

The Silver Lining



...And the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee.

November 1999

“HUMBLE YOUR HEART BEFORE THE LORD”

Sermon by Bro. Gary Anliker, Elgin, IL

Numbers 11 and Matthew 12:22-50

This really fits right in with that which we recently read of the good Samaritan, doesn't it? It was given in response to that young lawyer that was trying to justify himself and really wanted to know who his neighbor was. The Lord gives an example here of even who his brother, sister and mother is. It leaves us probably feeling very unworthy when we read a chapter like this. I know it does me. It speaks plainly to us, and it ties in well with the Old Testament. We look at it and say, "Even with all these examples, yet I sit here and I am weak and guilty of many of these things." That is why we have these chapters written for us that we might see ourselves.

Would it not be a terrible thing if we would read the Word of Life and we would never see any of ourselves in it and we would never see anything that is fit for us to give us instruction? If it were just a matter of history? We probably all read other books and they might be interesting, but they don't really draw us in and speak to us personally and cause there to be a change in our life, do they?

The Scriptures we read here today need to do just that for each one of us. Now like so often, when we have the words of the Lord Himself. He heard a question that was presented to Him, but was able to perceive the thoughts that were in their minds, and really answered more than what they had asked.

Don't we see it the other way around today? Someone is interviewing a person trying to ask them a specific question and they don't want to take a stand, they don't want to make a commitment and they go on and on about some-

thing literally unrelated to the question at hand, trying to drum up some support for them and their own agenda. That wasn't the way the Lord dealt.

We had those here that really came and put Him on the spot and accused Him. Let's think about that for a minute. That is a pretty serious matter, isn't it? To look at the Lord and to accuse Him, say, after He had done a miracle. They say, "By the prince of the devils, He has done that." But He dealt with it and He answered back to them that that doesn't make any sense. The house divided against itself shall not stand. (See Matt. 12:25).

There are many lessons we can take from that and elaborate some of them, but let us think about our house here—our church family. Dear ones, we need to take this lesson ourselves today and realize our foe, our adversary, is Satan. It is not the brother or sister that is of a little different opinion than us.

One that we might say is a little too far to the right or a little too far to the left. No. Our common enemy is Satan. We have to be bound together to defeat Satan. We cannot allow our house to be divided; it will not stand.

We were reminded last night of some of our beautiful church traditions that support those things that are spelled out very clearly in the Scripture and fit together. There have been some of the things that have allowed us to be a different people. To preserve a faith down to this very day and generation, things that maybe some other denominations once had and they have lost them.

Dear ones, we cannot be a house

divided and stand. The Lord's teachings are true, but we also see that He didn't just scold the people for having that thought or asking a question, He dealt with it. Sometimes that is the hardest thing for me to do.

Are there not some times that someone accuses us or puts us in a spot and rather than dealing with the issue, we tend to lash back at them or try to belittle them or put down their question as not being very well thought out? We have to

Sermon continued on page 45

The Silver Lining subscriptions are due from the following churches. Please collect in:

December

1. Akron, OH
2. Bradford, IL
3. Latty, OH
4. West Bend, IA

Next correspondence due:
For December Issue
 (16 Oct. News - 15 Nov. News)
Due: 20 November 1999

The Silver Lining (Vol. 53, #11)
 RR 2 Box 50 Roanoke, IL 61561
USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
 Christian Church of America

Counselors:
 Wayne Anliker, Ervin Knecht

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Silver Lining
 RR2 Box 50, Roanoke, IL 61561
 309-923-7513 (phone) 309-923-7359 (fax)

Periodical postage paid at Roanoke, IL 61561, and additional offices. The subscription rate is a donation. Send zip number with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips). Postmaster send address changes to:

The Silver Lining
 RR2 Box 50, Roanoke, IL 61561

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

November 1999

Our Precious Greeting - I

The Word of God offers us special instructions that explain the proper greeting that children of God should have toward one another. We are instructed about the type of greeting to be avoided, the importance of greeting the friends of the truth and the special privilege we have to greet our brethren with godly love.

The vain greeting of the scribes and Pharisees was condemned by Jesus Christ. He pointed out their vanity and lack of humility when He rebuked their worldly ambition and their desire to be elevated above others. They denied themselves the privilege of a blessing by choosing to take the uppermost rooms at feasts and by loving the "greetings in the markets" (Matt. 23:7). Their greeting of vanity brought no spiritual benefit.

We are also instructed on the importance of a proper greeting to the friends of the faith. It is important that we let our friends know that we love and care for them. One way to show our concern for them is to follow the scriptural encouragement to "Greet the friends by name" (III John 14). Greeting them by name reassures them that we know who they are and are sincerely happy to greet them.

The most precious greeting, however, is reserved for brothers and sisters in Christ. Five times in the scriptures we are instructed to greet or salute one another with an "holy kiss" (Ro. 16:16; I Cor. 16:20; II Cor. 13:12; I Th. 5:26) or a "kiss of charity" (I Peter 5:14).

We are living in a world that is becoming more self-centered, more selfish and more casual. Relationships tend to be casual, shallow and without a significant amount of commitment. A Christian greeting, however, should be sincere, personal, loving, and provide evidence of commitment to the relationship we have with each other.

What is the value of our precious greeting? When we meet one another with "Greetings Brother" or "Greetings Sister" do we think about the meaning of

these words or have we allowed our greeting to become a habit that has degenerated into a meaningless phrase?

The value of our greeting is determined by its sincerity and intent. A kiss can be an expression of love, an expression of lust if carried out in a manner which is frequently the case in the world, or an expression of deceit as was used by Judas in his betrayal of Christ.

The scripture commands us to greet one another with "an holy kiss" and "a kiss of charity". To be holy or of charity, a kiss must be an expression of love, of joy, and of sincerity.

If we could have the privilege of meeting Jesus Himself, how would we greet Him? Would it not be a joy to be able to meet Him and to express our love for Him? We certainly would not meet Him with a casual "Hi", a weak hand shake or a thoughtless, automatic word or so of greeting.

When we meet our brother or sister in Christ, we ought to have the same sincerity and love that we would have if we were greeting Jesus. We are, after all, greeting a son or daughter of God, one who has been adopted into the same relationship with God that Jesus has. When we say "Greetings Brother" or "Greetings Sister" we are acknowledging that the one we are greeting is a brother or sister of Jesus Christ.

Do we sometimes allow ourselves to become a bit careless and only say "greetings" and omit the "brother" or "sister" name? Do we allow our relationship with our brethren to slip a bit? The privilege of greeting a brother or sister of Jesus Christ should be highly valued and not become casual.

When we greet a brother or sister, do we acknowledge that we are happy to meet him and count it a privilege to be his brother or sister? Or do we sometimes hardly even look at him and casually pass on? We ought to at least make brief eye contact and make the greeting sincere enough that the one being greeted

knows we are sincerely glad to meet him.

What is the value of the greeting with a kiss? When we greet with a kiss, it requires us to stop, at least briefly, and make a personal acknowledgment of the one we are greeting. The greeting with a kiss also tends to help us stay more united as a group of believers. It is very difficult to greet one with a kiss if we have a grudge against another or if we are not at peace with each other. Furthermore, the greeting with a kiss also promotes the feeling of "family" within the church. God's children are all part of His family.

The greeting with a kiss can also be an act of humility. We often feel unworthy to greet one another and having that privilege requires us to acknowledge that we all are on the same level in the church in that no one individual is better than another. Thus, we all can have the same relationship with God when we are in the church: the factory owner and the factory worker, the farmer, the executive officer, the homemaker, the minister, the elder, the brother of humble means—all are the same, a brother or sister of Jesus Christ.

Our special greeting is not simply a custom to be followed or disregarded as one may choose. It is a precious privilege that we need to protect and promote within the brotherhood. Perhaps there are those who feel it is old fashioned or that in a time when men "... (burn) in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly..." (Romans 1:27) it is not a good light to the world. Satan's goal is to gain an advantage over us by making this precious privilege seem unholy.

We must, however, resist the onslaught of Satan. Our greeting with a kiss is an holy greeting. It must never be allowed to be compared to the lust of the flesh nor to the sin of the world. We are greeting brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ. This is a privilege we must not lose.

The next article will continue the topic of our Precious Greeting.



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

European Board Representatives Visit Brethren in Europe

To strengthen the relationship between the European Board and our brethren across the seas, representatives from the USA visited Eastern Europe. Brothers Nathan Steffen, Phil Stettner, John Lehman, and Gene Lehman traveled with Bro. Ernst Pfister of Breidenbach, Germany. Sisters Elisabeth Pfister and Verna Lehman went along.

Countries visited

The team of brethren visited the nations of Germany, Hungary, Croatia, Romania, and Ukraine. Plans had been made well in advance, and for the most part, the schedule was followed closely. The Mission Committee as well as the World Relief Committee supported and authorized this journey to assist our struggling brethren in those lands formerly held by communist governments.

Interest from our brotherhood

Response from our brotherhood has indicated a strong interest in these dear souls. Included in this interest has been large financial support. The intention of the European Board is to use this page for the next few months to inform readers of current situations.

A brief overview of the trip

The group met at the Frankfurt, Germany airport on September 24 and went to the Ernst Pfister home. Services were held that evening in the Breidenbach church.

They left Breidenbach at 4:45 A.M. on Saturday, September 25 and drove to Kotlina, Croatia.

A brother from that land met the group at the Croatian-Hungarian border and

led them to the church. There was no problem crossing the border, but without a guide it would have been nearly impossible to find the small village situated on winding roads in the darkness.

New church building

A new building financed by the Mission Committee houses the small congregation of about 20 sisters and 10 brothers. This building is small in a simple but functional form. This part of the country was in the earlier war zone during the Croatian war, but there was little destruction directly in this area. Some of the brethren fled, but most of them have returned. Services were held on Sunday. A large group from Hungary helped fill the little church to its capacity.

War damage in Osijek

On Monday the travelers visited the brethren in Osijek, about 30 kilometers away. There was evidence of war damage here, including severe destruction of the home of their elder. The old church building has poor toilet facilities, which they intend to upgrade with our support. There are fewer than 20 members here.

Brief meeting in Szeged, Hungary

After a meal in Osijek, the group made a short stop in Ersekcsanak, Hungary, a church we also helped build. The next stop was in Szeged, which is also a new church built with our assistance. One of their elders said that about 80% of the Hungarians now meet in new or remodeled churches. A large amount of money from the Mission Committee has gone to Hungary in recent years.

The European Board has financed the purchase of a van for the congregation at Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, which was badly damaged by the recent war. One of their elders came to Szeged to complete the papers necessary for this

van which was purchased in Breidenbach, Germany.

On to Arad, Romania

After the lunch and meeting in Szeged, the travelers headed for the Hungarian-Romanian border, which was crossed with little difficulty. There have been problems in the past, but this time the border personnel were friendly and even jovial.

A brother from Arad was waiting for the group a short distance from the border. Supper was at the local elder's home, where five of the group stayed overnight. The Pfisters were at the elder's son's home.

Meetings were held with the Romanian elders and deacons, discussing the many areas in which assistance is being provided them. There is a program in place furnishing funds for projects in which the brethren can earn their living.

A sea container of food packages and other humanitarian aid comes from Bluffton Distribution Center each month. This program was reviewed with some suggestions being made for improvements.

New church at Timisoara

A new church building is under construction at Timisoara, south of Arad. The site was visited, after which there was a lengthy discussion of the progress, goals, and costs. The Americans helped make some basic decisions on these matters.

Other Romanian projects

We have purchased a van for the use of the Tirnaveni congregation. As with everything else in Eastern Europe, this has not moved very fast. The van, purchased in Germany, is in Arad, but all the paper work is not yet completed. Hopefully, by the time this article is read the van will be in service.

The Romanian economy is bad with inflation running rampant. People are

having serious difficulty in making finances reach. Pensions are low and often late in coming. The brethren visited stores and markets to evaluate costs and availability of goods. In the next issue we will show how this is affecting daily life in terms of how long one must work to purchase needed items. For example, a bicycle costs one month's total salary and a liter of cooking oil costs 10% of a month's wages.

Church services

On Wednesday evening services and singing were held in the Arad church. This building was one of the first built with Mission Committee support in Romania.

Traveling into Ukraine

On Thursday the group traveled toward Ukraine. Because of the dangerous situation of crime, Bro. Ernst did not want to drive his van with German license plates very far into either Romania or Ukraine. It was left behind an iron gate at the Arad elder's home, and one of their brethren drove the Arad church van to Ukraine. This brother also served as Romanian-German translator both in Romania and Ukraine. He performed a very valuable service that is greatly appreciated. The German was then translated into English.

Overnight in a hotel

To minimize the stress of a long and dangerous journey, the travelers stayed in a hotel on Thursday night. It was comfortable, and cost \$25 per double room with breakfast. On Friday the journey resumed.

The joys of border crossings

About 2:30 the Romanian border was reached, and there were some complications which were finally resolved. But more were to come!

The short no-man's land between Romania and Ukraine was traversed, and then began the tribulation, which worketh patience. Although all had previously obtained entry visas, the

forms that needed to be filled out at the border were printed in only Ukrainian, and no one appeared able to translate. Leaving out the details, it took over 5 hours to get across the border, even though there were only two other vehicles besides our own. The Ukrainian brothers had waited hours on their side of the border. They led the way to the destination.

A night's rest, and a day's work

The home of a Ukrainian elder was finally reached about 9:00 P.M., where supper was waiting. After supper the group went to bed as soon as possible.

Saturday morning was spent in visiting the markets to evaluate costs as in

Services on Sunday

Sunday morning services were in Korovia, one of the new churches. Because our people will not register with the government, they cannot build a church. Therefore they build a house with a large assembly room for services. The room was crowded, and with little ventilation became uncomfortable by the time the three-hour services were ended.

Evening services were held at Ostrita from 5:00 to 10:00 P.M. About 300 people crowded into a room, which by our standards would seat less than half that number. The elders reported on our discussions. When they told them that we hope to assist so that no one is cold or hungry this winter, many elderly in the congregation sobbed aloud. Some pensions have not been paid since March.

After services, supper was served and the travelers retired for the night in the same building which serves as a church and the elder's home.

The long journey back

After breakfast on Monday morning, the long journey home began. It is not far from the area in which our brethren live to the Romanian border. Going out was considerably easier than getting in. Everyone was grateful when the last detail was done.

The drive through the Carpathian Mountains in Romania is very beautiful. Monday night was spent in a hotel, and on Tuesday about 2:30 P.M. we were back in Arad. After lunch, the group

loaded their belongings into Ernst's van and drove to Szeged, Hungary to spend the night in comfortable facilities.

Budapest and home

After a meeting on Wednesday with a brother from Serbia, the group made their way to Budapest where there was a meal waiting and singing in the evening. On Thursday, the three American elders were left in a hotel near the Frankfurt airport, flying out on Friday morning. The others returned to Breidenbach. They thank God and the brethren who prayed for their welfare.

*Teaching us that, denying
ungodliness and worldly lusts,
we should live soberly,
righteously, and godly, in this
present world; looking for that
blessed hope, and the glorious
appearing of the great God and
our Saviour Jesus Christ.*

Titus 2:12-13

Romania. Poverty and hunger stalk the land as winter approaches.

Discussions with the Ukrainians began after lunch and lasted until late evening. Many subjects were covered, and regretfully the fact is that instead of improving, things are getting worse. The brethren stated that virtually 100% of the believers are without a full-time job. They work a few days at a time, and nearly all of them do some type of subsistence farming. Estimated financial need is over \$80,000 to get through the winter. We trust the Lord will supply the funds, as He always has.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Did you know that one of our most basic needs in life is for relationship? We know that repentance and a relationship with Christ is necessary for eternal life, but we also desire relationships in our lives while living here on earth. Relationships may include but does not only include marriage. Close communication between two people make a relationship. This is a universal need that affects each and every human being including: people challenged with developmental disabilities, people who have been physically, emotionally or spiritually wounded for any reason, etc. Think of the lonely people in your home, church, neighborhood and town. Do you have as much responsibility as you are able to carry or are you able to help someone who is overburdened with physical, emotional or spiritual baggage? We are all busy, but are we busy in our God-given duties or in our human wants? Could we find someone who has a load that is too heavy for them and help them carry it by becoming close to them and forming a relationship that involves communication from the heart?

The Remington church invited people from our outer homes and several staff members to spend the weekend of October 2-3 with them. On Saturday evening, 11 residents enjoyed a wiener roast with a hymn sing, then they traveled to people's homes for overnight. After church on Sunday they returned to the host homes for fun and games. An example of this would be Angie Massner spending Sunday afternoon playing her harmonica with Bro. Walt Bahler and playing Skipbo with whoever would play with her. Later Sunday afternoon there was

a potluck dinner at the Fellowship Hall before the group left for home. Thank you, each and every person from Remington church who was hospitable to our residents and staff and who helped with this weekend.

DECEMBER birthday at TIMBER RIDGE are: Dirk Slonneger (5), Bryan Streid (8), Christina Otten (9), Bland Jones (18), and Anne Carrescia (30). At OAKWOOD ESTATE: Delores Wieland (15) and Phil Fehr (18). At LINDEN ESTATE: Jennifer Steiner (15).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Danielle Stickling

One year ago, I moved to Leo, IN, accepting a counseling position at Gateway Woods. Not knowing a soul, I was apprehensive, if not terrified. I only knew that the Lord needed me at Gateway Woods to do His work. I did not know, nor did I understand what He had in store for me. In a word, I was scared. He showed me that I didn't need to be fearful, but instead, to put my trust in Him. "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." (Isaiah 41:10). "Be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." (Joshua 1:9b)

One year later, I stand in awe of God's grace and rich blessings. He has blessed me with loving and caring co-workers and new friends! He has also blessed me with a new church family; a family of believers working for and serving Him. Our God is faithful, righteous, and sovereign. How great it is that we can rest assured as He

holds us in the palm of His hand. "But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works." (Psalm 73:28).

Several staff members had the opportunity to attend the annual IARCCA (Indiana Association of Child Caring Agencies) Conference held in Indianapolis, IN and the Allen County Conference on Youth held in Fort Wayne, IN. Featured at both conferences were key speakers and training workshops to further educate those who provide care to families, children, and communities. Administrator, Bro. Tim Sauder, Education Coordinator, Sis. Rachel Fessenden, and teachers, Sis. Melissa Frieden and Sis. Janice Anliker, along with the Gateway Woods School children attended a 3Rs seminar on Respect for authorities, taking Responsibility for actions, and choosing right Relationships. Numerous state officials, including the Governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction, were there. We pray that the children have been influenced by the message. (Over half of our residents and one foster child now attend our growing on-grounds school.)

We are encouraged that the Lord has seen fit that all positions are fully staffed at this time, but there will be a need for an Assistant Houseparent next Spring. Sis. Terri Gramm has announced that she will be moving on from Gateway in March 2000. We are thankful to Sis. Terri for her years of service and sacrificial perseverance. We also continue to pray that the Lord will send us appropriate children in need, with whom we can share His gospel.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Pam Moore

This month we have been lis-

tening to the tapes from the Elder Conference and appreciate their love, concern and instruction for their "flocks".

"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation."

Hebrews 13:7

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and his wife worship with us on a Wednesday evening. Bro. Andy has served on the Preschool Board and we enjoyed his visit.

We have also had other visitors this month, familiar to us all, and we thank them for fellowshiping with us.

As always, we invite anyone who is in the area, to visit us for Sunday service at 10:00 a.m. and Wednesday evening service at 7:00 p.m.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;"

Titus 2:11-13

We are listening to the concerns and exhortations of our 30th Elder Brother Conference on Wednesday evenings. We are hearing of the blessings of a Godly life. In Deut. 5:29 we read to fear (love) Him and keep ALL His commandments. We must make such a commitment to preserve our precious faith (church).

Our youngsters in Sunday

School come from their classes so joyful and happy.

We congratulated Bro. Glen and Sis. Alice Baumgartner at a reception for their 50th wedding anniversary on October 3, in the congregational room at church. Our best wishes to them and may God bless them on life's pathway.

Several of our church family felt the touch of our Master's hand. Mary Ella Klopfenstein and Sis. Ruth Wuthrich had out-patient surgery. Timmy Kokanovich sustained an injury that required stitches. Sis. Stephanie Wuethrich's ankle is healed.

Our sympathy to Sis. Jan Elsasser and Sis. Nancy Baumgartner on the death of their aunt, Sis. Emma Elsasser Knobloch, on September 5. Sis. Jan flew back to Illinois for services.

Correction: Sis. Carmen Langhofer is going to school in Illinois to study Human Development and Family studies, not nursing.

"Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not,"

Galatians 6:9

Note of Thanks:

Our sincere thanks to brothers, sisters, and friends for the cards and gifts of love shown to us on our 50th wedding anniversary. May God bless each and every one of you.

Our sincere appreciation,
Bro. Glen and Sis. Alice Baumgartner

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

We extend our sympathies to Sis. Jan Elsasser on the death of her aunt, Sis. Emma Knobloch, from the Peoria Nursing Home. Sis. Jan has safely returned to

Prescott after spending a couple weeks in Peoria.

The week of October 24, volunteer workers from Phoenix, Illinois and Indiana will finish the brick work at the church. The plumbing and electric work should be completed by this printing and insulation and dry wall will be next. We appreciate all that have donated their time and energy in building a house of worship for us.

Bro. Henry Vogt has sold his home and is moving into an assisted-living apartment in the Granite Dells area of Prescott. His new location is only a couple miles from the new church.

We wish to once again thank our ministering brothers this last month. They included in order, Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Dave Marquart (Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ).

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Bro. Floyd Banwart (Sis. Clara) has been having tests recently. We will keep him in our prayers.

We enjoyed our annual Sunday School Picnic on October 3. Our traditional bake sale/auction was a success (and a lot of fun). The weather was a beautiful sunny 90 degrees. Young and old alike enjoyed the food, fun, fellowship and games.

We have concluded listening to the Conference tapes. Hopefully, much of the warnings and counsel we heard will help us to make improvements in our spiritual walk of life. We thank our Elder brethren for gathering to address the concerns of the church.

**CALIFORNIA
ALTADENA
Jim Klotzle**

Greetings brothers and sisters in the Faith!

This month, our Bible Class was able to spend a weekend in Washington, IL. The Bible Class extends its gratitude to the Washington congregation and all who have contributed to the visit.

We thank Bro. Loren Knapp of the Tucson congregation for his labor on our behalf.

For several of our Wednesday evening meetings, we have listened to the tapes of the General Conference. It is a blessing to have such unity and organization among the believers in Christ.

We are thankful that Bro. Lazlo Czer can now attend our worship services after his recent illness.

Throughout the world, we can see our enemy toiling systematically to destroy and hinder the work of God. Relentlessly tempting, persecuting and tormenting the saints, it seems that Satan will never be short of evil devices that achieve his goals. Yet Satan cannot do anything to us that God does not allow. One of the most vivid examples of this is found in Job's confrontation with the devil. Before he could even touch the property of Job, Satan had to receive permission from our Heavenly Father.

"And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand."

Job 1:12

It is important to remember that our Lord has control over everything. This includes nations, lives and even the small things that we often take for granted such as a safe drive to church.

How often He places a "hedge of protection" about His saints. God also has a reason for everything He allows, whether good or seemingly harmful.

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

Romans 8:28

Placing all of our trust in God is truly a challenge to our fleshly nature, yet we are called to do so with all of our hearts.

"Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all."

I Chron. 29:11

**CALIFORNIA
SAN DIEGO
Peggy Jevremov**

We have been blessed with visitors again this past month. Among them were our Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Marvin Stieglitz and his wife, Sis. Joan (Leo, IN), and Elder Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marian Hemmer (Peoria, IL). We are thankful they willingly served us in ministering God's Word to us. May the Lord bless them for this service.

The weekend of October 9-10, we were privileged to host the Bern/ Sabetha and Silvertown single groups. It was truly an uplifting time of blessing for us all to share with those of like mind and faith.

We rejoice with Brent Wagenbach (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lillian) as he has turned to our Lord in repentance. We pray he will receive the needed grace and humility to fully commit his life to

God, become converted, and receive that precious peace in due time.

We recently finished listening to the tapes of our Elder Conference. What an encouragement they were to us to hold fast to our precious faith and doctrine and to uphold our Elder brethren as they watch for our souls.

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends in the Lord,

We would like to express our thankfulness for the outpouring support and prayers we have received in behalf of our family. We can't use enough words to say thank you.

It has been a very busy week for all of us. We could just sit down and think what would be the most important things to do in our life if we knew that our Lord would return in a week. Are we ready? Our priorities, for sure, would be in different order.

Currently, we are still in California. Those of you who are outside of our area can't get the latest news development from the media. We would like to update you with the last week development.

Our local politicians and the INS are getting a lot of pressure from the media and the general public. So there has been a lot of talk about our "small family". People are very supportive in our community also. We feel really unworthy of all this wonderful support. Several law firms are working on our case trying to interfere in our behalf. So our family's attorney has filed an extension of deportation. The INS officials commented back through the media that they will take a second look at the case. Mrs. Fasano, INS district director, said stay requests take about a month to process and the couple can remain in the United States until a decision

is rendered.

This is the development till Friday night. Our future is in the Lord's hands. "With God all things are possible." Please continue to pray for our family.

With Love,

Denes, Joy, Bobby (14), Denny (12), Linda (10), Elizabeth (6), Sara (2), Abigail (6 months) Fulop

CANADA

KITCHENER, ONTARIO

Laura Baxter

"And the Lord said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever, and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually."

I Kings 9:3

On October 2, we were able to host an open house in our new church building and then on October 3, we joyfully held the service to dedicate our church building to the Lord. We enjoyed many visitors and praise God for His faithfulness to our congregation. Without the help of the Lord, this church project would not have been possible. Many brethren and friends spent countless hours of work, all of whom were willing volunteers from the local area and from various states in America. It was with us as King David said to Solomon, his son, "Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed; for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the Lord...and there shall be with thee for all manner of workmanship every willing skillful man, for any manner of service..." (I Chronicles

28:20-21). Our sincere and heartfelt thanks are to God and to all who helped in the project in each and every way. "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and dominister." (Hebrews 6:10)

We thank our visiting ministers that came to help with our dedication service and this past month. They were Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), and Bros. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT), Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI) and Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH). May God bless each one of you and your families for your loving service in the Lord on our behalf.

We recently finished listening to the General Conference tapes. We are thankful for the kind and timely exhortations to a more holy, more dedicated, and more submitted life in Christ. We are also thankful for our Elder brothers who labor so diligently to preserve the Church and the biblical truths.

Our prayers are with Dennis Schlauch (Henry and Sis. Astrid) as he leaves home to work on a cattle ranch in Saskatchewan. May he feel God's presence as he begins his new occupation.

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

Genesis 2:18

On October 24, Sis. Miriam Fortenbacher (Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret) had her engagement announced to Bro. Nathan Reutter (Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay) from Rockville, CT. May we pray for this couple as they prepare for a lifetime together working for the

Lord and may God's blessings be with them.

We welcome all visitors to worship with us. Please contact Bro. Mike Ursu (519) 669-8515 or Bro. Wayne Saddler (519) 662-6834 for more information and directions. Our church address is: 52 King St. East, Heidelberg, Ontario NOB-140. (519) 699-4129

COLORADO, DENVER

Mark and Kelly Ramseyer

Is there any bigger, brighter silver lining in a person's life than committing himself to God? What a wonderful joy envelops the soul, and the surrounding witnesses, when one repents and admits that Jesus Christ is King of his life.

"Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation."

Hab. 3:18

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

Luke 15:7

"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

Romans 14:17

"His lord said unto him, well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

Matthew 25:21

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Sav-

our, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen."

Jude 1:24-25

We exceedingly rejoice with Kris Braun who has decided that he wants to follow Jesus. May God continue to grant him grace in "good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over."

Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne Lehman have a new addition to their family! And they are thrilled! They recently became first-time grandparents, thanks to their new grandson, Trevor Josiah Lehman. Grandpa Nate had pictures of his grandson a mere couple hours after his birth, even though they were separated by 1000 miles. Of course, they've already visited and brought back even more pictures and are ready, willing, and able to show anyone who inquires. Congratulations!

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held September 25 in Castlewood Canyon State Park. An outdoor picnic in Colorado in late September is always a bit of a risk, but the sun shone brightly and created a wonderful day. A hike in the canyon, a good lunch, games, the much anticipated water balloon scuffle, and plenty of enjoyable fellowship produced a day that will be often remembered.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Cherie Galat**

Now thank we all our God
With heart, and hands and
voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom the world rejoices,...

Zion's Harp #236

God is well pleased as we sing songs of thanksgiving that glorify His name, when we obey His commandments and follow His will. What a blessing it is that we have a special day - Thanksgiving - that is afforded unto us so that we can have a quiet, peaceful day to reflect upon His goodness and above all to thank Him. May we never forget to thank Him each and every day for the bountiful blessings He so freely gives unto His children.

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

Genesis 2:18.

On September 19, we witnessed the joining of two souls in Holy Matrimony, Bro. Steve LaPlante (Bro. Leo and Sis. Sherri) and Sis. Shannan Bocchino (Carlo Bocchino and Sherrie Bocchino). September 18 was the wedding day of Jameson Lloyd (Herbert and Kathy) and Jennifer Mangold (Bro. Ed and Sis. Terry). We pray that God's leading hand will guide these two couples along their life's pathway as they walk as one.

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

Proverbs 22:6

Two dear couples were blessed with bundles of joy. On September 23, Joel Thomas was born to Bro. Paul and Sis. Betsy Hany. Grandparents are Bro. Peter Sr. and Sis. Virgene Hany and Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Ryan. Carla Rose was born to Bro. Gene and Sis. Lynne Beutel on October 8. Big brothers and sister are David, Heidi and Evan. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Beutel (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Everett

Gerber.

We are thankful for our dear brothers who share unto us out of God's Word. May God bless Bro. Brian Webb (Fort Lauderdale, FL) for his service. Let us continue to pray for and encourage our ministering brethren who labor to bring forth the pure Word of God as He intended.

We welcome Sis. Amber Herzig from the Croghan-Naumberg, NY congregation as she has moved to Connecticut. May God continue to direct her life and may she find peace among the brethren as she fellowships with us.

Our prayers arise to the Father for dear brethren who are sick or have undergone surgery. May God be with Sis. Anna Tschudin and Sis. Eunice Schneider in the coming days.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Ronald Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), Victor Beer (Ft. Myers, FL) and Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL). Other visitors this month were from Peoria, Princeville and Elgin, IL and Francesville, IN. We are always glad when business or vacation brings loved ones to our area.

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

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

Bro. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749.

**FLORIDA
FT. LAUDERDALE
Gretchen Webb**

Fall weather has arrived in Ft. Lauderdale, bringing cool breezes and beautiful days. We're both thankful and ready for this welcome change in weather. This means our winter residents will start making their way south very soon. We look forward to their arrival and pray they will have a safe trip.

The Florida churches gathered at Lakewood in Brooksville, FL for a weekend of fellowship on October 9-10. Bro. Andy Moser (Sis. Diane, Valparaiso, IN) spoke on Peer Pressure. We thank him for his willingness to come and share the Word. The weekend was a blessing for all who attended. We would also like to thank the Ft. Myers church for their hard work planning the weekend.

Our counseling Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL) held our Family Worship Night on October 22. We were reminded to be thankful even when circumstances seem to dictate otherwise. We always have a need to be reminded of the attitude of thankfulness as the Bible itself commands us.

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**

The Ft. Myers congregation is looking forward to the return of

our winter residents. We welcome a full assembly room and particularly enjoy the added voices to our worship singing. We are thankful for those who have already arrived and look forward to many more.

A barbecue potluck dinner was held this past month, always a great time of fellowship.

Many of our members attended the annual retreat held by the Florida churches. Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) attended. We want to thank him for traveling so far and bringing forth God's message.

The year 2000 is just around the corner. We are definitely in an age of technology. Unfortunately, in these last days man is "ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." (II Timothy 3:7). In constant search for answers, they are missing The Answer. In fact, they "resist the truth," (vs. 8). We have the truth at our fingertips, and we need to embrace it, stand firm, and present it to the world. "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (vs. 15:17)

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Rachel Sabo**

The weekend of October 9 was special for the three Florida churches, as we had our annual Lakewood Retreat together. We want to especially thank Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) for joining us as our guest speaker; his topic was "Peer Pressure".

When you are the neediest, He is the most sufficient.

When you are completely helpless, He is the most helpful.

When you feel totally dependent, He is absolutely dependable.

When you are the weakest, He is the most able.

When you are the most alone, He is intimately present.

When you feel you are the least, He is the greatest.

When you feel the most useless, He is preparing you.

When it is the darkest, He is the only Light you need.

When you feel the least secure, He is your Rock and Fortress.

When you are the most humble, He is most gracious.

—author unknown

**GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Keith and Carol Kaufman**

"Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever."

Psalm 145:2

The Lord has certainly blessed us this past month. Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) brought God's Word to us. We are so thankful for their willingness to speak the truth to us. May God richly bless them.

The final portion of our remodeling project is being done. Within two weeks, Lord willing, the parking lot will be completed, and we can finalize plans for open house and dedication. May the Lord reward all who have helped on this project. We truly appreciate it.

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where

thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Matthew 6:19-21

We were recently reminded that in a moment of time, all of our possessions can be destroyed. The house we sold in May recently burned to the ground. The new owner happened to be gone at the time, but all her possessions were burned. How attached are we to the things of this earth?

Sunday services begin at 10:15 and 12:30. Song service is held the second and fourth Wednesday 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. Please call Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554, Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 or Bro. Keith Kaufman (770) 304-8335 to verify our schedule and so we can plan Sunday lunch better.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Doreen Moser

"Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare."

Psalms 75:1

As fall is upon us here in the midwest, can any one of us question the "wondrous works" of God? The hills are covered with the beauty of fall's colors. The air is crisp and fresh.

"For where two or three are

gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Matthew 18:20

As a small group of us gathered together for our first mid-week church service in Madison, WI, we felt the Lord's blessing simply by coming together. Alisha and Andrea McCoy (daughters of Dave and Sis. Sheila) attend college in Madison and Bro. Shannon Stahl teaches on campus. There are others close by that cherished the opportunity to get together mid-week. We hope to meet once a month and hope the Lord will add His blessing. Thanks to Bro. Art Mueller for ministering the Word.

Our last picnic of the year was to be held at Kinnikinnich Forest Preserves but it turned out to be a rainy day. Thanks to Bro. Ted and Sis. Heidi Schock for opening their hearts and home so we could have an indoor picnic. We are always blessed when we spend time together with our earthly brothers and sisters.

We have been busy painting at a local women's shelter in Belvidere. Although we may never meet the people who may pass through the shelter, at least we know we've lent a helping hand to a soul in time of need.

Our only visiting minister this month was Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL). Thanks, Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie. We appreciate your efforts and the fellowship.

Sowing in the sunshine, sowing
in the shadows,

Fearing neither clouds nor winter's
chilling breeze:

By and by the harvest and the labor
ended,

We shall come, rejoicing, bringing
in the sheaves.

As the farmers are busy with

the earthly harvest this time of year and the bins are filled to overflowing with the blessings of the Lord, so the Lord will one day return to garner in His own who have been faithful and true. Will we be part of that harvest or be left standing in the field?

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Janice Horner

September 19 was the wedding day for Bro. Trace Brim (Mark, Florida, and Sis. Barb) and Sis. Denise Kieser (Bro. David and Sis. Wilma). May the Lord guide their steps as they walk this pathway of life together. We thank Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) for being with us and sharing God's Word.

Harrison John is the firstborn of Bro. Brad and Sis. Kara Martin who was born on September 21. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon Menold (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Tom and Sis. Jay Martin. Bro. Andy and Sis. Jill Lehman are also first-time parents of Tavor Josiah who was born on September 23. Bro. Ray and Sis. Marsha Bauer and Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne Lehman (Denver, CO) are happy grandparents. Nicole Paige Leman is the first daughter born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth Leman on October 6. Her four big brothers, Nathaniel, Clinton, Michael, and T.J. gladly welcome their little sister home. Grandparents are Sis. Anna Leman of Eureka and Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker of Morton. We are so thankful for all of the healthy babies born this month in our Bloomington congregation. We thank Jesus Christ for each and every blessing He bestows on us. Let us be grateful and praise Him always.

Thank ye the Lord!
Give thanks to the Lord,
For He is gracious,
His mercy it endureth evermore.
Endureth evermore,
Endureth evermore!

Hymns of Zion #245

We were so happy to hear that Dawn Meiss (Bro. Scott) has surrendered her life to Jesus Christ and wants to live for Him. We pray the Lord will give her much grace to walk anew. Dawn has also had knee surgery this month and we pray the Lord will continue to heal her physical body as He is her spiritual one.

On Sunday, October 10, we said our good-byes to Bro. Matt and Sis. Lynne Musselman and children, Zachary, Molly, Morgan, and Nicholas. They will be moving to the Kansas City area. We will sure miss them.

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

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

Bro. Greg Umland recently had heart surgery to implant a defibrillator. Let us all pray that he has a speedy recovery and continued healing of his heart so he can be healthy and energized to raise his three young sons. Hunter Louis who is the third son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Louanne Umland was born on October 5. Taylor and Levi are the happy big brothers. Grandparents are Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruth Hoerr (Taylor, MO), Ned Umland of Gridley and Bev

Buckley of Normal.

We wish to announce the engagements of two couples. Jamie Young (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Anne Marie) is engaged to Jeanette Skibbons (Ilene Green) of Gridley and a wedding day of March 11, 2000, has been chosen. Also, Anton "Tony" Young (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Anne Marie) is engaged to Jennifer "Jenn" Cordes (Ron and Dee Cordes) of Gridley. We wish these busy families the Lord's guidance as they prepare for married life.

Our sympathy to Bro. Earl Steffen and Bro. Herb Steffen at the passing of their uncle, Bro. Ezra Steffen (Fairbury, IL). We also express our sympathy to Sis. Sara Knobloch as she has experienced the loss of her grandmother, Sis. Emma Knobloch (Bradford, IL).

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Chad and LauraLee Plattner

Bro. Matt and Sis. Tracy Kieser welcome into their home Joel Matthew, born October 1. Big sisters are Erica and Erin. Grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Wilma Kieser, Claude White (Rossville, IN) and Sis. Gloria White (Princeville, IL).

Also bringing home a new bundle of joy is Bro. Rob and Sis. Kelly Kieser. Landon Charles Kieser was born October 10. He is welcomed home by Andrew, Clayton, and Samantha. Grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Charles and Judy Geary (Wyoming, IL).

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), and Bros. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL). It was a blessing to have them spend the day with us.

We are saddened by the death of

our dear Sis. Emma Knobloch on September 26. Our prayers are with Bro. Clarence, her husband of 62 years, and their family. Their children are Bro. Marvin (Sis. Dianne) of Bradford, Sis. Carol (Bro. Edwin) Bauer of Princeville, Marion (Mary Ann) of Bradford, Bro. John (Sis. Cheryl) of Morton, Jerry (Mary) of Princeville, Sis. Mary (Bro. Ben) Tanner of Goodfield, Sis. Joan (Bro. Bill) Frank of LaCrosse, IN, Netta (Roy) Ramos of Princeville, Bro. Dean (Sis. Jackie) of Goodfield, and Susan (Alan) Schweigert of Chillicothe. Also surviving are 28 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and one brother, Bro. John Elsasser (Princeville, IL).

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

I Cor. 15:58

This verse was used to describe Sis. Emma, and I am encouraged to review my life. Am I steadfast, or have I slipped in my walk with the Lord since I first came to serve Him? Am I stronger today than I was in the beginning, or would the Lord say to me "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent" (Revelation 2:5)? Let us take courage from those who have gone on before us and by God's grace live our lives that we also may be an encouragement to others.

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

Fall is continuing to move in on us, and with it we have had another church picnic and the annual hayrack ride and wiener roast at the home of Bro. Dennie and Sis. Cheryl Mangers. This event at the Mangers' has become something of a reason to make a return trip to the Champaign area for many families who once lived here. Again this year, a few families came back for the weekend, and it was good to see them again. We are always glad to have our alums return.

Our church is enjoying the "Greater Love" seminars on marriage. Presented by Bro. Jeff Thames of the Gateway Woods Family Services, this series of lessons is on the Biblical model for marriage and how these principles can be applied to promote growth in each of us.

We live our lives as Christians with the knowledge of the hope of Heaven. Our Bro. David Wiegand's sister, Sis. Carolyn Butikofer, of Elgin, IA, has gone on to that reward. We pray God's comfort to the Wiegand and Butikofer families as they both miss this dear soul here on earth and look forward to an eternal reunion.

This past month has brought a number of visiting ministers to us. Bros. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), and Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) took time from their busy schedules to bring the Word to us.

Soon the busy holiday rush will be upon us. As I was in a department store just a few days before autumn officially began, I saw the Christmas trees and decorations already on display. Once the pumpkins and harvest themes are

out, it is soon Thanksgiving and then right into Christmas and the close of another year. I was recently reading about the origin of our American day of Thanksgiving, and found it an interesting account. Although accounts of the first Thanksgiving with the pilgrims and the natives are familiar, we did not have an annual national

holiday as such until 1863. Sarah Hale, a Christian widow who was the editor of a small magazine for women, had urged such a day for many years. Several states did indeed have such a day, but nothing was set as a standard for the whole country. In the 1840's she used her position as the editor of a secular magazine to present many Thanksgiving poems, stories, and turkey recipes to her readers. By 1859, thirty of our state governors had agreed to a set date for

Thanksgiving. As the country moved toward civil war, Sarah Hale wrote that this was a great time to focus on union. It was in 1863, during the Civil War, when President Lincoln agreed that we should have a national day of Thanksgiving to count our blessings. Since that year, we have had the fourth Thursday of November set aside for remembering our many blessings.

As we observe Thanksgiving again this year, we each have many reasons to be thankful.

For some, it is a great event that has taken place such as marriage or the birth of a child, for others it may be a bountiful harvest or a good year in business, and for many it is simply that they have enjoyed reasonable health, happiness, and comfort. Whatever our particular situation, let's remember those many reasons and give thanks for them both on this national holiday and all through the

year.

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever."

Psalm 118:29

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

One way God increases the attribute of thankfulness in me is by taking away the very thing for which I need to be thankful. I am currently battling a cold and have not been too far from a Kleenex box all day. I am sure I am more thankful for the ability to breathe freely today than I was a few days ago. I likely did not even give it a thought. It can get that way with our salvation too. It is healthy to go back and review our condition before the heartache and burden of sin was lifted.

Attending an evening of testimonies is a way to review and remember all that Christ has done for me. September 25, Susan Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie, Lester, IA) and Chris Lau (Bro. Steve and Sis. Marlene) shared their testimonies with the church and were baptized the next day. We joyfully welcomed them into the body of Christ as a brother and sister. Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL) joined us for the blessed weekend.

We extend another joyful welcome to Sis. Tessa Schlatter (Bro. Lee and Sis. Carolyn Schamback, Bay City, MI). Sis. Tessa and Bro. Vince Schlatter were married on October 3 in Leo, IN. We offer this new couple congratulations and much grace as they begin their married life.

We were surprised, but thankful, by the safe arrival of little

Skyler Devin Metzger born about six weeks early on October 11. Skyler's mommy is our dear convert, Sherri Metzger, and his grandparents are Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy Metzger (West Bend, IA).

God reminds us to be thankful for the newcomers that move to our area by sometimes moving people away. Our Bro. Joshua Martinez has been attending Chicago for less than a year, but we will miss his warm smile as he moves to the Indianapolis, IN congregation. We pray for God's blessings on Bro. Joshua and hope he'll remember to visit.

Chuck and Ella Mae Stoller are appreciating the blessings of having a Godly mother as they said farewell to Chuck's mother, Sis. Della Stoller. We offer our prayers to Chuck and Ella Mae as their hearts adjust to having Mom in Heaven now.

As the Thanksgiving season approaches, let us condition our hearts to be continually thanking God for all He has done for us, even before we catch a cold!

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Darlene Walder
Cheryl Eisenmann

The weekend of October 9 was indeed a blessed one for all as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Stephany Anderson (Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee), Kim Young (Dave and Barb) and Melinda Maul (Mike and Kathy). What a renewal it is for all as we "experience" the conversion process with each new convert.

We enjoyed many visiting ministers this month. They were Elder Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), and Bros. Bob

Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL). We appreciate each one and marvel at the way God inspires and uses them.

Since the last writing, we have had many sick ones. They are Bro. Ben Rudin, Sis. Margaret Kupferschmid, Bro. Elmer Bauer and Clayton Walder (Bro. Russ and Sis. Darlene). Sisters MaryLou Kaeb and LaVerne Kaufmann had successful hip surgery.

The first Saturday in October we had some deaf children visit us from Jamaica. We had a church potluck for them. Then they put on a small program for us. Many of our congregation have traveled to the deaf village on a work team. When we see children who cannot hear, it makes us appreciate our hearing.

Sis. Marguerite Bauer has moved to Fairview Haven Assisted Living Apartments. We will miss her smiling face.

Children are a gift from God. We rejoice with Gerrit and Angie Witvoet on the birth of their son, Grady Lee.

Also, Tyler and Amanda Eisenmann are happy to announce the arrival of their new little brother, Philip Lee. His parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Cheryl. His grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Eisenmann and Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosie Frank (Tremont, IL). His great-grandfather, whom he was named after, is Bro. Phil Sauder at the Francesville Home.

Notes of Thanks:

I wish to sincerely thank all who remembered me with prayers, visits, cards, flowers, and gifts during my hospital stay and recovery at home. May God bless you all.

Sis. Vi Greiner

The family of Sis. Marge and Bro. Ed Alt wish to thank everyone for the abundant show of love expressed to them on their 50th wedding anniversary. Everything was greatly appreciated.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Marge

Mark Alt

John Alt

Beth Novak

and families

ILLINOIS
CONGERVILLE
Ranae Dietrich
Glenna Rinkenberger

Genesis 8:22 states, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Once again we are seeing the leaves turn their beautiful colors and fall to the ground. The harvest is brought into the barn and we prepare for another winter. The simplicity of the Word...so simple a child can understand.

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn."

Isaiah 61:1-2

Even as the Spirit of the Lord was on Isaiah, our ministers still have that power from on high today. We were blessed with visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) served us on a Wednesday night and a Sunday.

With him on the Wednesday evening were Bros. Trent Meiss and Jim Vierling, also from Eureka.

Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), along with his wife, Sis. Judy, also spent a Wednesday and Sunday with us to visit a new grandchild. Keith William was born October 1 to Bro. Ben and Sis. Juanita Walder. Ben's parents are Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria Walder of our home congregation. Siblings, Marlise, Kyle and Lynn, welcome their new brother.

"Repent ye, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;"

Acts 3:19

We are looking forward to the weekend of October 23-24 to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Bonny Rinkenberger. She is the daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat.

Our congregation is rejoicing with Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock for the blessing of repenting children. Their son, John, and his wife, Jacki, are seeking the Lord. We pray that God will guide them.

Jodi Schrock (Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri) was united in marriage to Eric Hoffman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann, Roanoke) on October 2. May they look to Him as they begin their life together.

On October 10, the engagement of Sis. Elizabeth Schieber to Bro. Ryan Knapp (Goodfield, IL) was made known. Their parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary Scheiber and Bro. Jon and Sis. Pat Knapp (Goodfield, IL). We pray God will be their guide as they plan their earthly wedding and a lifetime together.

Lena Miller is currently in the

hospital following surgery and a fall. We hope she will be able to return home soon.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Peggy Heiniger

Norma Schambach

We are thankful that God brought little Shawn Eason (Bro. George and Carole) safely through surgery this past month. He is home and doing well.

With saddened hearts we laid to rest our dear Sis. Della Stoller who passed away October 10. She will be missed by her son, Chuck, and his wife, Ella Mae, and their family. We'll always remember her quiet and pleasant ways.

On October 16-17, Dave (Gloria) Rinkenberger and Matt (Mary Jo) Kinsinger testified of God's miraculous work of conversion in their lives. We were strengthened as we sat in awe hearing of God's power over sin and Satan. We welcome them as our brothers in faith and wish them and their families God's abundant blessings.

We appreciate our visiting ministers who brought us the Living Word. They were Bros. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL).

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Janet Zimmerman

October 17 was the wedding day of Sis. Tami Bauman and Bro. Darin Kupferschmid. Their parents are Glen and Sis. Becky Bauman and Bro. Richard and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid. We wish them the Lord's nearness and blessings as they walk together as one. We also were thankful Bros. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR), John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville) were able

to share with us in His teachings on this blessed day.

On October 10, our Bible Class invited Gridley, Bradford and Chicago Bible Classes for the day. We enjoyed having these dear young people with us. We thank Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont) and Bro. Richard Plattner (Peoria) for being with us and bringing forth God's Living Word. That same weekend many from our Young Group traveled by bus to Philadelphia, PA. Many thanks to all who helped in any way and a special thanks to Bro. Merle and Sis. Bev Rocke for all their labors of love. May God bless each one. Blest be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love!

Other visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Roy Ehnle (Bradford) and Ed Fritz (Washington). We enjoyed having them and ask God to bless them.

We are especially thankful for Erika Smith (Nancy) of Morton and Brent Vierling (Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda) who have turned their back on the world and have chosen to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Our prayer is that God's love and grace be given in abundant measure to them and to all who are seeking their soul's salvation.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our loved ones who have been hospitalized, confined to their homes, or just are not able to go in and out as they used to. At this time we especially think of Sis. Laurene Zimmerman (Bro. Leland), Sis. Cathryn Wettstein and Sis. Frieda Knepp as they are enduring afflictions of the body. May God provide for them and heal, comfort and console according to His will. How sweet the privilege of prayer, when we our cares and sorrows share, with Him who understands.

Our prayers are also with Sis.

Viola Leman (Bro. Vernon) who is recuperating from a recent illness. May God grant His healing hand to her.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Jim and Sis. Lyola Ringger on the recent passing of his sister, Dorothy Skaggs, of Tucson, AZ; to Bro. Vernon and Sis. Viola Leman on the passing of his sister, Sis. Viola Witzig; and to Bro. Norm and Sis. Connie Hoerr on the passing of his mother, Sis. Marie Hoerr, of Peoria.

Children are a gift from God! Bro. Rod and Sis. Cindy Kupferschmid welcomed little Naomi Jean into their hearts and home on September 21. Happy to have a little sister to play with are Rebecca, Rachel and Jedd. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid. May this family feel God's presence as they are entrusted with this precious new baby.

In this Thanksgiving season, let us rejoice and be ever more thankful for the plan of salvation and the precious hope of eternal life through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

"Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

Psalms 37:4-5

Note of Thanks:

I appreciate so many loved ones remembering me on my 80th birthday.

God bless you all.

Bro. Harold Schmidt

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Sally Fehr
Joann Zehr**

The best things in life are the simplest things: home and love and work to do; flowers in the garden and bread from the generous fields. Lacking these, what else can make life worth the living? Having them, give thanks to God with joy; we need no more.

—author unknown

How often we take for granted the simple essentials and think it quite our due to have even more than this! Thanksgiving Day is always a good reminder for us to take inventory of our blessings and thank "the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy." (I Timothy 6:17). May this Thanksgiving be such a meaningful experience for all!

"...but now [God] commandeth all men every where to repent."

Acts 17:30

Obedying this command unto repentance recently is Patty Walter (Dan). Our prayers are with her that she may experience true conversion and peace with God. Truly we rejoice as another soul is able to find salvation through the blood of Christ.

We also rejoiced with our new Bro. Michael Slagel (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Gladys) and Sis. Kathryn Kaisner as they were proved and baptized on the week-end of October 9-10. Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) assisted in this work.

Sis. Jodi Steffen (Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay) and Bro. Michael Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill) were joined in Holy Matrimony on October 17. Ministering brothers who were with us that Sunday included Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker,

Bros. Gary Brown and Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL).

Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay Steffen also became first-time grandparents when little Milan Steffen Teubel was born on October 5. Milan's parents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Jennifer Teubel. Walter Teubel and the late Mabel Teubel are his other grandparents.

Other ministering brothers who served us in the past month were Bros. Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL), Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA). May the Lord bless all His willing servants.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith..."

II Timothy 4:7

Bro. Ezra Steffen finished his earthly course on September 22. He was 88 years old. Our prayers are with his family: his wife, Sis. Aldine; sons, Bro. Albert (Sis. Karen), Bro. Kenneth (Sis. Janice) of Forrest, Dale of San Clemente, CA, and Harvey (Nancy) of Phoenix, AZ; two daughters, Darlene (Jim) Boaz, Tuscola, and Donna Whitson of Oxford, KS; 14 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren. We appreciated Bro. Ezra's example as a faithful soldier of the cross.

Oh! think to step ashore,
And find it heaven;
To clasp a hand outstretched,
And find it God's hand!
To breathe new air,
And that, celestial air;
To feel refreshed,
And find it immortality!
Ah, think to step from storm and
stress

To one unbroken calm;
To awake and find it Home.

—Robert E. Selle

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp
Linda Anliker**

“Oh, give thanks unto the Lord...”

Psalm 105:1

Many years ago as the early settlers in this country reaped a bountiful harvest of food, they gave thanks unto God and established a tradition our nation still observes as Thanksgiving Day. Although a special day has been designated for giving thanks, may our hearts be filled with thanksgiving daily unto the Lord.

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

Genesis 3:18

October 3 was the wedding day of Sis. Sarah Schneider (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra) and Bro. Shane Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. LaVerne). United in marriage on October 17 were Sis. Jodi Steffen (Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Michael Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill). May the Lord always be present as an unseen Guest as each couple establishes their home.

Kyle and Monica Edelman have been blessed with another baby boy, Kyler Aston. Big brother, Drew, and grandparents, Joe and Debra Oretogo (Cropsey, IL) and Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna Edelman, are enjoying this gift from Heaven.

First-time parents, Bro. Chad and Sis. Kim Leman, are rejoicing

in the birth of Milan Chad. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandra Stoller (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Leman.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise Kilgus and siblings, Amber, Natalie, Kyrstin, Brooke, Stuart and Blake, welcome a new sister, Shea Brianne, into their hearts and home. Her grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Jeannette Kilgus (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Leland and Sis. Laurene Zimmerman (Eureka, IL).

We are thankful that God's Word is so freely spoken by willing servants. Sharing the pulpit with our home ministers this month were Bros. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Dale Stoller and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Edwin Strahm (Elgin, IL) and Jon Zeller (Morton, IL).

May the Lord comfort Bro. Kenny and Sis. Janice Steffen and their family with the passing of Bro. Kenny's father, Bro. Ezra Steffen (Fairbury, IL). We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Norval and Sis. Wilma Knapp with the death of his sister, Sis. Della Stoller (Elgin, IL).

Spending time in the hospital this past month were Bro. Wendell (Sis. Kathy) Dotterer, Monica (Kyle) Edelman and Sis. Neola (Bro. Byron) Nussbaum. May the Lord's nearness be felt as we continue to pray for those in need.

Note of Thanks:

A special thank you to all who remembered me with kind deeds and prayers during my recent confinement. May God bless each one.

Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Jan Beer

Part of the message from last Sunday morning's sermon was an inquiry when we last sat down and wrote out all our blessings. The Sunday afternoon sermon was built around the importance of praising the Lord and thanking Him. Those reminders reinforce the message of the approaching Thanksgiving holiday. Thanks to God for the liberty to publicly preach His Word. Brothers who willingly served us from the pulpit since the last report are Bros. Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) and Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL). Thanks to God for our local brothers who minister to us on a regular basis. We praise Him for the blessings that come to us when His servants study His Word and deliver it to us through the leading of His Spirit. “Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!” (Tabernacle Hymns #324).

Thanks to God for bringing hearts together in love. On October 10, two engagements were announced! Our Sis. Susie Wiegand and our Bro. Tim Blunier are planning a February wedding. First-time in-laws are Sis. Pam and Bro. Art Wiegand and Sis. Eddis and Bro. Dennis Blunier. Sis. Liz Schieber of the Congerville congregation is fulfilling God's will for her life by accepting Bro. Ryan Knapp's proposal. This engagement is also making new in-laws of Sis. Pat and Bro. Jon Knapp. We rejoice with these couples and their families and praise God for the blessing of the establishment of two new households of faith.

Thanks to God for the on-going

concern for and effort made to reach unconverted souls. Three Sunday mornings in October, Bro. Jeff Grimm conducted a Bible Study at the Fellowship Hall for our friends. "Praise Him! praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer! For our sins He suffered, and bled and died; He is our rock, our hope of eternal salvation, Hail Him! hail Him! Jesus the Crucified. Sound His Praises! Jesus who bore our sorrows, Love unbounded, wonderful, deep and strong..." (Tabernacle Hymns #86)

If you and your spouse were both wheelchair bound, it might seem difficult to count your blessings. Our Sis. Shirley DeBolt has attended church in a wheelchair for a long time. Her husband, Harold, uses a motorized chair. Because of declining health, sisters began taking suppers to the DeBolts. Sis. Shirley painstakingly wrote this note to be included in the Silver Lining: "Dear Sisters in Faith, I am so very sorry to get this in so late, but I want to thank everyone for the cards, money, food and most of all the prayers. It was all truly appreciated. Thanks to the men who helped deliver those delicious suppers. It really helped us out a lot. God bless all of you. In His Love, Sis. Shirley and Harold DeBolt." We praise God for that thankful spirit. Are you ever burdened with a load of care? Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear? Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly, and you will be singing as the days go by..." (Tabernacle Hymns #50).

Very recently, Sis. Shirley was admitted to the hospital, then transferred to the Eureka Home. Harold made it possible for our high school Bible class students to receive a tremendous blessing

when he consented to them coming to his home and spending the afternoon cleaning and making some house repairs. We thank God and praise Him for all the blessings that came from that one afternoon. Isn't it great to count among our blessings teenagers who willingly give their time and energy to be of service to others!

We praise God that Sis. Persida Wiegand is recovering well from a fall. Thankfully, her injuries were limited to a broken collar bone and broken left arm. We have the free choice of looking for the blessing in ALL situations in life! "Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you; Beneath His wings of love abide, God will take care of you..." (Tabernacle Hymns #192). We look forward to seeing you back in church soon, Sis. Persida.

When our Sis. Kristen Hohulin, then her brother Jon, were taken from this life so suddenly a few years ago, it was very difficult to praise God and count our blessings. The young folks in Jon's Goodfield Sunday School class are spending this weekend with his parents in Tennessee (Sis. Jean and Bro. Stan Hohulin). It marks the anniversary of Jon's funeral. This act of love gives us cause for praise and thankfulness to God, and, no doubt, it is a special blessing to our Sis. Jean and Bro. Stan. "When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed, when you are discouraged, thinking all is lost, count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done..." (Tabernacle Hymns #50)

"Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer! Sing, O Earth, His wonderful love proclaim! Hail Him! Hail Him! highest archangels in glory; strength and honor give to His holy name!

Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard His children, in His arms He carries them all day long; Praise Him! praise Him! tell of His excellent greatness; Praise Him! praise Him! ever in joyful song!" (Tabernacle Hymns #86). We thank the Gridley choir for praising God in joyful song at our Family Hymn Sing October 10. The beautiful music was a blessing to us.

There are so many blessings in our lives, so many reasons to thank and praise God, we just might have trouble counting them all!

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

We are glad to report that Bro. Daren and Sis. Rita Metz are making Gridley their home church, having moved from Morton to Pontiac where Bro. Daren is employed.

Several ministering brothers preached at our congregation this past month. They are Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), and Bros. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Steve Frauhofer (Bluffton North, IN), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Kenneth Schneider (Remington, IN), Tim Hohulin, Wayne Leman and Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) and Dave Obergfel (Peoria, IL). We are very appreciative of their efforts.

On the weekend of October 2-3, five souls were taken into the fold. Our new sisters in the Lord are: Sis. Nicole Wiegand (Bro. Roger and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Leah Stoller (Bro. Clark and Sis. Cindy), Sis. Carrie Stoller (Bro. Curt and Sis. Carla), and Sis. Holly Stoller (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Elaine), and Bro. Mark Stoller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Karen). May God be with them in the overcoming of sin until the end.

Our Wednesday evening value

lessons for Jr. High students (grades 5-8) have begun again. Twice a month teachers present a lesson to these students, followed by a craft and/or World Relief project, and a lunch. Teaching this term are Bros. Harvey Kaeb, Roger Wiegand, Curt Meiss and Perry Klopfenstein.

Seth Kinder is engaged to be married on November 6 to Pam Smith of Normal. His parents are Ron and Sis. Linda Kinder. She is the daughter of Dennis and Marla Smith, Normal.

These are indeed wonderful times wherein we can meet freely to hear God's Word read and expounded upon. We are unhindered from without. What a blessing this is! Souls are repenting and striving to follow Christ and the Apostles. Preaching and living the Word is why we as believers exist. May our light draw souls to the Saviour.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

We bid farewell to Bro. Daren and Sis. Rita Metz and their baby son, Joseph, as they leave Morton because of a job transfer. They are moving to Pontiac, IL and will be attending church in Gridley. They will be greatly missed. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings wherever He may lead them.

Bro. John Zimmerman and Sis. Holly Steiner (Princeville, IL) were joined in Holy Matrimony on October 3. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Jan Zimmerman and Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen Steiner. May the Lord bless them as they establish their Christian home and continue to serve the Lord together as He leads.

Sis. Ida Welk died at Apostolic Christian Restmor on Tuesday, October 5, at the age of 99 years.

May the Lord bless and comfort her loving nephews and nieces. They are: nephews, Bro. Ralph Hauter, Bro. Louis Belsley, Don Welk, Robert L. Welk, Robert E. Welk, and Alvin Belsley; and nieces, Sis. Kathryn (Orman) Kaiser, Sis. Verna Rother, Sis. Ida Belsley and Sis. Wilma (Don) Sauder.

Bro. Terry and Sis. Janeen Baum and their children, Derek and Kinsey, welcomed into their home Riley Wade. He was born October 16. His grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Jody Baum and Daryle and June Hari (Gilbert, AZ). Great-grandmothers are Sis. Marie Heinold and Sis. Caroline Grimm. We rejoice with the entire family.

Steve Schrock and Sarah Dickerson have announced their engagement and are planning a May 21 wedding. Their parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Lorna Schrock and Del and Beckie Dickerson, all of Morton. May the Lord bless them and guide them.

We wish to thank Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) for ministering the Word to us this month. We appreciate his visit.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone for the love and kindness shown to Aunt Ida Welk during her stay at Restmor, and also during the funeral. May God bless you for your love and prayers.

From her Nieces and Nephews

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

A month of many spiritual rewards, and related events, tends to make a lengthy report even longer if it is to reflect some of the main points of our experiences and blessings and relay them to a wider audience.

"Precious Memories" was a fitting closing hymn for the Senior Citizens Dinner on September 18 at the Fellowship Hall, which was sponsored by our Young Group. They provided a blessed evening of fellowship and a first class meal. Thank you so much!

Genesis 6 tells of Noah standing alone (somewhat comparable to the lonely Chinese in front of a tank in Tiananmen Square in 1989), who found grace in the eyes of God because God came first in his life. In Noah's day, "Man's heart was only evil continually" (5) and mankind rejected God except for eight people. "The earth was filled with violence" (11), which is the order of the day now, when man has removed the sting of sin so he can go about his business unconcerned and make himself so busy that there is no room for God any more. We are the most entertained people which ever lived. Humanism exists when we continually take care of ourselves first. If we don't feel lost, we must rethink our life. Building the ark (540' long, 54' high, 90' wide with three stories) is something Noah had to do alone, with no modern tools and resources, and he stood firm, talked with God, worked for Him and was faithful. When the rains fell, the cries went out "let me in!" but it was too late and all perished. Jesus says "Judgment is coming" and when He spoke of hell, it was for our benefit. Today God is looking for a few good men and women; are you one of them? Thanks, Bro. Ken Hoerr; we are glad to see you back on the pulpit after your recent shoulder surgery and wish you a full recovery with good results.

After 150 days, Noah was given a parking place at 17,000 feet on Mt. Ararat. Do we get impatient when we have to circle the block a

couple of times for our spot?

Bro. Mike Rieker read Psalm 34:1-8 on September 26 for the wedding of Sis. Mary Suttor to Bro. Nick Meister. "Blessed is the man that trusteth in Him." Afterwards Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer stated both placed their faith in God, Who brought them together. In Phil. 2:1-11 we perceive that love is what life is all about, foremost the love of God. Everything you do from this day forward should be to please each other and, as Jesus is always a guest in your home, there will be a threefold cord, not lightly rent apart. Don't build on yourself, but on your wife, husband, Church, Jesus. May the Lord bless you and keep you.

If we let things slip, we have not held on to them very tight. We have to give more earnest heed to our faith and put our emphasis on the right things, looking to the weakest link in our chain. We pray more than we watch, because tolerance is the thing today. Jesus tasted death for all when they were yet sinners. How shall we escape? We will not escape if we will not repent, and neglect so great a salvation. God could take all our earthly goods, if He would only spare us in the day of judgment (Hebrews 2, Bro. Rick Plattner 9/18/99).

Fall officially arrived on September 23 at 7:31 a.m. EST. We have enjoyed a few comfortable and beautiful days since then, one of which was September 24, when approximately 50 Skylines residents gathered for a dinner of spaetzles, sauerkraut, potatoes and pork roast at Bro. Adolph Roecker's place. Local culinary talent is still capable of producing an excellent taste of these old-time dishes and our sincere thanks go to him and all who contributed to providing this lovely event as we

said goodbye to summer and are now waiting for Jack Frost to call.

God told the Israelites to destroy all they found in Jericho (Joshua 7). One man, Achan, defied Him. Being confident they could take Ai with 3000 men, they were defeated because of sin in the camp. God could not bless them. In our own country there is sin and some day there is going to be a price to pay. Joshua took the tribes and families down to Achan, who confessed his sin. Is there unrevealed sin in our heart? Today is the day of peace and God will forgive and give peace, but if we wait too long, the price is going to be death. Achan coveted, then took and had to pay the price, together with his family and all he had. Ephesians 6 tells us to put on the whole armour of God; how much of it are we using to stand against the wiles of the devil? Truth and righteousness must come from within our own hearts and minds. Do we read in the Word every day and figure out how it applies to us? Do you really believe what God can do? Jesus is offering salvation today; have you claimed it? (Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer, 10/3/99).

God used Esther to influence Persian king Ahasuerus to prevent a Jewish holocaust. Esther had a personal relationship with God which gave her contentment in her situation and she was willing to perish as Haman thought he had achieved the extermination of the Jews. The king asked her: "What is thy petition, queen Esther?" The evil of Haman was destroyed and a good end was brought about. In the New Testament, Mary and Martha are an example of contentment (Luke 10). Martha invited Jesus and His disciples (38) and both were doing good: Mary listened, Martha worked. At some point Martha be-

came a little agitated and even rebuked the Master. Jesus sensed a discontent which needed to be dealt with. Are we anxious, worried, agitated? Jesus digs deep, if we let Him. We need to be content, trusting and more satisfied. Mary wanted a close relationship with Jesus and may God give us the joy and peace of contentment. (Bro. Ken Hoerr). Bro. Rick Plattner: Jesus did not ask God to take us out of this world, but to keep us from evil. Is our focus on what we are doing or on the Saviour, Who cares and understands? We don't want to be lazy, but take a moment to pose at His feet.

Five deaf students and their teachers from CCD Jamaica visited us on October 1 and acted out in motion several Christian scenes at the Fellowship Hall with the theme "Love is a universal language, and Jesus is Love." Their curriculum includes: Salvation (learn to know Jesus), Education, Vocation, Spiritual Growth and Communication under the motto "I can do all things through Jesus Who strengthens me." Peoria has participated several times in trips to support CCD and Bro. Ken Hoerr wondered how it will be when these deaf people get to Heaven and hear Jesus audibly say: "Come unto Me!"

When we bid our loved ones the final farewell, how glad are we to know "There is a place of full release, a place where all is joy and peace, Near to the heart of God." Bro. Ted Gerber (89, father of Sis. Pauline Teubel) of Lester, IA went to be with the Lord on August 14; Bro. Simon Traub (89) on September 19; Sis. Emma Knobloch (83) on September 26; and Bro. Jess Leman (98) and Sis. Barb Hunziker (65) on October 10. We share the grief of their families and pray for the comfort of the

Lord for them. They leave examples and legacies of a good and valiant fight and endurance to the end, and we will treasure their memories.

Sharing our joys and woes is one of the blessings of our faith. As life was ebbing from Sis. Barb, the engagement of her granddaughter, Sis. Heidi Schmidgall (Bro. Steven and Sis. Christine), to Bro. Steven LaFont of Bloomington, IL (Bob and Marjorie LaFont, Brimfield, IL) on September 1 brought gladness to families and congregations and we wish them the Lord's blessings as they make preparations for their December 19 wedding.

Sis. Marie Schafer, who was able to return home, and Frank McCall (Sis. Frances Wiegand) were patients at Proctor Hospital. Frank is now a resident at the Skylines. May they feel the prayers of the Church and the healing mercies of God.

Congratulations to Bro. Ed and Sis. Bernie Meister on their 50th wedding anniversary on September 16, for which they invited their family to a weekend in St. Louis.

Gideon, and the 300 men who had drunk water by lapping, defeated 125,000 Midianites with trumpets and pitchers with a lamp inside—and the sword of the Lord (Judges 7). The battle was the Lord's. As Gideon could look forward to be delivered by God, can we also trust God to deliver us and let the mountains be pushed out of the way? We don't have a great army to help us, only the sword of the Lord. Turn it over to Him and trust Him. Hope is not a wish, but a confident expectation. We are justified by faith because of the free gift on the cross, which will last to all eternity (Romans 5, Bro. Dave Obergfel 10/10/99).

Bro. Ken Hoerr's topic for our

family night service on October 6 was "The last call to the Churches" (Rev. 2 and 3), which was Jesus' last message to the Church before He comes back. What is the value of the seven letters to the Seven Churches? To look at our own Church, apply it to our own lives, take heed to His message. How committed are we and how much further do we have to go? Rev. 2:1-7 EPHESUS (Apostolic Church). The first Church was a good Church, but lost some of its first love. It was a center of pagan worship with the temple of Diana (200 yards long). Jesus says "Read the letter and be accountable to me (commending it in verses 2 and 3), but lost thy first love" (4). The solution is in 5 and 6. Remember when we found Jesus and the vows we made to remain true and faithful as long as we live. Can we set one hour a day aside for prayer and reading as stated in Acts 2:42? Not like the hated Nicolaitans, who did whatever they pleased. Rev. 2:8-11 SMYRNA (Persecuted Church), a beautiful and prosperous seaport with a lot of pagan worship and under allegiance to Caesar. Christians were tortured and put in prison. We need to be reminded that Jesus gives eternal life. If there would be persecution in our Church today, we would be so close to Jesus and each other that there would be no room for any differences. The second death is for those who never were converted. When Polycarp (AD 70-155) burned at the stake, he said "it will be much shorter than hell!". Rev. 2:12-17 PERGAMOS (Indulged Church), capital city of Asia Minor, in allegiance to Caesar and various other gods (Zeus), was the seat of Satan. Christians were still holding fast. Bishop Antipas was martyred by the priests of

Aesculapius and did not compromise. Their sin was that some taught the doctrine of Balaam and Balac and mixed their faith with idolatry and materialism and many evil habits (divorce, pornography). Judgment begins at the House of God (I Peter 4:17). If you don't repent, Jesus will deal with you. Rev. 2:18-29 THYATIRA (Pagan Church) had love but lacked sound doctrine, which must be bound together. Unconfessed and unrepented sin brings suffering. We must deal with it because we shall reap what we sow. Hear and obey, flee temptation; don't leave a forwarding address! (Read the conclusion in the December issue).

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Sheryl Martin

"Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness...The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace."

Psalms 29:1,2,11

"O, let us exalt our dear Lord and proclaim, In songs of true gratitude praise to His name!" First-time parents, Bro. Chris and Sis. Carol Steidinger, are rejoicing in the birth of their son, Tagen John, who was born on September 20. Thankful grandparents are Donald Steidinger and Sis. Alice Steidinger (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. William and Sis. Diane Streitmatter.

"As songs of the angels in sweetest accord, Our thanks and our praises shall rise to the Lord." Praise and thanksgiving are felt in the hearts of Bro. Mike and Sis. Julie Martin as a daughter, Me-

lissa Lyn, was born to them on October 5. Her brothers, Beau, Mitchell and Marshall, welcome her home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Janet Joos and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Donna Gehrig.

"His love shown upon us before we believed, And when we were burdened, His loving heart grieved. Our parents he gives who provide in each day, And teachers to show us the heavenly way..." God has shone His love upon the family of Bro. Doug and Sis. Angela Herrmann as a son, Alex Lee, was born to them on October 2. His sisters and brother are Amber, Ashley, and Aaron. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Betty Lou Herrmann and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Diane Knobloch (Bradford, IL). May the Lord continue to teach them His ways as they look to Him for His guidance and direction in raising their family.

"In schools of the righteous we ever can find, The heavenly wisdom, the purified mind. He calls to His children: Come hither, you blest: Give heed to my words, I will bring you to rest." Our converts, Scott and Dawn Atkins, and their children, Justin, Jordon, Caleb and Cole, are rejoicing in the birth of a daughter, Tiffany Nicole, who was born on October 9. May the heavenly wisdom from above be part of their lives as they strive to raise their children in the fear of the Lord.

"We'll learn and we'll labor in cheerful accord, And do what we can in the strength of the Lord. O blessed is he when the summer is gone, who harvests the fruit from good seed he has sown!" (Zion's Harp #165). Our friends and first-time parents, Steven and Kari Beutel (Tremont, IL), have been blessed with a son, Austin

Alan, on September 24. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jordon and Sis. Kathy Feucht and Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeanette Beutel (Tremont, IL).

On October 2, our Sis. Holly Steiner was married to Bro. John Zimmerman (Morton, IL). Sis. Holly is the daughter of Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen Steiner and Bro. John is the son of Bro. John and Sis. Jan Zimmerman (Morton, IL). May God bless them as they establish their home.

Two converts, Cyrena Baer (Ray and Sis. Janna Lou) and Aaron Menold (Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy), were baptized into the fold on October 10. May their light shine brightly as they go out into the world as lambs among the wolves.

We wish to express our sympathy to the Knobloch and Elsasser family in the passing of Sis. Emma (Bradford, IL) on September 18.

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

1 Thess. 5:18

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Linda Hodel
Boni Stoller**

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended..."

Jer. 9:20

Once again we have been blessed abundantly with a plentiful harvest and the quieting of late autumn is beginning to surround us. What a peaceful feeling.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of thy youth."

Psalms 127:3-4

On October 11, Bro. Chad and Sis. Brenda Martin welcomed little Drew Benjamin into their family circle. Austin is now the proud big brother. His happy grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Sharon Martin from Washington and Bro. Bob and Sis. Chris Hartter.

Just beginning this awesome joy and responsibility of parenting are Bro. Brad and Sis. Jill Sauder. They are so happy at the arrival of precious little Ellyn Ruth on October 12. Her thankful grandparents are Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Hoffman and Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sauder, all from Roanoke.

How thankful we are that we have the avenue of prayer to raise up our loved ones facing earthly trials and illnesses. Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Jerry Fischer and precious little Seth Durand, infant son of Tom and Sis. Marsha. Also, Willie, the 11 year old Haitian boy staying with Bro. Dennis and Sis. Marybeth Zimmerman has been undergoing tests and is now facing high risk surgery. May God's comfort and peace surround these loved ones and may His healing hand rest upon them.

God bless Bro. Kent Heimer and Bro. Max Reimchisel for visiting us and sharing the Word of Life. You are most welcome to come visit your families and share with us often.

We are happy to have Sis. Charlene Monk joining us for worship. We know her mother, Sis. Jean Kupferschmid, really appreciates having her here.

Many of us enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship when our trustees hosted a potluck supper and singing at the fellowship hall on October 17. It is such a blessing for young and old to come together in

love and unity. Thank you trustees!

Note of Thanks:

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all who remembered me with prayers, cards, letters and visits while I was in the hospital. It all was very overwhelming and appreciated very much. May God richly bless each and every one.

Bro. Jerry Fischer

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Barb Dill
Barb Kaeb**

"O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms."

Psalm 95:1-2

Our visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Craig Martin (Princeville, IL), and Steve Martin (Eureka, IL). We want to thank these brothers for their labor of love and pray God will bless them and their families.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Sis. Beverly Staker and Sis. Doris Hutchison as their oldest sister, Bernadine Wethington, has gone to her eternal home.

The wedding engagement of Cindy Schaefer (Bro. Maurice and Sis. Marge) was recently announced to Ryan Keith (Tom and Lynn). May they look to God as they plan their lives together.

Hospital patients this month have been Chris Garman and Sheri Allen. May God's healing power be with each one that is ill.

First-time parents, Steven and Kari Beutel, are thankful for a healthy little boy, Austin Alan,

born September 24. First-time grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette Beutel and Bro. Jordan and Sis. Kathy Feucht (Princeville, IL).

Bro. Ken and Sis. Amy Koch are also first-time grandparents. Michael Taylor was born September 21 to Sarah and Chad Hooley.

Jeff and Sis. Marla Rose welcome Lindsey Kay born October 13. Brandon and Shelby are excited about their new sister. Grandparents, Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn Dill and Al and Christy Rose, are thankful for another grandchild. May God grant His guidance and wisdom to these couples as they rear their children in the fear of the Lord.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Sue Ruppert
Denise Romersberger**

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all."

Psalm 34:19

We all have troubles and worries that plague us. In our wishful thinking, peace of mind often begins with the words, "If only...". Psalm 34 says, "A righteous man may have many problems, but the Lord delivers him from them all." Our response to that might be that we want it right now. We know Jesus will deliver us, but the waiting time is so hard. We think we know the way we want the problem to work out but Jesus knows best the time and the way.

Consider the troubles Jesus had when He lived among us. He was harassed and accused by His enemies, betrayed and denied by His closest friends, condemned in an unjust trial, and tortured to death on a cross. Yet through Jesus' suffering, God was carrying

out His plan to deliver us from the troubles of sin, guilt, and eternal death.

Peace of mind does not begin with "If only." Peace comes from knowing that through Jesus' suffering and death God was steadily at work delivering us. He works in our lives too, helping us through every problem, big or small. "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32). As our beginning Bible verse says, His promise still stands that He will deliver us from all troubles.

Dear Jesus, please deliver us according to Thy promises keeping us on the straight and narrow way as we await Thy perfect time and answers.

We were privileged to have the following guest ministers proclaim the true Word of God in all its purity: Bros. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL), and Glen Braker (Princeville, IL). Thank you for all your time and effort.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Ann Hofstetter are the thankful parents of twins, Hannah Jane and Sarah Joanne. Both are doing very well. They were welcomed home by big brother, Daniel, and sister, Esther. We pray for God's blessings as they all begin their lives together.

Grandparents are Bro. Jesse and Sis. Donna Huber from Fairbury and the late Bro. Ted and late Sis. Lynetta Hofstetter from Wolcott.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Shelle Schumacher are the thankful parents of Livia Rose. She was welcomed home by brothers, Andrew, Joshua, Isaac and Abram. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Betty Schumacher of Washington and Laura Leuthold. God bless

you all.

Bro. Rich Dreeste recently underwent knee surgery and is doing fine. We wish him a speedy recovery. Sis. Sue Ruppert also had surgery and is healing well. May the Lord keep His presence close to them both.

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Carol Schick (Bro. Tom) on the death of her father, Robert Koener, of Twin Falls, ID. May the Lord be with Carol and her family during this time of grief.

We wish to welcome Sis. Sophie, Sis. Charla and Bro. Kim Huber to our congregation. They came from the Phoenix Church. We are glad they have decided to make Washington their home Church.

The new Sunday School addition is now complete. The children have been having classes in the new rooms and the World Relief sewing room has been put to use. It is so nice to have the extra room and everything looks so nice. Thank you to all who put forth effort in making this project a success.

Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam Messner just left for a week trip to Haiti. They are going to evaluate how the past projects are doing and to plan for future projects. We wish them God's protection on their journey.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Catrina Rinkenberger
Beth Aschliman

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

We rejoice as four new souls have come unto Jesus in repentance. We welcome Brooke Dehoff (Bro. Scott and Sis. Rita), Kristen Fiechter (Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari), Christen Geisel (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marcia) and Shelley Brickley (John).

Announced for baptism are Tiffany Aschliman (Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy), Stacy Fiechter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny), Todd Drayer (Bro. Herman and Sis. Julie) and Sarah Kaehr (Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie). What a joy to become a brother and sister to Jesus Christ.

Bluffton had two weddings in October. Sis. Stephanie Elliott (Jan and the late Tom) was married to Bro. Tad Baumgartner (Bro. Galen and Sis. Joyce, Bluffton North) on October 3. Also brought together in marriage on October 10 was Sis. Tina Raber (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary) and Bro. Luke Gerke (Dennis and Gloria). We wish them God's rich blessing as they start their married lives together in the Lord.

Here for the wedding was Bro. Brace Wieland (Sis. Brenda, Leo, IN). Also visiting Bluffton were Bros. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN), and Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North). We thank these willing brothers and invite them back to Bluffton soon.

Announcing their engagement and anticipating their wedding is Bro. Matt Pfister (Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose) and Sis. Andrea Rager (Bro. Bill and Sis. Lou Ann). Congratulations! We're so happy when two souls can come together in faith to start another Christian home.

We were saddened by the death of Jim Agler's (Sis. Pam) father, DeWayne Agler. We extend our deepest sympathy and love to this

dear family. Also losing a very precious angel is Bro. Jack and Sis. Diane Schwartz. Taylor Benjamin Maller (22 mo.), their grandson, was laid to rest on October 19. We share their grief and pray God's comfort and rest be with them.

Addison Riley was born September 3 to Kristian and Krista Lentz. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Lou Ann Rager. Kraig and Tracy Reimschisel had their first daughter, Camreen Jenna, born September 4. Excited grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Louise Reimschisel. Bro. Bill and Sis. Heidi Carrico and son, Caleb, welcome Joel William born September 25. Grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Connie Kaehr and Patrick Carrico. Bro. Jay and Sis. Rhonda Bertsch are the parents of Mitchel Thayne born September 28. Happy to welcome him are brother, Hunter, and grandparents, Bro. James and Sis. Christy Bertsch and Bro. Harry T. and Sis. Lois Gerber.

Spending time in the hospital were loved ones, Bro. Curt Tonner (Sis. Jeanette), Sis. Helen Gerber (late Bro. Alvin), Daniel Steffen (Bro. Roger and Sis. Tara), Sis. Carla Brege (Bro. Todd), Sis. Lula Baumgartner and Bro. Ralph Schwartz (Sis. Leona). May the Lord be with all and give them strength in recovery.

INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Rhonda Maller
Ann Meyer

We were very thankful when our Elder Bro. Phil Stettner returned home safely from his 16-day trip to the former communist countries of Eastern Europe. He was one of four Elders on the European Board that were assessing the needs of the brethren and churches there. One of the broth-

ers in the Ukraine related that before the communist wall fell, we had to worship secretly in basements, but we had food. Now we can worship freely, but we are hungry. They were asked which way they would prefer. The brother answered, "We'd rather be hungry and spiritually full!"

Our congregation sure appreciated when Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL) visited us this month.

Bro. Tad Baumgartner made a vow to love his new wife, Sis. Stephanie Elliott (Bluffton, IN), when they were married on October 3. Their parents are Bro. Galen and Sis. Joyce Baumgartner and Jan and the late Tom Elliott. May they find the joy that a godly union brings.

Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis Bucher were thrilled to get a new grandson, Cole Matthew. He was welcomed by his sister and parents, Mark and Trina Holocher, and the other grandparents, Bro. Randy and Sis. Pam Holocher (Bluffton).

Little Taylor Maller (22 months) went from his father's arms to his Heavenly Father's arms when the Lord unexpectedly called him Home. Our love and compassion are extended to his family, Bro. Ben and Sis. Jaime, brother Brant, and grandparents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda Maller and Bro. Jack and Sis. Diane Schwartz. The family was so devoted in loving and caring for Taylor since his illness at a few weeks old.

Our sympathy also goes to the family of Bob Steffen and to his wife, Betty. We know that he will be greatly missed by all his loved ones. Bro. Steve (Sue) Baller also had a sister that passed away this month. May these families find comfort in the Lord in their time of

grieving.

We have been busy in prayer for many of our loved ones during their illnesses. In the hospital this past month have been Sis. Susie Maynard, Sis. Marj (Bro. Truman) Baumgartner, Sis. Clarice (Bro. Harry) Isch, Sis. Ellen (Bro. Ervin) Fiechter, Sis. Carla (Bro. Todd) Brege, and Bro. Obed (Sis. Henrietta) Gerber. Our prayers are also needed by Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Harold) Schladenhauffen who had an illness diagnosed. We wish there wouldn't be any sadness or suffering here on earth because it is hard to see those we love and care about hurt. But we know we have a promise of a day when all will be perfect, paid for by our Lord Jesus. Thank you, Lord!

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Lily Pelsy

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

Colossians 3:17

As Thanksgiving approaches, may our lives show that we have grateful hearts towards God for the opportunity to be born again and also for all He has done for us.

We were blessed by the CCD hands in praise group from Jamaica. God was certainly glorified that evening.

The theme for College Weekend was Grace. Over three hundred young people from 31 churches came to be fed from God's Word. We thank the many ministers who were here that Saturday. Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Bros. Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN) and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) preached on Sunday. Thanks also to Bro. Wayne Lehman (South

Bend, IN) for bringing forth the Word of Life this month.

Closing thought from a sermon: There is a difference from who we are and who we could be by God's grace.

INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS Gail Bradford Lauretta Schafer

Elder Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frances Bahler visited us on a Sunday in October. Thank you, Bro. Alfred, for your words of encouragement and concern.

Our Bible Class Sunday School students had the opportunity to attend Camp Mack in Milford. It is our prayer that the students received "seeds of goodness" which will grow into a bountiful harvest.

We are listening to the tapes of the General Conference at our Wednesday evening services. We wish it were possible that every brother and sister in all of our churches would avail themselves of the opportunity to listen to the sound advice given by our Elder brothers. "Come for the feast is spread..."

Several have spent time in the hospital. Bro. John Mayer (Sis. Edie), Bro. Bruce Schafer (Sis. Lauretta), and Sis. Clarice Isch (Bro. Harry, Bluffton), who is Sis. Conni (Bro. Bill) Witzig's mother. We pray for healing mercies for each one who feels bodily afflictions.

A minister stated that each of us is on an escalator. Either we are moving toward God on the up escalator, or we are moving away from God on the down escalator. Minute by minute during the day, which direction are you going? Are your thoughts and actions under God's control, or is self getting in the way? Pray for grace for a more Godly heart and mind and then be

thankful—not just during Thanksgiving time, but daily—hourly. Live in a blessed state of gratitude and contentment.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Anna Marie Stoller

“I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken...”

Psalm 37:25

Sis. Emma Knobloch lived a long life in the service of the Lord, and she has now made that journey into eternity where she will meet her Maker face to face. What a time of rejoicing that must be! Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Sis. Joan and Bro. Bill Frank, along with their children, Bro. Lucas, Sis. Julie (Bro. Brad) Rocke, and Sam as they mourn the loss of their mother and grandmother.

Our love and prayers have been with Jimmy Barber since he underwent surgery.

Congratulations is extended to Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold on the birth of another granddaughter. Kiana was born to Bro. Travis and Sis. Kathy Knobloch of Lester, IA.

Melissa and Cory Rosenbaum have a healthy, handsome new baby, Colton. Cheyenne is a helpful big sister.

The ministering of God's Word by Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) was deeply appreciated.

Suffering the afflictions of the flesh day after day is our dear Bro. Ralph Levy. His wife, Sis. Carolyn, stands near as his faithful, loyal helpmate, and for this reason our prayers are earnest and fervent for Bro. Ralph and Sis. Carolyn. May they feel the grace of God in sufficient measure during this dif-

ficult time.

INDIANA, LEO
Ethelny Schlatter

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings...Having made known unto us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure which he hath purposed in Himself;”

Ephesians 1:3,9

These words were special to Sis. Tessa Schamback and Bro. Vince Schlatter who were joined as one in the Lord on October 3. It is evident from the scripture and hymns chosen they are depending on the Holy Spirit as their third partner.

Love, of all gifts, is the greatest which the Spirit does bestow. Though I had a voice like angels, Lacking love, I truly know that I'd be a tinkling cymbal or a wretched sounding brass; For although the sound were present, Lifeless through this world I'd pass.

O, Thou Spirit which has given to me grace to seek my Lord, Teach me strive for love of heaven and to love Thy precious word! Love has mercy and is patient; Hasty ways it does not own; Humbleness of mind is present; with true peace it has its home.

Love is of a friendly nature, does no selfish thought possess, Love is not a sin partaker, and is free from bitterness, Love is truthful, not deceitful, Does here every burden bear;

and, enduring, is so fruitful in all trials joy to share.

Zion's Harp #37

Visiting ministers were Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Jim Ramseyer and Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH). We were thankful for their visit and appreciated the messages prior to the wedding service, which was conducted by Bro. Brace Wieland and Bro. John Stoller.

We were also blessed by listening to the tapes of the annual Conference held in Rittman, OH on August 13.

“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all things be done with charity.”

I Cor. 16:13-14

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Christy (Ron) Bowie and her family in the death of her mother, Iris Schlund (Ft. Wayne, IN).

We are all thankful and praising the Lord for His protection of Bro. John Stoller from serious injury and death. He went off a snow covered road into a lake while driving his truck on a run in Canada. He returned home by airplane on October 20.

“I will say of the Lord, he is my refuge and my fortress; my God; in him will I trust.”

Psalm 91:2

INDIANA, MILFORD
Pam Beer
Marguerite Hoerr

Ministering Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Sis. Phyllis, Taylor, MO) favored our Milford congregation with a visit this past month. We ask God to richly bless them for

their generosity to us and thank the Taylor congregation for sharing.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Stacey Feller are the parents of a little daughter born October 15. They named her Olivia Sue. Welcoming her home was her big brother, Michael Clark. We warmly welcome babies who are born into our church because we are keenly aware they are the church of the future. May God bountifully bless this family.

We think of Sis. Connie Beer (Steve) who had surgery this past month. Sis. Connie is one of those people who exemplifies a strong faith in God, and who inspires others to trust more fully. As we remember her in prayer, we ask God to grant her health and strength as she recovers from this surgery.

Harvest is nearly over in our community and even though it wasn't as plentiful as in some years, it's good to hear our farmers thanking God for it. Harvest time is one time of year where the evidence of God's bounty is vivid. Other gifts from Him are births, recovery from illnesses and quiet gifts which come to our hearts of which only we are aware. Every day of life we can serve Him is the biggest gift of all.

The Milford congregation is looking forward to hosting a World Relief conference early in November. Bro. Don Haab is our World Relief representative and is helping us to plan for it.

Bro. Roy Lehman and Sis. Dorothy Martin are back in Lakeland Rehabilitation Center. As we take turns meeting at the Lakeland Center on Sunday mornings, we are always happy to see some of our brothers and sisters there with us.

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Beth Virkler
Rochelle Ward

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Eph. 5:20

Recently, we enjoyed a visit from a group from the Morton Home for the Handicapped. We appreciated their loving spirit throughout the weekend. May God bless each and every one of them.

Sis. Angie May has moved to Parkview Haven. We wish her the best as she makes this new adjustment in her life.

Bro. Clyde and Sis. Mary Sue Waibel welcomed a new grandson into their family. Logan was born to Lee and Jodie Waibel on April 5. We apologize in the delay for this announcement.

Harvest Prayer

The harvest season's over;
The yield is gathered in;
God in His tender mercy
Has blessed us once again.

Vegetables and fruit and grain
Are heaped high everywhere,
Enough to see the winter
through
And still enough to share.

As God has blessed our harvest,
It's only right that we should
give
To those who are less fortunate,
Wherever they may live.

As we give thanks at table grace,
O may we humbly pray
That none would have an empty
plate
On this Thanksgiving Day.

—Kay Hoffman

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Jennifer Mangold
Sue Beebe

The inside cover of a book I read recently begins with:

"I'm not sure mothers need to be taught to pray, any more than they need to learn how to talk to their husbands or their earthly fathers."

"We just talk...impulsively, spontaneously, and sometime interminably."

"The lovely part is that while husbands and fathers grow weary with interminable conversations, God delights in them."

The writing continues but I stopped there and thought of how true those comments were. As a mother of young children, praying for patience and strength is a daily effort. At the same time, as the day goes on and lacking in adult conversation, I tend to hit the door as my husband gets home and yak, yak, yak. He's probably instantly in prayer upon arriving home asking for the same patience and strength. May God never grow weary of our cares and concerns (Psalm 65:2).

Our local prayers have gone to Pauline Laidig and Mildred Meister as they have both been hospital patients and in need of the Great Physician's healing touch (Eccles. 11:7).

As September 25 began to unfold, our prayers for nice weather were answered as many traveled to witness the outdoor marriage of Julie Kellenberger and Mark Beebe (Song of Solomon 7:10). Parents are Sis. Dianne Kellenberger (Morris, MN), Mark Kellenberger (Leicester, NC) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe of South Bend. As is always the case, the Lord answered our prayers,

and in this case, granted us a very beautiful day.

Sharing the Word with us this month were Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN).

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Hope Bucher

What a wonderful time of the year to stop and take in the beauty of God's awesome creation! We are so thankful to have been blessed with several visiting ministers over the last month. We want to thank Bros. Nile Bucher and Steve Frauhiger (both from Bluffton North, IN) for the weekend they spent with us. We appreciate each of their ministries. Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) also gave of his time to share the Gospel message with us. We were blessed by the ministry of Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) this month as well. We wish to thank all those who visited us. May God bless you.

We are thankful to have again started up the Wednesday night lessons for our children. We pray that the children can learn valuable life lessons and that the families can enjoy attending church together on Wednesday nights.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT Beckie Lehman Mary Beth Lehman

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:29-30

We rejoice with Luke Schafer, his parents, Bro. Scott, Sis. Gigi (South Bend) and family as he puts his heart and life into Jesus' hands to serve Him the rest of his

life. We are also rejoicing with Phillip Kyburz as he has turned his heart to the Lord in repentance. What a victory to surrender to Christ!

We are glad to welcome Bro. Tim and Joyce Ames and their family into our congregation. They previously met with the Valparaiso congregation, but now gather with us here in Wolcott.

Our congregation welcomes two new babies. Thad Michael joined Bro. Kip, Sis. Donita, Rebekah, Samantha, Valerie and Seth Edelman. Joshua Paul is the third son of Bro. Michael and Sis. Erica Wagenbach. Kaleb and Daniel are Joshua's big brothers. Little Thad spent a few days in the hospital his second week of life for tests. We pray God's blessings and keeping on these two little ones and their families.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL). God bless them for their service of love.

We were reminded lately to think of those who are shut-ins and unable to be about. The hours can get long and lonely. Are we each doing our part?

His Gentle Voice

First thing in the morning,
I fell on my knees
And approached the Lord in
prayer;
"Another day to serve Thee
and do thy will,
Please just show me where."

The day was filled
With plans and goals,
And deadlines to be met complete;
My mind was busy
Organizing each task
When I heard the Lord gently
speak.

"Take an hour or so
To visit the lonely
Their day is so empty and long."
"But Lord", I replied,
"I haven't the time"
And with my task I hurried on.

Soon I heard
The Lord's voice again
In His gentle tones He spake,
"At least write a note
Filled with cheer and love."
"But, Lord, this task just can't
wait!"

As I rushed about
Completing my tasks
The Lord's voice lingered in my
ears,
My heart grew heavy
My ambition slowed
"Til I fell on my knees in tears.

"Oh, Lord, forgive me!"
I cried in prayer
"Empty self from my heart and
mind!
No task is so great
No goal so worthwhile
To neglect a sharing time."

I set my task aside,
I opened God's Word
I felt refreshed and renewed in-
side;
I hurried off to share
With a lonely soul
An hour or so of my time.

We spoke of God's love,
How He faithfully provides
And how He speaks in gentle
ways;
In my heart I whispered
A prayer of thanks
For helping me to hear His voice
that day.
—S.S.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Judy Gehring
Karla Gerst

Another month has passed and with it there have once again been changes for the brethren in Burlington.

Ministering Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) was with us this past month. May he be richly blessed for sharing the Word.

We also wish the Lord's blessings and guidance to Kandi Heiniger (Doug and Tari) and Cory Wood who were married this past month. May they always feel the prayerful support of the Burlington congregation.

We are thankful for another addition in Burlington. We welcomed Lana Metzger (Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn, Pulaski, IA) recently as she has moved to the area for employment.

We were saddened to hear that Sis. Hazel Kuntz (Oakville, IA) passed away. Our prayers are with her daughter, Sis. Nelda Rowell (Bro. John, and her son, Leon Kuntz (Sis. Doris, Oakville), as well as her grandchildren, Bro. Landon (Tremont, IL), Nathan (Shanna), Clark (Carin), and Marisa. May they feel the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Live thou as thy wish will be
 To have lived when thou
 expirest.
 Treasures which have come to
 thee,
 Fame and wealth which thou
 desirest,
 Will not make thy death more
 sweet,
 For they are not thine to keep.

But a pure and loving heart,
 Conscience free from condemna-
 tion
 Can repose and peace impart,
 And in death give consolation.

All who are renewed in heart
 Can with joyfulness depart.

Wouldst thou such a heart at-
 tain?

Fear the Lord, His good word
 keeping!

For the time thou shalt remain
 Here on earth is in God's keep-
 ing.

Thus thy death thou wilt not
 fear,

But in welcome hold it dear.

Zion's Harp #253

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

"Offer unto God thanksgiv-
 ing..."

Psalm 50:14

There are many events in life that we can be thankful to God for—one being His great sacrifice of His Son on the cross. As Thanksgiving approaches, may we each one take a moment and reflect on the blessings that we should be thankful to God for.

Our congregation is thankful that Abby Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet) has found the grace to repent and turn her life over to the Lord. We rejoice with her and her family as she has given her testimony and is now our Sister in the Lord. We wish Sis. Abby much grace in her Christian walk.

We would like to thank the following visiting ministers who came to be with us and preach the Word: Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka, IL), Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA), Bros. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) and Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine, Burlington, IA).

Our Sis. Jill Schupbach has completed her nurse's training and has now found employment as an LPN. We are thankful that she is able to still assemble with us in Elgin. We wish Sis. Jill many blessings that certainly come along with the nursing occupation.

October 16 was the wedding day of Candace and Dalen Moser. Parents of the couple are Roger and Charlene Halverson, Clermont, and Carl and Laura Moser, Elkader. We wish Candace and Dalen many blessings as they begin their married life together.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Laura Funk

Ministering to our spiritual needs this past month were Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) and Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN), and Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA). Bro. Doug and Bro. Gerry read the Memorandum. Many teachings, directions, admonitions and warnings were given on our behalf. These messages are given in love, that we may reach that Heavenly Home.

Hallelujah! Heavenward,
 Let thy thanks ascend;
 Thou shalt also join thy Lord
 At the journey's end.
 Then thou shalt be
 Where all pain is turned aside,
 There to praise Him, glorified
 Eternally.

Zion's Harp #91

We are enjoying beautiful fall weather. God's handiwork is being displayed by the array of colors covering the hills and valleys in the form of trees.

The harvest season is upon us. We are thankful for the bounty the

Lord has provided.

So now again Thou hast
To us a blessing given.
Our handiwork is blest
By thy good Word from Heaven.
Thou blessest food and drink
Our needs to satisfy.
Therefore, we give Thee thanks;
Our song shall rise on high.

Zion's Harp #13

Bro. Phil Webber had the misfortune of breaking some ribs while picking apples. We pray for Phil's speedy recovery.

We look at the calendar, and realize the day set aside to celebrate Thanksgiving is rapidly approaching. While searching for something about Thanksgiving, I sat and thought about all the physical blessings we enjoy compared to that first Thanksgiving many years ago. Would we be better off spiritually if some of our material blessings were taken away? Would we thank the Lord or complain louder? There are God-fearing people with bare necessities who love and live for the Lord.

Thankful for health, Thankful
for life,
Thankful for guidance in sorrow
and strife.

Thankful for food and ripe
golden grain,
For all that is needful our life to
sustain.

Thankful for friends who just
stand by
Upon whose help we can rely.

Thankful for home with comforts
blest,
Where peace abides with love and
rest.

Thankful for those who daily im-
part,
Strength for the journey, cheer
for the heart.

Thankful to work in rich moist
soil
Where roses bloom, to compen-
sate toil.

Thankful to hear the still small
voice
making our heart in life's sor-
rows rejoice.
Gospel Hymns #480

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! At our annual meeting this month, responsibilities were again reassigned. Heartfelt thanks are extended to those who have faithfully completed their duties (including Sis. Sharon Gerst, Silver Lining Correspondent for the past 2 years), as is our prayerful support for those assuming new duties.

We also sincerely thank all of our visitors this past month, including ministering Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL). So often our small sanctuary would be quite empty were it not for our visitors. We pray God will bless each of you who make the effort to assemble with us.

We have recently finished listening to the Conference tapes, and are very thankful for the Elder brothers' gift of discernment. We pray each of us will submit to those who watch for our souls, that we may all be found true and faithful when the Lord returns.

The first topic addressed at the Conference was the benefits of being faithful to our calling:

1. Blessings in this life. Promised blessings are abundant in the

Bible. In Malachi 3:10, God's people are challenged to "prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Jesus also demonstrated this when He fed the 5000: to those willing to give up their 5 loaves and 2 fishes, they and the whole multitude were fed and there were more "leftovers" than that with which they started!

2. Witness to others. It will be obvious to our children, friends and coworkers if we support our Church and if serving our God is our first priority. True Christians are really the "Living Word" if they live their lives according to the Bible, and can expose those who might never have read a Bible to the Way of the Cross.

3. Preserve the Church. As we heard, we don't want to preserve something to sit on a shelf or to be read about as a part of history, but to preserve it as something that lasts and is still useful—useful to fulfill God's will on the earth.

4. Eternal Life. If only our human minds could comprehend what awaits us in Heaven! Whether we look forward to meeting a loved one gone on before, or escaping the trials and temptations of this life, or at last seeing God and Jesus face to face, we can look forward to Heaven even if we cannot relate to walking on streets of pure gold.

May meditating on the benefits of being faithful stir us to give more abundantly and cheerfully, "for it is in giving that we receive, and in loving that we are loved."

Faithful Until Death Remain!
Faithful until death remain!
For the crown of life be striving.
Break through bonds of woe and

pain,
In His promise e'er confiding,
Which through grace is kept in
store
For thee when thy journey's o'er.

There no crown shall e'er adorn
Him who wavers in the battle.
He who bears reproach and
scorn,
Keeping faithful in the struggle,
Shall receive the crown so bright,
Glorious as the sun's own light.

If this treasure you await,
In the conflict grow not weary.
Peace abounds in Jesus' path,
Though the way seems often
dreary.
We must toil through sweat and
pain
If the promised prize we'd gain.

Have you vowed to serve the
Lord,
'Neath His banner ever fighting?
Flee the evil of this world,
Satan and his power smiting;
Till the victor there shall be,
Waving palms of victory.

Thus our duty is made plain,
Trusting and in God abiding.
Faithful to thy Lord remain;
Till your eyes in light beholding,
See prepared there for the blest
Shining crowns of righteousness.
Zion's Harp #105

IOWA, LESTER
Sue Warner
Cindy Leuthold

It was truly uplifting to hear the sincere testimonies of five dear souls who told of how God had changed their lives, on the weekend of October 16. With open arms we welcome Bro. Justin and Sis. Jodi Metzger, Sis. Sherri Doorneweerd, Sis. Kary Hartter,

and Bro. Monte Van Wyhe into the fold. Here to assist Bro. Dennis were Elder Bros. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) for the occasion. Other visiting ministers who have lent of themselves for us this month were Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN). We appreciate their visits very much.

Four new babies have been born to add joy to everyone. Congratulations to Bro. Travis and Sis. Kathy Knobloch on the birth of Kiana Mae on September 27. She has one sister, Tyra. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knobloch and Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold (LaCrosse, IN). Leah Marie was welcomed home to first-time parents, Bro. Jerod and Sis. Carla Metzger, on October 4. Her happy grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Kristy Metzger and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter (Sabetha, KS). A bundle from Heaven, Micah Owen, has joined the family of Bro. Brad and Sis. Trinda Meyer, also. Micah has a brother, Reagan, and a sister, Madeline. Grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla Meyer and Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). He was born on October 5. Also, first-time grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte Metzger with the birth of Dylan Jeffery to his parents, Jeff and Stephanie Jurgens. We pray for God's blessings to all these loved ones as they bring up their children in the ways of truth and goodness.

October 3 was the wedding day chosen for the marriage of Bro. Dudley Knobloch and Sis. Sara Metzger as family and friends joined to witness their vows. Parents of the dear couple are Bro.

Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch and Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb Metzger.

A wedding reception was held at the Fellowship Hall to honor the newlyweds, Bro. Monte and Sis. Karla Gerber. They were married recently in Morris, MN and we wish to welcome Sis. Karla to Lester. Bro. Bill and Sis. Erma Gerber and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby Schmidgall are parents to the dear couple.

Jami Metzger and Scott Hamilton exchanged wedding vows on September 25. Jami and Scott's parents are Charles and Linda Metzger and Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Hamilton. May all these dear couples seek God as they establish new homes.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Matt Hartter as he has sought the Lord and has started repenting. The earnest desire seen in the eyes of new converts gives renewed hope and strength to all who live for Him. Matt's parents are Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gail Hartter.

Erin Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie) has been announced for peace and awaits to give her testimony. Plans have been made for provings to be held on November 20. We look forward to this special occasion.

We also wish to remember Bro. Ernst Metzger as he observed his 90th birthday recently. He and Sis. Ella reside at Lyon Manor in Rock Rapids, IA and enjoy fairly good health. We enjoy and appreciate these and other older brothers and sisters who are pillars in our faith.

Note of Thanks:

Words cannot express our deep gratitude and appreciation for all the support and kindness shown to us in so many ways during the

long illness and death of our beloved husband, father and grandfather. May God bless each one of you.

The family of Fred Metzger, Jr.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Melody Steiner

Debra Wagenbach

We welcome Bro. John Wagenbach into our precious brotherhood. His thankful family includes his wife, Sis. Marilyn; and children, Bro. Dave, Sis. Beth Steffen (Congerville, IL), Sis. Jerilyn Yackley (Taylor, MO), Sis. Heidi Larson, and Sis. Mary Lanz. We thank Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) for sharing this weekend with us.

This past month we laid to rest our dear Sis. Hazel Kuntz. She reached the age of 94. Our sincere sympathy is extended to her son, Bro. Leon (Sis. Doris), and daughter, Sis. Nelda Rowell (Bro. John). May God comfort them.

Three new babies have blessed our congregation. Bro. Dave and Sis. Karla Eberhardt welcome Levi Joseph into their family. Emily, Jacob and Abby are happy for a new baby brother. Bro. Jody and Sis. Ruby Eberhardt and Bro. Lloyd Massner (late Sis. Edith) are thankful grandparents. Bro. Chuck and Sis. Lois Massner's newest addition to their family is Justin David. Stephanie, Billy and Jonathan complete their family circle. Bro. Ben and Sis. Phyllis Knobloch (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Rich and Sis. Corrine Schmidgall (Morris, MN) are Justin's grandparents. Thomas Christopher is the given name of Chris and Barbechen Korver's second son. Big brother James, along with his grandparents, Sis. Luanne Beyer and Peter Beyer (Columbus, OH) and Julie Korver (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) are thankful

for Christopher's safe arrival. Bro. Gerald and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach, Sr. have a new grandson. Joshua Paul is their twentieth grandchild and the third son of Bro. Michael and Sis. Erica Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN). May God bless our families and keep them close in His care.

IOWA, PULASKI

Lisa Knecht

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

I Thess. 5:18

Surely, we have every reason to thank our Heavenly Father. Although hardships are the way of a pilgrim's life, he often grows more thankful and closer to God with each trying step. How relieved and overjoyed the pilgrim will be when he has reached the "new country", Heaven, for which he has striven for.

We appreciated the opportunity to hear the Conference tapes once again this fall. We all, perhaps, remembered a different warning or encouragement. I had to think of the warning: "When we become deceived we lose our sensitivity to the Spirit." If we are no longer sensitive to God's guiding Spirit, what will be directing our lives?

A special thank you to ministering Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie, Silverton, OR) for visiting our congregation and sharing God's truths with us.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Eunice Fehr

Berniece Banwart

*Thanksgiving Proclamation
of 1863*

It has seemed to me fit and proper that the gifts of God should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged with one heart and one voice by the whole American people. I do, therefore, invite my fellow citizens...to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.

—*Abraham Lincoln*

We were thankful to welcome Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Sis. Mary, Kansas City, MO) on October 10 and for his willingness to proclaim words of truth on that day.

Bro. Ken Banwart (Sis. Marlene) is in the hospital at the time of this writing. It is our prayer that God will restore his health and he can soon be home again.

We have had beautiful weather to harvest and pray that it can be finished without accidents or injuries.

Thankfulness is an attribute,
A quality of life,
Which can make existence
sweeter
And lighten every strife.
To appreciate is golden;
To say so is divine,
And thankfulness should come
each day,
Not wait for a special time.
Thanksgiving Day is every day;
November brings it near,
Remembering with grateful
hearts

The blessings of all year.

—*Mary A. Barnard*

JAPAN, SHIODA

Takehiro Itoh

Bro. Willis Ehnle and his wife,

Sis. Lois, got a new present from our God. Their daughter, Joy, delivered a new baby on October 7. Sis. Lois went to New Jersey where their daughter lives to help. We pray that God will give her good works and good health and a safe return.

We thank Elder Bro. Akito Inoue from Tokyo and his wife, Sis. Marie, for being with us and sharing God's Word with us. The Elders exchange churches every two months.

We had an "uta no Kai", that is the time to practice singing, on October 17. We practiced some Christmas carols because we will go to the Ichinomiya Hot Springs Hospital to give God's Word and some presents and to sing some songs on Sunday afternoon near Christmas Day. We practiced with a piano and a leader at this time. We enjoyed ourselves and thank God for the wonderful songs which have a power to make our hearts peaceful. I pray that our voices will help give many patients peace.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew & Jana Klaus

Christian greetings from Tokyo. Since we have entered Autumn, it seems our pace has slowed down, so we do not have too much to report this month. However, we are enjoying the cooler weather and the time of harvest (mainly rice and garden vegetables in this country). We do have four seasons here in Tokyo—comparable to Tennessee's climate in America,

On Sunday, October 10, the Ehnlé's and Inoue's "exchanged" churches, and we thank Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois for their labors and fellowship. Several of us enjoyed an eat-out together after church, too. The next day, Sis. Lois

headed to the airport to fly to the U.S. to help their daughter, Joy (and Jay) Bao, who had a baby girl, Emily; number 6 grandchild for Willis and Lois. We know they feel greatly blessed.

Sunday, October 10, was "Athletic Day," a national holiday, but it was observed on October 11. Since most people are off from work that day, a group of us from Tokyo and Shioda churches met for a day in the mountains, hiking and cooking out. We had beautiful weather and thoroughly enjoyed the Lord's beautiful creation. We are looking forward to another meeting in the mountains on November 3, for our Fall Shuyokai (fellowship meeting) in which all churches attend. That day is also a national holiday (most people know that the Japanese are known for long hours of work and school, but they do have quite a large number of national holidays). This time the holiday is "Cultural Day" where crafts, flowers, projects, hobbies etc. are displayed at parks and city halls.

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer,"

Psalm 19:14

KANSAS, BERN

Jill Hartter Holly Meyer

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

Psalm 127:3

On 9-9-99 at 9:09 a.m., Waymer and Pauline Esslinger became grandparents to Matthew Joseph. He was born to Stan and Dawn Feldkamp (Seneca, KS). Big sister, Kaycee, welcomes her little

brother home. May God's blessings rest on them and their family.

We are thankful for visiting ministers, Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Robert Stoller (Lamar, MO) who shared from God's Word with us.

Hospitalizations this month include Sis. Lucy Rokey and Sis. Glenda Rokey. May God continue to give them strength and healing.

We are grateful to God for allowing our Elder Bro. John Lehman a safe return from his World Relief trip to Eastern Europe. We appreciate him sharing some of the experiences he had that we too can know what our churches face over seas. We can be thankful for what we have here in America, but also learn and grow from their lives.

As we are experiencing another harvest season and Thanksgiving is quickly approaching, let our hearts be praising God for all the many blessings He has given. Reflecting most of all on the sacrifice of His only begotten Son so that we can live in His grace and have the hope of life everlasting.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Joleen Sinn

The Sunday School students enjoyed the annual picnic this year held at Gunn Park. We appreciate all the work that the teachers put into making a wonderful time for the children.

Having found peace with God and man, Tyler and Tim Banwart (Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie) are looking forward to being baptized. We rejoice with these young men and their family, and praise God for His perfect peace.

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."

Rev. 3:4

We are rejoicing that Robin Braker (Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller, Lamar, MO) has answered Christ's call. How wonderful to fall into the arms of a loving God.

We want to thank Bro. Bob Stoller (Sis. Janice) for ministering to us one Wednesday evening this month. It is always a blessing to have Bro. Bob, Sis. Janice and their family assemble with us.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Laura Wagenbach
Jennifer Stewart

We've had a very special occasion to celebrate recently and that was the 100th birthday of our dear Sis. Shopia Kircher. Her grandchildren planned a special weekend including an open house on Sunday afternoon. Several of her family attended church with us. It was such a blessing to have that many in attendance.

We ask God's healing hand on Bro. Elmer Tanner and Sisters Alice Tanner and Matilda Schupach as they have recently had medical problems.

As the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays approach, let it be our prayer that our thoughts be heavenward.

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Sarah Somerhalder

Our assembly enjoyed all who came for Invite-a-Guest weekend held September 25-26. Among our guests were ministering Bros. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO). May the Lord richly bless them for their willingness to share God's Word with us.

We rejoice and are thankful that God is still calling souls in our congregation. Kent Kraft (Bro.

Doug and Sis. Judy) has been announced as having peace in his heart and is looking forward to baptism.

Bro. Albert and Sis. Mara Jean Edelman are the grandparents of a little grandson, Thadd Michael, born to Bro. Kip and Sis. Donita Edelman (Wolcott, IN). Maternal grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Rita Furrer (Wolcott, IN). Little Thadd has three sisters and a brother to welcome him.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held October 10 at Redmond Dam. It was certainly a beautiful fall evening and was enjoyed by young and old alike.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Brenda Grimm
Mary Kay Wenger

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

Psalm 127:3

On September 27, Ashley Grimm, along with her parents, Bro. Darin and Sis. Marci, welcomed little Brianna Lyn into their home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Ruby Grimm and Eugene and Judy Edelman.

We also extend our congratulations to Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter on the birth of their granddaughter, Leah Marie, to Bro. Jared and Sis. Carla Metzger (Lester, IA) on October 3.

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

II Timothy 4:2

We are thankful for the one visiting minister we have had this past month. May God bless Bro.

Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) and his family for his efforts in bringing forth the true Word of God.

A Light upon the Shore

We've journey'd many a day
Upon an ocean wide,
Amid the mist and spray
Of many a surging tide;
But, lo! The land is near!
For just beyond the foam
I see it bright and clear,
The light of home, sweet home.

We've had our storms of doubt,
Our rains of bitter tears,
Our fightings fierce without,
Within our anxious fears;
But, lo! The storms are past,
They cannot reach us more;
We've sighted land at last,
The blessed stormless shore.

O land of calmest rest,
Where suns no more go down!
O haven of the blest,
With bliss and glory crown'd!
No more the storm, the dark,
The breakers and the foam,
No more the wail, for hark!
We hear the songs of home.

There's a light upon the shore,
brother
It flashes from the strand;
The night is almost o'er, brother,
The haven's just at hand.

Gospel Hymns #123

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

We were blessed with two visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Marvin Stieglitz and Sis. Joan (Leo, IN) were traveling nearby and took the time to meet with us for Wednesday evening services. Then, on October 10, Bro. Ralph Garber ministered to us. He and his wife, Sis. Lynn,

made the long trip from Morton to be the first in what we hope will be a series of visiting ministers on the second Sunday of each month. We thank these brothers for their prayers and their concern for us.

Last month I failed to report that Sis. Carol Carter became a grandmother again. Her new grandchild is Cole Michael, born August 16 to Darren and Michele Carter of Harrisburg, PA.

We have reasons to rejoice over the birth of another child. Jared was born to Leon and Dr. Sharon Norris on October 9. He has a sister, Johannah, and a brother, Jacob.

Bro. Al Langhofer responded quite well to his recent surgery. We praise God for His healing powers and thank Him that Bro. Al can enjoy a better quality of life.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Glenda Neukomm

As God's children we can trust Him to defend us as we do His will. Even when the battle seems too great and it appears that we face defeat, we must still trust the Lord. We can be encouraged by remembering Elisha's message to his servant: "...they that be with us are more than they that be with them" (II Kings 6:16). We are not alone!

I have promised you My presence
With you everywhere you go;
I will never, never leave you
As you travel here below.

—Rose

The beautiful colors of fall once again remind us of God's wonderful and miraculous handiwork and as the poem said, that He is with us. As we see Him in the seasons of the year and all around us every day, how can we not help but

realize what a wonderful God we serve.

We are very thankful for the visiting ministers who brought the Word to us this past month: Bros. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) and Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH). Also we enjoyed many visitors from Latty, Junction, Rittman, Mansfield, Francesville, Remington, Tremont and Eureka over the past month.

Elaine Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) has moved here from Rittman, OH. We are very happy to have her join us in Lexington. It is our prayer that the Lord will bless and provide for her as she seeks employment here.

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

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Rhonda Knochel

Peggy Jackson

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

Luke 15:10

I can think of few things that bring as much joy to the church as hearing the testimony of a soul who has repented. We had the privilege of hearing Sis. Charlene Wieland (Bro. Brian) share about her journey with the Lord on the road of repentance. We are so thankful for Sis. Char and pray that God's constant nearness will be her ever present help.

We were also thrilled to have Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bro. Andrew Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) here with us sharing in the joy of Sis. Char's testimony and baptism.

We thank them and their wives, for being willing to be used as ministers of the Gospel and pray God's richest blessings will be upon them.

We had several in our congregation spend time in the hospital recently. They are: Bro. Alf Kaeb (Sis. Hermine), Kip Wackerle (Patty), and Sis. Loretta Mosher (Bro. Winsor). It is our sincere prayer that each of them will experience complete healing if it can be God's will, and that they will feel His peace and nearness as they recover.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Bro. Lawrence Wieland (Sis. Lena), as he went Home to be with the Lord after a lengthy illness. Although we rejoice that he is now experiencing God's perfect peace and rest, we know that it is never easy to say goodbye to those we love; so we grieve with his family. May they, too, feel God's nearness in this difficult time.

With the passing of life we also rejoice with the birth of new life. Clinton and Sherry Ruegsegger welcomed home baby Hallie. We look forward to watching Hallie grow up in the years ahead. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Margret Ruegsegger.

May all of you find the peace and joy of the Lord filling your hearts in the month ahead.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Bonnie Bedolla Crystal Ramsier

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

Psalms 32:8

We were pleased to host the An-

nual Michigan Youth Day here on September 24-25. The youth are such a blessing to us and it was wonderful to have them all together for the weekend. We are grateful to Bro. Dennis Rassi and his wife, Sis. Diane, from Fairbury, IL for joining us and sharing the Word of God with our Michigan youth.

It was a blessing for us to host the Eastern Regional Elder Meeting on October 16. We would like to thank all of the Elder brothers for their ongoing efforts, love and shepherding. May God continue to bless them with wisdom and grace in their service for the Lord and His Church. Also, several Elder brothers stayed for Sunday and ministered to our congregation. Those Elders and their wives were Bro. Kevin Ryan and Sis. Cheryl (Rockville, CT), Bro. Duane Farney and Sis. Karen (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Bro. Ken Indermuhle and Sis. Linda (Sardis, OH), and Bro. Andy Stoller and Sis. Roberta (Smithville, OH).

We want to express our sincere sympathy to Bro. Lucas Frank in the loss of his grandmother Sis. Emma Knobloch, from Bradford, IL. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family during this difficult time.

As winter draws nearer, it is hard to see some of our congregation leave for the warmer states. Bro. Len and Sis. Audry Hitz left for Florida and we wish them God's blessings for the next couple of months while they enjoy the warmer climates.

On October 7, Leigh and Steve Schamp welcomed a baby girl, Jordan Kennedy, into their family. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Wilma Simpson from Champaign, IL. What a miracle it is to see God at work in the addi-

tion of a child into this world!

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Delores Sauder**

The beautiful leaves have fallen and the fruits of the fields are being harvested. We are thankful for all of God's blessings.

Let Us Give Thanks

Let us give thanks for every-
thing—

The charm of fall, the cheer of
spring,

The unmatched splendor of the
skies,

Songbirds, brooks and butter-
flies—

Let us give thanks for all good
gifts,

Inspiring words and faith that
lifts,

Various joys of every kind,
Enduring health, and peace of

mind—

Let us give thanks for all that
cheers,

Home and family, fruitful years,
Abundant blessings of the land,

Neighbors, friends that lend a
hand,

Knowledge, ventures to pursue,
Sleep and rest when day is

through,

God's love to guide us on our
way—

For all these things, on this glad
day...

Let us Give Thanks!

—author unknown

Charity Tilbury (Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb) and Randy Parkin were united in marriage on September 25. We wish them God's blessings.

Tiera Wiegand (Bro. John and Sis. Jane) had surgery. We pray that she will be well soon.

We enjoyed having Elder Bro.

LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN) bring forth God's Word. May God richly bless him for his efforts.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Nancy Wulf
Dianne Kellenberger**

Autumn is upon us and once again the farmers are reaping a bountiful harvest. We hope and pray that when the day of grace is ended, God will also reap a bountiful harvest with those that have heeded the call and have remained faithful.

Supper Time

When I was but a boy in days of
childhood

I used to play til evening shadows
come

Then winding down an old famil-
iar pathway

I heard my mother call at set of
sun.

Come home, come home it's sup-
per time,

The shadows lengthen fast,

Come home, come home it's sup-
per time;

We're going home at last.

One day beside her bedside I was
kneeling,

And angel wings were winnowing
the air

She heard the call for Supper

Time in Heaven

And now I know she's waiting for
me there.

Come home, come home it's sup-
per time,

The shadows lengthen fast,

Come home, come home it's sup-
per time;

We're going home at last.

In visions now I see her standing
yonder

And her familiar voice I hear

once more,
 The banquet table's ready up in
 Heaven
 It's supper time upon the golden
 strand.
 Come home, come home it's sup-
 per time,
 The shadows lengthen fast,
 Come home, come home it's sup-
 per time;
 We're going home at last.
Melodies of Praise

We sincerely thank Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) for visiting our congregation and for speaking unto us God's teachings. May God bless him for his efforts on our behalf.

Our prayers and concerns are with Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra) and Bro. Steve Schaefer (Sis. Pam) who have been hospitalized. May God continue to heal and hold them in His arms of love.

September 25 was a lovely day in South Bend, IN for the outdoor wedding of Julie Kellenberger and Mark Beebe. They were united in marriage by Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN). We pray they will look unto God from whence cometh all our help. Parents of the couple are Sis. Dianne Kellenberger, Mark Kellenberger (Lesceister, NC) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe (South Bend, IN).

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Carol Messner
Becky Braulick

"If any man teach otherwise and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; he is proud, knowing nothing."

I Timothy 6:3

We have to dare to be a Daniel

and dare to stand alone for that which is right and not follow the crowd.

"And fear not them which kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

Matthew 10:28

We were thankful to have Bro. Dewayne Dill and Sis. LaRae and family (Minneapolis, MN) here for a welcome service. For their efforts and love shown us, we offer our thankfulness.

On September 18, Mitchell Lauwagie and Jessica Berskow were united in marriage. We pray for the Lord's guidance in their marriage. Parents of the couple are Howard and Charlene Lauwagie and Jeff and Joy Berskow, all of the Winthrop area.

Surgical patients this past month were Bro. Dick Schmidt (Sis. Mary Lou), Bro. Marvin Messner (Sis. Gerri) and Levi (son of Walter and Sis. Bonnie Eskuri). We pray for God's healing touch in their lives.

Every good gift comes from God. We pray we will never forget it and remember to offer gratitude to God for these gifts, seen and unseen.

For Big Things and for Small
 Thank You, God, for every-
 thing—

the big things and the small,
 For "every good gift comes from
 God"—

the giver of them all.

And all too often we accept
 without any thanks or praise
 The gifts God sends as blessings
 each day in many ways.

And thank You for the "miracles"

we are much too blind to see,

Lord, give us new awareness
 of our many gifts from Thee.
 And help us to remember
 that the key to life and living
 Is to make each prayer a prayer
 of thanks
 and every day thanksgiving.

—*Helen Steiner Rice*

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Brent Kellenberger

On the weekend of October 16-17, our congregation had many visitors. Ministering Bro. Mike Baumann and his wife, Sis. Florina, traveled from Mansfield, OH to be with us. We greatly appreciate all that Bro. Mike did for us throughout the weekend. We pray that God will bless him for his willingness to share from the Word and his life. We also were privileged to have several visiting single groups with us over the weekend. Hopefully everyone had a blessed weekend and a safe journey home.

Our prayers continue to be Sis. Anna Lou Aberle who was hospitalized this past month. We trust God will heal her according to His will.

September 25 was our annual workday at church. We're thankful for each person that made the effort to attend.

On October 10 we had a farewell singing for Bro. Ken and Sis. Amy Beyer. We will miss them (and daughter Sophie) as they move on to the Denver, CO congregation. We pray that God will bless them wherever He leads.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Carolyn Banwart
Kristi Huber

Rejoicing with Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda Banwart, we were happy to hear that their daughter,

Andrea, has sought the Lord in repentance. We pray she may feel God's nearness and guidance in this step in her life.

We bid farewell to Bro. Phil, Sis. Rebecca, and Hannah Braker. We trust that God will be with them as they establish their home in Ft. Scott, KS.

We apologize for failing to report the birth of Kaitlyn Alexandra on July 16. Happy first-time parents are John and Jo Ann Wentland (Coupeville, WA). Maternal grandparents are Fred Marti and Sis. Carol Marti. Great-grandparents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Bonnie Braker and Bro. Dale and Sis. Corrine Marti.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Hymns of Zion #95

As the Thanksgiving season approaches, may we recall the many blessings of this past year, and thank God for His goodness and mercy.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS Rachel Schrock

"Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will shew to you today... The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace."

Exodus 14:13-14

In a recent sermon we were encouraged to fear not, be still, and let the Lord do His work. We were reminded that when we are con-

cerned about our loved ones who have not yet given their lives to the Lord, fervent prayer is our greatest resource.

Another great resource that we are enjoying here in St. Louis is listening to the tapes of the Brotherhood Conference and gaining strength from the wonderful instructions that our great God moved our dear Elder brothers to bring to the church. May we never take this encouragement for granted!

We have also received encouragement in the past month from our visiting ministering brethren. Those who have labored on our behalf include Bros. Dave Wiegand (Sis. Ethel, Champaign, IL), Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL), Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith, Elgin, IL), and Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol Anne, Peoria, IL). We were also encouraged by our other visiting brothers and sisters. May God bless each one of you for spending time with us.

If you are considering traveling our way, we invite you to spend a Sunday with us. If you are not too pressed for time, please join us as we sing at a nearby nursing home for about a half hour after church, something that we do almost every Sunday. The residents there enjoy hearing the old time gospel favorites!

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Peg Haerr

Our Bible Class enjoyed participating in the Illinois ACYF which was held September 26 in Washington, IL. Thanks to the Washington church for hosting everyone, and to the Peoria Bible Class with whom Taylor spent much of the day.

The Bible Classes from several Iowa churches visited on Sunday, October 3. Hopefully, many last-

ing friendships were made.

The annual Fall Cookout for the Sunday School children was held October 10 at Bro. Roger and Sis. Diane Sutter's home. It was warm, but everyone had a nice time!

What a blessed weekend was enjoyed on October 16-17 as Sis. Ellen Gehring (Bro. Brad) was welcomed into the fold! Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Sis. Joan, Oakville, IA) and Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Sis. Kathy, Burlington, IA) lended their services that weekend.

Other visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO), and Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN). We thank them for their service.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. James Sutter (Sis. Lois) and Sis. Rosie Massner (Bro. Allen). May God's healing hand rest upon them.

We want to welcome Jacob Matthew Ackerman (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Melissa) of Indianapolis, IN. He was born August 16. His grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Stratton and his great-grandmother is Sis. Loida Hodel.

Hunter Louis Umland was born October 5 to Bro. Greg and Sis. Louanne Umland of Bloomington, IL. His grandparents are Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruthie Hoerr.

Also, Morgan Ann Knapp was born October 19 to Bro. Benj and Sis. Karen of Washington, IL. Her grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp and Bro. Ben Knapp is her great-grandpa. We pray for God's blessings upon these families.

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Anna Mellnitz**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

John 3:16-17

We had visiting sisters from Rockville and we had visiting sisters from Princeville and Cissna Park, IL. On October 8, we had visiting ministering Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT). On October 13, we had a visiting brother and sister from Silverton, OR; and a brother and sister from Junction, OH on September 27.

Sis. Polly Farney had surgery on her hip and is doing fine. We pray for God's healing hand to continue to heal her.

Sis. Amber Herzig has moved to Rockville, CT. She will be missed here but we pray she will adjust to her new home.

A baby boy was born to Louis and Cynthia Courtney. They named him Elids Kennedy. His brother, Noah, and grandparents, Nat and Sheila Virkler, welcome him home.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to express my thankfulness and appreciation for all that has been done for me the past five months and now with my recent hip surgery. The Lord has been good with an ongoing healing. I am thankful for loving family and church family and for prayers, cards, gifts and all visits. May God richly bless each one.

Sincerely,

Sis. Polly Farney

**OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser**

Our church building has been sold to a developer and we have the privilege of renting the church for seven months. We have been making plans to build a new church building and have acquired land for that purpose. Now that the building has been sold, we will proceed to implement those plans and construct a new house of worship. We realize we are totally dependent upon the Lord for His blessing and trust that we will continue to feel the guidance and wisdom from our Lord as we proceed with this project. We are abundantly blessed when we have the privilege to assemble so freely for worship and fellowship. One of the joys of our Christian life is to assemble with dear brothers and sisters in faith along with friends and children.

Bro. Joseph Grossenbacher will be celebrating his "four score" birthday as he will be 80 years old November 1. May God continue to bless him.

We welcome Sis. Gerri O'Brien to our congregation. She is employed at the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home. We wish for her the Lord's continued blessings.

**OHIO, COLUMBUS
Anita Steiner**

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small.
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all.

He gave us eyes to see them
And lips that we might tell,
How great is God Almighty
Who has made all things well.

Hymns of Zion #207

Once again we see the seasonal changes around us. We feel the air getting cooler and see the leaves turning many different colors. It reminds us how great our God is and encourages us that our God is still in control of this world today.

We had another opportunity to serve others this month by having a World Relief night. We appreciate the time spent in fellowship with others. These evenings help us to count our blessings.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), and Bros. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT). May God bless these brothers' efforts to bring forth His Word unto us.

**OHIO, JUNCTION
Cindy Schlatter**

Now thank we all our God
With heart, and hands and
voices,

Who wondrous things has done,
In whom the world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms
Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

Zion's Harp #236

Audrey Elizabeth has arrived to bless the home of Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy Manz. Taylor excitedly welcomed home her baby sister. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Manz and Carol Benroth and Thomas Leatherman. May God's guidance be with them as they raise their family.

The Thanksgiving season will soon be upon us. As our families get together to enjoy time together and the bountifulness of

the earth, let us also remember to be most thankful for our Lord and Saviour's gift that we may have a hope of spending eternity in Heaven with Him.

OHIO, LATTY
Heidi Hackenjos
Kathy Sinn

Our congregation welcomes Bro. Marvin Manz (Jennifer) into the fold. It is heart-warming to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of a new brother in faith. Visiting that weekend were Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), and Bros. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Ben Manz, Don Manz and Sam Schlatter (all of Junction, OH), and Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH). Also visiting our congregation this month was Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL). Thank you brothers for sharing the Word with us.

Jessica Greutman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kristy) professes to have peace with God and man. Our prayers are with Jessica and we look forward to hearing her testimony and witnessing her baptism.

What a blessing when two souls seek the Lord in repentance. They are Rustin Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth) and Allison Stoller (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori). May God direct their paths as they establish their foundation.

May the Lord grant his blessings on Lane Stoller (Sis. Irma) and Rick Sawyer (Edith Sawyer) as they begin their lives as husband and wife. May the threefold cord bind their marriage together as they journey through life.

Also joined in marriage were Bro. Vince Schlatter (Gus and Sis. Leann) and Sis. Tessa Schamback (Bro. Lee and Sis. Carolyn, Bay City, MI). May the Lord watch over them as they establish a

home together.

Duane and Carrie Sinn brought home a new baby. Brooke Alison is welcomed home by little sister, Leah. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn, and Earl and Alison McClure.

Autumn Leigh joined the Neust family. Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula, Andrea, Aaron, Alyssa, Adam, and Arika welcome the new little one home. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Norma Neust (LaCrosse, IN) and Sandy Emerson (Fort Wayne, IN).

May the Lord bring healing to our surgery patients: Bro. Eli Schlatter (Sis. Janel), Bro. Wayne Stoller (Sis. Dorothy), Jeremy Stoller (Bro. Rod and Sis. Leann) and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce). Spending time in the hospital was Sis. Josephine Wenninger (Bro. Don) and Bro. Jim Gerber (Sis. Marge).

OHIO, MANSFIELD
John and Marci Pfeiffer

We thank Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) for bringing God's message unto us. May we continue to pray for our ministers.

"But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."

Acts 6:4

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bros. Lawrence Popp (Sis. Viola) and Wilbur Gerber (Sis. Millie) who have spent some time in the hospital.

Our Elder Bro. Kenneth Sauder (Sis. Suzanne) has completed his duties of minister and Elder. Bro. Ken has served in the ministry since 1961 and has been an Elder for the past twelve years. With tear-filled eyes, we thank him for his many labors in God's

vineyard.

On October 3, Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine) was ordained to be our Elder. We pray for a double portion of God's Spirit upon him. Retired Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH), Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) were with us during the ordination.

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

Luke 15:10

Our friend, Troy Baltic, is repenting! Troy is the son of Bro. Pete and Sis. Karen Baltic. We pray that he may feel God's grace and guidance.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Lucy Gasser
Lynda Beery

"And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord."

Jeremiah 23:4

We are grateful to God for the faithful shepherding of our retired Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer, who has diligently served as the Elder of our congregation since 1989. May our Heavenly Father continue to bless him and his dear wife, Sis. Martha.

On September 26, Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH), Eu-

gene Pamer (Akron, OH), and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted Elder Bro. Henry in the service as Bro. Merle Hartzler was ordained Elder. Also visiting us that day and bringing the Word of Life were ministering Bros. Fred Domka and Mark Masters (both of Mansfield, OH) and Steve Pamer and Paul Gasser (both of Akron, OH). We pray that God will guide our dear Elders and ministers continually with His Holy Spirit, that they may rightly divide the Word of Truth. May we always uphold the truth by being obedient to God's Word and heeding the warnings that our loving shepherds bring to us.

Bro. Eric Gasser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ellen) and Sis. Lisa Steiner (Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat) have been given faith to believe that they should be joined in marriage. Their engagement was announced on September 26. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare for their wedding day and, most of all, for a union in the Lord.

Bro. David and Sis. Carole Steiner and Robert and Martha Maag have a new little granddaughter to rejoice over. Isabel Marie was born to Bro. Brent and Sis. Andrea Steiner (Latty, OH) on September 14. They also have a son, Jacob.

On September 27, a little bundle of joy came to bless the home of Bro. Sam and Sis. Gail Hartzler. Heidi Renee joins her sister, Sarah, in this happy family. Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser and Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler are thankful grandparents.

Bro. Milan and Sis. Amy Baltic have also been blessed with a new little girl in their home. Megan Elizabeth was born on September 28. She has a sister, Molly, and her happy grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic (Lexington,

KY) and Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie Ingold.

Chris and Sarah Hilty have a new little daughter, Elizabeth Ann, born October 2. Grandparents are Sam and Judy Hilty.

We extend our love and sympathy to the family of Ken Gasser, who passed away recently. Ken leaves three sons, Michael, Larry and Terry; one brother, Bro. Glenn Gasser (Sis. Liz); and four sisters, Sis. Erma Ingold, Sis. Mabel Maibach (Bro. Roy), Sis. Alma Graf (Bro. Robert, Akron, OH), and Sis. Marie Bauman.

Rich and Michele Holcomb experienced sorrow in their family when Rich's father, James Holcomb, passed away. May God bless and comfort each one.

Our Bro. Jack Maibach (Sis. Deloris) has been moved from the hospital to a rehabilitation center. Boyd Acker spent some time in the hospital recently. For all of those who suffer, we wish the grace of God and His blessed nearness.

OHIO, SARDIS Angie Figel

One thing I seek
Far more than tongue can tell,
That in Thy holy place
With Thee my God
I might forever dwell...
O, Lord, I wish to see Thy splendor!
Prepare me now that I may enter
Thy mansion bright.
Zion's Harp #110

Amanda Alrutz (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet Indermuhle) feels that she has found peace with God and man, and desires to give her testimony of faith and be baptized into the fold. Our prayers will certainly be with her.

Visiting ministers this month

were Bros. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH), Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH) and Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL). May God bless them for their efforts.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Edith Miller Ruth Gasser

"While the earth remaineth, seed time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Genesis 8:22

Our great God continues to fulfill His promises, as He has to Noah years ago. The beauty and order of creation again unfolding to us this season reminds us of His greatness. As Thanksgiving Day approaches, we realize one day is not sufficient to give God praise.

We are thankful that three seeking souls have found the precious peace with God and man, and await to give their testimonies. They are Bonnie, Becky, and Andrew Dotterer, children of Dale and Sis. Elaine Dotterer. We rejoice with them, and look forward to accepting them into the family of God.

On September 19, Bro. Brad Maibach and Sis. Jessica Riegenbach became one in the Lord through Holy Matrimony. May they feel God's grace as they walk the path of life united and in concord. Parents of the couple are Bro. Rudy and Sis. Barb Maibach and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Lou Riegenbach. Visiting ministers on that day were Bros. Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), and John Stoller (Leo, IN). We thank them for lending themselves in God's service.

We are sorry that Logan, son of Doug and Melaney Nieman, had to have more surgery. Also, our prayers are with Sis. Inez Ramsier (Bro. Bob), who was hospitalized and temporarily lost her eyesight. While both are assembling with us again, the need for prayers doesn't diminish. May God grant grace and healing according to His will.

Our Great God, we praise Thee
now,
Lauding Thee with exultation:
The whole earth before Thee
bows
And adores Thy great creation,
As Thou Lord, hast been of yore,
Thou wilt stay forevermore.
Zion's Harp #101

OHIO, TOLEDO
Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter

It is wonderful to share fellowship with those from various congregations. Among our recent visitors have been Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY). We appreciated their efforts in the ministry.

George Beard has been a hospital patient. We hope that he is soon feeling stronger again.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Louisa Gallup

Greetings everyone!

We recently finished listening to the Conference tapes. It was quite inspiring and uplifting. May the Lord richly bless those who put forth their efforts; it is surely appreciated by all. It is so good to know that we have all these Elder brethren looking out for us and willingly serve. May we never forget them in our prayers or take

them for granted.

Looking back over the past month, we enjoyed a good number of visitors. Among them were Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) and Bros. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) and Don Sinn (Sis. Linda), all from Silverton. We are thankful for their willingness to serve and share the Word with us. We thank everyone for coming our way. Please come again.

OREGON, SILVERTON
RosaLee Kuenzi

We rejoiced to hear the announcement that Rachel Kuenzi (Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Beth) believes she has found peace with the Lord. We are thankful for the grace that makes true repentance possible and for the faith to believe in the peace that it brings, each a priceless gift from our Lord.

There was joy also in the home of Monte and Kellie Kuenzi with the arrival of a precious little girl named Jenna Renee. She was born on September 29, and is welcomed by her sister, Madisen, and brother, Nolan. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. RosaLee Kuenzi and Woody and Shari Hill of Silverton.

Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Sis. Bess) was a hospital patient this past month. Thankfully he is feeling better at this writing.

Bro. Robert Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) was a visiting minister this past month. May the Lord be his rich rewarder.

PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA
Nathan Gasser

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Psalm 27:1

The Lord has richly blessed our congregation by bringing another soul into His fold this month. We rejoice with our new Sis. Kim Lanz and her parents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn Lanz. May the Lord bring her much peace and comfort in her new walk with Him.

This month our small congregation was blessed to host brothers and sisters on a bus trip from Eureka, IL and several other congregations. We shared an evening of singing and a blessed day of worship with our visitors. We're grateful for the opportunity to fellowship with other believers and invite all who might wish to visit the east coast to join us for worship on Sunday or on Wednesday evening.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank all those who remembered us with prayers, cards and gifts during the time of my surgery and recovery. May God bless each one of you.

In Christian love,
Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda Isch

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Gwen Leuthold

A Thankful Heart

Take nothing for granted, for
whenever you do
The "joy of enjoying" is lessened
for you—
For we rob our own lives much
more than we know
When we fail to respond or in
any way show
Our thanks for the blessings that
daily are ours...
The warmth of the sun, the fragrance of flowers,
The beauty of twilight, the freshness of dawn,

The coolness of dew on a green
velvet lawn,
The kind little deeds so thought-
fully done,
The favors of friends and the love
that someone
Unselfishly gives us in a myriad
of ways,
Expecting no payment and no
words of praise—
Oh, great is our loss when we no
longer find
A thankful response to things of
this kind,
For the *joy of enjoying* and the
fullness of living
Are found in the heart that is
filled with *Thanksgiving*.
—*Heart Gifts from Helen
Steiner Rice*

This past month we welcomed ministering Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN). Other visitors were from Washington, IL; Rockville, CT; Remington, IN; and Eureka, IL. We thank Bro. Greg for ministering God's Word to us and also thank he and his wife as well as all of our other visitors for traveling to fellowship and worship with us.

If you are traveling in the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. We are meeting every Sunday with ministers present on the first and third Sundays and tape services scheduled for the second and fourth Sundays (also the fifth). In December, the following churches have been scheduled: Detroit, MI (December 5) and Gridley, IL (December 19). If you are planning to worship with

us, please contact one of the following numbers to assist us with meal planning: 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

Visiting ministers who have shared the Word with us this month include Bros. Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene, Goodfield, IL), Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL) and Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH).

We have a new schedule of services for 2000. If you know of someone in the area who may have an interest in attending, please contact us and we will be happy to send them a copy.

Through December, Central Texas services will be held on all Sundays except the first Sunday of the month and December 26. 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

It is interesting to read in the old testament how the temple was built.

"And within the oracle two cherubim of olive tree each ten cubits high.

The two doors also were of olive tree and he carved upon them carvings of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers and overlaid them with gold, and spread gold upon the cherubim and upon the palm trees.

And for the entering of the oracle he made doors of olive tree, and the lentil and side post were a fifth part of the wall: So also made he for the door of the temple posts of olive tree a fourth part of the wall."

I Kings 6:29,31-33

We have some wild olive trees in our yard in Texas so it is interesting to know the wood that was used to build the temple. The olive tree has a large white blossom. They are blooming now. These blossoms attract humming birds and butterflies.

We are looking forward to greeting our winter residents and visitors this winter.



Sermon continued from page 2

deal with that nature, and we have to realize that there are times the real motive there are those who are seeking. They are confused, and we are not going to help them at all if we make them feel more guilty and unworthy.

We can lead them to Christ through some of those situations. Or maybe that is not the time we are thinking about because their behavior doesn't seem very Christ-like then. Oh, if someone comes to us and they are very meek and humble and if they kind of flatter us and ask us for our advice and opinions, we are very willing then, aren't we, to share with them? But they don't all come that way, you see.

Sometimes the angel that may come to us unawares is that stranger, that one who is on the side of the road who has been beaten and has been left there to die. We are going by on our own mission. Are we the priest or the Levite or the good Samaritan?

Things don't always fit together in our time table. There are times that maybe we would really like to have the Lord reveal some special need to us because we are willing to go visit someone, or to go do something that very afternoon. Maybe nothing comes to our mind and the opportunity passes by. But I would venture that when we are busy and when we are thinking about ourselves, maybe these things flood into our minds and we don't take action then. We need to be doing the Lord's service.

It seems that we have spoken recently as well about the tongue, and how it is that we cannot control the tongue and all the examples of comparing the tongue, like the rudder of a great ship. It reminds us of the importance of our words.

"For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou

shalt be condemned." (Matthew 12:37). It puts a little fear into our hearts, doesn't it? When we say, "If our words are that important and if we really can't control our words, who then can be saved?" We might come to that conclusion.

But He is giving us another example right here and in other Scriptures as well. "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things." (Matthew 12:35). So it really comes down to (not that we pray for the ability to guard our thoughts), but that we just so fill our hearts with good things. We don't have to worry about what is going to come out. We don't even know some of those things.

Now we have an example here that I think is a good one for us and maybe especially speaks to those yet unconverted that haven't made the experience. It speaks about a cleansed heart. "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none." (Matthew 12:43). It goes on there.

I think the thought enters, especially in the minds of those unconverted, of having the desire to be a brother or sister with Christ, but still viewing the things from the life they are walking and thinking about all the things that just wouldn't be consistent with a Godly life. So they realize it is necessary to give those things up and not to continue to live in them anymore. They look and say, "Well, what is left? What is life?"

We maybe all had those who asked us and say, "Gary, you don't do this and you don't do that and these other things that occupy so much time." I have had those ask me, "Well, what do you do?" Those of us who are brothers and sisters hardly think about that. It seems

like we can't imagine anyone being more busy and I can't imagine how one would find the time to fit in some of those other activities. But it is different things we are doing.

We can't just sweep the house clean and leave it empty. I think that is an invitation to those of us who sit here as brothers and sisters to not just be content, but that with the help of the Lord, cleanse our hearts. We can't let it empty—something is going to come in and dwell there. Satan is still present around about us. We are no match for him.

Think about it even as we would think of it in terms of law and physics. If something is really empty, one example might be a vacuum. It is real hard to keep something from entering in. Just by the very nature, it is going to try to draw in anything around it. We can't have a heart that is empty, and now it is going to be filled. It is going to be filled with either evil things or good things.

What is the pressure all around us? It certainly is things of the world and of Satan. If we have a heart that is empty, it is as a vacuum, and with all this pressure around, it is going to creep in unawares and pretty soon there will be that state of equilibrium. There won't be any more vacuum and there won't be any more pressure. Our heart will be filled with the things of the world and we will be worse off than when we began. So we have to fill our heart.

We are reminded of the value in two-way communication with God—praying unto Him as we speak to Him and then reading in His Word and allowing Him to speak to us. Those things that reinforce, like fellowshiping together, singing together, meeting, greeting and all the things that we

Sermon continued next page

Sermon continued...

can do in-between services. We are made aware of those families that are suffering who lost loved ones, those that are upon hospital beds, and those who are not able to assemble with us and shut-in at home.

Some of you, I marvel, that you do an excellent job. We hear of your good deeds and we see the evidence of it and I know you would not want me to list those things because it would rob you of the blessing, but we thank you for it and we know that the Lord will bless. There is plenty for each one of us to be doing. I don't think we have met too many shut-ins that have complained to us that they have just been overwhelmed with the visitors.

Brother Dean was able to share with us last night a little bit sometimes of how it is necessary and yet humbling and difficult to maybe receive when we are in a time of need. We don't know when it might be our time of need, dear ones. We don't feel we are in that time of need right now. If we feel that we might be as one of the stronger, then let us help our brother who is weaker, and not say, "Well, if he would be more like me, he would be able to take care of himself." We don't find any

teachings of that kind in God's Word. It simply tells us to help our brother who is weaker.

It even tells us to forgive our brother, not seven times, but seventy times seven and, yes, you can multiply that out and it is four hundred ninety. At four hundred ninety-one, it doesn't mean to stop. He gave us that example that we should not keep track. We should even forgive before he comes to us. Sometimes that is hard, isn't it?

We kind of justify ourselves and we might hold something against someone and we are kind of waiting for them to humble themselves and come to us. We feel pretty good because we would be happy and we would be willing to forgive them. We would forgive them all. We would not extract any restitution; we just want them to crawl to us, and then we would forgive them. That is not the way the Lord has dealt with you or me. Let us not deal that way with our brother who owes us so very little compared to what we owe unto the Lord.

He simply said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28).

CASSETTES FROM EUROPE

We still have a supply of the cassette tapes produced in Austria containing beloved hymns of our old Heft (Long Book).

All profits from the sale of these tapes go to Europe, where the money is distributed among our very needy brethren in the Eastern European countries of East Germany, Hungary, Romania and others.

The Heft or Long Book tapes were recorded by Bro. Josef Farkasch, who is a music professor near Salzburg, Austria. He plays the classical guitar and many other instruments on three tapes of songs from the Long Book. Some include singing.

The Heft (Long Book) tapes include three volumes. Volume I includes songs 1-11, 13-18; Volume II includes songs 12, 19-31; Volume III includes songs 33-48. Each tape costs \$8.00. For shipping costs on orders of 1-5 tapes, add \$.75 extra for each tape. On orders of 6 tapes or more, add only \$.30 extra for each tape. Make checks for Long Book Tape payable to the Long Book Tape Fund.

Long Book tapes may be ordered from:

Don and Lorna Schrock
100 Forest View Road
Morton, IL 61550
(309) 266-6810

Dennis and Beth Feucht
317 North Third
Morton, IL 61550
(309) 266-9498



CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 1999-2000

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Tom Hitz, Ph. 734-454-9229. For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-925-2409. Note: Bro. Harold Witzig has retired from the coordinating position.

COUNTRY	GROUP	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAP.	FULL
Haiti	AWA-FRW	Oct 21-29, '99	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Vocational Sch.	4	100%
Haiti	AWA-T	Oct 21-29, '99	Les Cayes	Earl Sauder	Water Aid	4	100%
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	100%
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	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Feb24/Mar3, '00	Les Cayes	Jim Walter	Grade School	11	100%
Haiti	Palm Grove	Mar 3-11, '00	Puits Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11	100%
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 30-Apr 7, '00	Les Cayes	Art Mueller	Agriculture Aid	11	80%
Haiti	MEBSH	Mar 23-31, '00	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	11	20%
Jamaica	CCCD	Apr 13-21, '00	Kingston	(1) Roanoke Bible Cl.	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	100%
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 3-10, '00	Deaf Village	(4) Taylor/Princeville Sunday School	Work Place	40/50	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	June 10-17, '00	Kingston	(2) Morton Bible Cl.	Deaf School	40/50	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jul 15-22, '00	Knockpatrick	(3) Mansfield Bible Cl.	Deaf School	40/50	100%
Haiti	AWA-FRW	Oct 19-27, '00	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Vocational Sch.	4	50%
Haiti	AWA-T	Oct 19-27, '00	Les Cayes	Earl Sauder	Water Aid	4	50%
Haiti	MEBSH	TBA	Les Cayes	Bob Pfloderer	Hospital Lumiere	TBA	0%

CCCD=Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf
 MEBSH = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti
 Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti
 S.E.E.D. = An Agricultural School & Extension Service
 TBA = To Be Announced

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

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX
Earl Sauder	309-387-6357	309-387-6357
Duane Schieler	765-567-2922	765-567-2922
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	330-939-4591
Dean Pashek	517-662-7685	517-662-7099
Jim Walter	815-692-3158	815-692-2851
Bob Beebe	219-291-2158	219-299-8173
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885
Terry Miller	309-747-2212 or 941-485-4302	
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	TBA
Bob Pfloderer	309-266-5853	309-676-8455
(1) Kevin Fischer	309-923-7684	
(2) Stan Schick	309-263-8010	
(3) Pete Webel	419-529-2998	
(4) Kent Heimer	573-393-2440	
Andy Bauman	309-965-2174	309-691-6739
Les Gerber	219-824-2734	
Art Mueller	608-676-4365	608-676-5200

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. Jeff Leman (Sis. Val)
(219) 565-3815

Director of Operations

(formerly Assistant Administrator)
Position available Feb/March 2000

Desired credentials:

Godly focus, committed to Church
Strong financial skills (CPA or equivalent)
Managerial experience (Staff supervision)
Skillful and comfortable with people
(communication)

Benefits:

Attractive compensation and benefit package
Career Ladder: Opportunity for advancement
Positive, growth-oriented culture

Responses handled confidentially at:
Woodhaven Retirement Community

29667 Wentworth Avenue
Livonia, MI 48154-3256
Attn: Randy Gasser
(734) 261-9000

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.

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

Gateway Woods Auction

Saturday, August 19, 2000



ASSISTANT HOUSEPARENT OPENING

Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessing of being fully staffed with Houseparents for some time now. We have an opening for a single sister, directed of the Lord, to work in a full-time ministry with troubled children. The Assistant Houseparent position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Jeff Schumacher
Residential Program Director
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219)627-2159

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

- 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

THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS

A book of historical data of the Apostolic Christian Church as it relates to Bluffton.

300 pages of information
dating from 1870 to 1970.
\$10.00 each plus \$2.00 postage.

Contact:
Bro. Gene Baumgartner
5950 W 300 S-1
Bluffton, IN 46714
(219) 565-3064

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE ZION'S HARP REVISION

The Elder Body has approved the publication of a revised Zion's Harp hymnal. The Apostolic Christian Publications has a very limited supply of the prior version on hand and these will be available for sale until the existing supply is exhausted. We will not be reordering any more of the prior version due to the need to move forward with the new version as quickly as possible. We are taking great care to insure that the new printing will be of high quality. For this reason the exact timing of the availability of the new edition is not certain. Lord willing, the new edition will be available in the first quarter of next year. Should you have a desire for a copy of the old edition, you may contact the Bookstore in Eureka. If the supply is exhausted you may wish to contact your local church or surrounding churches to see if they might have copies available to meet your needs. We will make an announcement in a future Silver Lining to inform you when the new edition of the Zion's Harp is available. Thank you for your understanding during this period of transition.

The Apostolic Christian Publications Committee

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

ATTENTION WW II Veterans REUNION AT

Morton, IL, June 3-4, 2000

All veterans of WWII are invited. Brothers, sisters, and friends. Watch for Registration cards to be sent to all Apostolic Christian Churches.

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.



When Bro. Samuel Froehlich was exiled for his faith, he located in Strasbourg, France. He established a congregation there. A small remnant still remains. Several from the United States have visited the congregation in Strasbourg and have enjoyed the warm, brotherly hospitality of believers who worship in that city.

The following is an account of the conversion of Bro. Ernest Maennel (1878-1950) as related by his daughters, sisters Martha Klein and Suzanne Heintz. The latter visited in America during the summer of 1998.

A Conversion in Strasbourg

Ernest Maennel (1878-1950) grew up in the protestant state church in Germany. He was baptized as a child, and later "confirmed" in that faith.

As a young man he believed in God, but was not converted. Once, when traveling in central Germany, he told his sister who was traveling with him that he counted on God to help him find a job. She replied that in a large city it was better not to mention God (to employers).

Some time later he was again without a job and did not have enough money to go back home. In those days employers would often go to inns to seek prospective workers. Ernest thus went to an inn. He waited and soon became discouraged.

After awhile a bell rang and an employer asked if any painters were present. He ran up and introduced himself. The man asked if he would be willing to go with him to "Halle an der Salle". This was a town in Germany, a long distance from the inn. He was glad for a job and agreed. Ernest worked in Halle and his employer was satisfied with his work.

Soon, his employer hired another painter by the name of Rudolph. Rudolph was a religious fanatic who held services in the home of the boss. One day the boss asked Ernest if he would join them for services. He thought, "My boss has been good to me and brought me here from a long distance; so how can I refuse?" He began attending the group's services.

The meetings were not a blessing. It was distasteful to observe Rudolph reading the Bible. At the end of the service each participant was asked to pray. Ernest did not want to. He was so nervous he broke out in a cold sweat because he had never prayed publically before. He had no choice, however, because no one would leave the meeting until everyone prayed.

Finally the time came when Rudolph asked the group if they would be willing to be baptized in a stream. Ernest did not have the courage to say no, so Rudolph baptized him also. The entire episode was "off base" because after he baptized them, Rudolph said they should not consider themselves as Christians, but rather miserable human beings. Such a statement was from a deranged mind.

After this experience, Ernest became very unhappy and dissatisfied. He became aware of his sins and felt a tremendous, crushing burden. Again and again he would go out into the woods by himself and cry out to God. He asked God to forgive him and take away the burden of sin he could no longer bear. He was in deep sorrow for his sins.

It is unknown how long he remained in this state, but it lasted for awhile. His conscience bothered him severely until God finally took the burden of his sins away and gave him peace. A great joy filled his heart and he felt he needed to find people who had made the same experience, or he feared he might lose his joy.

He went looking for a true Christian fellowship that he could become a part of. He went from church to church, including the Baptist Church. He did not join any of them.

He went to Strasbourg. In looking for a room, he encountered an elderly sister from one of the Froehlich congregations. Her name was Hetzel. In visiting with her he told her she needed to be converted. Sister Hetzel replied that she was already converted. He told her she needed to be baptized. To which he replied, "Well, maybe you were as a child, but that does not count."

Sister Hetzel told him she had been baptized on her testimony of faith and conversion. Ernest asked her which church she belonged to. She gave him the name of the Apostolic Christian Church (called Eglise Evangelique Nazareenne in French). She gave him the address of the congregation which at that time assembled at Route 3, Rue de L'Ecurie in Strasbourg.

So Ernest went to that church and felt a deep inner conviction that God's children assembled there. He felt he had finally found some fellow believers who shared common experiences of faith. He then broke with the heretic Rudolph.

After attending the Froehlich church in Strasbourg he expressed a desire to be taken up. The brethren, however, reminded him that one should make restitution wherever possible and find peace with God and man.

He then traveled back to Germany to his home in Lobenstein (Saxon) and "made right" with a lady from whom he had stolen a slate and some cards. He paid for the items, which moved the lady to tears. He also paid for some eggs he had stolen. In this instance, though, the man laughed at him. He told the man it was no laughing matter.

Ernest explained the Word of God to his mother, brothers and sisters, and told them the teachings they had received in the state church were wrong.

After about six months he was baptized by immersion, and taken into the fellowship. Although he did not grow up in the church, he felt very much at home in his new congregation.

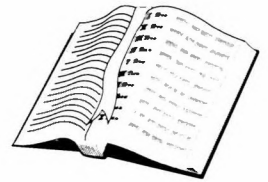
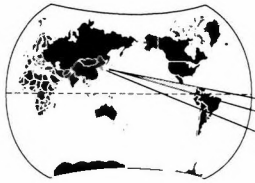
Later, Bro. Ernest Maennel was called to preach the gospel in the church at Strasbourg. He ministered faithfully for many years.

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next issue:
A Century in America (1900-1999)

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



希望の光

“Honour All Men”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

The other evening I was reading in I Peter, Chapter 2, when I came to verse 17, “Honour all men.” That caught my attention because heretofore I hadn’t realized that I was supposed to honour the murderers, the rapists, and the deceivers. I’m still thinking and praying about how to do that.

When I look into another person’s eyes, I seem to see his or her soul. If it is a brother or sister in Christ, I can see the aspiration for holiness, accompanied by the happiness and the sorrows of life. People are so precious. If it is someone who does bad things, I see turmoil and restlessness. These people, too, are precious, but overcome by the evil one.

In I Timothy, Chapter 2, verses 5-6, I find the words, “Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all.” Here’s that word, “All” again. The Bible teaches that Christ died for all. Now if you die for someone, are you honouring them? In a sense, this is the highest honour (Brit-

ish spelling; American spelling is honor) that anyone could possibly bestow on another. Therefore, Christ honoured all people by dying for them.

In I John, Chapter 2, verse 6, we read, “He that saith he abideth in him (Christ) ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” We are being painted into a corner. It appears that the Bible teaches we should be willing to die for all, or for any one person, regardless of whether that person is good or bad, attractive or repulsive. Maybe you have that all down pat, but I have some work to do on improving myself, by God’s grace. This living according to the Bible becomes more and more encompassing. It appears to have been written so that even the holiest saint still has a ways to go. I am impressed by the teachings of the Bible, and humbled beyond measure.

How shall we endeavor to honour all men and women, all human beings? Perhaps we should

try to realize the potential value of every human being. Christ emphasized this when he said, “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.” (Matthew 10:30). If only we could help all bad people to become converted people. Sometimes, such people become very, very strong and faithful believers in Christ.

Perhaps we should look other people straight in the eye and let them feel that we love and respect them as a fellow human being. So many are lonely and so many feel worthless, although through Christ they have tremendous value as a human being. If we can still pray, we have a very good reason for living. Prayer is a noble work.

“Honour all men.” I’m still thinking and praying about it. Meanwhile, let’s show much love and respect to all human beings with whom we come in contact. They will notice that our eyes sparkle when we talk with them, because we honour them.

希望の光

Doth not even the fowl of the air comprehend God's commandment.



THE SILVER LINING
RR2 Box 50 Roanoke, IL 61561

81*2*****3-DIGIT 468

IL

ADAM BARRONE

2810 ALLEGANY AVE

FORT WAYNE IN 46809-1620



2nd Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Roanoke, IL
and
additional
offices
USPS 496780