

# *The Silver Lining*

*We are humbled as we look to the majestic mountains, the endless waterfall, and the trees of splendor. Only God can create such magnificence.*

June 2000

## “PUT ON THE DIVINE NATURE”

*This was Elder Bro. Noah Schrock's last full sermon in Oakville church - Sunday, November 9, 1975*

2 Samuel 15 and I Corinthians 12:27-13:8

I had to think as I read this chapter, it was a long ways and a long step forward from the time David was king until the directives to the church were spelled out, set up and are functioning today. We don't have any more kings. There is no nation that is singled out as a people of God. So, it is of intense interest when we compare the situation as it was in David's time where he had to cope with insurrection and he had to cope with his opponents and those who would overthrow his kingdom, to come to a time and place that we now have come to, where there are people of God.

He mentions here and addresses them, "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." (I Corinthians 12:27). Now here was, and had been, brought into existence, finally a body of people, namely, the body of Christ, that were permitted now to function. They were permitted to live here on earth as a people born under the second Adam, and it was a difficult transition. I don't believe we can imagine how difficult it was for the Apostle Paul, who himself at one time was an advocate of the law and concerning its demands he proclaimed himself as blameless.

Now, if this whole thing was to "go down the drain" and an entire new concept, an entire new approach, an entire new way of salvation was to be ushered in, it could not have been broken off in one day to the next. Even the apostles themselves could not have believed.

What a time that God had with them, and especially with Peter about going to the house of

Cornelius. Never, it never occurred in his life that he would go to a Gentile and communicate with him! What end God had to resort to through the vision in order to convince him that the time had come that, "What God has cleansed, thou should not call unclean." (See Acts 10:15).

They could not comprehend the extent of the sanctification, what the death and suffering and shedding of blood of Jesus Christ, what it meant, and what it translated to fallen mankind. It took a generation and, I don't know, I'm not versed in chronology, but I take it that Paul was a young man when he witnessed the stoning of Stephen, because we read that they laid the clothes of those that stoned Stephen at the feet of the young man whose name was Saul, who later became the Paul that we read so much about.

Then, we read in his last letter to Timothy, he refers to himself as "Paul, the aged". So, it is entirely possible that the life span of Paul may have been some sixty or seventy years, and in all this time, there occurred the transition from the Old Testament and righteousness by the law, to the justification by faith.

Now it took another generation of people, I almost believe, to be able to grasp the depth and all the dimensions that associated themselves with the offering up of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. That was strange to them that the Son of God Himself would come into this world and offer Himself up to pay the ransom and the debt of sin to satisfy Satan and to justify God. That is exactly what happened!

Now the birth of a new race of

people was rather slow, even though at first we read of several thousand believing in Christ were baptized, but that only referred to a little area around Jerusalem, but soon after that the opponents of this way began to circulate. They put a stop to some of the "mass production" insofar as regeneration was concerned. Then there would be a few to follow the

*Sermon continued on page 45*

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

## Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

June 2000

### Commitment II

The previous article emphasized the importance of making a lifelong commitment to God, counting the cost of those commitments, laying a firm foundation and seriously reading His Word. This article will focus on the importance of talking to God, of removing barriers to commitment through repentance and conversion and of a willingness to follow Christ where ever He leads us.

It is vitally important that we read God's Word and listen to Him as He speaks to us. Equally important is the need to speak with God. The scripture has much advice in this matter. "Pray without ceasing" (1 Th. 5:17) and "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation..." (Mt. 26:41) are but two of the passages that remind us of this important part of our worship. Jesus provided us with an example of fervent prayer when He was facing His most severe trial. "And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Lk. 22:44) and he included "...nevertheless not my will but thine, be done" (Lk. 22:42) to assure that submission to God's will would be the basis of what He did.

To be truly committed to serving God it is important that we establish regular patterns of prayer. If we pray when we have time, Satan will see to it that we do not have time. We also must be careful that we not always wait to read and pray until the last part of the day. Although reading and praying are, of course, appropriate at the end of our day, we must be sure we reserve some time during the day for communication with God when our minds are fresh and we are able to focus on His Word. In a precious hymn we are reminded to "Take time to be holy" and to "Speak off with thy Lord".

As we read the scriptures and pray, we will find that to become fitted to be a servant of God, we must experience a true repentance for our sins. This repentance must be deep enough and sincere enough that we bear a true sorrow for past sins and develop a longing to change future behavior. Jesus said

"...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Lk. 13:3 & 5).

Sincere repentance will enable us to seek God's help in becoming a different person than we were before we were convicted to repent. When Jesus' disciples asked Him who is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven, He called a little child unto him and said "...Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 18:3). To be converted means to be changed, to become a different person in our hearts and in our whole being. We cannot cease being unconverted and become converted without undergoing a significant change.

Not one of us is good enough in our unconverted state that we can become a believer in Jesus Christ and become one of His disciples without undergoing a transformation. We need a new heart, a new attitude, a new perspective.

As a result of repentance and being converted, we can, and must become overcomers. The importance of being an overcomer is emphasized in various scripture passages. To each of the seven churches in Asia that were addressed in the Revelation of John the Divine, a special promise was made "To him that overcometh..." (Rev. 2 & 3).

Having begun our service to God by building on a firm foundation is a good start. But it is only a start. It takes much grace from God and a total commitment on our part to remain faithful until life's end. Our final judgment is not determined by our spiritual state early in life nor at mid-life. It is how we stand at the end of our life that will determine our eternal destination. Solomon recognized this important fact when he wrote "...in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be" (Ecc. 11:3).

The Apostle Peter gives us a very clear explanation of the seriousness of not remaining faithful.

"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is

worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. (II Peter 2:20-21).

There are numerous examples in the scripture of those who at one time wanted to follow the Lord but were not committed to faithfulness and therefore, fell away. The young man who came running to Jesus wanting to know what he should do to have eternal life was willing to live a good life but he was not willing to be totally committed to serving God. When told to sell all that he had and give to the poor, he went away from Christ.

The young man was willing to keep the commandments but was not willing to remove an idol from his life. His most important priority was his wealth. If we are serious about serving the Lord "...with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind..." (Luke 10:27) we must be committed to removing all barriers that will separate us from God.

At another time Christ told His followers that they must eat His flesh and drink His blood in order to have life in them. Following a discussion about the need for commitment, "...many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him" (Jn. 6:66).

Jesus then asked his twelve apostles if they too would go away. Peter's answer demonstrates the commitment that each of us should desire. "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God" (Jn. 6:68-69).

In the first and second article about commitment, attention has been focused on the need to be willing to serve God, to count the cost of commitment, to lay a firm foundation, to be obedient to His Word, to communicate with God and to remain faithful throughout our lives.

The next article will focus on heeding the warnings that will help us avoid falling away because of the temptation to follow the world.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**

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

## Opportunities to Serve Others

Assisting one another in the construction of houses and buildings has been a part of the Apostolic Christian tradition since the first members came to the United States in the mid-1800's. This was especially so when a disaster caused one of the brethren or a neighbor to suffer loss. This assistance is the believer's response to instruction given by the Apostle Paul in his letter to the churches in Galatia. *"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

This led to the origination of the Apostolic Christian Work Projects Committee, in the mid-1980's. Soon there was an opportunity for an outpouring of funds and volunteers to work on many projects, such as shelter for the earthquake victims in Mexico City, Mexico. The blessings received through working on these projects sparked a renewed desire to assist the unfortunate.

## Past projects near our churches

Since the Hurricane Hugo Project in 1989-90, most of the Apostolic Christian projects under our control in the United States were limited to vicinities near our congregations. During this time, we had been working with Christian Aid Ministries (CAM), when projects were large and at a distance from our church locations. The rebuilding project with the longest duration was the Hurricane Andrew Project, at Homestead, FL, which lasted for 18 months.

## Work Projects merges with World Relief

In the mid-1990's, the Work Projects Committee merged with the World Relief Committee, which then developed Boards with regional responsibilities. The projects in the United States came under the responsibility of the USA Board.

As the years have passed, it has become more difficult to find openings to place volunteers. CAM has been increasingly able to fill their team recruitments from their own congregations.

## USA Board created

At the August 1999 World Relief Committee Meeting in Smithville OH, after much discussion, a subcommittee was appointed, under the USA Board, to research the development of our own disaster response organization.

The subcommittee consisted of Bros. Virgil Graf, Jerome Witzig, and Arnold Gerst. This subcommittee has made efforts toward two types of disaster relief; first response (cleanup) projects, and reconstruction projects. The cleanup project would be initiated as soon after a disaster as the authorities would allow entry to the scene. The duration of this phase is one to two weeks. The reconstruction project would begin several weeks or months later, and would be of long duration depending on the particular project.

## Brothers investigate needs

Bros. Virgil Graf and Arnold Gerst made a fact finding trip to

Greenville NC, after the hurricanes and flooding in October 1999. This mission had a two-fold purpose. The first was to survey the area to determine if we could establish, at that time, a meaningful work project, and secondly to check on



Tornado damage at Camilla, GA

the distribution of the semi-load of food and clothing sent in previous weeks. It became apparent that to start a project, we needed more planning and management than we had available at that time.

The consensus was to work with CAM and MDS (Mennonite Disaster Service) for the placement of volunteers for the rebuilding there. We would continue to plan and develop our own organization for future implementation. Unfortunately, we were unable to place volunteers during this past winter, as both services filled their requirements from within their own organizations.

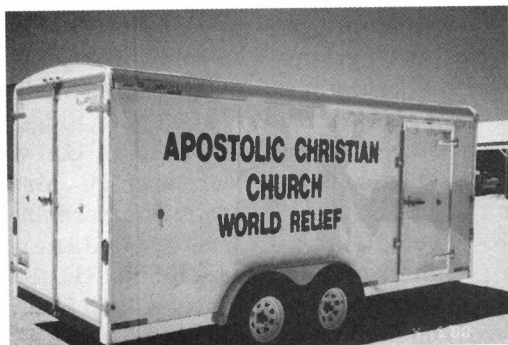
At the December meeting, after discussing these matters, the World Relief Committee approved the addition of Bro. Kent Heimer as a new member of the subcommittee. His expertise in construction will help in the development and implementation of the disaster relief program.

## Further investigation

In February, Bro. Jerome Witzig met with Bro. Terry Miller, at Camilla, GA, to survey the damage by a deadly tornado. It was determined that the initial cleanup effort would be completed by local and state efforts. Preliminary information was received on the rebuilding needs and the names of contacts were obtained. The subcommittee agreed that at the next World Relief meeting a proposal be made to consider this opportunity for our first Apostolic Christian Disaster Work Project.

## Approval to proceed

At the April meeting of the World Relief Committee, the Disaster Work Project subcommittee was encouraged to proceed with a rebuilding project. Funds were allocated to cover the material costs. The committee approved the purchase of a closed van type trailer, and to equip it with tools suitable for building construction. Charitable brothers have donated a van type truck and a travel trailer. The travel trailer will be used as an on-site office.



Disaster Relief Trailer

## Organizational trip to Georgia

On April 17, Bros. Jerome Witzig, Kent Heimer, and Arnold Gerst made an organizational trip to Camilla. Ms. Diane Watson of the Georgia Department of Labor, is managing the local office for disaster recovery. After screening applicants per our basic criteria of

(a) "not having financial means to repair or rebuild a house suitable for their needs," and (b) "selection to be made without regard to race, age, or sex," she selected seven for us to interview.

Additional conditions discussed with applicants during the interviews for each candidate were:

1. Contribute funds for the purchase of material for their individual house if and as they are able to do so. This is to give the individuals the sense of personal ownership and commitment.
2. Provide a building lot, titled in their name.
3. Provide water, sewer, and electrical utilities.
4. Pay, if able, for the building permits and utility hookup fees.
5. Pick out the preferred floor plan from a selection we provided.

Of the seven, five came for their interviews. Of the five interviewed, one was declined, because of ability to secure help from their family and local sources. The selected applicants range in age from the early 30's to mid 60's. The financial ability of the candidates range from being able to furnish all the building material to not being able to furnish any material.

## Beginning the work

There was much joy and some tears on the part of both givers and receivers, when we advised those who would receive our help. At that meeting, we gave each a number of floor plans from which to select their preference.

Local suppliers, including home centers, truss manufacturer, and ready mix cement plant, have been visited and arrangements for credit purchases have been made. An area HVAC supplier has phoned to offer his support to our efforts. The local

supply of material appears to be sufficient and competitive enough in price that it should not be necessary to go elsewhere for material. Three local motels have quoted us preferred rates for our work teams. The restaurants, while not numerous, are sufficient.



Home destroyed -- Camilla, GA

## Project coordinator needed

The Disaster Work Project Subcommittee is in need of a Project Coordinator for this project. Construction knowledge is a requirement. Supervision skills and a commitment of several continuous weeks are desired. Many hours of planning are still needed before the projected start date of June 5, 2000.

## We depend upon God's blessings

The success of this project depends upon the blessings from our Heavenly Father, the support of the brotherhood, and the timely availability of volunteers. We pray for many willing hands and hearts from among our brethren throughout this land as well as in foreign places.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
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### **Apostolic Christian Counseling Services Opening Announcement**

For several years the Elder Body of the Apostolic Christian Church has been reviewing the mental health needs of the church. Specifically, the need for professional counseling that is consistent with the doctrine of the church has received a significant amount of attention. In February of 1999, a proposal to start a counseling service was presented to the Elder Body by the church's Mental Health Committee. After reviewing the proposal, the Elder Body confirmed their recognition of the need for mental health services and gave their support for the development of a professional counseling service to be added to the existing Apostolic Christian Mental Health Hotline. A board of directors was appointed and they began the task of developing the center. The board of directors comprises Bro. Richard Kilgus (Elgin, IL, representing the Mental Health Committee), Bro. Bill Schick (Washington, representing Gateway Woods), Bro. Jerry Christensen (Gridley, representing Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped), Bro. Jim Mueller (Roanoke, member-at-large) and Bro. Dennis Virkler (Congerville, member-at-large).

The new counseling center, called Apostolic Christian Counseling Services, opened its doors on March 1, 2000. It is located at 73 East Queenwood Road in Morton, Illinois. It's mission is to assist individuals, couples and families to grow spiritually by helping them improve their emotional health and to strengthen their relationships. Consistent with the philosophy of the center, all services will be delivered in a Christ-centered manner, will be consistent with Apostolic Christian doctrine and will affirm the need for each of us to be reconciled to God through Christ's shed blood. This center is committed to preserving the role of the local Elder as each individual's spiritual counselor and is intended to support and assist the church leadership, not replace it.

The center will be staffed,

part-time, by Elder Bro. Ron Messner, Washington, and Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr., Morton, who are professional counselors. The Apostolic Christian Mental Health Hotline will continue to be provided by registered nurses: Sis. Martha Moser, Washington; Sis. Karen Martin, Eureka; Sis. Kathleen Klopfenstein, Peoria; Sis. Judy Witzig, Washington; and Sis. Jane Stoller, Eureka. The service can be reached via a national toll free number: 1-877-370-9988 or a local number 309-263-5536. All calls will be answered via an automated answering system that can be accessed 24 hours a day. Based on the option that a caller selects, his or her message will be referred to the appropriate source and returned as soon as possible. All calls are strictly confidential.

Individual, marital and family counseling will be provided, by appointment, at the Morton office. The center will address issues such as (but not limited to): depression, anxiety, relationship problems and referrals for medication and psychological testing. The service will make referrals, conduct screenings and give out general information on mental health issues. In addition, the service will provide telephone consultation to Elders, ministers and others in the church that have questions about emotional or psychological problems. The Mental Health Hotline, which has been in place for many years, will now be accessible through the Apostolic Christian Counseling Services phone number. A sliding fee scale will be used; however, no one will be refused services because of inability to pay.

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### **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED**

"Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing."

*Psalms 100:2*

This verse was chosen by the Resident Council members at Oakwood

Estate to be written in calligraphy and framed for their newly decorated dining room. It is a daily reminder to all of the joy of serving Christ in a Christian home.

A great opportunity for "serving the Lord" is given each staff member in all homes as they use their gifts to teach, encourage, care for, and love each resident in a special way.

"With gladness" we are opening another CILA home this summer and this provides more positions for serving. Because of growth and usual turnover, there are continually jobs open. Anyone interested in working at any of our homes should inquire with the receptionist at Apostolic Christian Timber Ridge (309) 266-9781.

"Come before His presence" makes me think of the need for us to pray for God to be glorified in our daily service. We appreciate the prayers of all our brothers and sisters.

"Singing" and music is a vital part of Christian life. As you walk through each of the homes, you will often hear music coming from individual rooms and being played in the living rooms. The group homes enjoy a monthly hymn sing and are thankful for young people from area churches who come to sing! AT ACTR the church groups who come on Friday nights to sing are always appreciated!

JULY birthdays at Timber Ridge are: Randy Siebenthal (3), Gary Feller (5), Walter McKeever (16), Michael Oates (18), Daniel Zimmerman (18), Clark Lewis (24), Janet Giberson (29), Kristie Ramp (31). At Oakwood Estate: Chris Knapp (17), Todd Schneider (29). At Linden Estate: Billie Tatum (1), Cindy Virkler (6), Michelle Maloney (19). At 200 E. Hazelwood: Ed Getz (31).

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

**Janel Ramseyer**

What has surprised you the most about life? Have you had some expectations that have yet to come true? You've been waiting for your ship to

come in. You've been scanning the horizons but all you can see is water. Or perhaps a ship came in but you're just sure it should belong to someone else because it certainly didn't seem like anything you wanted. Are you 46 with 3 kids, a mortgage, and orthodontic bills that just keep coming? Are you 78 and on your own in a home that's much too quiet? Are you 18, feeling immortal, with your whole life in front of you? Or maybe the dailyness of your life makes you want to start something. Anything.

It's interesting, I think, how much we plan our lives. I'm not talking about our schedules and day planners necessarily, though we certainly like to plan all the life out of our time here on earth. I'm talking about how, even though many of us try to blaze a new trail or make a name for ourselves, life just happens. It happens each day, whether we are too busy or too lonely, too young or too old, too married or too single. Do you forget, as I do, that life is a journey and not a destination? Do you think, "As soon as I get to my vacation next month, I'll slow down and take some time to make some decisions?" Or, "When I get my raise, THEN I will have enough." We sit and wait for new circumstances - new houses, new cars, another child, the babysitter, Friday, Spring, tomorrow morning. The list goes on and on. And while we're waiting for things to change, we forget that they're changing every day and we are the ones staying too much the same. We forget that we have the opportunity to make decisions and commitments and resolutions. We forget that life is going by while we are trying to fit all our errands into our one free Saturday this month. We forget to live our lives. And, too many times, we forget that the lives we live are not ours. We have been bought with the blood of Jesus (I Cor. 6:20) and our steps are ordered by the Lord (Proverbs 16:9) regardless of our plans.

What do you remember about the last year? Which memories make you happy or bring you a sense of peace and calm? Why do we wait until everything else is on the calendar before we plan time to be with our

family and friends? And, most importantly, why do we fill our days with more tasks than time without setting aside time alone with the Lord? After all, we know those are the times that make life livable. How about this: we go to our calendars right now, pick a free Friday or Saturday evening, call a couple from church whom we think it would be neat to get to know better, and invite that couple for an evening of fellowship? Or, better yet, we ask God with whom He'd like us to spend time. He knows our needs and usually has a better plan anyway.

Be where you are. (Rich Mullins)

Time flies whether we're having fun or not. We are always getting ready to live but never living. (Emerson)

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom."

*Ps. 90:12*

"For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers." (I Peter 3:10-12a)

Summer for Gateway Woods begins in mid-May when our Summer Volunteer Coordinator joins the staff. Bro. Matt Kaufman of Bloomington, IL, will be in charge of all our volunteers so if you would like to spend some time at Gateway Woods this summer, contact Bro. Matt at 888-443-4283. We are also excited to welcome Sis. Rebekah Inoue (Bloomington) and Sis. Rachel Schrenk (Champaign) to our campus for the summer. Both Rebekah and Rachel will be assisting our Houseparents with their young children and around the houses during this busy time. We extend our thanks to Bro. Gene Butikofer of Iowa who spent a few days helping out on campus in April. We are looking forward to a busy and exciting summer!

We are excited to announce the hiring of Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany Plattner from Princeville, IL, as our

newest Alternate Houseparents. They plan to join our staff this summer, and we pray for them and their children, Tyler and Abrey, as they prepare to make the move to Indiana. We praise God for His faithfulness as He answers our prayers for staffing needs. Please continue to pray that we are able to fill our last openings for Alternate Houseparents and for an Education Coordinator. Ads for both of these positions are in this issue of the Silver Lining. Should you have interest in either of these positions, please call our Residential Program Director, Bro. Jeff Schumacher, at 888-443-4283.

Bro. Jeff Thames of Gateway Woods' Illinois branch presented a new seminar to Gateway Woods' staff on May 10-11. The seminar is entitled "Christians in Conflict: Loving my Brother even when." What an encouraging and challenging call to reconciliation! Gateway Woods Family Services also presents seminars on marriage (A Greater Love) and child training (Bring Them Up). Bro. Jeff Thames can be contacted at 309/266-0767.

The Wiegands welcomed Leah G. into their home in late April. Between our Residential, Foster Care and Home Based programs, Gateway Woods is currently caring for almost forty children and their families and we praise the Lord for this opportunity. Please join us in praying that God will add the increase where we plant and water seeds.

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**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
PRESCHOOL  
Athens, Alabama  
Tom Schrenk**

At this writing we are only two days from our Preschool graduation. The children have practiced for the last few weeks, learning verses and all that goes with a graduation program for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds. Our theme for our program is Jesus as a baby, His death on the cross and how the tomb was empty on Easter morning, because He had risen. What a wonderful hope we have as Christians because of God's love for His

creation.

As we begin our summer Preschool program, we need volunteers to come and help us. If God is leading you in this direction, we encourage you to talk with your Elder and then call or e-mail for open dates and other information. We provide food and lodging while you are here. We can also help with some traveling expenses if there is a need. God has blessed us abundantly through the prayers and support of many of our brothers and sisters as well as many young people in Sunday School. We thank all that have been a part and ask that you please continue to pray for us.

Our fall classes will begin August 21. At the present time we do have an opening for a brother or sister that has a degree in Teaching or Early Child Development. This position would require teaching the 4 and 5 year old class. If God is directing your life in this way, please follow the procedure listed above. We truly do serve a great and wonderful God who only wants to bless us when we seek to do His will.

The phone numbers to call for information concerning the Preschool are: Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (256) 232-2035; Bro. Tom Schrenk, Program Director (256) 233-0591 or e-mail apostolicpreschool@juno.com.

### ALABAMA, ATHENS

#### Joan Reinhard

We are so thankful for the Easter Season that has just passed. It is always a time of realization and appreciation of what Christ has done for us. We pray that we could be more committed to passing on this "Good News" of salvation to those we come in contact with.

We have had many of our congregation have problems with their health lately. We ask that you remember them in your prayers and ask that the Lord would restore them to health once again.

We were glad to have visitors from Junction, OH, and Peoria, IL,

here with us this month. Thank you for putting forth the effort to come and assemble with us here in Athens. Our prayer is that you receive from the Lord as much as you have given to us.

As we anticipate Memorial Day Weekend coming up, we eagerly look forward to our annual Tennessee Fellowship Singing. It is such a blessing to raise our voices with hundreds of our brothers and sisters and friends in harmony together in praise to the Lord. Just think what Heaven is going to be like! If you weren't able to join us this year, make plans early to come next year.

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### ARIZONA, PHOENIX

#### Ron and Ev Hoerr

"...for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

*Matthew 9:13*

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

*Romans 5:1*

The joy that fills a loved one who is repenting, who has peace, is one of God's greatest gifts. Jerry Tooley (Sis. June) will give his testimony on June 2, baptism on June 3. Our years of prayers are being answered.

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone..."

*Genesis 2:18*

Our joy was abundant on May 14 as we heard the engagement of Bro. Scott Klopfenstein and Sis. Katy Gudeman. Sis. Katy will finish school in Chicago before their December 17 wedding. Their parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein and Bro. Dan and Sis. Becky Gudeman. Our love and God's blessings to you as you plan your wedding and plans for a lifetime together.

"We need Thee every hour." Sis. Kathie Labudde was in church for Good Friday services. Sis. Connie

Frautschi and Sis. Eleanor Hill had surgery. Bro. Richard Schupbach and Bro. Alan Knochel had medical procedures done. Sis. Geraldine (Gerry) Beyer broke her hip in Kansas. After two weeks in the hospital, she and Bro. Clarence returned to Phoenix by air ambulance. Sis. Shirley Blunier was in church Mother's Day after a long absence.

Our sympathy to:

Sis. Ruth Vaughn and Sis. Toni Bentley on the death of their brother, Bro. Sam Koehl. They had gone to Illinois for his baptism on April 22 and he died April 25. Funeral services were in Bloomington and burial was in Fairbury.

Bro. John Kaufman whose nephew, Eric Hangartner, was killed in an accident in Florida.

Bro. Clarence and Sis. Gerry Beyer. Their brother, Bro. Clarence Fankhauser, died in Lamont, KS.

Richard Kraft on his brother's death, Bro. Glenn Kraft, who died on May 12. He had just been baptized on April 24. Richard, Sis. Kelly Freed and Jenna went to see him April 25.

We appreciated ministering Bros. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) and Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL).

A graduation reception was held May 7 for Aaron Cooke, Richelle Meiss, Tricia Lawson, Ric Banks, and Sis. Heidi Klopfenstein.

Our thanks to our single members for serving lunch on Mother's Day. It is a custom we cherish.

Our election to fill the following offices are: Bro. Steve Freed (Treasurer, Trustee); Bro. Al Yackley (Interior Maintenance Trustee); Bros. Greg Gramm and Jim Meiss (Song leaders); Bros. Todd Baum and Justin Gramm (Ushers); Bro. Bill Woodruff (Lunch fund); Bros. Brian Katich and Todd Roth (congregational room).

Our appreciation to the brothers who previously held these positions. There are so many ways to serve the Lord, including loving each other.

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### ARIZONA, PRESCOTT



## Jane Hodges

"Hear ye children, the instructions of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law. Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live."

*Psalm 4:1,2,4*

As our country has set aside a day to remember and honor our fathers, many of us in the faith can reflect and be thankful to our fathers that brought us up in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4), so that we were able to find our soul's salvation and the pathway to life everlasting. May God continue to bless the "faith of our fathers" that it will go on and on.

Our ministers the last month were Bros. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Ken Lawson, Herb Knochel, Jr., and James Emch (all of Phoenix). May God richly bless all of them and their families for their service and love.

We have had some visitors stopping on their vacations or business trips to worship with us and we hope many more will include us in their plans if they are traveling this summer. We would like to share the beautiful sanctuary God has given us, and fill it with people to praise and worship Him.

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## ARIZONA, TUCSON

### Lisa Knapp

Our annual business meeting yielded the following results: Bro. Brad Bauer was elected to a three year term as Sunday School Supt., Sis. Lisa Knapp to a two year term as intermediate Sunday School teacher and Sis. Gloria Bauer's term as Kitchen Chairwoman was extended one more year to create a two year term. May God bless their efforts. We thank Bro. Steve and Sis. Maria Bauer for their love and work in the Sunday School as they end their assignments.

Carl Kaufman (Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline) graduated from high

school on May 17. We would ask God to watch over Carl as he heads out into the world with its many opportunities and challenges.

Brent and Kimberly Haas were blessed with the arrival of Trenten Joseph Haas on March 12. Big brothers, Westen and Hayden, are ready to help out along with grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Carole Haas.

Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich was with us to read the Memorandum recently. Thank you, Bro. Jon.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Maria Bauer want to thank everyone who has offered prayers and support during Sis. Maria's mother's illness. The latest report was better than the doctors could have hoped for. God does answer prayers! We will continue to keep their family in our prayers.

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## CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

### Jim Klotzle

"Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

*Matthew 5:14-16*

Let us shine in this world so that those around us marvel at the peace and faithfulness in our lives! It is often helpful for us to measure everything we do by the Fruit of the Spirit.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law."

*Galatians 5:22-23*

If all of our actions are accompanied by this fruit, our light will clearly point the way to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

This month, Bro. Loren Knapp visited us, assisting our ministers in preaching the Word.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Sue Klotzle organized our annual Sunday School picnic. Their efforts were a blessing to

all!

May the Lord bless all those who plan to travel in these summer months, that His light would shine wherever we are.

Although scans show no cancer, Jeff Luthi continues to have serious health concerns and appreciates your prayers.

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

*James 5:16*

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## CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

### Peggy Jevremov

This past month we again have been blessed with visiting brethren and friends. Among our visitors were ministering Bros. Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ) and Loren Knapp (Sis. Joan, Tucson, AZ). May the Lord richly bless them for their willing service.

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother: which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

*Ephesians 6:1-4*

As we approach the day our nation has set aside to honor our fathers, Father's Day, may we remember to honor our dear fathers, not only at this time of year, but every day. May we with thankful hearts show them our appreciation for their love to us in bringing us up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. And even more importantly, may our hearts and lives praise and honor our Heavenly Father for His love to us in providing the wonderful plan of salvation through Jesus Christ His Son.

**KITCHENER, ONTARIO  
CANADA  
Laura Baxter**

"I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart."

*Psalm 101:2*

God is desirous that we not only walk perfectly with Him in places where others can easily watch us, but also in the privacy of our own homes where at times only He sees us. We are instructed to walk within our house with a perfect heart. If we continue reading the above psalm, we can get some specifics on what to avoid. We are to set no wicked thing before our eyes and to not associate closely with people that are froward, wicked, backbiters, proud, deceitful and liars. May we cautiously guard our heart, for what goes into it, will come out, as from there are the issues of life (Proverbs 4:23).

We truly enjoyed the fellowship of all our visitors this month. We especially want to thank the Chicago, IL, congregation for coming to visit us. We all have pleasant memories of that weekend. We thank our visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and Bros. Virgil Metzger and Greg Rassi (all of Chicago, IL) and Bros. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) and Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) for their labors on the pulpit. We also want to thank Bro. Dale Eisenmann for the encouraging and helpful Bible Study on Traditions.

Some of our congregation were able to travel to Detroit, MI, this past month for a seminar on Strengthening our Marriage. We want to thank Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) for his work in bringing this Biblical information to us so that we can have strong marriages that glorify God. May we be doers and not only hearers. We also thank the Detroit congregation for their continued love and hospitality they show to us whenever we travel there.

We welcome all visitors to worship

with us. Please contact Bro. Mike Ursu (519) 669-8515 or Bro. Jim Baxter (519) 699-5081 for more information and directions.

**COLORADO, DENVER  
Mark and Kelly Ramseyer**

Easter Sunday was the day we had our Easter program at church. It is always such a joy to see the students singing praises to God and memorizing pieces and scripture that hopefully will stay with them, at least in the back of their minds, for years to come. We also enjoyed additional time together as we had Easter supper together. It is kind of special to be in a smaller church that is a substantial distance from all of our home churches so that we have the opportunity and desire and blessing to have Easter supper together as a church. I wish you all had the opportunity because it helps to make all of the fellow members and attendees more like family and less like good friends.

The last weekend in April, the Junior Bible Class went to Sabetha, KS, for a couple of days of bonding, enjoyment and instruction from God's Word. Unfortunately I couldn't attend, but I heard of toothpaste in shoes, being a light for God, and stronger friendships being made. These youth weekends are so incredibly valuable to our families and churches. Even if nothing were mentioned about God, the weekends would help build friendships and ties that will keep us all connected so we can help each other and pray for each other as we go through life. When God and His Son are added, it makes for a weekend that is worth any amount of effort required to organize and guide it. I Corinthians 15:58 states, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." Thank you, Sabetha and teachers from other churches who chaperoned your students.

We thank Bro. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI) for sharing a

Sunday and God's Word with us. Feel free to visit again soon.

Several weeks ago we told the Denver congregation that we were moving back to the Detroit area. Ever since, I've been wondering how I should tackle the subject in my final Silver Lining article. To ignore it altogether seemed like a cheap way out. I truly wanted to elaborate on how much we enjoyed living in Colorado and how much we loved the people here, but all my words seemed inadequate. It may seem strange that I have nothing to say, but I truly cannot express my feelings on this subject. Thank you, Denver church, for being our family for three years. May God bless your love and efforts, because there is no way we can repay you.

**CONNECTICUT  
ROCKVILLE  
Cherie Galat**

"Have mercy then, O Lord! Before Thy feet I'm bowing..." (Zion's Harp #45, Repentance). We rejoice with the angels in Heaven as Beth Virkler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy) has answered God's tender call unto repentance. As she yields her life unto Him, may she look unto her Heavenly Father for guidance and direction.

On April 22, we had a reception for Bro. Nathan and Sis. Miriam Reutter who were married in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, February 6. We ask that the Lord continue to guide their steps as they go on hand in hand together on life's pathway.

"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."  
*Matthew 19:6*

We witnessed the marriage vows of Bro. Nathan Gasser (Philadelphia, PA) and Sis. Mary Elizabeth Luginbuhl on May 7. Parents are Dave and Gail Gasser and Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma Luginbuhl. By God's grace, may the blessings of marriage go with them as they make their home in Pennsylvania. Sharing in their joy and ministering unto us

were Bros. Ben Wiegand and Shawn Metzger (both of Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). We thank these dear ministers for their service.

"In Jesus I will trust always; In Him I live and pass away..." (#247 Zion's Harp). Our prayers are with Sis. Helen Luginbuhl (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) upon the passing of her dear husband, Bro. Roy. He also leaves his son, Bro. Marvin (Sis. Rose, Smithville, OH), daughters, Sis. Jayne Webb (Bro. Brian, Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and Sis. Debra Crary (Bro. Ken); a sister, Sis. Shirley Luginbuhl, and extended family. Bro. Roy served as a dear minister and we are thankful that he was able to serve us in God's vineyard. May God comfort and console each one.

The month of June is a month of remembrance for our dear fathers. Above all, we first thank our Heavenly Father for His mercy, grace and abundant love in giving of His beloved son, Jesus Christ, for the remission of our sins. We also think of dear fathers who have passed on before and those who are still serving Him. May God continue to use these brethren for His divine will.

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### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

Our ministers this month were Bros. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) and Carroll Gerber (Bluffton, IN). Our other visitors this month were from Toledo and Akron, OH; Rockville, CT; Princeville, Roanoke and Elgin, IL; and West Bend, IA.

We also were happy to get acquainted with Suzi, Renaut and Aidam Sabra who will be living in this area. We hope to see them again.

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 ex-

pressed 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.

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### FLORIDA FT. LAUDERDALE Gretchen Webb

I place myself in Jesus' hands  
And there abide forever;  
No griefs, no joys, shall loose the  
bands,

Nor yet our union sever!

In these dread days

When earth decays,

Who stays in Him and thus obeys  
Shall be preserved forever.

*Zion's Harp #177*

This favored hymn reflects the sentiments of Bro. Roy Luginbuhl, who passed away on May 13. He will be greatly missed by his loving wife, Sis. Helen; his three children, Bro. Marvin (Sis. Rose, Smithville, OH), Sis. Jayne Webb (Bro. Brian, Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and Sis. Debra Crary (Bro. Ken, Rockville, CT); nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, on May 14. Funeral services were held in Rockville, CT, on May 18. We pray that God will comfort the family during this difficult time.

Jackson Sauder welcomed home a baby brother, Kaden Jeremiah, on May 18. Parents are Doug and Suzanne Sauder. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy Sauder and Bro. Peter and Sis. Claudia Green, both of Ft. Lauderdale.

The annual Easter Sunday School picnic was held on Easter Sunday. The Sunday School students enjoyed a variety of activities before the picnic. The weather cooperated nicely and everyone enjoyed an evening of fellowship.

### Note of Thanks:

The family of Roy Luginbuhl would like to extend their thanks to all those who remembered them in their time of sorrow with cards, phone calls and especially prayers.

*In Christian Love,  
Roy E. Luginbuhl family*

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### FLORIDA NORTH FT. MYERS Dorothy Beer

Our somewhat diminished congregation still enjoys occasional visitors from the north, or wherever. We look forward to anyone visiting Florida to stop any Sunday to worship with us.

Our dear Bro. Roland and Sis. Viola Keller, who have been physically unable to attend church for some months, have twice now been able to worship with us. Bro. Lynn Feller has been released from his doctor in Ft. Myers to return home to Valparaiso, IN. We pray God's strength and blessing on our dear Bro. Lynn and Sis. Maryann.

We thank Bro. Roger Sauder (Sis. Judy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL) for sharing God's Holy Word with us this month.

Our Elder Bro. Doug Sabo and Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman plan to be with us for Communion this next Lord's Day. This has been eagerly anticipated by our North Ft. Myers fellowship for several weeks.

Wednesday evening services have been canceled until fall.

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### FLORIDA, SARASOTA Carol Koehl

Just recently our retired Elder Bro. Ben Maibach preached his last sermon at Sarasota after 50 years of dedication in the ministry. We all truly want to express our deep gratitude to Bro. Ben, Sis. Lorene, and their family for all their labors of love and many sacrifices made on behalf of the Sarasota Church. For years, Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene and their family so graciously opened their home every Sunday evening for

singings and fellowship. May God ever richly bless you, Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene, for all your faithful years in His service. We love you very much.

Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) was here to help read the Memorandum in April. We thank Bro. Mark and also Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) for bringing us the Word this past month.

Easter Sunrise Services were held at Turtle Beach with breakfast following.

Saturday, May 13, was our annual Sunday School Picnic held at Longwood Run Park.

Much appreciation goes to all those who put forth all the extra effort to make these special events successfully happen, such as Easter Sunrise Services and the Sunday School picnic.

### GEORGIA, ATLANTA Keith and Carol Kaufman

"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 truly appreciate having God's Word spoken to us plainly. If our burdens are not light, we must examine ourselves and see if we are meek and lowly in heart and if we have Christ's burden and not our own. May God richly bless Bros. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), Richard Sutter (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) for bringing God's Word to us. We are thankful that their wives could come with them also.

The Easter story was brought to us in song and verse by our Sunday School children. How precious they are as they so innocently recite their parts and enthusiastically sing their songs. May each one always remember why Jesus suffered and died.

We are looking forward to Open

House and Dedication on July 1-2. We are so thankful for all who have helped us with the work in the church. May God richly bless each one!

We are looking forward to having you visit us this summer. Please let us know when you can come, so we can plan some time of fellowship with you. Sunday services begin at 10:15 and 12:30. Song service is held the second Wednesday and Bible Study on the 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 64 (Hwy 138). Go west four miles and the church will be on your left. Please contact one of the following brothers to let us know of your plans: Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554; Bro. John Brewer (770) 463-0701 or Bro. Keith Kaufman (770) 304-8335.

### ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Sheila McCoy Doreen Moser

A careful man I want to be  
A little fellow follows me  
I do not dare to go astray  
For fear he'll go the self-same way.

June is the time we remember our fathers and we want to thank them for their love and the Christian example they set.

"Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise."

*Eph. 6:2*

We were thankful for the visit of Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) on Easter Sunday.

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

*I Cor. 1:18*

Elder Bro. Ron Schambach

(Elgin, IL) was our minister at our monthly service in Madison, WI. The focus was on temptation from James 1. Thanks, Bro. Ron, for joining us. For those of us in Wisconsin, we have found this service to be a real blessing. We will plan to continue our Bible Studies this summer. For those vacationing in WI, please keep us in mind if you are in the area. You may contact Bro. Shannon Stahl at 608-287-0075 for the date, time and place.

Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Nate Steffen and Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) were here on Sunday, April 30, for the reading of the Memorandum and our ground-breaking ceremony for our new church. We were reminded, "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it..." (Psalm 127:1). We concluded this blessed day with a church dinner.

Church elections have been held. Bro. Bill Schifferer is our new trustee and we thank Bro. Jim Jepson for his completed term. Our newly elected Sunday School teachers are Sis. Doreen Moser (K, 1st and 2nd grades), Bro. Shannon Stahl (6-8th grades) and Bro. Thad Heinold (Bible Class). We want to thank Bro. Myron Rumbold, Bro. Clint Heinold and Sis. Stephanie Heinold for their dedicated years in teaching Sunday School and we pray God will grant the wisdom needed for our new teachers.

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven as Sadie Nazarczuk (Michael and Kay) is our new convert. May we keep her in our prayers.

Our college graduates are Bro. Ryan Harris (Bro. Ron and Sis. Barb, Gridley, IL) and Angela Mueller (Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene). Nicole Moser (Gary and Sis. Doreen) is our high school graduate. We hope they will always remember that God wants to lead them in "paths of righteousness" as they prepare for their future.

### THE DIFFERENCE

I got up early one morning  
and rushed right into the day.  
I had so much to accomplish

that I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me  
and heavier came each task.

"Why doesn't God help me?" I  
wondered.

He answered, "You didn't ask."

I wanted to see you and beauty  
but the day toiled on, gray and  
bleak.

I wondered why God didn't show  
me.

He said, "But you didn't seek."

I tried to come into God's pres-  
ence,

I used all my keys at the lock.  
God gently and lovingly chided,  
"My child, you didn't knock."

I woke up early this morning,  
And paused before entering the  
day;

I had so much to accomplish  
that I had to take time to pray.

—*Author Unknown*

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**ILLINOIS  
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL  
Dana Knapp  
Shawn Masters**

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Matthew 26:26-28

We were reminded of the price that was paid for our salvation as our congregation gathered together to partake of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Everett Hari. May God bless them for their service on our behalf and may we go on with renewed

strength staying within the shadow of our Saviour.

Also lending themselves in service to us were ministering Bros. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) and Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL). May God bless them for their labors.

Our Sunday School students shared with us the blessed account of Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection as we watched their Easter program.

"Out on to Calvary's hill, where Jesus died I'll go..." Many of the congregation were able to participate in our Easter Sunrise Service and we trust each felt a special blessing from being there.

On May 6-7, we witnessed the testimony and baptism of Sis. Heidi Hartter (Bro. John and Sis. Bev, Eureka, IL). May she continue to draw strength from her Lord and Saviour.

We are thankful Joe Terrini (Madalyn) has answered the Lord's call in repentance. Our thoughts and prayers are with him as he begins his new walk with Christ.

May 14 was a happy day as Bro. Eric Strassheim of Indianapolis (Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Jodi Hohulin (Bro. Wes and Sis. Joyce, Goodfield) were united in marriage. We were blessed with many visitors who came to share this special day with us.

Bro. Jeremy Schieler (Bro. Darl and Sis. Cindy) and Sis. Tonya Huber (Bro. Chris and Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN) were also united in marriage on May 14. We wish them God's richest blessings in their new life together.

We extend our best wishes to Bro. Steve Lehman (Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne, Denver) and Sis. Danae Dallas (Doug and Kathy, Mahomet) as they make plans to become united in the holy bonds of matrimony.

Our prayers and heartfelt love is expressed to those who have recently lost loved ones. Sis. DeAnn Anderson (Sam) and Cindy Harrell (Cris) bid farewell to their father, Bro. Lloyd Aeschleman (Roanoke, IL). We also think of the family of Bro. Willis

Nussbaum (Fairbury, IL) and extend our sympathy to them.

Joy was truly mixed with sorrow this month for the family of Bro. Sam Koehl (Dee). Bro. Sam, who had recently given his life to the Lord, was becoming increasingly ill and was baptized at home on April 22. Not many days after he went to be with the Lord. Though we rejoice that his eternity will be spent in Heaven, we extend our sympathy to his family, who will miss him here.

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**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD  
Chad and LauraLee Plattner**

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

We rejoice that another soul is striving aright to free his burdened soul of sin and live anew. Brian Knobloch (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Diane) has begun his repentance. We pray he will continue to seek God's grace and favor.

Sis. Nancy Knobloch (Bro. Jack) was hospitalized for surgery this month. We are thankful she is regaining her strength and starting to feel like herself again.

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

Our annual business meeting was held in late April. This is always an interesting evening as we sit as a group and make decisions on office holders and other items related to the general operation of our church. Elected as teachers for the children were Bro. Chad Kever and Sis. Shelly Kaeb. They replace Bro. Darin Blunier and Sis. Kim Walder. However, Darin will now move from the Sunday School to the position of trustee, replacing Bro. Keith Hanson. Bro. Sam Furrer replaces

Bro. Chad Kupferschmid as usher, and Bros. Thane Hanson and John Walder were re-appointed to their positions as church treasurer and secretary. Sis. Cheryl Mangers was appointed to replace Sis. Kathy Clarkson on the kitchen committee. The services given by those who have completed their terms are appreciated, and we wish them God's blessings on their contributions to the church.

"My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways."

*Proverbs 23:26*

A couple of years ago, a young man attending the U of I became friends with one of the students who attended our church. Over the course of time, he began to assemble with us and developed a closer relationship to our student group and our church. Acting on his desire for a closer walk with God, he has become a converted person. On the first weekend in May, Ryan Robb became our Brother in Christ as he gave his testimony and was baptized by Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington IL). We have enjoyed getting to know Ryan over the years and pray for a blessing on his walk with God.

Remembrance, Review, and Renewal and Re-dedication were the themes stressed by our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart as he gave the exhortation regarding Communion. He spoke briefly on each of these points and how they fit with the Communion service. On the evening of May 10, Elder Bro. Charles Sauder of Tremont was with us as the Lord's Supper was served. In addition to the two Elder brothers who were with us for special occasions, Bro. Andy Virkler (Croghan- Naumberg, NY) was with us for Good Friday services in late April. We thank each of these brothers and their families for coming to Champaign to spend time with us and minister the Word.

May is graduation month for our students, but we had a smaller than usual number of graduates this year.

Kurt Metzger, son of Sis. Jeanne, is graduating from St. Joseph-Ogden High School. Kurt plans to stay in town and attend college in the fall. Graduating from Parkland College is Sis. Jenny Hoffman of Cissna Park. Jenny will be working as an occupational therapy assistant. From the University of Illinois, our graduates include her sibling, Bro. Lee Hoffman. Lee will be working in the New Orleans, Louisiana schools through the Teach for America program.

Other UI grads include Bros. Jeff Kaufmann of Morton and Steve Lehman of Bloomington and Sis. Gretchen Knepp of Roanoke. We wish them well as they enter employment in their chosen fields. A special prayer goes up for Bro. Steve as he not only graduates, but also gets married to Sis. Danae Dallas of Bloomington and they move to his new job in Colorado Springs, CO. Other students are also leaving us to transfer on to other schools or do internships and have work experiences before continuing. We thank each of the students for their presence here and the contributions they make to our student group and to the church.

Sis. Joan Hanson, one of the nurses in our congregation, is our church's Parish Nurse. This is a locally-sponsored program of one of the healthcare institutions and has wellness as its focus. On April 29, we had our 2nd Semi-Annual Church Family Walk. Held at a prairie park in Urbana, this event featured blood pressure checks and a talk on nutrition. Nurse Joan and the walkers were pleased that the post-walk blood pressures were better (lower) than they were when first checked. Throughout the year, we will be made aware of health and wellness topics and receive information on how we can take better care of our earthly bodies so we don't wear them out before their time!

May Day brought more than flowers to the family of Bro. John and Sis. Lisa Walder. It was on May 1 that Kevin David Walder made his entrance into their family, joining his

siblings, Laura, Kyler and Rachel. Local grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma Walder.

With Father's Day on the calendar for June, we might ask "Who is a father?" or "What makes a 'good' father?" These were the types of questions students of all ages had the opportunity to answer in an essay contest. My office coordinated the entries at our school, so I had the unique opportunity to read each of the essays. Since this was not an assigned paper, only an opportunity to write about your father or father figure in your life, only about six students submitted essays this year. Most of the writers were young men. Of course, the essays were very positive, yet they tended to be quite frank. One student expressed how much he enjoys the fun times he has with his father in the many activities they do as a family. The time they spend traveling and being together on annual camping trips are what make him especially close to his dad. Another young man wrote of how his father had left the family in both the physical and emotional sense and had become involved in drug abuse. Times were very hard for the boy and his family, but through a strong church they attended, their faith sustained them. His father became involved with a church outreach substance abuse program and made a commitment to change. Through a great deal of determination and prayerful support, he has changed his life and returned to the family. Needless to say, his son and daughter are quite thankful to have their father back with the family. The third essay I was especially impressed with was one written by a boy who has a male mentor from the community. The mentoring program in our district focuses on young people whose home and social situations put them at risk for becoming drop-outs. This young man was paired with a school administrator from the community. For the past three years, these two have met regularly to discuss school and life as well as do activities together. When the mentor moved away from the com-

munity, they maintained their relationship. This boy admires his mentor as a father figure. The mentor, who has no children himself, values this connection he has made and the role he plays in the life of a young individual.

In reading the essays, it was reassuring to know that the writers felt so deeply about the relationships they have with their fathers, or the person they see as a father figure. As each of these young men grow up and become a father or even a significant person in the life of a child, the impressions they have of the father figures will surely be a reference point for them. As fathers, each of us might ask what our children would write about us if they were writing the essay. We all hope it would be a winner!

"It's not flesh and blood, but the heart that makes us fathers and sons." (S. Chiller)

## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

As often as my pulses beat,  
I lay my life, my blood, my all at  
Jesus' feet.

*Zion's Harp #184 (vs. 8)*

Now I certainly do not claim nursing as my profession, but at a mid-day reading, my heart beat 78 times in one minute. It is humbling to think about laying my life at Jesus' feet that many times in a minute. It would be a continuous task with no time for stopping. Yes, laying our all at Jesus' feet is a constant, continual process. Only when our pulses stop can we stop and rest our efforts in this regard. The phrase of this hymn moved me to tears at our Communion service on May 5. Essentially Christ did this very thing for us literally on the cross for several hours, the blood flowing for our sins with every pulse of His heart. I am so humbled to think of my unwillingness at times to lay my all at His feet, but am so thankful for His willingness to do so for me.

In Chicago this month, we have

many joyous happenings for which to be thankful for in addition to the gift of our Saviour. A busload from our congregation visited the Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, church. Many thanks go to the Kitchener church for their love and hospitality.

Sis. Susan Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie, Lester, IA) and Bro. Shannon Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally, Taylor, MO) were married on May 7, in Taylor, MO. We will miss Susan's presence, but expect many return visits to Chicago.

Sis. Katie Gudeman (Dan Gudeman and Sis. Rebecca Gudeman) and Bro. Scott Klopfenstein (Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann) of Phoenix, AZ, announced their engagement. We pray for God's blessings for both of these couples.

We welcome Bro. Alex Neukomn (Lexington, KY) who will be doing some summer work in our area.

We want to express special thanks to our visiting ministers, Bros. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) for their willingness to serve. May the blessings be returned to them.

## ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Cheryl Eisenmann  
Darlene Walder

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me."

*Galatians 2:20*

Does God see in us as much of Him as we as parents often say to our children, "I see so much of myself in you."?

O to be like Thee, blessed Redeemer!  
This is my constant longing and prayer;  
Gladly I'll forfeit all of earth's treasures,  
Jesus, Thy perfect likeness to wear.

"God is our pattern, but thank God, He is more. He is also our power."

—RWD

Our visiting ministers this month have been: Good Friday evening, Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN); and on Easter, Bros. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL). Also, Bros. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) came and blessed us with their messages. We appreciate the message of each and every brother that lets God use them in His service.

We were saddened at the passing of our dear friend, Astrid Kellerhals. After suffering and pain she was laid to rest. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Bob Kellerhals, and two daughters, Sandy and family and Susie and family. We wish them our condolences. Also, Sis. Ernie Eisenmann has our sympathy at the passing of her son-in-law, Roger Knapp. His wife, Vera, and daughters will surely miss their husband and father.

Sis. Wanda Maul was a surgical patient this month. We want to extend our prayers on her and her fam-

May 12 was the evening of our Mother/Daughter Dinner. "Mothers, a Guardian Angel to watch over us" was the theme. Mothers certainly have been prayer warriors on behalf of people everywhere. May God bless all the special women that have been a mother to someone.

We rejoice with Melvin and Marilyn Young and David and Barb Young that they have peace with God and are waiting to give their testimony of faith. Their baptism is set for July 8-9.

A navy blue purse without any

identification inside was lost or taken by accident from the Cissna Park Fellowship Hall on April 2. A black purse about the same shape and size was left on the shelf. If, by mistake, you took the wrong purse, please contact Beth Steffen at 815-457-2280. Thank you very much.

### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Glenna Rinkenberger Renae Dietrich

As we ponder the events and happenings of the past month, do we all feel closer to our Heavenly Father? Do we feel we have done everything we can do to allow us our Heavenly Home? What did we do right? What did we do wrong? And if we did wrong, how can we make it right? May we all try to have a deeper understanding of the reason we are here and continue to strive to work out our soul's salvation.

We were blessed with visiting brethren from across the land; some labored in our behalf as they brought forth the Word. Bros. Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL) and Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) were here April 30 for the Bible Class Invite-a-Friend. Other visiting brothers to the pulpit were Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Bill Gerst (Alto, MI). We are grateful

Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock and Jim and Sherri Sollis, all of Congerville. On May 4, Bro. Brad and Sis. Carla Walder held their little Aubrey Lane for the first time. Excited grandparents are Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria Walder, and Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda Indermuhle (Sardis, OH). What a joy God-fearing parents can be in the lives of children only God can give us. May these parents continue to pull their strength from Him.

The blessing of children is something Tony and Rachel Nohl have not

taken for granted. The adoption of their son, Jared Lee, is close to complete. Grandparents are Bro. Vern and Sis. Judy Wettstein and Steve Nohl and Elaine Hartter. Jared is the blood brother to Tony and Rachel's daughter, Alexis. May they, also, feel God's guidance and feel our prayers as they venture through their life.

Graduating this year are Jason Schrock (Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri), Sarah Hoerr (Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne), Bro. Andy Ott (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Mardell) and convert Benjamin Virkler (Bro. Denny and Sis. Gayle). Our congratulations goes to them as they have yet achieved such an important task.

With thankful hearts, little Angie Banwart has come home safely from the hospital. Parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Missy. The Lord surely has blessed man with medical knowledge, that can save much grief and pain. We are thankful to see her angelic appearance among us.

But there are times when the Lord surely needs angels in the Heavenly realm to sing His song. Our sympathy goes to the families of Sis. Della Stahl, as her brother, Bro. Adolph Tanner, completed his life-long journey. In the loss of her brother, Curtis Stoller, our Sis. Millie Schieber has our prayers and condolences. May we all realize the continued importance of our earthly labors; as each day, somewhere, the Lord is calling Home.

### ILLINOIS, ELGIN Peggy Heiniger Norma Schambach

On May 1, Renee (Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean Martin) and Tom Schermerhorn welcomed their first child, David Thomas. We wish them many blessings as they raise their little family.

Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) was here to share the Memorandum with us. We appreciate the concern of our Elder brethren as they guide and watch over our spiritual well-being.

We also enjoyed having other vis-

iting ministers this month: Bros. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and Dan Koch (Tremont, IL).

We appreciate the efforts of Bro. Roger Weiss and Sis. Ida Kellenberger as they have completed their terms in Sunday School. Bro. Eric Schieler and Sis. Linda Steffen were chosen to take their place. May God give them spiritual wisdom and a love for the children.

Surgical patients this month were Bro. Eric Humbracht and Sis. Sue Braun. We are thankful they are both home and recovering.

Little did we know when Bro. Art and Sis. Alma Schmidt moved to West Bend a few weeks ago that that would be our last farewell to Sis. Alma. She passed away May 6. Our sympathy to Bro. Art, his children, Sandy (Wally) Schubert of Elgin, and Bro. John (Sis. Paula) of West Bend, and her sister, Sis. Leola (Bro. Charles) Schambach, of Elgin.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

The family of Sis. Alma Schmidt would like to make an expression of thanks for all the prayers, kind words, and support after the passing of our loved one. May God richly bless each one for the Christian love extended.

*Bro. Art Schmidt and family  
Wally and Sandra Schubert and family*

*Bro. John and Sis. Paula Schmidt and family*

*Bro. Charles and Sis. Leola Schambach*

*Milford and Bernice Rein family  
Arlie and Brenda Rein family*

And the man whispered, "God, speak to me."

And a meadowlark sang, But the man did not hear.

So the man yelled, "God, speak to me!"

And the thunder rolled across the sky. But the man did not listen.



The man looked around and said,  
 "God, let me see you."  
 And a star shown brightly. But  
 the man did not notice.  
 And the man shouted, "God,  
 show me a miracle."  
 And a life was born. But the man  
 did not understand.

So the man cried out in despair,  
 "Touch me, God.

Let me know that you are here!"  
 Whereupon God reached down  
 and touched the man.  
 But the man brushed the butter-  
 fly away and walked on.

Don't miss out on a blessing be-  
 cause it isn't packaged the way  
 you expect it to be.

### ILLINOIS, EUREKA Janet Zimmerman

We wish God's blessings upon Sis. Jennifer Stoller and Bro. Brian Walder (Congerville) as they were united in marriage May 7. Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Janet Stoller and Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria Walder (Congerville). We appreciated the ministry of Elder Bro. Bob Walder, and Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield), Jon Zeller (Morton), Clark Stoller (Gridley), Steve Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO) that weekend also.

Life brings changes and we find we need to depend upon prayer to guide us. We pray for Bro. Matt and Sis. Nancy Roche as they leave our congregation and move to Ft. Lauderdale, FL. We will certainly miss them and their girls, Jennifer and Jessica, but we wish them God's blessings and guidance always in their lives.

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Phil and Sis. Rebecca Braker and their children, Hannah and Daniel, from Ft. Scott, KS. May God be with them as they adjust to their new

home.

We pray for our high school graduates that they may seek God's Spirit in their lives. Our graduates this year are Abbie Blunier, Clark Blunier, Emily Frank, Andy Gerber, Marissa Hoerr, David Knecht, Trent Leman, Brent Martin, Kirk Prather, Ben Roche, Bob Rosenfeld, Evan Schmidgall, Nick Schmidgall, Jonathan Stoller, Merle Stoller, Sarah Stoller and Pete Wettstein.

We bid farewell to our dear Sis. Anna Baer as she moved from her home in the Valley Court to the Peoria Nursing Home. We will surely miss her but pray God will always provide for her.

Our hearts were uplifted and encouraged as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of three dear souls the weekend of May 20-21. Our new brothers in faith are Bro. Jerome Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane), Bro. Brent Vierling (Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda) and Bro. Josh Gerber (Bro. Neil and Sis. Leesa). May God's Spirit of grace and wisdom be their guide throughout their life. We appreciated all of the visiting ministers that weekend, especially Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford), Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago) and Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield).

We also had other visiting ministers this past month which we were thankful for: Bros. Randy Mogler (Washington), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke), Dan Koch (Tremont), Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA) and Kent Getz (Elgin, IA). May God bless each one.

Our love and prayers are with Sis. Clara Huber who has been in the hospital recently and is now recovering at home. We are thankful for God's healing hand upon her and also to Sis. Aldine Leman who was hospitalized and is at our Eureka Nursing Home.

Our earthly fathers are a blessing from God. May we always appreciate the example our earthly fathers, and our heritage have portrayed.

*Impressions of a Father*  
 How blessed are the children  
 Who in their father see

The tender Father-love of God,  
 And find their way to Thee.

—Johnson

### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Sally Fehr Joann Zehr

May God bless the home of Bro. Darren and Sis. Kendra Fehr who had a baby girl, Lauren Elise, on April 28. She is a sister to Andrew and Lane. Happy grandparents are Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley Fehr and Sis. Betty Ifft of Forrest.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma Fehr are the happy grandparents of twin boys, Nicholas James and Jeremy Allen, who were born April 28. Their parents are James and Nada (Fehr) Cagle.

Bro. Willis Nussbaum, 78, passed away on May 11. May God be near his dear wife, Sis. Elna, and children, Alan (Laura) and Jan Richard (Kim), both of Bloomington, Rollin of Batavia, and Sis. Jill (Bro. John) Schlipf of Gridley. Also, his brothers, Bro. Dean (Sis. Betty), Bro. Wayne, and Bro. Byron (Sis. Neola), all of Fairbury, and his sisters, Sis. Leona, Bloomington, Sis. Janice and Sis. Carol of Fairbury, and Sis. Doris (Bro. Robert) Huber of Ft. Lauderdale, FL. We are always thankful when we can have the comfort that someone has reached the great reward.

Sis. Emma Meister, 83, passed away on May 14. We extend our sympathy to her sister, Pauline Lawrence, and her brother, Andrew Meister, both of Fairbury. She is survived by many nieces and nephews.

We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Ruth Meyer in the death of her sister, Sis. Emma Beckley, of Remington, IN; and to Sis. Marge Kaisner in the death of her sister-in-law, Clara Zimmerman, who also lived in Indiana.

Sis. Leona Broquard is in the hospital and we ask God for His healing mercy.

A special thanks to Bros. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) and Ken-

neth Knapp (Taylor, MO) who have ministered to us. Their visits are always appreciated.

We welcome Bro. Curt and Sis. Kristen Slagel back to our congregation. They had been living in Pennsylvania.

A loving Father in Heaven and a God-fearing father here on earth who loved and provided for us—we have so much to be thankful for. It will be 28 years in June that my father passed away, but he is never forgotten and will always be missed. Might we continue to strive for the goal that many of our parents have already won.

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## ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp  
Linda Anliker**

“And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”

*John 6:35*

Taking of the bread of life in repentance are Janae Stork (Bro. Reuben and Sis. Devra), Wendi Kelson (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sherri), Leah Knapp (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean), Rebekah Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee), and Joshua Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy). Offering their lives to Christ in their youth may they embrace Him as their true Shepherd and Friend in complete submission.

Seeking the Lord's will in their lives are Bro. Michael Schneider (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra) and Sis. Jodi Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley), as they are planning a July wedding. May they feel the Lord's guidance during this time.

We thank Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Bros. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Ralph Garber (Morton, IL), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) for visiting and their willingness to serve us from God's Word.

The precious gift of life was given to Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie

Kaeb with the birth of Levi John. Enjoying their new brother are Krystle, Joshua, Kaylee, Kara, Jenna, and Joseph. Grandparents are John and Adeline Kaeb (Arrowsmith, IL) and Bob and Sis. Elaine Mueller.

Spending time in the hospital this past month was Sis. Gladys Koehl. May God grant healing and restoration.

Bro. Ed Honegger was called into eternity on April 18. We rejoice that in the last years of his life he was able to surrender to the Lord. Our sympathy goes out to his wife, Edith, and his children, Janet (Butch) Payne (Collinsville, IL), June (Otto) Meletzke (North Myrtle Beach, SC), Jean (Leonard) Chairney (Edwardsville, IL), Joellen (Brian) Short (Forrest, IL), and Keith (Joy, Edwardsville, IL). His siblings that will miss him are Bro. John (Sis. Wilma, Peoria, IL), Sis. Oleda (Bro. Herman) Menold (Morton, IL), Sis. Leona (Bro. Ben) Tanner (Goodfield, IL), Sis. Marge (Bro. Wilbur) Schneider (Rockville, CT), Sis. Verna (Bro. Anton) Schaeffer (Morris, MN), Sis. Ruth (Bro. Les) Roth, Sis. Donna Leman, Bro. Perry and Harley (Lorraine).

May 2 was the funeral for Curtis Stoller. We extend sympathy to his sister, Sis. Mildred (Bro. Carl) Schieber (Congerville, IL).

We also pray for comfort for Bro. Byron (Sis. Neola) Nussbaum and Bro. Dean (Sis. Betty) Nussbaum as they laid to rest their brother, Bro. Willis Nussbaum (Fairbury, IL).

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## ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Heather Hohulin

“This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me... This cup is the new testament in my blood which is shed for you.”

*Luke 22:19-20*

How privileged we are to be able to reflect on what Christ did for us. We can never truly understand what He went through, all for us, so that we might have life eternal. We at

Goodfield held our Communion services this past month on Good Friday. It is always such a blessing and a good reminder of Christ's sacrifice, especially around the Easter Season. Elder Bros. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) were here to share in this work.

We were privileged this month to hear the testimonies of faith in God and to witness baptism of Sis. Janelle Hohulin (Bro. Sam and Sis. Cindy), Sis. Leisa Maloney (Randy and Sis. Dawn) and Bro. Josh Wyss (Bro. Dale and Sis. Susie). Elder Bro. Everett Hari and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) were here to share in this blessed time.

In addition to our news of “re-births”, we also have a new birth to announce. Little Kelsy Ann Bowen was born this past month to Leigh and Mike Bowen. Excited to have her is her big sister, Amanda. This is the great-granddaughter of Sis. Violet Hohulin.

We are sad to hear the news that Bro. Sam and Sis. Cindy Hohulin will be relocating to Arizona. They will be missed in our congregation and we wish them God's richest blessings as they move and get adjusted to a new area.

Our dear Bro. Adolph Tanner passed into eternity this past month. He was the father of our Sis. Phyllis Rokey (Bro. Kenneth), Madolyn Tanner, and Don Tanner (Mary Alice). Our prayers are with the whole family as they mourn this loss.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this past month. In addition to those mentioned above, Bro. Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL) was also with us.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Connie Allen (Bro. Gary), Bro. Larry Bauman (Sis. Betty) and Bro. Elmer Bauman (Sis. Mildred). Bro. Elmer is now at the Eureka Apostolic Nursing Home. Our prayers are with each of them as they recover.

### *Notes of Thanks:*

The family of Harold DeBolt wish to express our thankfulness and appreciation first to our ministering

brothers who conducted the funeral. Also, thanks for the prayers, cards, memorials and all the kind deeds at the passing of our husband, father and brother.

*May God bless each of you.*

*Sis. Shirley DeBolt and family*

*Sis. Evelyn (Bro. Shorty) Hofmann*

We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the prayers, visits, memorials and other kind deeds shown during the passing of our loved one, Adolph Tanner. God bless each one.

*Sis. Verna Wettstein*

*Madolyn Tanner*

*Sis. Laretta Knobloch*

*Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Phyllis Rokey*

*Don and Mary Alice Tanner*

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## ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

### Perry A. Klopfenstein

An Elder brother made a very instructive comment recently in exhorting a congregation. He said that as pilgrims and strangers (here on earth) we should "travel light".

That is, we should not carry a lot of baggage (of worldly things) that burden us down. This world is not our home. We, as God's children, are only travelers seeking our final goal—the delights of Heaven. If we "travel light" our strength remains more enduring.

On May 7, Sis. Carla Miller was announced to be married to Bro. Sean Cornell. She is the daughter of Bro. Orlan and Sis. Carol Miller, and he is the son of Melvin Cornell and Cheryl Cornell, both of Danville.

We truly thank God for His work in uniting these two dear souls—and we rejoice further that they sought His will in this second most important step in life.

Lacey Mae was born to Bro. Jay and Sis. Heidi Kiefer on April 11. She has the following siblings: Jessica and Jacob (both 9), Abby (6) and Stella (3). Grandparents are Bro. Richard, Sr. and Sis. Louise Kiefer and Bro. J.D. and Sis. Sandy Maurer.

Great-grandparents are Sis. Della Kiefer (Eureka, IL), Sis. Viola McKinley, and Marvin and Jean Maurer, Gridley. May God be with these dear parents as they train her up in the nurture of the Lord.

Bro. Ed Witzig, 84, passed away on May 19 after a short illness. His funeral was on May 22.

He is survived by his dear wife of 56 years, Sis. Dorothy; two sons, Bro. Bill Witzig (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Bob Witzig of Gridley; two daughters, Sis. Sally Fritz (Morton, IL) and Sis. Joyce Ferneau of Gridley; 11 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Also surviving are two brothers, Bro. Elmer Witzig, Gridley, and Bro. Alf Witzig (Eureka Home); three sisters, Sis. Anna Schneider, Peoria, Sis. Pauline Witzig (Eureka Home) and Sis. Ruth Meyer, Fairbury.

We will miss Bro. Ed. He had a blessed life, and saw the conversion of all his children. He was a hard working man, who simply enjoyed working. Although on the quiet side, he could offer much discussion on topics of interest. We offer our sympathies to Sis. Dorothy, and pray God will help her ease into her life without Bro. Ed.

We offer our special best wishes to our graduates. Graduating from 8th grade are: Joel Campbell, Tina Gramm, T.J. Kaupp, Ashley Kiefer, Amber Miller, Jennifer Ringger, Kaleigh Schlipf, Maggie Schrenk, Jennifer Steffen, Christopher Stoller, Christy Stoller, Isaac Taylor, and Kelsey Zehr.

High School graduates are: Sis. Tara Gramm, Eric Harris, Bro. Ryan Prevo, Sis. Becky Ringger, Bro. Jason Rinkenberger, Bro. Scott Wettstein, Bro. Matt Zehr, and Bro. Andy Zimmerman.

The annual Sunday School picnic was held on Sunday, May 21, at the Community Building. This is a yearly tradition that the children love.

Sis. Mabel Miller, who resided for a short time at the Meadows Home, (while convalescing from an illness) is now back at her apartment at Sunrise Manor. We are thankful she is

able to return home.

Sis. Rosella Knapp is suffering from a serious disease, and is able to be at home. May the prayers of the congregation be heard.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), Brace Wieland (Leo, IN) and Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL).

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## ILLINOIS, MORTON

### Phyllis Farney

### Cheryl Wuthrich

We wish God's richest blessings on the sisters that have recently been elected to teach Sunday School. They are Sisters Kathy Kaufmann, Kathy Ritthaler and Geana Tanner. What a special privilege and responsibility to be commissioned to teach the young children more of God's Holy Word. We take this opportunity to thank all of our Sunday School teachers for their efforts of love.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Stacy Stoller and their daughter, Madison, welcomed a new baby into their home. Hallie Ann was born April 28. Her grandparents are John and Ella Martin (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Barb Stoller. May God grant them wisdom as they rear their precious daughters.

Steve and Cathi Michel are welcoming the arrival of Gabrielle Corrine born on April 5. Grandparents are Bill and Sis. Doris Michel and Roger and Carol Hoffman (Peoria, IL). May the Lord bless and guide this family.

Carson Jaye was born to Bro. Bart and Sis. Janelle Rinkenberger on May 17. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jaye and Sis. Peg Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karel Anliker (Francesville, IN). We can only rejoice when the Lord gives children to Godly parents who will teach them the ways of the Lord.

Wednesday, May 3, a dinner was held for the graduating seniors and their parents. It was followed by our family worship service where the message focused on the graduating class. We thank Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) for delivering the mes-

sage that evening. Those graduating are Caleb Greene (Gary and Vickie), Bro. Matthew Kaiser (Bro. Dave and Sis. Beth), Sis. Jesse Kruse (Bro. Doug and Sis. Gerry), Bro. Aaron Rassi (Bro. Gary and Sis. Debbie), Bro. Bryce Spangler (Bro. Roger and Sis. Dawn), Sis. Amy Stephens (Bro. Mark and Sis. Esther), Bro. David Wuthrich (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl), Brian Zeller (Bro. Jon and Sis. Chris) and Bro. Eric Zimmerman (Bro. Joe and Sis. Barb). Our prayer for them is Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths."

On May 6, we gathered together to partake of Holy Communion. We wish to thank Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) for helping serve and minister to the congregation. It is a time to remember what the Lord has done for us.

The Family Hymn Sing was held May 7. A special blessing was had as the group "One Accord" brought hymns of praise to the congregation.

On May 13, the Mother-Daughter Banquet was held. All mothers were honored and challenged as we were reminded of some faithful women of the Bible: Hannah for her prayers, Ruth for her loyalty, Esther for her courage, and Mary the mother of Jesus for her availability.

Two dear souls gave their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of May 20-21. They were Sis. Alice Hirstein (late John Hirstein) and Bro. Walt Wittmer. His wife, Sis. Alma, had waited fifty some years to see the day he would turn to the Lord. We rejoice in the Lord for He is good and His mercy endureth forever, even to those that wait until later in life to surrender to Him. We praise the Lord for His grace.

On May 21, the announcement of the engagement of Sis. Shalome Knobloch (Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl) to Bro. Lee Hoffman (Merle and Elsie Eisenman) of Cissna Park. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings and guidance during their engagement

period.

## ILLINOIS, PEORIA

### Peter and Mabel Weber

Easter Sunrise services united 180 for a Fellowship Hall breakfast and song and inspirational worship. The reason we are here is that HE is NOT HERE, but risen, which validates everything He has said. The two on the road to Emmaus were confused, thinking their life as they knew it was over. They were perplexed then, and many are perplexed now, because they refuse the miracle of God and the way He has prepared for us. They prefer to look for something of this world instead of eternal: a personal Saviour, walking side by side with us, Who paid a great price so we have a hope of Heaven. (Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer)

We thank Elder Bro. Lavoyd and Sis. Doris Moore (Athens, AL) for their visit on April 30. Christ loves us first, died for us on Calvary and gives us what we allow Him to do. The reality is life will be over pretty soon and the facts will be recorded. In Acts 16:25, Paul and Silas were singing at midnight in the inner prison after having been beaten with many stripes. The jailer asked: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved? Believe on the Lord Jesus and thou shalt be saved." Because He lives, we can have life and if we miss Heaven, it is our fault.

Sis. Renee Waibel and Bro. Shane Robison were united in Holy Matrimony on April 30. The weakness of the flesh makes for a constant need of companionship, which is at times good, then not so good. The one who stops first in an argument, is the winner. Entertain thoughts of love and peace during the time of adjustment. God's plan is permanent and we go into eternity together. Remember April 30 as well as your spiritual birthdays, and hold on to the strong anchorpoints with the threefold cord, not lightly rent apart. We wish them God's rich blessings in their married life. (Bro. Ken Hoerr)

"Commitment" was the topic of Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) on

May 3 for our family night service. It's an agreement to do something in the future as a participant. Are we involved, or actually committed, to the Word, family, occupation? It is learned through being tested. How we live shows our commitment to God. What is our commitment level? Daniel prayed at an open window, not behind a post. We need to stay in fellowship with believers, make confessions, praise God daily, read in the Word every day and stay close to it, don't flirt with sin. Commitment also involves a cross, but think of eternity, and it becomes bearable. Christ is committed to us as the good shepherd giving His life for His sheep. All took off at Gethsemane because their commitment was based on the wrong thing, but later Peter made a promise and committed himself. Let's examine our commitment and seriously answer: are we committed to serving Jesus or just "kind of involved"? Thanks, Bro. Andy, for sharing the Word with us.

Another B(oy), Breck, joined Beau and Brad and we congratulate Bro. Andy and Sis. Darcy Biedscheid; grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie; and great-grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Hattie Hoerr and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Marie Menold.

Grace Elizabeth joined her brother, Aaron Michael, on May 16 to become the second child of Bro. Michael II and Sis. Kristi Rieker. We warmly congratulate her parents; grandparents, Bro. Michael and Sis. Carol Rieker, Bro. Joe II and Sis. Jo Anne Hoerr; great-grandparents, Fred and Sis. Norma Rieker, Sisters Wilma Hoerr and Chris Erkert and Bro. Dick and Sis. Gladys Binkele. May they, with the other young couples in our congregation, enjoy the blessings of parenthood by raising their family to the honor of God.

On her way home from work on April 30, Sis. Janet Weber was struck by a car, which broke her neck. After the discomfort of a halo and an operation, she received extensive therapy, which is continued now at home, with the hope of regaining full mobility in her arms and hands. She and

her husband, Mike, wish to thank you for your prayers, visits, meal support and many deeds of love and kindness. Sisters Marie Kieser and Loretta Ross had short hospital stays and we are thankful they are at the Skylines again.

Sis. Delma Ziegenhorn (86) passed away at the Skylines on May 7 and we express our sincere sympathy to her husband, Bro. Bernard, and the rest of her family.

Two marriage engagements delighted us on May 1: Sis. Jenny Honegger to Bro. Billy Schick (Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane Honegger); and Sis. Michelle Herman to Bro. David Kellenberger (Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth Herman) and we wish them the Lord's blessings in this important step.

Mothers are so important in God's plan, yet not in the forefront, as their calling is in the background. The love of a mother is only exceeded by the love of Jesus. Elkanah's wife, Hannah, was childless, but she was faithful and later Samuel was born to her, whom she lent to God to be His servant. Today we lend children to God by committing them to Him, and the prayer of a mother especially touches the Lord (I Sam. 1, Bro. Rick Plattner and Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer on Mother's Day).

Five months ago we were reminded of the trip Joseph and Mary took to their native Bethlehem to comply with the Roman request for census and taxation. The US Census began in 1790 as required by the Constitution and, in 2000, is the greatest manpower mobilization after the Gulf War. Since early May, 585 enumerators have been contacting non-respondents in our area to obtain their information for the demographic and political statistics. Will there be a hiding place for non-respondents when the books will be opened in Heaven?

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**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**  
**Crystal Streitmatter**  
**Mary Ehnle**

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

*Luke 12:34*

Our congregation has been blessed by the visitation of ministering Bros. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL).

Sis. Eleanor Baer (late Otto Baer) has recently moved her earthly home to the area of the Eureka, IL, congregation. She is now living in the Apostolic Christian Home condominium units. We wish her God's blessings and strength as she gets used to her new home.

Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany Plattner along with their two children, Tyler and Abrey, feel they have been directed by the Lord to move to Leo, IN. In July, they will become alternate houseparents for the Gateway Woods Children's Home. We will miss them in Princeville, but also wish God's blessings upon them as they continue in His service.

Our prayers are with Sis. Bertie Kieser as her daughter, Sis. Janet Weber (Peoria, IL), has been hospitalized due to a car accident. Kourtney Stahl (Bro. Rod and Sis. Kathy Stahl) has also been a recent hospital patient.

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to express our sincere thanks for the love and kindness shown to our Dad during his illness and for the prayers, encouragement and support at his passing. May God richly bless each of you for your phone calls, visits, cards and memorials given in his memory. He will be greatly missed.

*Don and Carol Baer and family*  
*Sis. Diane and Bro. Bill Streitmatter and family*

Faith of our fathers! We will love  
 Both friend and foe in all our  
 strife:

And preach thee, too, as love  
 knows how,  
 By kindly words and virtuous  
 life:

Faith of our fathers! Holy faith!

We will be true to thee till death!  
*Hymns of Zion #85*

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**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**  
**Boni Stoller**  
**Linda Hodel**

*When we Ask Why*  
 God's purpose and plan is some-  
 times concealed,  
 But someday His purpose will be  
 revealed.  
 Someday God's wisdom will  
 make it very plain,  
 Why problems were permitted,  
 and how He uses pain.  
 Things thought illogical—Dis-  
 ease, tragedy, fear,  
 Will someday make sense, when  
 God makes all things clear.  
 We'll see the Lord's purpose from  
 the Lord's point of view,  
 And we'll know the answers in  
 ways we never knew.  
 Until we're home with God, some  
 answers must wait.  
 Until His plan unfolds, we'll live  
 and walk by faith.

Sadly, we have three deaths to report that have affected us here in our congregation. Our Bro. Lloyd Aeschleman passed away April 29 after a struggle with declining health. May God comfort his dear wife, Sis. Cynthia, and daughter, Sis. Sara Fischer (Bro. Les), in this loss. Also, Bro. Gene Whitten's mother, Mabel Whitten, passed away on April 28. She had been a resident in our nursing home and always had a kind smile for a visitor. Also feeling the loss of his mother is Jim Wacker (Sis. Cheryl). Bev Eden passed away May 6. We pray our Heavenly Father will put His tender arms around these families during this time of their loss.

Our recent hospital patients this past month have been Sis. Marie Hohulin, Bro. Ben Hodel, and Sis. Pat Sauder. It has been a blessing to see them back worshipping with us.  
 We rejoice in the wedding engage-

ment of Bro. Jason Hodel (Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy) to Sis. Rena Braker (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Martha). Sis. Rena has been living in Fort Wayne, IN, and working as an assistant to the houseparents at the Leo Children's Home. They are planning an August 6 wedding.

Our congregation was very blessed to witness the baptisms of seven dear ones on April 30. We welcome two couples, Bro. Norm and Sis. Jan Reckhemmer and Bro. Jesse and Sis. Jenny Martin, and Sis. Leigh Getz (Bro. John and Sis. Lynn), Bro. Seth Braker (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge) and Sis. Rachel Feucht (Bro. Randy and Sis. Carol) into the fold. We would like to thank Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) and Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) for assisting with the testimonies and other visiting ministers for being with us during this time: Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) and also Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL) for our Easter morning service. May God bless them in their work in which they have been called in.

We are thankful in the work our Bible Class students have done and that the Lord blessed them with a blessed trip together and safe return from their work project in Jamaica. They put on a program for us of their experiences on May 13. May each one take to heart what they saw and learned as they labored together in this poor country.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."

*Matthew 5:16*

## ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Barb Kaeb**

**LaVonne Wagenbach**

We shared a blessed weekend on May 6-7 as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of four dear souls. They are Sis. Sara Bolliger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane),

Sis. Kathy Koch (Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane), Sis. Sharon Koch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sally) and Sis. Elizabeth Koch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Jennifer). It is always inspiring to hear of God's love and mercy.

A special thank you is given to Elder Bros. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) for their labor of love that weekend and to our other visiting ministers this past month, who were Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL).

April 29 was a special day for Cindy Schaefer (Bro. Maurice and Sis. Marge) and Ryan Keith (Tom and Lynn) as they were united in marriage. We wish them God's blessings as they walk the path of life together.

Bro. John and Sis. Heather Rassi are thankful for the safe arrival of their son, Jacob Aaron, on May 1. Happy grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi and Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth Stuber.

### *Note of Thanks:*

A special thank you to all my friends and relatives for remembering me on my 90th birthday with cards, good wishes and gifts. God's blessings to all.

*Bro. Merle Getz*

## ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Denise Romersberger**

**Sue Ruppert**

Have you ever thought about the prayer life of David? One would think that David would be disciplined in his prayer life, and that he probably had a formal prayer time 2, 3, maybe 4 times a day. He might have been eloquent in his prayers, and perhaps, as king, he would have been expected to pray in public. Perhaps people even came from far places just to hear him.

All that may have been true, but somehow, I think of a different picture. We have the advantage of having David's writings preserved for us in the Psalms. It is in the Psalms that we can really see David's heart and

what his thoughts were. They are filled with his praise to God, his deep thanksgiving to his Shepherd, the cries of his heart to his Friend and Defender, and even anger at the world around him. If one studies the Psalms, one soon feels that these are not the formalized prayers of someone who prayed once or twice a day. No. These are the heart-thoughts of a man who was intimately aware of God's presence at all times, and who was dependent on that presence in all aspects of his life. David talked with God all the time, in all situations, and with all of his heart and soul poured into his conversations with his Creator. Even when David made mistakes, he felt confident enough in the mercy of God to be able to come to Him in deep repentance.

We, too, can have this ongoing relationship with our Father throughout our waking hours, but it takes some effort. We need to spend time in the Word to learn God's truths, and about His nature. We need to reserve time away from everyone, and everything that would take up our time so that we can be quiet and be with God. But we also need to develop the attitude of dependence on God in all situations and to be instant in prayer to ask Him throughout the day for His presence, His wisdom, and His work to be done. We need to ask God to change our hearts so that we are truly grateful for all that God is, not just for the things that He gives us. All of these things will bring us into a close relationship with our Father, and we will want to be in His presence throughout the day, not just at "prayer time".

Guest ministers in Washington this month were Bros. Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL) and Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO). Thank you, brothers, for sharing your time and talents with us.

The Bible Class held their annual breakfast at the home of Bro. Carl Wyss. The ties of friendship formed in the years in Sunday School last for a lifetime.

Bro. Dean and Sis. Becki Martin are the thankful parents of their first

child, Hannah Lynn, who was born April 22. Grandparents are Roland and Sis. Deloris Martin, and Bro. Lester and Sis. Ruth Martin, all of Eureka.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Jean Streitmatter welcomed home little Kyle John to their house, along with big brother, Kirk, and big sister, Kayla. Kyle was born on April 27. Grandparents are Sis. Pearline and the late Bro. Vernon Streitmatter of Washington and Sis. Shirley and the late Bro. John Leuthold of Princeville.

Also, Gary and Sis. Kay Monagle welcomed a new granddaughter into their family. The parents are Bro. Pete and Sis. Lisa Monagle of Morton. Congratulations!

Washington is excited about three engagements that were announced on the same day! Sis. Pam Huber and Bro. Elliot Yudenfriend, both of Washington, have set a date of August 20 for their wedding. Parents are Sis. Carol and the late Bro. Wayne Huber of Francesville.

Bro. Billy Schick and Sis. Jennifer Honegger will be married August 6. Parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick, and Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane Honegger (Peoria, IL).

Bro. Dave Kellenberger and Sis. Michelle Herman will be wed on July 23. Parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Carole Kellenberger, and Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth Herman (Peoria, IL). May God's richest blessings be yours!

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## INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Beth Aschliman  
Tonia Isch**

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

*Acts 2:38*

We rejoice with the five souls who gave their testimonies and were baptized May 6 and 7. They were Shelley Brickley (John), Brooke Dehoff (Bro. Scott and Sis. Rita), Brooke Neuenschwander (Bro. Tom and Sis.

Sue), Christen Geisel (Bro. Charles and Sis. Marcia), and Kristen Fiechter (Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari).

We are very thankful to have four new converts this month. Tanya Frauhiger (Bro. Kris and Sis. Ann), Jeremy Reinhard (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gale), Zachary Bertsch (Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon), and Jonathan Isch (Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene) have all given their hearts to our wonderful Lord and Saviour.

Bro. Rex and Sis. Becky Neuenschwander were blessed with April Joy, born on April 21. Big brother Drew and big sister Jenna, along with grandparents, Bro. William and Sis. Mildred Neuenschwander and Sis. Lula Baumgartner, are very excited to have her also. Gretchen Leigh Moser was born April 15 to Bro. David and Sis. Sheri. She has a sister Olivia. Grandparents are Sis. Dina Fae Moser and Wally and Sis. Marilyn Leman. Lyle and Julie Isch along with big brother Tommy welcomed Chole Michelle into their lives on April 18. Grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny Isch. Bro. Chad and Sis. Jami Gerber along with big brother Drew have a new precious bundle, Hannah Lyn, born May 2. Grandparents are Bro. Russell and Sis. Susie Gerber and Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda Moser.

Our Bro. Sylvan Gerber, Bro. Richard Reinhart (Sis. Phyllis), John Brickley (Sis. Shelley), and Kyra Gerber (Bro. Kent and Sis. Kim) all spent some time in the hospital this month. Our prayers have been with them. Our hearts have also gone out to Ryan Steffen (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay from Bluffton North) and his family. We are continuing to pray for them.

We are so thankful for all the visiting ministers who have given of themselves this month. They are Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Sis. Mary, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI), Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest, IL), Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO), Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN), Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), and

Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Sis. Doris, Athens, AL).

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## INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH Ann Meyer Rhonda Maller

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

*Hebrews 4:16*

Our congregation asks that you join us as we come boldly to the throne of grace on behalf of Ryan Steffen (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay) and his family. Ryan was critically injured in an auto accident and remains in intensive care. We pray that his family can remain strong in their faith and continue to feel the peace of God that passes all understanding. As we pray for Ryan's recovery, we submit his life into the Father's hands. May His will be done. Please include the woman who was responsible for the accident in your prayers.

Bro. Jim Geisel has spent time in the hospital this past month. We pray that his health will be restored. May he always feel the warm and loving presence of our Lord and Saviour.

Our love and prayers go out to Bro. Gene and Sis. Melinda Gilgen and their family. Bro. Gene's mother recently passed away and we sympathize with them in their loss.

As some of us are saying goodbye, others are welcoming precious little ones into their hearts and homes. Bro. Truman and Sis. Marge Baumgartner are the happy grandparents of Regan Jones. Regan's parents are Todd and Ruth.

"...What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

*Matthew 19:6*

Bro. Leonard and Sis. Wava Bertsch celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 15. What a wonderful testimony of Christian

marriage. We share their joy and pray that God will bless them with many more years of wedded bliss.

Our congregation rejoices in the repentance of Sheena Milholland (Rob and Sis. Tonya Troxel) and Ashley Sizemore. Ashley has been attending church and young group gatherings with friends from school. May God guide their steps as they grow in the knowledge of the Lord and experience the peace that comes with His forgiveness. We pray also for Andy Rupel (Bro. Fred and Sis. Rhonda) who has turned his heart again to the Lord in repentance. May God pour out His grace and Spirit on all of them.

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

*Ephesians 6:10*

### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Pam Huber

"By mercy and truth iniquity is purged and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil."

*Proverbs 16:6*

We rejoiced as five souls committed their way unto the Lord in baptism on April 30. Britni Gudeman (Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky), Anthony Gutwein (Sis. Melody), Joy Gutwein (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice), Erie Ward (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandi) and Levi Wuethrich (Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla) encouraged all of us with their testimonies of faith and God's hand in their lives. We pray you continue to grow and flourish as you take your place in the body of Christ.

Also celebrating new life this past month were Scott and Sis. Colleen Wuethrich and their children, Ingrid, Ivy and Henry, as they welcomed Simon Bart into the world April 22. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Otto and Sis. Donna Wuethrich, Mr. and Mrs. Allyn Onken and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bisher.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Valerie Leman

rejoiced at the birth of baby Winston Curtis on April 25, along with grandparents Bro. Sid and Sis. Fern Leman and Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy Schambach (Elgin, IL).

It was only a week and a half later and we were welcoming in our third baby, Kaitlin Marie, born May 5 to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Laura Gutwein. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda Gutwein and Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary Schieber (Congerville, IL). God bless all of you as you seek His will in raising your little ones to His glory.

Our month continued with celebrations as we had three weddings also! Bro. Luke Gutwein (Sis. Donna) and Sis. Jenny Bahler (Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette) of Remington, IN, were united in marriage on May 7. Bro. Jeremy Schieler (Bro. Darl and Sis. Cindy of Bloomington, IL) and Sis. Tonya Huber (Bro. Chris and Sis. Sharon) started their new life as husband and wife May 14. Bro. Stuart Gutwein (Bro. Harv and Sis. Ellen) and Sis. Alivia Metzger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene) exchanged wedding vows May 21. "...and they shall be one flesh." (Gen. 2:24). God bless each couple as they draw closer together through a closer walk with Him.

Sis. Amanda Ward (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandi) and Bro. Ryan Meister (Bro. Dick and Sis. Sharon) of Remington, IN, were announced to be engaged. We pray God guides and strengthens you as you prepare for this important step in life.

Many thanks to the ministers visiting us this past month: Bros. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), Jim Rinkenberger and Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN), Steve Ringger and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN). "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." (Psalm 23:5-6). We thank Thee, Lord, for Thy showers of blessings for which we are not worthy.

### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Loretta Schafer Nancy Witzig

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

*Luke 15:10*

We are thankful that Bryce Gingrich (Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy) has begun his walk with the Lord.

Two baby girls were born this month among our Indy congregation. Derek and Gina Lehman were blessed with Elizabeth Nicole.

Bro. Doug, Sis. Jeni, Jacob, and Caleb Hart welcome Kaitlyn. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Terry Hart, and Dean and Julie Rieke, all of Goodfield, IL.

The Outreach Weekend on April 29 was well attended by many from several congregations. May God bless the efforts expended in His name.

Our prayers and love are with Sis. Kathy Lee and her family, especially after their recent house fire. We are thankful for God's protection over the family. We will miss Hannah Lee as she has relocated to Georgia.

We will also miss Bro. Kevin and Sis. Amy Hodel who have moved to Detroit. We wish them God's blessings in their new home.

Bro. Eric Zeller (Sis. Ginny) was recently hospitalized for a short time. We are thankful he is recovering and pray for his continued health.

Bro. Eric Strassheim and Sis. Jodi Hohulin exchanged marriage vows in Bloomington, IL. Parents are Bro. Wes and Sis. Joyce Hohulin and Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Strassheim. We welcome Sis. Jodi to our small group in Bloomington, IN, where Eric is attending Indiana University.

Thanks to visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign), Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville), and Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton).



*Handwriting on the Wall*

A weary mother returned from the store,  
lugging groceries through the kitchen door  
Awaiting her arrival was her eight year old son,  
anxious to relate what his brother had done:  
"While I was out playing and Dad was on call,  
T.J. took his crayons and wrote on the wall;  
It's on the new paper you just hung in the den,  
I told him you'd be mad at having to do it again."  
She let out a moan, and furrowed her brow,  
"Where is your little brother right now?"  
She emptied her arms and with a purposeful stride,  
marched to his closet where he had gone to hide;  
She called his full name as she entered his room,  
he trembled with fear—he knew that meant doom!  
For the next ten minutes, she ranted and raved  
about the expensive wall paper, and how he behaved.  
Lamenting all the work it would take to repair,  
she condemned his actions and total lack of care,  
The more she scolded, the madder she got,  
then stomped from his room totally distraught!  
She headed for the den to confirm her fears,  
when she saw the wall, her eyes flooded with tears.  
The message she read pierced her soul with a dart;  
it said, "I love you mommy" surrounded by a heart.  
Well, the wallpaper remained

just as she found it,  
with an empty picture frame hung to surround it.  
A reminder to her, and indeed to all:  
Take time to read the handwriting on the wall!  
—*Author Unknown*

God bless all the mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and friends for working so hard and praying so diligently for the children around them.

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**INDIANA, LACROSSE**  
**Heidi Stoller**

God's people yet shall take possession  
Of that sweet land of rest so bright;  
Rejoice!  
Zion's Harp #211

Our dear Sis. Grace Heinold endured a lengthy illness and now has passed on to her eternal reward. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Aaron; children, Gwen Bucher (Valparaiso), Sis. Eula (Bro. Art Mogler (West Bend, IA), Sis. Emily (Bro. Bill) Schlatter (Junction), Bro. Marshall (Sis. Jan) of Ixtlan, Mexico, Bro. Eugene (Sis. Evie), Bro. Glen (Sis. Sandy), son-in-law, Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA); one sister, Sis. Mable Miller (Gridley, IL); one brother, Willis Eisenmann; 45 grandchildren and 53 great-grandchildren. The entire LaCrosse congregation will miss her cheerful countenance and spiritual outlook.

Kristi Massner (Bro. Randy and Mary Lynn Massner) was welcomed into the LaCrosse congregation as a sister in the Lord on May 22, following her testimony and baptism. It is such a joy to be reminded of the transforming power of the Spirit in the lives of new believers. We rejoice with her as she strives to live her covenant with the Lord.

Two couples have looked to God to lead them in finding helpmates. The engagements of Bro. Eric Heinold (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy) to Sis.

Bobbi Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. LuAnn) of Wolcott; and Sis. Diana Heinold (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie) to Bro. Jim Butikofer of Iowa City (Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne of Elgin, IA) were announced this month. We are so thankful that they looked to the Lord to lead them in this important step and pray that each couple will continue to seek the Lord's direction.

*Note of Thanks:*

Bro. Aaron Heinold and the Heinold family wish to extend their thanks to all those who attended the funeral of Sis. Grace, sent notes and flowers, and who supported the family in prayer during the sorrowful time of Sis. Grace's death.

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**INDIANA, LEO**  
**Ethelyn Schlatter**

"Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came..."

*Luke 24:1*

Easter morning we gathered at the Fellowship Center for a Sunrise service and breakfast. Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) and family spent the day with us. The following Sunday we were blessed to receive God's Word through Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI).

On April 26, a graveside service was held for Wanda Norr. She is survived by a daughter, Cheryl Norr, and sister-in-laws, Sis. Katherine Norr, Sis. Marie Bertsch, and Sis. Velma Bollier. Her husband, Albert, and a daughter, Maryanne, preceded her in death. Our sympathy is extended to the family.

Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) visited us on May 6 and 7. It was an inspiring weekend. We are grateful to the Lord for their concern and love for the Leo congregation.

Two engagements were announced this month. Sis. Rena

Braker is engaged to marry Bro. Jason Hodel of Roanoke, IL. Their parents are Bro. Harland and Sis. Martha Braker and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Kathy Hodel, all from Roanoke.

The announcement of the forthcoming marriage of Sis. Danielle Stickling to Bro. Matthew Wirtz was made known May 14. Her parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Diane (Lester, IA). His parents are Bro. Michael and Sis. Lila Wirtz (West Bend, IA). Congratulations and the Lord's blessings to both couples.

We welcomed three new baby boys. On May 6, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Tina Schumacher welcomed Josiah Samuel, who joins siblings, Jonathan, Zachary, and Olivia. Steve and Chris Sukup received a double blessing on May 10 with the arrival of twin boys, Jared and Joshua. Their older brother is Jacob. Congratulations to all with God's blessings.

We welcome Sis. Laura Siegle from Oakville, IA, who has come to assist houseparents, Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lisa Kipfer, at Gateway Woods.

On May 12, Susanna Boyer became a U.S. citizen after living here for 25 years. Born in Hungary, she is overjoyed with this accomplishment, and we rejoice with her. She lives in Ashley, IN, and fellowships with us in Leo. Her son, Victor, is in the foster care program through Gateway Woods.

Retired Elder Bro. David Wiegand (Champaign, IL) conducted our monthly topical Bible study. His subject was "Unity" based on Eph. 4:1-16. He brought out many hidden truths from these verses. One thing I hope I never forget, we may all be in agreement, but it is only unity when we are also in agreement with Christ. "Unity is a gift, let's keep it." Sis. Ethel accompanied him and we thank them for taking time to share with us. May God richly bless them as they blessed us.

Bro. Marvin Fischer (Sis. Pat) is hospitalized. He underwent surgery and we pray the Lord's healing hand and comforting Spirit be with them.

*A tribute to our fathers:*

Thou wilt again exalt him in high measure,  
When he the battle of the faith has fought;  
and once again Thou wilt in him find pleasure,  
When Thou hast him unto Thy glory brought.  
O Lord, our Ruler, may Thy praise forever  
be sung by choirs of all Thy children ever!  
*Zion's Harp #118 vs. 8*

Many of us do not have living fathers, but memories "Faith of our fathers living still". May God bless all fathers and guide them to strive aright.

**INDIANA, MILFORD**

**Pam Beer**

**Marguerite Hoerr**

We thank the Lord for healing in the surgeries of Sis. Linda Beer (Bro. Bob) and Sis. Millie Beer (Bro. Phil). In both of them the report is success, and we're all rejoicing for them.

Our good friend, Martin Stookey, had emergency heart by-pass surgery and we are grateful to the Lord for his satisfactory recovery, also. Martin is a skilled woodcarver and every year at the Silver Thimble auction donates one of his beautifully carved birds. As a result, his carvings are enjoyed in many homes, and in this way he shares his talent with many others.

Bro. Carlton (Cap) Beer was injured in a fall from his horse and required hospitalization for broken ribs and a punctured lung. We're grateful to see him back in church worshipping with all of us. Again, we thank the Lord.

Lauriel Feece, who has become a good friend, and is a relative newcomer to our congregation, has found peace in the Lord and is announced for baptism later this month. We continue to see the waters moved in our congregation and we are in awe of it.

Graduates from Wawasee High School this year are all girls: Sis. Katie Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy), Julie Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) and Angie Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat). These girls have our congratulations for successfully finishing and excelling in their high school career.

Our entire congregation extends our sympathy to Rosemary Piper, whose mother, Blanche Spangle, passed away on Mother's Day. Rosemary's parents, Blanche and Ralph, were married in 1923. He preceded her in death in 1960. Blanche lived many years with Rosemary and Ray since that time. Prior to her death, she lived at Timbercrest Home in North Manchester. Rosemary and Ray have become valued friends in our church home and we love and sympathize with them and their entire family in this loss.

Bro. John and Sis. Stephanie Schlatter had a beautiful baby girl on May 13 just in time for Mother's Day. They named her Lydia Dianne and she has two older sisters, Victoria and Amber, who will become her babysitters. A healthy baby brings so much joy into a family and into their church family, too. How happy we are for them and we ask God to bless the life of this little one as He has blessed her family.

Sis. Tricia Wuthrich (Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda) has accepted employment with the Galilean Home in Liberty, KY, and began her work there this past month. Tricia is an R.N. and is employed as the Supervisor of the Medical Ward of this Home. Her work will be blessed because Tricia is excellent with young children and this home encircles its caring program around children who are denied the necessities of life. Children from 15 different countries and 20 states have been treated there. May God bless her work among them.

Three ministers and their wives visited our Milford church this past month: Bro. Ron Kipfer and Sis. Linda (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Steve Frauhiger and Sis. Irene (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Wayne Leman

and Sis. Julie (Roanoke, IL). Each of them enriched our congregation with their proclaimed Word and we are grateful.

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## INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler**  
**Rochelle Ward**

Troy William became the first-born son of Loren and Jenni Honegger on April 29. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Joyce Honegger (Forrest, IL) and Kirk and Jeanne Johnson (Bethalto, IL). It is so special to rejoice with first-time parents. A baby is a symbol that, despite any hardships, life should go on.

On April 30, we held the dedication of our new church. Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Joe Braker (Morton, IL) served us in this purpose. An all-church supper followed.

Sis. Jenny Bahler became the bride of Bro. Luke Gutwein (Francesville, IN) on May 7. Parents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette Bahler along with Eric Gutwein and Sis. Donna Gutwein, rejoiced with them. Guest ministers were Bro. Steve Gutwein along with Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman and Alfred Bahler sharing their wedding service. As of August, their address will be 230 Marstellar St, Apt. #, West Lafayette, IN 47906.

Sis. Mary Jo Schieler, 81, (Bro. Herb) went to her Heavenly Home on May 11 after being in failing health this past year. Her four children, John (Goshen), Joyce Rowland (Indianapolis), Larry (Lafayette) and Sis. Jayne Price (Remington) have many precious memories of mother to carry with them.

Claiming the peace that passeth all understanding, Kylie and Abby Clauss (Bro. Rex and Sis. Tammy), Peggy (Sutter) Hillenberg and Tammy Waibel (Dean) all desire baptism.

Certainly, one of the most precious scriptural examples is the story of Isaac seeking a wife through faith. What an endless comfort, in our society of frequent divorce, to have hope

of marital blessings through a God-arranged marriage union. Bro. Ryan Meister (Bro. Dick and Sis. Sharon) asked in faith for Sis. Amanda Ward (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandy) of Francesville to be his wife. Lord willing, they plan to say their marriage vows on August 13.

On a Wednesday evening, Bro. Ernst Pfister from Breidenbach, Germany, along with his wife and daughter, ministered to us with Bro. Gene Lehman translating beside him. Also visiting us at mid-week was Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA). Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN) also ministered to us.

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## INDIANA, VALPARAISO

**Hope Bucher**

This month, the ladies of our church enjoyed two special luncheons. The Spring Luncheon was held at Parkview Haven with many of the residents there. We enjoyed a meal together and then performed a short program for the residents. We also were thankful that many gathered for our annual Mother-Daughter Luncheon. During this meeting, we were especially blessed by several songs from a handful of young ladies from our Sunday School. We give an extra "Thank You" to all who put forth the time and effort to make each of these days special!

We were privileged to have our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) with us on a Wednesday night to encourage us as we prepare for Communion. We pray he will be blessed for gathering with us.

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## INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Beckie Lehman**  
**Mary Beth Lehman**

Once again the school year has drawn to a close and the children are looking forward to vacations and summer activities. It is a joy to see the beauty of living things as the growing season has arrived and gardens are flourishing. We are thankful for God's ordained cycle of life, that after the winter of rest the earth can once

again bring forth it's fruit.

As this first school year of the century comes to a close, we congratulate those who are graduating from high school. Our graduates are Sis. Bethany Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann), John Widmer (Bro. Neal and Sis. Kris), Mark Furrer (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene), Kyli Weller (Janice Weller) and Jenny Dill. Our prayers go with each of the graduates as they begin a new era in their lives. May God guide each one as they make important decisions in choosing paths for their lives.

We were privileged in this past month to have several visiting ministers. Those who shared the Word with us were Bro. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH), and Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL). We also enjoyed a visit from Bro. Ernst and Sis. Elizabeth Pfister and their daughter, Katje, from Breidenbach, Germany. Bro. Ernst also graciously shared the Word with us with the help of an interpreter. May the Lord bless these ministers and their wives for traveling and sharing of their time to serve us.

We rejoice with Sis. Bobbi Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann) and Bro. Eric Heinold (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy, Lacrosse, IN) as they announced their engagement this past month. May God's love abound in their lives as they join hands and walk together.

This month, as we honor our earthly fathers, let us look to our Heavenly Father for guidance. Our Heavenly Father has given us so many good examples in the Word to guide our way. Christ's loving example can be the true help for our earthly fathers.

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## IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Brenda Schulz**  
**Karla Gerst**

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:"

*Matthew 24:32*

Once again it is nearly summer and school is about over for the year. Our high school graduates this year are: Cheryl Beyer (Bro. Henry and Sis. Barb), Rebecca Gerst (Randy and Sis. Juanita), Kristen Heiniger (Doug and Tari), Nick Heiniger (Tim and Gena), and Jordan Knapp (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna). We pray that they will seek God's guidance as they move on to the next steps in their lives.

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**IOWA, ELGIN**  
**Gloria Frieden**  
**Heidi Butikofer**

America! America!  
 God shed His grace on thee,  
 And crown thy good with brotherhood  
 From sea to shining sea!

How easy it is to take our many blessings for granted. As we draw near to celebrating our nation's 224th birthday, may we give thanks to God for the privileges we have in living in a land of freedom. May we also remember the freedom we obtained from the bondage of sin when, by God's grace, we could surrender our lives unto Him.

We were happy to hear the engagement announcement of Bro. Jim Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne) to Sis. Diana Heinold (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evelyn, LaCrosse, IN). May they look to God for guidance throughout their engagement and married life together.

Since June is the month with a day set aside to remember our fathers, may we give God thanks for the fathers He has blessed us with.

Fathers are wonderful people  
 Too little understood  
 And we do not sing their praises  
 As often as we should...  
 For somehow, father seems to be  
 The man who pays the bills,

While mother binds up little  
 hurts  
 And nurses all our ills...  
 And perhaps that is the reason  
 As we sometimes get the notion  
 That fathers are not subject  
 To the thing we call emotion,  
 But if you look inside dad's heart,  
 Where no one else can see,  
 You'll find he's sentimental  
 And as soft as he can be...  
 And like our Heavenly Father  
 He's a guardian and a guide,  
 Someone we can count on  
 To be always on our side.

—Helen Steiner Rice

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**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE**  
**Willa Clark**

"Honour thy father and thy  
 mother that thy days may be long  
 upon the land which the Lord thy  
 God giveth thee."

*Exodus 20:12*

"A wise son maketh a glad father."  
*Proverbs 10:1*

As we honor fathers this month, let us remember to exercise the wisdom God gives us. Following His will honors both our Heavenly Father and earthly father.

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who have shared God's Word with us this month. They are: Bros. Darrell Stoller (Bern, KS), Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN), and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA). One Wednesday evening we enjoyed the precious fellowship of several brothers and sisters from the Pulaski congregation as they joined us in worship.

We are blessed to have Aaron Musselman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy, Pulaski) in our congregation. He graduated from ISU in Ames, and is working with the Soil Conservation Service in Creston. Plans for his testimony and baptism are July 8-9 in Pulaski. We wish Aaron God's blessing in his new position and wel-

come him to our fellowship.

Bro. Don Miller reminded us that just as there was no cure for the disease of leprosy, but the Lord Jesus could heal lepers, so is sin a leprosy of the soul that can only be cured by His cleansing blood.

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**IOWA, IOWA CITY**  
**Janette Schulz**

Greetings to all! We appreciated all of our visitors, including Bro. Dale Frank who shared the Easter message with us and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz who assisted our Bro. Joe Gerst in serving Holy Communion. May God bless them and each one who traveled to worship with us this month.

As our church family had the privilege to partake of the Lord's Supper, may we be joined closer together and renew our commitment and zeal in our service to the Lord.

We extend our congratulations and wishes for God's blessings to Bro. Jim Butikofer and Sis. Diana Heinold (LaCrosse, IN) who believe God has directed them to become united in Holy Matrimony. We look forward to welcoming Sis. Diana into our congregation.

*A Christian Marriage is Special*  
 There's something very special in  
 a marriage built on Christ—  
 Something only Christian couples know—

It's Love that's never proud,  
 but very patient, kind, and good,  
 with roots that hold on firmly as  
 they grow.

It's Faith, not just in Christ,  
 but in the partner that you  
 chose,

for you know it's really He who  
 made the choice.

It's Hope that in the darkest  
 times

His light will still shine through  
 so,

in good or bad,  
 your hearts can still rejoice...

It's Joy in going hand in hand to-

gether,  
and with Christ,  
that reminds you He's a part of  
all you do.  
It's Assurance that throughout  
your lives,  
The Lord will never be any more  
than just a prayer away from  
you.

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**IOWA, LESTER**  
**Dawn Metzger**  
**Sue Warner**

Our souls are gladdened as we see the miracle of spring unfolding, yet an even greater miracle is that of a soul who turns from their sinful ways and seeks the Lord in a true repentance. We rejoice with Abby Metzger (Bro. Mark and Sis. Audrey) who has begun her repentance.

We are thankful that Marci Van Wyhe (Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan) has repented and has been granted the gift of peace. May God be near both of these dear souls and all who seek Him.

We were thankful to have visiting ministers in our midst. We appreciate the labors of Bro. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS) and Bro. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN). Our prayers are with all of our ministers and their families that God will bless them and give them grace to speak the Word in truth.

On May 7, Sis. Susan Knobloch (Bro. William and Sis. Eleanor) was united in marriage to Bro. Shannon Haerr (Bro. Norm and Sis. Sally) in Taylor, MO. We pray God will bless their lives together.

The engagement of Sis. Danielle Sticking (Bro. Dale and Sis. Diane) to Bro. Matt Wirtz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila) was announced. Both are from Leo, IN. We congratulate them and wish them God's blessings.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Lauretta Knobloch and her family on the death of her father, Bro. Adolph Tanner, of Goodfield, IL. May God comfort all those in our midst who sorrow over the loss of a loved one.

We have many from our congregation who have been hospitalized or

have had surgery. Surgical patients include Craig Metzger (Kelly), Bro. Pete Van Wyhe (Sis. Susan), Sis. Wilma Knobloch (Bro. Melvin), Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther), and Lydia Moser. Sis. Betty Leuthold (Bro. Paul) had cataract surgery. Sis. Joleen Metzger (Bro. Marvin), Bro. Brian Mogler (Sis. Bev), and Bro. Ron Kellenberger were hospital patients. For the present, Bro. Ron is living at the Tuff Memorial Home in Hills, MN. We pray that God will heal where it is His will.

We congratulate our young people who have graduated. We wish them the best as they plan for their futures, and hope that they will, "Remember now Thy creator in the days of Thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." (Ecclesiastes 12:1). High school graduates include: Wendi Bajema (Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla), Paula Bosch (Bro. Tony and Sis. Pam), Matt Feucht (Ron and Sis. Sandy), Sis. Kary Hartter (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gail), Trela Knobloch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet), Amber Metzger (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Mary), Chris Metzger (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Harriet), Cory Metzger (Don and Pat), Gregg Metzger (Bro. Mark and Sis. Audrey), Jordan Metzger (Bro. Art and Sis. Kris), Natalie Moser (Bro. Donn and Sis. Joyce), and Trixie Moser (Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther). College graduates include: Betsy Doorneweerd (Bro. Butch and Sis. Marlys), Sis. Cari Leuthold (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki), Brett Metzger (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joleen), Lori Metzger (Charlie and Linda), and Wayne Meyer (Bro. George and the late Sis. Charlyn Meyer).

*Note of Thanks:*

We want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, love, visits, calls, memorials, food, and support since the loss of our loved one. May God richly bless you for your deeds of kindness.

*In Christian Love,  
Bro. George Meyer and family*

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**IOWA, OAKVILLE**  
**Debbie Wagenbach**  
**Melody Steiner**

*The Union of Hearts*

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

This union of our hearts  
Shall stand through grace in Je-  
sus;  
We walk the path of life,  
While cheer and trust increases.  
Where God in truth abides,  
Where two join hand and heart,  
We find a three-fold cord,  
Not lightly rent apart.

*Zion's Harp #79*

Two dear couples were recently united in Holy Matrimony. They were Bro. Shane Metzger (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley, West Bend, IA) to Sis. Dusty Edle (Richard and Connie); and Bro. Trent Kuntz (Bro. Bob and Sis. Edra) to Sis. Laura Steiner (Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn). May the Lord continue to bless these dear ones as they continue their walk now as one with Him.

We want to congratulate those dear ones in our congregation who are graduating from high school. They are Jason Siegle (Bro. Bob and Sis. LeAnn), Clint Larson (Bro. Jack and Sis. Cathy), Bro. Kent Schmidgall (Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie), Sis. Holly Hay (Bro. Paul and Sis. Connie), Sis. Ashley Wiegand (Bro. Brian and Sis. Cindy), Sis. Jaclyn Schaer (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sandy), Sis. Denise Lanz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet), and Sis. Kelli Frank (Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina). Our thoughts and prayers go with each of them as they continue on to schools of higher

learning or seek out employment. May they seek the Lord's guidance and direction for their lives.

We also send our thoughts and prayers with our Sis. Laura Siegle (Bro. Bob and Sis. LeAnn) as she will be leaving our congregation to take employment at The Children's Home. We will miss her but pray she can be a blessing to the children and the Leo congregation.

We want to thank our many visiting ministers this month. May the Lord richly bless them for their labors of love on her behalf. They were Bros. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), John Rowell and Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA).

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### IOWA, PULASKI Katrina Knobloch

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts..."

*Colossians 3:15*

We rejoice with Aaron and Andrew Musselman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy) as they have found peace with God and are awaiting baptism. We also wish to congratulate Aaron on his graduation from college.

Announcing their engagement are Tammy Joos (Bro. Ron and Sis. Christy) and Steve Twohill. May they feel Christ's presence as they prepare for their wedding.

Our prayers are with Bro. Lloyd Wettstein (Sis. Carol), Bro. Virgil Knobloch (Sis. Katrina), and their families as they laid a dear grandfather, Bro. Adolph Tanner (Goodfield, IL), to rest.

As we celebrate Father's Day, may we also take time to remember our Heavenly Father and what He has done for us.

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### IOWA, WEST BEND

### Eunice Fehr Berniece Banwart

Bro. Silas (Sis. Della) Metzger and Connie (Bro. Bill) Zaugg were hospital medical patients. Wendy (Clay) Schmidt was a surgical patient and at this time is recovering from, hopefully, her last surgery so that she can be fitted for her bilateral prostheses.

We extend our sympathy to several in our congregation on the loss of loved ones. Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandy Knobloch mourn the loss of his grandfather, Bro. Adolph Tanner (Goodfield, IL). Bro. Art and Sis. Eula Mogler and family and Bro. Duane (Sis. Ruth) Metzger and family will miss their mother and grandmother, Sis. Grace (Bro. Aaron) Heinold of LaCrosse, IN. On May 8, we laid to rest Sis. Alma (Bro. Art) Schmidt. May God comfort Bro. Art and his children, Bro. John (Sis. Paula) Schmidt and Sandra (Wally) Schubert (Elgin, IL), and their families. Bro. Art and Sis. Alma had relocated to West Bend only three weeks before her death.

Bro. Neal and Sis. Angie Schmidt welcomed April Dawn on April 14. Cody and Portlind are excited about their new sister. Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr and Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Lucille Schmidt are grandparents.

On May 7 we witnessed the wedding vows of Sis. Kristi Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen) and Bro. Trenton Banwart (Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Deborah) of Ft. Scot, KS. Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Eugene (Sis. Mary) Marti and Bro. Randy (Sis. Karen) Kellenberger of Kansas City, MO, and Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Ft. Scott, KS). Bro. Trenton and Sis. Kristi will be making their home in Ft. Scott.

LaRae Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene) and Jeff Montag (Ed and Luan) exchanged their wedding vows on May 13. Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) was here for this happy occasion. We wish congratulations and God's blessings to both of these couples. May they always look to God for direction throughout their lives.

We rejoice with our convert, Minny Bruellman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Deb), as she has been announced as having peace. We are looking forward to a weekend in June when we can hear her testimony.

*God Gave our Dad a Song*  
The old house is still standing  
But today the rooms are bare,  
Its walls knew much happiness  
When the family all was there.  
When discord or disappointment  
Seemed to come along  
My Dad would get the hymn book  
And sing to us a song.

We weren't too successful  
In the way of earthly gain,  
But we had this shelter  
From all the cold and rain.  
And spiritually speaking  
We felt as rich as any king,  
As we sat by the fireside and  
Heard our Daddy sing.

Including old-time favorites like  
"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" —  
"Yield Not to Temptation" —  
and  
"My Faith Looks Up to Thee".  
That was in the day of childhood,  
Many years have come and gone.  
But I have not forgotten  
That God gave our Dad a song.

—L.L. Shanks

May we ever cherish our faithful earthly fathers. Many have gone to their eternal rest. May we pray for all fathers. May they ever look to our Lord for wisdom and guidance as they teach their children.

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### JAPAN, SHIODA Ayako Inoue

We send our greetings from Japan again this month.

As I write this every other month, I always feel the unity of faith between us, even though we are far apart.

In Japan, the month of May has a row of holidays and is called "golden week". Many Japanese take off and take trips inside and outside of the country. The Tokyo and Shioda churches had a outing in Okutama, the mountainous area of Tokyo. We hiked and had a barbecue at the riverside, followed by a Bible reading and singing. The words in the hymn "How Great Thou Art" sank into us as we lifted up our voices in the nature. We went to the hot springs afterward and were refreshed after getting blisters on our feet and slipping into the river water and getting wet!

The 2nd Sunday of May, the Shioda congregation went to the local hospital for Mother's Day. We usually give out small gifts and a card with a Bible verse written on it. This year, however, we were asked to have meditation with them, and about 30 elderly patients gathered in their wheelchairs and heard the Word with us. It was a blessed time for us and we hope they could know about the existence of God, the Creator, and feel His love.

We are trying to bring more people to church and spread the Word. We would appreciate your prayers of support so that more people in our country may know the Lord!

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## JAPAN, TOKYO

### Andrew and Chris Aberle

Our congregation is so excited to have a new little miracle to enjoy. Amy Ruth Klaus was born on April 29 to Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana Klaus. She was welcomed home by siblings, Caleb (7), Sarah (6), Hannah (5) and Rachel (2) and by her Grandma Kieser (Sis. Shirley, Princeville, IL) who is here in Japan helping out for two months. Her other grandparents, John and Betty Klaus, also gladly welcome her as they live nearby and can often visit.

Last month we were all very concerned about Takehide Itoh (married to Bro. Andrew Klaus' sister, Hope) after being seriously injured in a car accident. Takehide is still in the hos-

pital but is recuperating well, and started rehabilitation May 8. Please pray for his continued healing.

For our monthly ladies meeting in April, six of us had the privilege of going to Odawara where Sis. Onoda-san lives, which is two hours from Tokyo Church. After viewing many beautiful tulips in bloom in her neighborhood, we had lunch together. There is a group of Japanese women that are fairly consistent in coming to the monthly ladies meeting for a Bible lesson and some activity but have not yet made a commitment to Christ. Please pray that the Word which is presented would someday convert them.

Easter Sunday was an extra special day for Tokyo church. Not only did we read and again enjoy the resurrection story of our Lord, but also had a Easter Program in the afternoon, which was attended by nearly 50 people. The Japanese children were involved in the program by singing and reading scripts from the life of Christ, while the English speaking children performed a skit which highlighted the events of the first Easter weekend. The mothers of these children, some of which have never heard the Easter message, were awed by the story and the sincerity of the entire program. We pray that a seed of the Word was planted and will grow with the help of the Spirit at a future time.

Tokyo church is in the middle of gathering information and making decisions concerning the remodeling of our existing physical buildings. This decision process is one for which we want the Lord's wisdom and the peace of each church member. As a result, we have begun meeting monthly to discuss our current situation and the various options. We hope that by sharing and praying together, the Lord's clear direction will be revealed to us. The home which is attached to the church structure is in need of major repair or rebuilding. As we consider the appropriate response for this updating, it brings to light the other physical needs of our current structure. The church building itself

is limited in its size, which has created a need over the years, for additional Sunday School, eating, baby room, and fellowship space. Due to a very small parking lot, each Sunday parking is also a concern. We have considered selling the current land site due to its high value, and reinvesting in another much larger site (but at the same value), in a less urban area. Our choices and decisions are many, and we ask that you pray for us as we make decisions for the Lord's work and for future generations.

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## KANSAS, BERN

### Jill Hartter

### Lori Baumgartner

"My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp, and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life."

*Proverbs 6:20-23*

As we think of our fathers on Father's Day, we are so thankful for their godly instruction and correction. By exposing us to the "Way of Truth" our fathers have given us a most effective tool for combating Satan and the world's influence. We pray that our Heavenly Father will continue to grant wisdom to each father. May each one never tire of giving godly instruction to his children.

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

*III John 4*

Three young souls feel they have repented and were recently announced for peace. We rejoice with each convert and their families as we look forward to their baptisms. They are Angela Edelman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna), Jason Rokey (Bro. Galen

and Sis. Nancy), and Steve Edelman (Eugene and Judy).

On April 29 a small gathering of extended family and relatives were here to welcome Evelyn Robinson as a sister-in-faith and share in her joy. Elder Bros. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) and Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) were here to help Elder Bro. John Lehman conduct her baptismal service.

Other visiting ministers that have shared God's Word with us this past month were Bros. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Richard Aberle (Altadena, CA) and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS). We appreciated their labors on our behalf.

We rejoice with Bro. Christopher and Sis. Amy Menold who became first-time parents on April 17. They have been blessed with a little daughter, Sonja Marie. Sonja's grandparents are Bro. James and Sis. Louise Menold and Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz of Silverton, OR.

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come:"

*I Corinthians 11:26*

On April 30 we were privileged to partake of Holy Communion and remember the suffering and death of our Lord and Saviour.

Our "Invite a Friend" weekend was the weekend of May 6 and 7. We appreciated all of those who made the effort to come fellowship and worship with us. What a blessed privilege it is to renew those ties that bind our hearts in Christian love.

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*

We wish Sis. Marla Stoller (Bro. Arden and Sis. Darlene) God's blessings as she leaves our area to accept employment in the Morris, MN, area.

May we remember in prayer those who are experiencing serious health concerns at this time. Sis. Kathy Strahm (Bro. Richard) has undergone tests and has been diagnosed as having cancer. Sara Popkess (Ed) has recently undergone another brain surgery in New York. May the Lord grant both of them and their families sufficient grace and strength to carry them through whatever lies ahead.

Our prayers are with Bro. Joe Rokey (Sis. Lila) who is hospitalized at this time. We are thankful that Bro. Don Menold (Sis. Pat) has recovered from his out-patient surgery.

On May 14, many from our congregation went to Sabetha to witness the wedding vows of Sis. Jenny Plattner (Sabetha) and Bro. Dominic Meyer. Bro. Dominic's parents are Earl and Sis. Darlene Meyer and Jenny's parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Ada Plattner, Sabetha. We wish them God's blessings in their life together and may Sis. Jenny feel a warm welcome here.

We wish to congratulate our graduates. May they each seek God's direction as they enter schools of higher learning or pursue an occupation. Our high school graduates are Ashley Esslinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty), Bro. Tony Frey (David and Joyce), Sis. Tamara Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan), Leann Lehman (Bro. John and Sis. Connie), Joyce Meyer (Keith and Debbie), Kendra Meyer (Earl and Sis. Darlene), Nathan Plattner (Carroll and Roberta), Tessa Reist (Dave and Marci), Jason Rokey (Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy), Greg Strahm (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan), John Strahm (Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen), Katie Strahm (Elwin and Mary), and Byron Stoller (Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria). Graduating from Vo-tech programs are Evan Strahm (Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathy), Rick Stoller (Bro. Arden and Sis. Darlene), and Cara Hartter (Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn). Graduating from college are Bethany Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda), Scott Strahm (Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathy), and Matt Meyer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet) who has completed

his master's degree.

### KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Joleen Sinn

We want to thank Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) for serving us Holy Communion on April 26. What a wonderful reminder our Saviour has given us. When we partake of Communion, the thought of all that our Saviour endured for our sake is very humbling.

We want to welcome Kara Hartter (Bern, KS) to Fort Scott. She has accepted a job offer here and will be a welcome addition to our congregation.

On April 29 and 30 the 6th-8th grade Sunday School students were at Bern for the annual get together. Thanks to everyone that worked to make this weekend possible. We realize it takes a lot of effort to keep so many young souls busy and content. May God bless you all richly for your effort.

Bro. Trenton Banwart (Bro. Lon and Sis. Deb) and Sis. Kristi Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen, West Bend, IA) became one in the Lord on May 7. May God bless this union of hearts. We look forward to having Sis. Kristi as part of our congregation. May she feel Christ's love here and feel at home.

As we had our annual business meeting, we want to encourage those who have new responsibilities and those who were voted in again in the same position. May you feel God's strength as you carry out your responsibilities of love. Our prayers are with you.

We will greatly miss Bro. Phil and Sis. Rebecca Braker and their children, Hannah and Daniel, as they relocate to Eureka, IL. May God go with them and be the center of their home.

Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and his family were with us on Mother's Day. We want to thank them for sharing the day with us and especially Bro. Lawrence for sharing God's Word.

Our prayers are with Bro. Harvey



Smith (Sis. Ethel) and his family as he had emergency surgery and is now recovering at home.

David Reed (John and Paula) has graduated from Ft. Scott Junior College. We want to congratulate him and wish him God's grace as he decides where his future lies.

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## KANSAS, KIOWA

### Jenny Stewart Laura Wagenbach

Congratulations and best wishes to our graduates this year. Graduating from 8th grade is Tifani Bahr (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice), Rebekah Wagenbach (Bro. Ken and Sis. Laura), and Bethany Hamilton (Bro. Phil and Sis. Sandra). Graduating from high school are Sarah Johnson (Shawn and Sis. Lynne) and Tyson Tucker (Stan and Judy). May you always seek His guidance for your future goals.

Bro. Raymond Roth was a hospital patient this month. Thank the Lord he is well and can assemble with us.

We had several young brothers from various Kansas churches assemble with us recently. They came for their bi-annual weekend campout. We appreciate their fellowship, and it is always a joy to have a larger congregation.

Harvest is around the corner. It is a busy time for all of us. May God keep his hand of protection over all those that are taking part in the busy season. Let us all have a prayer on our hearts for each other, and thank the Lord for his many blessings.

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## KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY

### Sarah Somerhalder

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Geraldine Beyer (Bro. Clarence, Phoenix, AZ). She came for her brother Clarence Fankhauser's funeral and broke her hip upon arrival. She was in the Emporia, KS, hospital for almost three weeks and is now back home in Phoenix.

Nolan William was born to first-time parents, Matt and Ami

(Parker) Schrader (Bennington, KS). Fraternal grandparents are Bro. Steven and Sis. Dorothy. Also, Alyssa Leigh was born to Todd and Sis. Julia Pyle (Kansas City) on April 21. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Lorean Anliker.

We want to thank Bro. Perry Klopfenstein and his wife, Sis. Carol (Gridley, IL), for being with us Saturday evening, May 6. Bro. Perry spoke to us about the history of church doctrine. Also, we want to thank our visitors from Lamar, MO, and Kansas City who were with us, especially Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi and ministering Bro. Rex Frieden. As we celebrate Father's Day this month, let us ever be thankful for the precious faith of our fathers and pray that sound doctrine may be preserved in our church.

Bro. Glenn Kraft (Faye) passed away May 12 at his home after a lengthy bout with cancer. We extend our prayers and sympathy to his family. We are so thankful that he saw the need to turn to the Lord and was baptized May 24 in his home.

We were happy to have Sis. Hannah Grimm assemble with us on Mother's Day after not being able to do so for many months. Sis. Hannah resides at the Manor in Madison, KS.

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## KANSAS, SABETHA

### Mary Kay Wenger Brenda Grimm

Good Friday services were held in Sabetha with the Bern congregation. We appreciated our visiting ministers, Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Elder Bro. Arthur Metz (Silverton, OR). After Bro. Jon ministered about Christ's suffering, Bro. Arthur asked the question, "What are we going to do with Jesus?"

In earth's anguish here I will not murmur,  
Neither seek nor crave a crown of honor,  
When my Lord a crown of thorns did wear.  
Will not seek the flow'ry path of

roses,  
When our holy Lord and Saviour,  
Jesus,  
There on Calvary the cross did bear.

Give me, Lord, for this life's journey only  
Truth to guide me through this world so lonely  
and Thy Spirit for to lead the way.

Give a heart that willingly will follow

On the path so steep and straight and narrow

Where Thy holy feet once led the way.

*Zion's Harp #90*

On Easter we were thankful to have Elder Bro. Arthur Metz and his wife, Sis. Elizabeth, with us again.

Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) was with us during the weekend the Junior Bible Class hosted visitors from the Kansas churches and Denver, CO. The theme of the weekend was "Let Your Light Shine".

Sis. Marie Weiss (Bro. Oliver) was a patient in a Topeka, KS, hospital. We are thankful she has returned home. Our prayers also are for others that suffer with various afflictions.

We are pleased to announce the birth of Madison Renee born May 3 to Sean and Alisa Snavely of Topeka, KS. Sis. Susan Meyer is happy to be a grandmother.

May 7 was the wedding for Sis. Kristin Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene) and Bro. Tim Schaefer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam) of Morris, MN. Visiting ministers with us for this special weekend were Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Bros. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) and Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS).

Our sympathy to the family of Sis. Elsie Lambert who passed away May 7. We were reminded, "When a Christian dies, precious is the prize". May

God fill the void to those she leaves behind.

At this time we have discontinued Wednesday evening services. We now alternate Sunday evening singings with the Bern congregation.

Mother's Day was the wedding day for Sis. Jennifer Plattner (Bro. Don and Sis. Ada) and Bro. Dominic Meyer (Earl and Sis. Darlene). We wish God's blessings upon this union. We were privileged to have the following ministers with us: Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO), Bros. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI), Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Edwin Strahm (Elgin, IL).

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**KANSAS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
Brandon Plattner**

Another school year has come to a close. We are thankful for God's guidance and direction He has given in the past year. May we continue to look to Him as the future unfolds before us. "Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day." (Psalm 25:5)

We have again been blessed with several ministering brothers who have lent themselves in the Lord's service to bring us the Word for Wednesday evening services: Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Galen Rokey and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS).

Graduating in May was Scott Strahm (Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathy, Bern, KS). The spring picnic was held at Tuttle Creek State Park and we thank all who came for your continued love and support. May we each have a blessed summer.

"O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people."

*Psalm 105:1*

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**KANSAS, WICHITA  
Emma Miller**

Sis. Judy Langhofer was a recent

surgical patient. We praise God for her speedy recovery.

We have had the blessed experience of Bro. Phil Bowers, as well as both his parents, being able to assemble with us the past two Sundays. They have been faithful to the needs of each other and seem to be buoyed up by their steadfastness.

Bro. Godfrey Miller is a patient at the following address: Beverly Health Care, 900 Country Club Lane, El Dorado, KS, 67042. He appreciates messages from his friends.

Saturday, May 6, was the date for the wedding of Emily Osborn and Derek Funk. It is our wish for them that God would bless this union and that they would grow spiritually in their new roles as husband and wife. Mr. and Mrs. James Osborn and Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally Funk are parents of the happy couple.

The scheduled second Sunday church potluck and Mother's Day fell on the same day, therefore the men furnished the food and labor for the ladies.

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**MEXICO, IXTLAN  
Erica Schambach**

Is there anything too big for God? As our Sunday School children remind us every week, "Mi Dios es tan fuerte." (My God is so strong), it is encouraging to see and hear their confidence as they sing, "there is nothing that He cannot do!". How big is your God? Do you have a concern that He can't possibly handle, or have you limited His omnipotence in your life? Just trust! "For with God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37). We were thankful for the safe return of Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan after spending two weeks in the States to visit family and participate in College Weekend. Days after their arrival, we bid farewell to Sis. Paula Angelito who has felt directed by God to return to her family in Acapulco, Mexico, to share the Gospel Truth and teach them of their need for salvation. We pray that God will bless and strengthen her for His work.

Due to rising interest and re-

quests from the people of Ixtlan, we started two new English classes in March. The children enjoy learning colors, animals, songs, etc. and, although the complexity of the language is sometimes disheartening for the adults, they are advancing quickly.

"To every thing there is a season." (Ecclesiastes 3:1). We were saddened to learn of the death of a little boy, Francisco, who had come to Sunday School and English class. He and his mother were hit by a drunk driver on the morning of April 17 while walking to the factory where the father works. The mother was severely injured and was taken to a hospital in Guadalajara. The two other children were riding a bike several yards in front of Francisco and their mother and were unharmed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time, and we are thankful that the father, Salvador, who had been coming to the Adult English Class, has faith to believe that "It's the will of the Lord."

Our condolences are also extended to Bro. Marshall and his family at the death of his mother, Sis. Grace Heinold (Bro. Aaron), of La-Crosse, IN. Although death's parting brings tears, it also brings victory for those who have been washed in the blood of the Lamb. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints" (Psalm 116:15).

Two families in our congregation are rejoicing as they witness one of God's miracles unfold. Cesar Aaron was born to Alfonso and Teresa Navarro of Morelia. Delighted grandmother is Sis. Carmen Cervantes. Sis. Luz Brenes is enjoying the addition of another grandson. Daughter-in-law Celia gave birth to her first child, Gonzalo, in March. Celia's husband, Gonzalo Sr., is currently in the States and has not yet seen his son. May God grant these families grace to raise their sons in obedience to the Word.

Sis. Carmen Cervantes returned to Ixtlan after a three month stay in Morelia where she had knee surgery and a period of recuperation. We're

thankful to have her back with us!

We were blessed with a surprise visit by a family from the Apostolic Christian Nazarene Church in Tecate and two brothers from the church in Hungary who have been visiting family in California. Although communication with the Hungarians was difficult, we were reminded that the love of Christ and unity of the Spirit knows no boundaries.

#### *Meet Sis. Leticia Campos*

Sis. Leticia was born and raised in a small village, Korea, located about a mile from Ixtlan. Although her family "believed in" the national religion, they were not devout like many of the other villagers. However, the children were raised in a protective environment and were not allowed to go to the parties and dances like other young people. Leticia was ten years old when some relatives of her father came to share the Gospel, and the whole family enjoyed hearing the beautiful stories and teachings of the Bible. Since people came from the church in Tecate, Mexico, to have Bible Studies with Sis. Carmen Cervantes and her family, Leticia was able to hear the Word preached at least once a year. During one of these visits, the counseling elder of the Tecate church had come along with several brothers from the States, and after the message, Leticia made the decision to surrender her life to the Lord. She was twenty years old at that time and had already been married for five years. Unfortunately, with no one close to counsel with, spiritual growth was very difficult, and it wasn't until Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan arrived in 1995 that she was able to move ahead with her conversion. While giving her testimony to the Elders before her baptism, Sis. Leticia commented: "I gave my heart to Christ six years ago, but was unable to grow because you left no one here." Her decision to be baptized was met with great opposition by her husband. He just couldn't accept the fact that he would have to go to parties and dances alone—she would make him look bad. However, Leticia was

ready to suffer the rejection for the cost of winning Christ, even when her husband refused to come to her baptism. Along with her mother, Sis. Luz, her older sister and three others, Sis. Leticia was baptized in the yard next to the mission house/church (at that time) on July 14, 1996. Sis. Leticia has received many blessings since giving her heart to the Lord. She has three children, one of whom is married, and she prays daily for their salvation. By the grace of God, her husband has softened, and although he has not yet made a decision for the Lord, he comes to church on occasion. Sis. Leticia prays unceasingly for her family; not just that they have bread and health each day, but, most importantly, that they will quench their thirst with the Living Water.

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#### **MICHIGAN, ALTO Kristen Plattner Sandy Schutte**

"When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home. After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst."

*John 19:26-28*

Many poems and many songs have been penned about the love of a mother, but no greater love can I write of for this Mother's Day than that of our Lord. For while He hung on the cross sacrificing Himself for our sins, He took one of His last minutes and directed His disciple to look after His mother. If this does not humble us and teach us how revered our mothers should be, then let it do so now. Life on this earth is so short, let us honor our mothers every day using Christ as our example. With this in mind, the ladies of the Alto Church held their annual Mother

Daughter banquet on May 18 at Dari's Banquet Hall with the theme "Picnic in the South".

Spring is in the air. Farmers are out in their fields planting new crops, wives are in their gardens planting flowers and vegetables. It is a time for renewal, new beginnings.

Alto has a number of graduates that are about to start new chapters in their lives. Bro. Scott Schambach, Sis. Gretl Schlatter, and Angie Sixberry all graduated from college this spring. Alto has one of the largest group of children graduating from high school ever this year: Bill Stouffer (Dave and Bonnie), Chris Blough (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Liz), Ryan Sanders (Bro. Ed and Sis. Julie), Tim Schutte (Steve and Sis. Sandy), Brad Jackson (Bro. Paul and Sis. Margaret), Tom Oesch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle), Ben and Aaron Kaeb (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Luanne), and Jason Noom (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Luanne Kaeb). We pray for this group of young people as they journey out into this world.

"Verily, verily I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation: but is passed from death unto life."

*John 5:24*

Our prayers go out this month to Bro. Joe and Sis. Melva Oesch and their family while they mourn the loss of Sis. Melva's mother, Ethel Crosby. May God comfort you in your time of sorrow.

And yet while there is a passing from this life, we also rejoice because of the birth of twin boys, Daniel and Michael Steffen, to Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy Steffen (grandparents are Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen). Big sisters, Tasha, Heather, Nicole and Abigail, welcome home their new brothers. We also congratulate Bro. Otto and Sis. Pat Schlatter on the birth of their new granddaughter, Lydia Diane Schlatter (parents are Bro. John and Sis. Stephanie Schlatter).

"Children's children are the crown of the old men; and the glory of children are their fathers."

*Proverbs 17:6*

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**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**  
**Rhonda Knochel**  
**Peggy Jackson**

"...This do in remembrance of me."

*Luke 22:19*

What a beautiful celebration Jesus instituted with those words. It is always such a blessing to share Holy Communion together as a church. We were privileged to have the opportunity of remembering the Lord's Supper one week before Easter. What a special time of soul searching it was. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter and his wife, Sis. Emily (Junction, OH), with us for this time of Communion. Our sincere thanks goes out to him for being so willing to serve.

We were saddened by the death of Sis. Annamarie Bishop (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Margret). Sis. Annamarie fought a very courageous battle against cancer and although she now knows perfect health, we know that she will be sorely missed by her family and our church here in Bay City. Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Glenn and Sis. Margret, Sis. Annamarie's children and grandchildren and her brothers and sisters. We pray that they will feel God's loving nearness during this time of grief.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who spent time in the hospital this month. They are: Sis. Doris Knochel, Sis. Char Wieland (Bro. Brian) and Bro. Alf Kaeb (Sis. Hermine). We pray that God's healing hand will continue to be on them and that His peace will overshadow them.

May you experience love, joy and peace as you trust Him in the month ahead.

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**MICHIGAN, DETROIT**  
**Bonnie Bedolla**  
**Crystal Ramsier**

A tiny pebble idly tossed  
 Into the placid stream,  
 With gentle splash it sinks from sight  
 And not again is seen.  
 But outward from that central spot  
 The circling ripples tend;  
 Who knows on what far distant shore  
 The spreading impulse ends?  
 And so it is with life itself,  
 A kind thing we say or do  
 May take a moment of our time  
 And then be lost to view.  
 But ever onward it will go  
 And never lost shall be  
 Until its widening mission done,  
 It joins eternity.

—*Edwin Roworth*

Bro. Ben Maibach's many deeds of service and love will continue long after his formal ministry has stopped. He has touched the souls of many, not only here in Detroit but across the world. After 50 blessed years of service to the Apostolic Christian Church, our dear former Elder Brother Ben Maibach retired from his ministry service this month. His work will not soon be forgotten for all that he has done for our faith. We would also like to thank Sis. Lorene for supporting him throughout the years and for always opening her heart and her home to all. Although church duties kept them very busy, Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene were also the parents of eight wonderful children; Ben, Kay, Connie, Alan, Sis. Bev, Sis. Sheryl, Sis. Cindy, and Bro. Doug. As a church we thank them for "sharing" their parents with us over the last 50 years. We pray God will continue to bless Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene and their family in the coming years. Again, we thank you for all of your service to each one and to those who have passed before us.

We extend our sympathy to Ron and Brenda Shaffer and their family in the death of his grandfather, Alex Burack. Our prayers will continue to be with them.

Tom and Kay Moilanen welcome their second grandchild in two months. Their second bundle of joy is their son Todd and his wife, Jennifer's second child. Big brother Chase is eager to have little Taylor to be a playmate. Bro. Troy and Sis. Jennifer Schrock also welcomed their second child into this world. Merritt Elizabeth's older sister Navy is looking forward to the times they will cherish as sisters.

We are also thankful to those ministering brothers who come to Detroit to share God's Word with such a willing heart. Bro. Ray (Sis. Ann) Sinn was here from Latty, OH, for our Communion Services on Saturday evening and for Sunday worship services. We truly cherish the special time to examine ourselves, to remember Jesus Christ, and to be drawn closer in love and commitment to our Lord and to one another. Also Bro. Neil Ramseyer came down preach the Word to our residents at Woodhaven Retirement Home. It is a long trip during the week for him to come down and we so much appreciate his time and dedication to sharing our Father's Word. Thank you to all who visited and their families.

Bro. Lalo Ugalde will soon be moving to Ixtlan, Mexico, and we know the Lord has a plan for His life. We will pray for him as he becomes part of our congregation in Ixtlan. Bro. Lalo has been a blessed part of our Detroit Congregation and we will miss him.

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

*Psalms 32:8*

Our church here in Detroit is ever expanding and it certainly shows that God truly provides. When He takes one away, He also brings someone else to our area. We are excited to welcome Bro. Kevin and Sis. Amy

Hodel to our congregation. They will be moving here from Indianapolis as Bro. Kevin has a new job in our area. We pray they will feel God's blessing on their new home and we are thankful God has directed them to our area.

One of my co-workers lost her 16 year old daughter in a tragic automobile accident this month. It was a sobering reminder of how fragile and fleeting life is. At the funeral home, another co-worker lamented, "There's nothing anyone can do" (to bring her back). That comment made me think about how truly powerless we humans are. However, with God's power, we can share in Christ's triumph over death. All we need to do is repent, confess our sins and allow God to convert our hearts. The choice is ours, every day. Whether we haven't yet begun to serve God or we have been faithfully serving Him for many years, we still need to humbly ask for the grace to do His will. God wants us to ask Him for the power to be victorious over sin. Let's take advantage of this generous offer so that we are all prepared, every day, for eternity.

"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

*Luke 12:32*

"For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves and live ye."

*Ezekiel 18:32*

"But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud but giveth grace unto the humble."

*James 4:6*

"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us."

*1 John 5:14*

This month we welcomed a number of loved ones back to our congregation from their winter homes in warmer climates. We are thankful to

have Bro. Leonard and Sis. Audrey Hitz, Bro. Dan and Sis. Ruth Knochel, Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach and Sis. Dorothy Reineck assembling with us again.

Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) held services at Woodhaven this month. Thank you, Bro. Doug, for serving in this way.

On May 19-20, Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) presented a seminar on communication, conflict, forgiveness and peacemaking in marriage. It was a good opportunity to reflect on God's teachings about how we interact with others. We appreciate the efforts that Bro. Jeff and his wife, Sis. Brenda, put into preparing this seminar and traveling here to present it.

Kristen Rauhe (Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay) has completed her Bachelor's degree in Merchandising Management at Michigan State University. We congratulate her on this accomplishment and wish her God's blessings as she enters a new phase of her life.

Several loved ones in our congregation are experiencing ongoing difficulties with their health. Our prayers continue to be with Sis. Jackie Barton, Bro. Dan Knochel, Bro. George Popp, Sis. Dorothy Reineck and Sis. Ann Tachar. May God grant grace, strength, courage and peace to them and their families in the midst of these struggles.

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### MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Delores Sauder

We were privileged to have Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) share God's Word with us. We thank him for his labors.

We bid farewell to Bro. Phil Nenadov as he has found employment in Sioux Falls and will be assembling with the brethren in Lester, IA. We also bid farewell to Sis. Rosie Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN) as she has moved home for the summer. We hope to have her with us again in the fall, for another year of college.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to Sis. Vera Schmidt and Sis. Ethel Bednarski in the death of their sister-in-law, Sis. Alma Schmidt (Bro. Art), of West Bend, IA.

Seth Mogler (Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary) had the misfortune of fracturing his arm on his birthday.

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### MINNESOTA, MORRIS

#### Cheryl Messner Dianne Kellenberger

Our very special thanks to Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) for speaking God's Word to us this past month.

Paul and Laura Domnick are happy to announce the arrival of their baby sister. Little Heather Jo was born April 22 to Bro. Mike and Sis. Marci. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma Domnick and Elder Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther Warner (Lester, IA).

Bruce and Penny Schmidgall were blessed with their first son, Mason Henry, on May 8. Samantha is thrilled with her new brother! Thankful grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine Schmidgall and Marvin and Judy Becker.

As Father's Day approaches, we praise God for God-fearing fathers who love their wives, and instruct their children in His ways. Praise God!

Heavenward the Lord would  
have

Thee to set thy aim;

Be not anxious; do not crave

Earthly wealth or fame.

From such abstain!

Only what with hand and heart

For the Lord will set apart

Will bring you gain.

Our best wishes to all of our graduates as they have attained an important goal in their lives. Those graduating from high school are Eric Backman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Kathy), Zachary Esterling (Bro. Tim and Sis. Jeanne), Amy Fehr (Bro.

Gary and Sis. Sandra), Kayla Joos (Bro. Harv and Sis. Debra), Janae Kellenberger (Sis. Dianne Kellenberger, Morris, and Mark Kellenberger, Leicester, NC), Sis. Fonda Koehl (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon), Rachel and Renee Luthi (Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte), Alex Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl), Heidi Sauder (Bro. Verle and Sis. Christa), Matthew Schmidgall (Bro. Tom and Sis. Ruth), Sis. Kara Wulf (Bro. Davis and Sis. Nancy), Marcy Wulf (Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce), and Robyn Wulf (Bro. Jeral and Sis. Linda).

Our technical college graduates are Coby Backman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Kathy), Stacy Luthi (Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlot), Mitchell Koehl (Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley), and also their daughter, Alexis, will be graduating in July. We pray they will hold God's teachings forever in their hearts.

We're so thankful Kathy Joos (Pete) is home again after having surgery.

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## MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Carol Ann Messner  
Becky Braulick**

Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandy, Morris, MN) was here to help Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner hold Communion services. "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." (Acts 2:42). "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup." (I Cor. 11:28)

Sunday School hosted our annual Easter breakfast with a wonderful turnout of families and friends. We wish to thank the children and teachers for their efforts. God bless them all.

Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena) was chosen as our new Sunday School teacher. Sis. Jolene Elder (Bro. John) was chosen as the substitute. Sis. Marilyn (Bro. Bill) was chosen as our new Silver Lining correspondent. We pray they will look to the Lord for direction as they

begin their new duties in August.

College graduates this spring are Mandi Redmann (Darrel and Jane) from St. Cloud University; Jamie Pelzel from the University of Minnesota Medical School; and Jodi (Messner) Pelzel from the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy. Jamie and Jodi are the son-in-law and daughter of Sis. Carol Ann Messner. We wish them God's guidance and wisdom as they begin their new paths in life.

*Fathers are Wonderful People*  
Fathers are wonderful people  
too little understood,  
And we do not sing their praises  
as often as we should...  
And Father struggles daily  
to live up to "his image"  
As protector and provider  
and "hero of the scrimmage"...  
And perhaps that is the reason  
we sometimes get the notion  
That Fathers are not subject  
to the thing we call emotion,  
But if you look inside Dad's  
heart,

where no one else can see,  
You'll find he's sentimental  
and as "soft" as he can be...  
Fathers are just wonderful  
in a million different ways,  
And they merit loving compliments  
and accolades of praise,  
For the only reason Dad aspires  
to fortune and success  
Is to make the family proud of  
him  
and to bring them happiness...  
And like Our Heavenly Father,  
he's a guardian and a guide,  
Someone that we can count on  
to be always on our side.

—Helen Steiner Rice

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## MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

**Komari Neal**

Have you ever noticed how peo-

ple, no matter who they are, smile at a newborn baby? They smile at the innocent and the beauty of new life. In Kansas City, we have been smiling at the beauty of little Alyssa Leigh who was born on April 20. Her parents are Todd and Sis. Julia Pyle. Her big sister, Aubrey, and her big brother, Garrison, welcomed Alyssa home.

Our visiting ministers this month included Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara, Lamont-Gridley, KS) who was with us on Easter Sunday, and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) who was with us on Easter Sunday and also on Mother's Day. We truly appreciate their labors in sharing the Word of God with us.

Our prayers have been with Jane (Farney) Patton this month as she has been experiencing back pain.

As well, we are keeping Bro. Tim Lehman and Sis. Lori Lehman in our prayers as they have traveled to Jamaica on a missions trip and we pray for Elder Bro. Gene Marti as he prepares to travel to Eastern Europe. It is a blessing that we are able to travel and provide assistance to those less fortunate than ourselves.

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## MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Kristen Braker  
Kristi Huber**

We want to extend our congratulations to Dana Braker (Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller) as she graduates from high school. We pray that God will guide and provide for her in her future endeavors.

Precious father, loving mother  
Fly across the lonely years  
And old home scenes of my childhood  
In fond memory appears.  
*Gospel Hymns #408a*

With Mother's Day recently past and Father's Day approaching, may we remember to thank God for blessing us with our parents that nurtured us in the truth.

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## MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

### Rachel Schrock

We tarry in this blest and tranquil union,  
 And thus united speak the farewell word.  
 Ye loved one, now the parting hour is nearing,  
 The farewell greeting sounds in one accord.  
 Our hearts are yet in close communion beating;  
 In Jesus' name we bid the farewell greeting.  
*Zion's Harp #114*

The St. Louis congregation has enjoyed having Sis. Sarah Rumbold in our midst for the last two years as she attended college to become a physical therapist. We will miss her as she moves into her clinical rotations in Denver, CO; Ft. Wayne, IN; and Chicago, IL. We pray for God's direction to guide her as she continues to prove our God's will for her future after her clinicals are ended.

"Our hearts ARE yet in close communion beating..." This farewell hymn was especially fitting as we partook of Communion the same weekend that we bid Sis. Sarah farewell. Along with Communion, we were reminded of our spiritual duties through our annual business meeting and the reading of the Memorandum. A special thank you to our Elder Bro. Roy Grimm and his wife, Sis. Dona, for shepherding our little flock. We would also like to extend a sincere thank you to Elder Bro. Everett Hari and his wife, Sis. Beverly (Bloomington, IL), for willingly coming to help Bro. Roy that weekend.

Other ministering brothers who have visited us this past month include Bros. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) and Kenneth Knapp (Sis. Phyllis, Taylor, MO). May God bless each of these brothers and their families as they so diligently fed His Word to our hungry

souls.

In closing, we would like to extend our congratulations to our Bro. Kevin Schrock (Sis. Rachel) as he has recently graduated from St. Louis University with his bachelors of science in occupational therapy. May he feel God's direction as he continues his search for a job in this field.

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## MISSOURI, TAYLOR

### Peg Haerr

Several from our congregation enjoyed a lovely Easter morning breakfast and devotional at the Fellowship Center. Our thanks go to all those who helped!

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

*Zion's Harp #79*

We rejoice with Bro. Shannon Haerr (Bro. Norm and Sis. Sally) and Sis. Susan Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie, Lester, IA) as they were united as one in the Lord on May 7. May God grant this couple special grace as they walk together and strive to raise little Madison.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL) in Taylor for the wedding. Thank you for your labors in God's service!

Nikki Haerr (Bro. Norm and Sis. Sally), Bro. Robert Hoerr (Sis. Emma) and Jenn Adrian (mother of Bro. Rusty Adrian) were our hospital patients this month. We thank God for His mercy and faithfulness.

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## NEW YORK

### CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

### Anna Mellnitz

"Her children arise up and call

her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands and let her own works praise her in the gates."

*Proverbs 31:28-31.*

Mother's Day was May 14 when we should show our love for our mothers and praise her and think of all the blessed things that she has done for us.

May 13-14, Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) were with us. Bro. Eugene stayed for a potluck supper and we had services.

We welcome all visiting ministers to our congregation and may God bless them for their sermons.

Sis. Norene Virkler has come home from the hospital. She is cheerful and has a lot of faith in God and we pray for her. Sis. Esther Rauhe (Bro. John) is improving and expects to be home soon and we also pray for her.

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## OHIO, AKRON

### Joyce Gasser

We rejoice that Mark Steidl has repented and has peace with God and looks forward to giving his testimony.

We had a blessed evening for the services of Communion served to us by Elder Bros. Andy Stoller and our Elder Bro. Gene Pamer.

On Easter Sunday we were blessed with services of visiting ministering Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH).

Stephanie and Keith Easterwood have a new baby girl born April 19, Kelsey Alysse. They have a couple of other girls, Hannah and Amber. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Gasser.

Sis. Marie Ritzman and Sis. Janet Graf have been hospitalized and returned home. We pray the Lord will be with them and strengthen them.

## OHIO, COLUMBUS

### Anita Steiner

On Good Friday, Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) brought us the account of our Lord and Saviour's crucifixion and death on the cross. Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) read to us the account of the resurrection on Easter Sunday. Let us remember that it is not the manger but the cross that sets the Spirit free.

We also appreciate Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) ministering to us this past month. That same weekend we were privileged to see slides presented by Bro. Bryan and Sis. Kara Stoller (Fairbury, IL) from their World Relief work trip to Ixtlan, Mexico. After seeing the slides, we can appreciate how fortunate we are.

Our graduation breakfast was held on May 21. Graduating this year were Joe Sauder (Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky) and Katie Sauder (Bro. Stan and Sis. Judy). May God be near them and guide their futures.

Holy Communion services were held the evening of May 21. Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) in serving us the Lord's Supper. We appreciate their efforts.

## OHIO, JUNCTION

### Cindy Schlatter

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Emily Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill) in the passing of her mother, Sis. Grace Heinold, of the LaCrosse, IN, congregation. God's wisdom is so far above ours, we just have to put our hope and trust in Him as only He knows what is best for each and every one of us.

April 30 was a special day as many of us gathered with the Latty, OH, brethren to witness the marriage vows of Bro. Chris Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie) to Sis. Erica Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce). We certainly welcome Sis. Erica to our congregation. May God continue to be ever near this young couple as they look forward to spend-

ing many years serving the Lord together.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Sis. Cheryl Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie), as she was involved in a car accident this past month. We trust God will continue to be with you, Cheryl, and His loving hand will continue to mend and heal your body as only He can.

The weekend of May 13-14 was one that our new sister in the Lord, Peg Bauman, will always remember. It was not only a day to give thanks for our mothers, but it was also the weekend of her testimony and baptism. We were thankful for the many visitors that came and spent the weekend with us and also for Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) who aided our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter with the testimony on Saturday evening. Bros. John Grimm (Columbus, OH) and Todd Stoller and Larry Wenninger (both of Latty, OH) were also with us Saturday evening.

## OHIO, LATTY

### Kathy Sinn

### Heidi Hackenjos

The Word of Truth was brought forth from several visiting ministers during the past month. We enjoyed the visits of Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) and Walt Rager (Toledo, OH). We support them as they serve as watchmen on the wall.

Our prayers also include the healing touch of God's finger for our retired Elder Bro. Loren Stoller. Among the others who were hospitalized during the month are Chrissy Sinn (Josh) for whom we ask for God's healing hand.

April 30 was the wedding day of Sis. Erica Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce) and Bro. Chris Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie) of Junction, OH. As they establish another Godly home, may the Lord continue to bless their lives, now together. We were blessed with many visitors for the wedding service including ministering Bros. Don Manz and Ben Manz (both of Junction, OH), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Gary

Maibach (Smithville, OH), Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) and Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI).

Several families have felt the finger of death touch their lives. May God comfort Bro. Charles Dunham at the death of his sister, Nellie, and brother, Harold.

Bro. Kurt and Sis. Lisa Sinn welcome Chelsea Leigh into their hearts and home. Along with many family members, Chelsea will be gladly received by grandparents, Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn and Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky Wulf (Lester, IA). May she be raised in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

We are so thankful to hear that Vinc Krzesinski (Bro. Keith and Sis. Connie) has peace with God and all men. Our prayers and support are for Vinc as he continues to walk life's pathway with the Lord.

Bro. Ephraim and Sis. Marilyn Kipfer have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May the Lord continue to be their guide and stay.

Our High School graduates are Mindy Graf (Bro. Bob and Sis. Joan), Alan Grant (Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria), Julia Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. Joanne), Vinc Krzesinski (Bro. Keith and Sis. Connie), Corey Laukhuf (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Vicki), Trent Laukhuf (Doug and Joyce), Jordan Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Kay Beth), David Rager (Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise), Mitch Schlatter (Gus and Sis. Leann), Nichole Steffen (Bro. Donn and Sis. Karen), Jonathan Stoller (Bro. Rod and Sis. Leann), Rustin Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth), and Brian Wenninger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Deb). As these young adults plan their futures, our prayer is that they follow God's will for their life.

As Father's Day approaches, let us remember to honor our Heavenly Father by following His every commandment. We realize that our dad loved us enough to instruct, correct, and encourage us. Far more than that, our Heavenly Father loves us enough to have given His only Son to provide us with instruction, correc-



tion and encouragement.

## OHIO, MANSFIELD

### John and Marci Pfeiffer

We appreciated the visit of ministering Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) on Easter Sunday. We are joyful when God answers our prayers and the truth is spoken.

Our prayers are with those who were hospitalized or had surgery. We are thankful Bro. Rex Beer (Sis. Marilyn), Sis. Theresa Keiper (Bro. Phil), Roma Them (John), and Bro. Wally Ramsier (Sis. Helen) are all home again and doing better.

Carol and Lonnie Browne were blessed with a baby boy on April 23, Easter Sunday. His name is Lane Spencer. Siblings are Ty, Kerry, Kelly and Colt. Happy grandparents are Jennie Browne and Bro. Wally and Sis. Helen Ramsier. We congratulate them and wish them God's blessings in raising their children.

We have nine seniors graduating from high school this year! They are Bro. Josh Boliantz (Bro. Doug and Connie), Tonya Domka (Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie), Elijah Foss (Rick and Sis. Susan), Rochelle Fry (Cindy), Kristi Hill (Bro. Mick and Sis. Delores), Jon Hill (Bro. Chip and Sis. Sieda), Ronnie Kirschenmann Jr. (Ron and Vickie), Deanna Masters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine), and Nathaniel Ramsey (Bro. Ed and Sis. Laura). We look forward to their Senior Recognition Breakfast on Sunday, May 21. May God continue to be with each one and direct their paths in the future.

## OHIO, RITTMAN

### Lynda Beery

### Beth Beery

Endure - 1. To suffer or bear, as pain, sorrow, or destructive force, without injury or giving way; withstand. 2. To suffer patiently; tolerate. (Funk and Wagnalls Comprehensive Standard Dictionary).

That which our Saviour had. Exercises can be done to build muscle and physical endurance, so the likeli-

hood of muscle injury is lessened when traumatized. But what about spiritual endurance? Can we exercise to build spiritual endurance? Yes! Is not reading the Bible, singing songs, listening to sermons, the Memorandum, and the tapes, praying, partaking of Holy Communion, attending the Conference, converts' testimonies and baptisms, weddings, and our fellowship important to build our faith and trust, which in turn builds spiritual endurance?

A song writer (Zion's Harp 241:1,3,4,6,7 without chorus) wrote, "Why grieve, my soul, must thou suffer great pain? Trust in your dear Jesus, He'll strengthen again. Have thy friends forsaken and turned against thee? Depend upon Jesus a true friend is He. Must thou bear reproach and derision of men? Consider what God in His word saith then: Though fiery temptations come near to thy heart, Fly therefore to Jesus, He healeth thy smart. When Satan hurls at thee his arrows of fire, The strong shield of faith thou must quickly acquire."

Apostle Paul writes, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6:12). The Lord provides us with many armors, according to Ephesians 6, to resist the Devil, which includes faith. Ephesians 6:16 says, "Above all, taking the shield of faith..." which comes (Romans 10:17) "...by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Hebrews 11:6) "But without faith, it is impossible to please Him..." May we rejoice and be glad in the Lord.

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

*Luke 15:10*

Andrew Steiner (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail) and Lisa and Lynn Rufener (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jenee) are seeking their soul's salvation. May their hearts realize there is no

higher standing on this earth (Zion's Harp, #16) and the way of the cross leads home (Hymns of Zion #167).

Bro. Philip, Sis. Michele, and Matthew Schar welcomed Zackary Michael on May 9. Grandparents are Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar, Gary and Mary Jane Bowman and Jerry Geib. "And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them:..." (St. Luke 18:15). May these parents have the courage and strength to raise their children in the fear of the Lord.

Marriage vows were exchanged on April 30 between Bro. Mike Katanic (Denver, CO, son of Maria (Akron) and the late Dunus) and Sis. Heather Pelfrey (Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth); and on May 14 between Bro. Ryan Riggerbach (Bro. Don and Sis. Gail, Smithville, OH) and Sis. Laura Steiner (Bro. Richard and Sis. Patricia). Scott Maibach (Roger and Cinda) and Mandy McKenzie (Tom and Sally) were united in marriage May 6. "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband." (Ephesians 5:33)

Bro. Brent and Sis. Andrea Steiner with their children, Jacob and Isabel, have moved from the Latty, OH, church to the Rittman church. Bro. Brent will be working with Bro. Timothy Ramsier. "Welcome, welcome, All ye loved ones: Greetings in the Saviour's name." (Hymns of Zion #7)

Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) proclaimed God's Word on April 30. On Mother's Day, May 10, Bro. William Brake expressed the importance of obedience to God, which includes honoring our mothers, and of course, our fathers too. Thanks for your inspiration, Bros. Tom and William. May the Holy Spirit guide you as you preach the Word.

"Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side;...Leave to thy God to order and provide; In every change He faithful will remain." (Hymns of Zion #191). Our graduating class from senior high include Rudy Arnold (Deanna), Rachel Baltic (Bro.

Daniel and Sis. Betty), Dara Bauman (Bro. Douglas and Sis. Dianna), Mary Bauman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha), Corban Beery (Bro. Stanley and Sis. Karen), Michelle Beery (Bro. Walter and Sis. Lynda), Joshua Calame (Bro. John II and Sis. Jody), Jamie Cannon (Joseph and Sis. Amy), April Dotterer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Mardel), Mark Dotterer (Bro. Richard and Sis. Dawn), Adam Gasser (Bro. Neil and Sis. Donna), Rodney Hartzler (Bro. David and Sis. Linda), Sis. Laurel Indermuhle (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Joan), Jesse Rufener (Bro. James and Sis. Patricia), Samuel Rufener (Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori), Michelle Steiner (Donald and Sis. Deborah), Bro. Scott Steiner (Bro. Richard and Sis. Patricia), Sis. Karen Stoller (Bro. Joseph and Sis. Marian), and Holly Winkler (Bro. Stanley and Sis. Margaret). "He leadeth me! O blessed tho't! O words with heavenly comfort fraught! Whate'er I do, where'er I be, Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. (Hymns of Zion #162). May these words comfort our graduates.

"He'll lighten the load, And level the road, And bear thee on hands of compassion." (Zion's Harp #46, vs. 3). We express our love and sympathy to Sis. Roma Rufener (Bro. Chester) in the passing of her sister, Clela Calhoun; Sis. Helen Kerstetter and Sis. Laura Queen in the passing of their sister, Blanche Garver; and Ken Gasser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ellen) who lost a friend in a drowning accident when they were fishing together.

Several experienced medical difficulties this past month. Bro. Kenneth Rupp (Sis. Lillian), Sis. Margurite Gasser, Mabel Goodwin and Lee Gasser (son of Sis. Lucy) were hospitalized. Lee broke his neck in a fall and a bone graft was done. Lee will need much encouragement and prayers in this next year as he recuperates and learns to use his arms and legs again, currently at "Edwin Shaw Hospital for Rehabilitation".

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## OHIO, SARDIS

### Angie Figel

On April 29, we partook in Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg, NY) was here to assist Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle on this very special occasion. Also visiting that same weekend were Bros. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO) and Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH). We wish to thank these ministers and their wives for their labors of love.

Bro. Brad and Sis. Carla Walder (Congerville, IL) were blessed with the arrival of their first daughter, Aubrey Lane. Thankful grandparents are Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda Indermuhle and Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria Walder (Congerville, IL).

This year our congregation hosted the "All Ohio Weekend" gathering for the single member groups of our Ohio churches. We are thankful that everyone arrived safely. It was truly a blessing to have them here.

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## OHIO, SMITHVILLE

### Ruth Gasser Edith Miller

Our congregation was blessed with two visiting ministers this past month. We thank Bros. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH) and Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) for lending themselves in God's service.

We are happy to report another convert, Tammy Marty (wife of recent convert, Ron), has made her beginning in repentance and conversion. We wish for her an abundance of grace that she will build her house of faith upon a solid foundation. We also rejoice that the precious gift of peace has been granted to Jon Bauman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie), and we look forward to hearing his testimony at the appropriate time.

Three families have experienced the blessing of the birth of a child since the last news. On April 26, Doug and Melaney Nieman became parents to a little girl, whom they have named Shania Mikelle. She is

welcomed by her brother, Logan, and also grandparents, Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay Nieman. We are sorry to report that due to some complications, little Shania has had to remain in the hospital up until this time. She is making progress now, however, and hopefully will soon be able to be joined with her family.

On May 4, Douglas Austin was born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Patty Indermuhle. Natalie and Kevin are happy for another playmate. Grandparents of Douglas are Bro. Darrel and Sis. Janet Indermuhle.

On May 8, Curt and Heather Ramsier welcomed Tony Benjamin into their family circle. Brothers of Tony are Ty and Todd, and his grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Dot Ramsier. To all three families we wish God's blessings and Godly wisdom to lead their children upon the path to Heaven.

Sis. Laura Oppliger was hospitalized recently for knee replacements, and Sis. Shelly Beery (Bro. Dwaine) was also in the hospital for surgery. We are thankful for the healing power of God, as both of these sisters appear to be on the road to recovery.

We extend our love and sympathy to two families who have lost a loved one. Sis. LuAnn (Bro. Larry) Hartzler's grandma, Ollie Steidinger (Fairbury, IL), passed away in February. Also, our prayers are with Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose Luginbuhl and their family, as Bro. Marvin's father, Bro. Roy Luginbuhl, was taken from this life rather suddenly in just recent days. His funeral will be conducted at the Rockville, CT, church.

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

*Ecclesiastes 12:13*

We have twelve young people who have reached a milestone in their life, and will be graduating from high school. They are: Jon Bauman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie), Kori Bauman (Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda), Jeff Beery

(Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl), Sis. Becky Dotterer (Dale and Sis. Elaine), Melanie Emch (Bro. Craig and Sis. Gale), Brian Gasser (Ed and Joan), April Miller (Bro. Max and Sis. Diane), Sis. Carrie Miller (Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith), Jacob Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Janice), Sis. Susan Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Emily), Steven Steiner (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue), and Michelle Wolgamott. In a time when there is much striving for the wisdom of this world, we hope and pray that these young people will remember that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the holy is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10). May God bless each one!

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**OHIO, TOLEDO**  
**Rebecca Beard**  
**Edie Fetter**

"O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him."

*Psalm 34:9*

Instructions in the fear of the Lord were among the exhortations shared with us in a summary from the winter Elder meeting. We thank our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) for coming and sharing these teachings with us.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Betty Fetter are thankful for the safe arrival of their great-grandson. Kyle Matthew Fetter was born on April 22.

Sis. Tiffany Gasser has completed her master's degree in occupational therapy, and therefore her stay in Toledo. We extend our congratulations and wish her God's blessings as she returns to the Rittman area.

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**OREGON, PORTLAND**  
**Louisa Gallup**

At Easter time we had the pleasure of listening to our Sunday School students sing beautiful hymns as they presented us with their Easter program. We appreciate

the efforts of teachers and students alike. May the true meaning of Easter stay with these children as they grow up.

Our congregation was blessed again with plenty of visitors this past month. We cannot thank everyone enough for coming this way to worship with us! We especially appreciate our visiting ministers. They were: Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) and Bro. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele), all from Silverton. May the Lord bless you all for your continued support and willingness to serve.

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**OREGON, SILVERTON**  
**Rosa Lee Kuenzi**

Spring is often referred to as a time of new life, resurrected life and renewed faith in miracles, as we heard throughout the blessed Easter season. We have had several modern-day miracles to rejoice about during the past month here in Oregon and we are sure you will agree as you read about our joy.

As reported last month, Becky Von Flue (Dan) was hospitalized in very serious condition. Then we heard she was slowly improving for which we were very thankful. Many, many prayers were uttered in her behalf and they were answered with a wonderful recovery that baffles even the expert specialist doctors. Dan, Becky, and their three children, Eleanor, Nicholas and Elise Mary, are so very thankful to be home together again and want to sincerely thank all who have and still are helping out and especially for the prayers.

On April 25, Bro. Jason and Sis. Colette Snook welcomed little Kyra Ailene into their family and hearts. She joins sisters, Shalyse and Kiara. Grandparents are Vance and Sis. Liz Snook of Salem and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr (West Bend, IA). These little girls are also blessed with great-grandparents, Bro. Lewis and Sis. Gloria Kuenzi and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mathilda Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Sis. Eunice Koehl (Morris, MN).

Arriving on May Day, May 1, was Sterling Grant Luthi. He brings joy to his parents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Kris Luthi, and siblings, Aaron, Brooke, Zayne, Weston, Quintin and Wade. Also thankful for his safe arrival are grandparents, Bro. Ray and Sis. Violet Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosa Lee Kuenzi. Sterling is also blessed with living great-grandmothers, Sis. Lilly Luthi (Morris, MN) and Floris Lundberg of Woodburn, OR.

These little "miracles" have no idea how much they are loved, and how many hearts they have already touched. We pray that their parents will ever look to our Lord and Saviour for guidance, encouragement and strength as they continue with the joys and challenges of raising their families.

And yet another joyous miracle was heard on Sunday as Tasha Kuenzi (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda) was "announced for peace". Meaning that she has faith to believe that she has found the forgiveness for her sins that she has sought from our merciful Father in Heaven. To be able to lay down at night with the peace of God in one's heart is a joy that passes understanding.

Special thanks to our visiting ministers during the past month. They were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Robert Miller (Portland, OR).

Cliff Kuenzi (Violet) was a hospital/surgical patient this month. We look forward to the time he can again assemble with us. Thankfully, both Sis. Gloria Kuenzi (Bro. Lewis) and Becky Von Flue (Dan) are again able to attend church services.

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**PENNSYLVANIA**  
**PHILADELPHIA**  
**Nathan Gasser**

This month we rejoiced with our Bro. Nathan Gasser as he and Sis. Mary Elizabeth Luginbuhl (Rockville, CT) were joined in marriage in Rockville. We welcome Sis. Mary Elizabeth to our congregation and look forward to having her worship

with us.

This month we were sorry to bid farewell to Bro. Kurt and Sis. Kristin Slagel, who are returning to their home in Fairbury, IL, after spending several months with our congregation. May the Lord bless them and may we keep each other in our hearts, as we would hope to meet again.

As we look forward next month to partaking in Communion, we were charged this month with examining our hearts and our lives, and called to compare them to that Holy example, our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us remember that this call applies throughout the year, and that any effort we make to purify our lives and follow His example more closely is a worthwhile effort. May His power and grace work in our lives and bring His children closer together in this time.

### TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

#### Mike and Monica Fritz

On May 7, we were encouraged and admonished by the ministry of Bro. Glenn Riggerbach (Sis. Lou, Smithville, OH). What a blessed privilege we have to share in God's life-giving, living Word, and in fellowship with His children. Throughout the month, we also enjoyed visitors from Francesville, IN; and Rittman and Smithville, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. We have visiting ministers scheduled on the first and third Sundays of each month, and tape services on the other Sundays. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Junction, OH (June 18), Princeville, IL (July 2); Taylor, MO (July 16); Mansfield, OH (August 6); and Washington, IL (August 20). If you are planning to worship with us,

please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933 (email: Michael.Fritz@juno.com); and Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946.

### TEXAS, CENTRAL Dan and Pam Sauder

Visiting ministers who have shared the Word with us this month were Bros. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), Lee Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) and Ben Manz (Junction, OH).

Our July schedule of worship services and churches sending ministers include: the 2nd at Austin (Peoria, IL), 9th at Austin (Phoenix, AZ), 16th at San Antonio (Kansas City, MO), 23rd at San Antonio (Goodfield, IL) and 30th at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home in Round Top (Leo, IN).

We extend a welcome for anyone who may be in the area to worship with us. 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

Most of our winter residents have gone back north.

Thy peace shall flow upon our meeting:

The kiss of faith shall be our greeting,  
When we are gathered by Thy side!  
Should only two or three assemble  
In Jesus name, yet meek and humble,  
His peace and love in us abide.  
*Zion's Harp #219*

Retired Elder Bro. Paul Fehr and his wife, Sis. Anna, did not come to Zapata this winter because of their health. We missed Bro. Paul and Sis. Anna and hope they can come again another season. They had been coming every winter since about 1968.

We were blessed with some rain this month. We did not have much rain this winter.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Elna Nussbaum in the recent death of her husband, Bro. Willis. They are from Fairbury, IL. Sis. Elna and Bro. Willis spent some time during the winter months in Zapata. Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Art Schmidt. His wife, Sis. Alma, died this month. They are from Elgin, IL. They have spent some winter months in Zapata.



*Sermon continued from page 2*

Apostle's teaching. There were a few at Athens when he made that wonderful speech—I may call it—an address to the Greek people, with the sermon there. There were a few, four or five, when he spoke to the women at the riverside. There was a Lydia, but there was no one else, and finally her household.

In the meantime, there had to be some weighty demonstration that accredited these people who were endeavoring to introduce this new way of salvation through Christ's suffering and shedding of blood and the hope of immortality through His resurrection. There had to be. These men had to become accredited through some unusual things that they did.

Now then, there arose speakers of tongues which even the Apostle Paul could not quite digest. So then, that began to taper off. I call it a sort of a "tapering off" process, until the group that believed could grasp and could comprehend what the greatest gift of God was—"a new nature".

That "new nature" curves through a true repentance, a confession of sins and a repudiation and a renunciation of a former life as being insufficient. It makes no difference how pious. Then, to embrace a righteousness which is an imputed one through Christ.

Now what the Apostle brings to light here is the result of this imputed righteousness. He doesn't dwell here upon repentance, and upon confession of sin and many other things. But, he delves immediately into the nature and the characteristics of this new birth, and he compares it, and he sets it out now all by itself. He closed the book on all the rest of these miracles and he said, "Now even if I would have, I could speak with

tongues of men and of angels and did not have charity..."

Now I want to substitute that there are many translations. I want to substitute the word love, or, in other words, a further substitution, the divine nature. If I didn't have an indwelling given to me—an indwelling divine nature that craves Godliness, that nourishes a deep appreciation of what it took to redeem us from Satan's bondage, even though I could speak with tongues of men and of angels, if I wouldn't have this new divine nature (Peter calls it the divine nature), it wouldn't help me any! It "boils down" to the one thing—the new life in Christ!

I remember (and I have had many experiences in Japan and if you don't mind hearing it now and then), they didn't all hold out. There were some again who went back into the former life, not into an enslaved life of sin, but there was Buddhism and there was Shintoism, and there were, again, those who did not believe in anything. One wandered away for awhile, but by the grace of God she still felt to cling to the faith that she once found. She told me this in my own home, with tears streaming down, she said, "When I became converted and was baptized, I felt life! I want to go back again to find that same thing that I lost!" Life! Now, even though spoken by one young girl, it was one of the most meaningful statements that I ever heard. The explanation, "There" she said, "I felt life!" There was the moment of regeneration. There a new person, invisible to man, but just as real as though it were visible, was born and placed on the inside of this mortal shell that had the promises of an adoption. An heir of God! A promise of the resurrection when

He comes back again to earth to be an heir of God and a joint-heir with Christ.

Now I hope we haven't forgotten that feeling. It may have visited us in one degree or another, maybe not so pointed but nevertheless, I say it has. How we rejoice when we get a little breath of that same air we had at that time when we must lament the situation in the world. We must express our concern and fears for our children. Were we born for salvation? Or were we born for destruction?

The anxiousness of a mother of children was so impressed upon me when I was perhaps twelve or thirteen years old, just beginning to realize what a mother's worries was. We were naughty and Mother was crying. Of course, that always hurt me when I saw Mother crying. We didn't like to see her cry as we loved our Mother. We said, "Mother, why do you cry?" She said, "Well, I'm willing to go through all this if I would know that you children are not born for destruction. If I could know that eventually, and in the end, you would be born for salvation and if you would find your way into the true faith." I never forgot that!

So this divine nature that I want to present to you now in these very few words, was now overshadowing everything else, and it should overshadow everything else always. We are exposed to many things. The Apostle mentions here, "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries..." (I Corinthians 13:2).

If I could write a book, and there are a lot of books being written, prophetic books, I enjoy, sometimes, just delving through them. At the same time, who are these authors? I don't know them.

*Sermon continued on next page...*

*Sermon continued from page 45*

Maybe that is just an idea that they have developed and they sell it to somebody and make a lot of money. But even that, that wouldn't do it, even if I were able to write volumes of my own personal conclusions and elaborate, perhaps, on the prophetic scriptures, if I didn't have this nature, this divine nature that God gave me. Another name for it is an imputed righteousness. I believe we have a right to feel that imputed righteousness, but we also have a duty to live it. Therefore, we must not follow all of the things that the world offers.

I believe it is the intentions of God that His people can be identified by each other, even though the world might not be impressed. My heart is lifted up when I see a woman of God and her general appearance and conduct and manner of life indicates it (or a brother). Those are the kind of people that constitutes the body of Christ that now was brought into existence, not the world, the body of Christ that makes us brothers and sisters one of another.

He goes on to say, "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor..." (I Corinthians 13:3). If I were a great benefactor, sell the wonderful possessions I might have, open up a kitchen so anybody could come in, especially the poor, that would be a worthwhile venture, but it would never replace nor substitute for the divine nature. Maybe this is rather a bold statement, but I would rather be an inefficient and somewhat weak benefactor, and still possess the hope and unction of the Christ-like nature than to get the credit of being a great benefactor. That would be mine! That is something that I did! But, if I sold my goods to feed the poor, or if I give my body

to be burned, if that was the one entire decision on my part, it would be something that I did. But the thing that we should embrace and hold precious is the thing the Lord did!

Let us go to Gethsemane and let us go to Calvary occasionally. We do at communion time, but I believe that every waking morning that our first glance in the Spirit as we kneel down to commit ourselves to God that day, would be a humble recognition to Him for the end that His Beloved Son had gone to provide for us a birthright that had been lost through Adam's transgression.

Now the Apostle goes on here, very briefly, and begins to spell out what this divine nature is, what the functions are of deeming it that it is motivated by the Spirit of adoption. But how should it be identified?

He goes on to say, it "...suffereth long..." Whenever I see a believer too demanding, I don't believe that they have everything that they ought to have of the divine nature. Too demanding! They may have the money to do it, but that kind of an attitude does not produce growth and devotion to our Lord.

"...it is kind..." That doesn't mean that we have to compromise with evil to be kind. I think we should be kind in a constructive kindness where God is honored and the Saviour's grace is magnified.

Charity does not envy. This divine nature doesn't begin to shout, "I want to have what other people have. I want to have the kind of home that they have so I can invite my guests!" That kind of thinking is far removed, brothers and sisters, from what the Apostle is attempting to define

here as the functions of a divine nature. Now all of this will overshadow everything else of all the miracles.

"...vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up..." That is why we believe humility is one of the earmarks that a people of God should display, and you can't help but display it in your appearance. This thing, "Well, God sees the heart," is true, but that does not edify each other. I can't see your heart, or you can't see mine, but you can see what the heart moves me to do or leave alone. Those things impress each other.

"Doth not behave itself unseemly." That covers a lot of different subjects. That doesn't mean you are supposed to hear him all over town. That does not mean that he should be a discredit, but his behavior should be held within the proper limitations.

"...is not easily provoked..." It doesn't say that it is never provoked. Sometimes it is. I excused myself one time to an attorney in a hearing. I wanted to impress my point and I was sorry that I emphasized it too much, so I said to the attorney, "I am sorry that I showed a little emotion." He said, "That was not anger; that was righteous indignation." I got some relief out of that, but I don't think there should be too much righteous indignation displayed either. But there are times when we have to express some righteous indignation about something that is not good or does not promote the honor of God.

I feel the brethren here with me should emphasize further whatever might be necessary.



## CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 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.*

Jamaica	CCCD	Jul 15-22, '00	Knockpatrick	(3) Mansfield Bible Cl.	Deaf School	40/50	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jul 29 - Aug 5, '00	Knockpatrick	(4) Chicagp - Detroit Bible Class	Deaf School	30/40	100%
Haiti	AWA-FRW	Oct 19-27, '00	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Vocational Sch.	4	100%
Haiti	AWA-T	Oct 19-27, '00	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5	100%
Haiti	AWA-B	Oct 19-27, '00	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational Sch.	2	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	TBA	Les Cayes	Bob Pflederer	Hospital Lumiere	TBA	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jan 5-13, '01	Montego Bay	Mark Criss	Deaf School	40	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 2-10, '01	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40	40%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 9-17, '01	Deaf Village	Kevin Sauder (TBA)	Work Place	40	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	May 11-19, '01	Deaf Village	Kevin Sauder (TBA)	Work Place	40	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jul 14-21, '01	Knockpatrick	(5) Akron-Rittman-Smithville Bible Class	Deaf School	40/50	100%

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	E-MAIL
Derek Sauder	309-925-7502		
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	robertebb@aol.com
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885	
Terry Miller	309-747-2212 or 941-485-4302		
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	734-454-9259	thitzhome@juno.com
Bob Pflederer	309-266-5853	309-676-8455	
Mark Criss	309-693-2532		redemed1@aol.com
John Knobloch	309-263-1092		johnk@mtco.com
(3) Pete Webel	419-529-2998		
Kent Heimer	573-393-2440	573-769-5516	kheimer@nemonet.com
(4) Tom Neu (Chi)	630-983-6267	630-579-0308	
(4) Dana Knochel (Det)	248-478-8147		
Andy Bauman	309-965-2174	309-691-6739	arbauman@juno.com
Les Gerber	219-824-2734	219-824-8048	
Art Mueller	608-676-4365	608-676-5200	amueller@ticon.net
(5) Jay Maibach	330-939-5234		jimaibach@aircraftbraking.com
Bill Rager	419-263-2989		
Kevin Sauder	309-925-2409	309-925-2409	ksss@dpc.net

## Silver Threads

He sat by a fire of sevenfold heat,  
 As He watched by the precious ore,  
 And closer He bent with a searching  
 gaze  
 As He heated it more and more.  
 He knew He had ore that could  
 stand the test,  
 And He wanted the finest gold  
 To mould as a crown for the King to  
 wear,  
 Set with gems with price untold.  
 So He laid our gold in the burning  
 fire,  
 Tho' we fain would have said to Him,  
 "Nay,"  
 And He watched the cross that we  
 had not seen,  
 And it melted and passed away.  
 And the gold grew brighter and yet  
 more bright,  
 But our eyes were so dim with tears.  
 We saw but the fire--not the Mas-  
 ter's hand,  
 And questioned it with anxious fears.  
 Yet our gold shone out with a richer  
 glow,  
 As it mirrored a Form above,  
 That bent o'er the fire, tho' unseen  
 by us,  
 With a look of ineffable love.  
 Can we think that it pleases His lov-  
 ing heart  
 To cause us a moment's pain?  
 Ah, no! But He saw through the  
 present cross  
 The bliss of eternal gain.  
 So He waited there with a watchful  
 eye,  
 With a love that is strong and sure,  
 And His gold did not suffer a bit  
 more heat,  
 Than was needed to make it pure.  
 --Author unknown

*This poem was read at the funeral,  
 by Elder Bro. Andrew Stoller, of a  
 friend who had a repentant heart, but  
 before he expressed his desire to the  
 public, his brain was damaged by car-  
 bon monoxide. He could no longer  
 think or act like an adult.*

### USED EYEGLASSES ARE NEEDED FOR FREE IXTLAN CLINIC

A free eye clinic is being estab-  
 lished in Ixtlan, Mexico, by Bros.  
 Dr. Loren Schrenk and Dr. Bryan  
 Stoller. Used eyeglasses are  
 needed to support this effort.  
 Please send your used prescrip-  
 tion eyeglasses (with cases if avail-  
 able) to:

Bryan Stoller  
 817 S. Locust  
 Pontiac, IL 61764

### Gateway Woods Auction

Saturday, August 19, 2000

### Call To Subscribe

Please call the Gateway Woods'  
 Office at 888/443-4283 to receive  
 The Gate Post, a free newsletter  
 about Gateway Woods published  
 three times yearly.



### SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Gateway Woods offers two  
 \$2,000.00 scholarships to stu-  
 dents enrolled in undergraduate  
 or postgraduate work leading to a  
 degree in a social services field.  
 The scholarships are available to  
 any member of the Apostolic  
 Christian Church or friend who  
 attends on a regular basis. A de-  
 scription of the scholarship and  
 application are available by writ-  
 ing or calling Janel Ramseyer at  
 219-627-2159. Applications need  
 to be returned to Gateway Woods  
 by June 30, 2000.

### Assistant Houseparent Needed

Gateway Woods has an immedi-  
 ate opening for a single sister, di-  
 rected of the Lord, to work in  
 full-time ministry with troubled  
 children. The Assistant House-  
 parent works directly with and  
 supports a Houseparent couple in  
 the day-to-day activities of our  
 on-campus group homes. This po-  
 sition offers competitive wages  
 and benefits. If you feel the call to  
 explore the possibilities, please  
 call one of the brothers listed be-  
 low.

Jeff Schumacher  
 Jschumacher@gatewaywoods.org  
 (219) 627-2159  
 (888) 443-4283

Phil Stettner, Counseling Elder  
 (219) 565-3499

### - NOTICE -

Repair and Distribution of Worn  
 Bibles, Bible Story Books,  
 Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle or  
 Gospel Hymn Books

**WE DO NOT ACCEPT ZION'S  
 HARP HYMNALS SINCE WE DO  
 NOT HAVE ANY PLACE TO DIS-  
 TRIBUTE THEM.**

Please get your books to us or the  
 Goodfield World Relief Center.

Books are mainly distributed to In-  
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Jerry and Arlene Banwart  
 Box 181 C, 307 W. First St.  
 Congerville, IL 61729  
 (309) 448-2416





## Alternate Houseparents Needed

Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessing of providing new Houseparents staff in recent months. At this time, however, we still have an opening for one married couple. This is an opportunity for full-time, on-going ministry work at Gateway Woods. These Houseparenting positions offer competitive wages and benefits, and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a common mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore these possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below.

*Jeff Schumacher or Phil Stettner  
(Address and Phone listed below)*

## 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: biblelist@parlorcity.com

## Atlanta Open House & Dedication

In anticipation of our Open House & Dedication on July 1 and 2, we are collecting names and addresses of those who live in the Atlanta area. Please submit names of anyone you know to: Tom Waldbeser, 2910 Maple Vista Ln., Lawrenceville, GA, 30044 or call him at (770)935-1451. Thank you.



## Education Coordinator

Gateway Woods needs an experienced, organized, licensed teacher to fill the position of Education Coordinator. Responsibilities include: coordinate Gateway Woods School including teachers and students, organize Gateway Woods' summer program, teach remedial classes, supervise tutors in our after-school program, enroll residents in GWS or public school, serve as a liaison with public school, maintain education records and be a Christ-like example in serving others for His glory. If you feel the Lord leading you to inquire about this position, please contact us.

Jeff Schumacher  
Residential Program Director  
PO Box 151  
Leo, IN 46765  
(219)627-2159  
(888)443-4283  
jschumacher@gatewaywoods.org

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



# REMEMBERING

## *Our Spiritual Heritage*

### **Serving America In World War II**

Aside from the hope of salvation and the right to assemble freely, one of the greatest blessings of this generation is that our young men are not compelled to serve in the military.

Our young men today hardly know the meaning of words like "draft" and "conscription"; neither is there much of a consciousness about military service. There is a reason to rejoice that young boys no longer need to be separated from loved ones to serve a term in the army, sometimes in peril of injury and death.

This era of peace has not always been so. Our brethren and friends have served our nation in World War I, World War II, the Korean police action and in Vietnam. All of our brothers have served without bearing arms, and with few exceptions our "friends" (i.e., non-members) have done so as well.

Over the years our church has followed the Biblical precept that killing is wrong. As such, we do not bear arms (for the purpose of killing in warfare).

The Apostolic Christian position against war has differed somewhat from those denominations with an Anabaptist and "peace church" heritage. Rather than choosing alternative service (and not serving in the military), our brethren have entered the military as non-combatants.

Apostolic Christians have felt a deep sense of commitment to a government that has guaranteed religious freedom, and young men of the church have been willing to serve the nation in nearly any capacity short of

bearing arms and killing. For the most part, they have served in the Medical Corps where they could give loving and Christ-like care to the sick, wounded and dying.

These duties have often taken them into combat, armed with only a small Testament and a cloak of impenetrable faith; and riding the wave of heartfelt prayers and loved ones back home, they accompanied their units, unarmed, into battle. This was not an easy task in view of what they had to endure: firefights, ambushes, artillery, bombs, enemy mines, and snipers, etc.

To enter a combat zone takes courage above and beyond that which a man can muster alone. Even those who are armed tremble before and during engagement with the enemy. Yet, to enter combat unarmed requires an infinite amount of courage that comes only from above. This courage (from God) allowed young Apostolic Christians to do this in World War II (and in other national conflicts, too).

The number of boys associated with the church who served in the military during World War II totaled more than twelve hundred. Nearly all of these were non-combatants. Elder David Mangold, Roanoke, IL, published the Service Men's Newsletter which contained a sermon along with the names and addresses of boys associated with the church who were serving in the armed forces. Issue No. 18 listed the names and addresses of more than twelve hundred men.

Several young men serving unarmed were injured in battle. They survived. It is believed that only one man who was a member of the church

was killed during battle. He was Bro. Dale Aeschliman of Bluffton, IN.

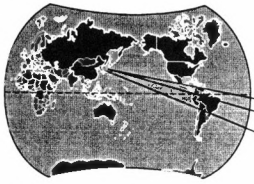
This 26-year-old man lost his life in late January, 1945. He was the son of Elder Sam Aeschliman. The young soldier was part of the 38th Infantry Division that was assaulting the Philippine Island of Luzon. He met death on the day of combat. It was a time of terrible sadness for his family, the Bluffton congregation and for brethren across the land.

At his funeral in Bluffton, Elder Bro. Noah Schrock said, "The teachings of Christ have to be suspended and annulled for anyone to take the sword, but we are thankful and grateful, however, that because of the benevolent attitude of our government that he was given the permission to serve his country and nation in a line of duty that was in conformity and consistent with his inner convictions.

And for that reason he became attached to a combat group as one of the "angels of mercy" so to speak. It became his duty to soothe the wounded, to aid those in need. Was that not a wonderful and noble undertaking, even if it did merit on his part a great deal of reproach and ridicule, answering many a question, as a living witness to the utmost end. Was not this a noble young Brother? Thanks be to God."

*By: Perry A. Klopfenstein*

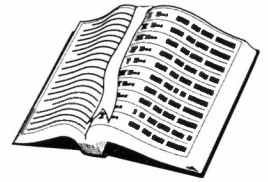
**Next issue:  
The story of  
Bro. Dale Aeschliman**



# The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

## 希望の光



### “EARNING RESPECT”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

During our early years in Japan I asked the question, “How do you get respect?” It was explained to me that you have to earn respect. I still think about that.

When the word “respect” is used in the Bible, it indicates favor or partiality toward the rich or powerful, such as in James 2:9. “But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin.” I used the word in the sense of having regard for and appreciation of worth, regardless of being rich or powerful. In this sense, respect is necessary to be a leader. Fathers, too, are leaders and need to be respected.

Reverence is a word which means a profound respect, such as we have for God and for the Bible. No child of God should want to be revered because we are supposed to be humble, but I think it is all right to want to be respected, at least enough so that the people we are trying to serve, listen to us.

Earning respect seems to indi-

cate that we should serve so well that people will begin to have respect for us. Yet, when Jesus was in Nazareth, He said, “Verily I say unto you, no prophet is accepted in his own country.” It sounds as if Jesus was not always respected, in fact, He was crucified in spite of doing well. In Acts 10:38, it is written of Jesus that “He went about doing good,” that is, He went about doing good things. He should have been respected by everyone but that was not always the case.

The Apostle Paul had somewhat of a problem with respect, too, for it is written in II Corinthians 10:10, “For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful: but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.” Some of the people in the church weren’t so sure they cared to listen to the Apostle.

It sounds as if, if we live a holy life and try to help others, at least some will respect us, but not all. It depends partially on the heart condition of those whom you are

trying to serve.

Albert Schweitzer was a medical missionary to Africa who went to medical school after 50 years of age. He started hospitals there and when he was an old man, according to what I read a long time ago, someone visited him at one of his hospitals and asked the question, “How do you get these people to respect you so much?” His immediate reply was, “Respect comes with age.” Perhaps he also had a problem gaining respect when he was younger.

Respect is very important, but it is something like happiness. You cannot gain it by chasing after it. We need to respect others, respect our church, and revere God, but as for getting respect for ourselves, although it is necessary for being a leader, perhaps we should just forget about it and do what is right and have the right attitude. That is probably the best way to earn respect.

## 希望の光



*As barrenness stands before the great ocean, so will man stand before God on Judgement Day*

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