their loyal, patriotic request that the Ministry prescribe how the oath is to be administered. The question in reference to the recruits and those of the Nazarenes who are in active service may permit a special procedure.

Now it is only a question of administering the oath to the Nazarenes, who belong to the earlier years of conscription, and who have not yet done so.

We only make a note of this for the orientation in the question mentioned above.

Summary

Many of these dear brethren were sentenced to prison, up to ten years. When faced with confinement, one brother said, "Faith is of greater importance than life." It was in such a humble spirit, these believers were willing to suffer for their faith.

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

October issue:

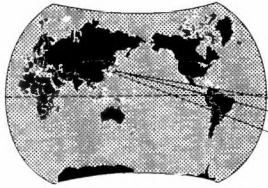
Brotherhood Conference

November issue:

A Conversion in Strasbourg

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



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“Words Unlawful To Utter”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

The Apostle Paul, in describing his experience of having been caught up to the third heaven, made the following statement, “How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.” (II Cor. 12:4). Paul spoke in the third person, as if he was talking about someone else, which evidently is to show humility.

The words which the apostle heard were not only unlawful to utter but also they were unspeakable. Who ever heard of unspeakable words? Someone must have spoken them or Paul wouldn't have heard them. Perhaps God or the angels spoke those words but human beings don't know that language while in the body. Sounds like there is a heavenly language for everyone in heaven.

To take God's name in vain and to bear false witness against thy neighbor is unlawful. It is contrary to the ten commandments which is an important

part of God's law. God must also have a law not written in the Bible which says that the heavenly language can only be used in heaven. Most of us are not concerned about that because we have never heard the language, let alone tried to speak it. Paul heard the language but for some reason the words were unspeakable for him. It isn't just that it was a new language and therefore he didn't know the pronunciation and the intonation, God probably has such a beautiful heavenly language that it is impossible for human beings to say it at all.

There are problems with our present languages. Unless great care is taken and skill exercised, misunderstandings occur. This is true even when people are using the same language and both parties are native speakers. If you try going from one language to another through an interpreter, many problems may arise. For instance, on one occasion here in Japan, the Holy Ghost, God's

Spirit, was translated or interpreted as the holy spirit of a dead person who returns as a ghost. There is a lot of feeling and idioms in language.

Language is a precious tool that we have. Animals have their own way to communicate but we are the only creatures who can communicate so extensively in both spoken and written forms. We should treasure this great gift and learn to use it for God's glory and good human relations. Meanwhile, I'm looking forward to using the perfect language, the heavenly language. It is unlawful for us to use that language now but some day we will be able to, and permitted to, use that language. Then we will be able to better express how much we love each other and you will be better able to understand that I really do love you very much. You are wonderful and God created you in His own image. You have so much value that Christ died for you.

希望の光



*Gossip and the false witness seemeth as nectar from the flower,
but in the end stingeth like the bee.*

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