



The Silver Lining

*Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,
neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:*

July 2000

“PUT ON THE DIVINE NATURE”

Sermon by Elder Bro. Ron Schambach, Elgin, IL

Luke 2:22-40 and Acts 1

Indeed, loved ones, it should be encouraging to us as we read from this Holy Bible the many, many accounts, both in the gospels and then in this letter recording the acts of this group of apostles—these early believers. As they went about as a small group here, we read of the eleven that gathered there in that upper room again out of fear and not knowing really what the future held for them.

Yet, by faith they were obedient to the commandment of Jesus that told them to abide in Jerusalem until they are endowed with the Holy Spirit. At that time, we believe that He was with them. He measured as he recounts here, they had been with the Lord and had seen all of His acts and His deeds. They had journeyed with Him those three years of His ministry here upon the earth. They had observed all that He did and they were very close to the Lord.

We believe that the Holy Spirit, which we read in Saint Luke in the second chapter, how that Christ was filled with the Holy Spirit. We believe that same Spirit radiated out unto those disciples, especially those who were close to Him during this time as well as we believe each one of us feel a measure of that Holy Spirit every day, do we not, loved ones? The Holy Spirit that directs us and prompts us in that still small voice that tells us we ought to do this or that. That Spirit also conforms to the Word and is supported by the Word of God, even as the disciples here recounted how it was written that out of their numbers and those who had also accompanied with them that there must be one ordained to take up the place of Judas Iscariot who had betrayed the Lord and who had died such a terrible death.

Loved ones, yet today, we gather together and we would even be named as the Apostolic Christian

Church based upon the teachings of Jesus Christ as we have them recorded here in the Word.

Then, also, as we would abide in the doctrine that was established by the Lord and then confirmed by these apostles as they went about, we build this house of faith upon that direction of the Word which confirms and unites with the Holy Spirit.

The Word of God and the Spirit of God will always agree. They come from the same source. We believe without doubt that this Holy Bible is infallible and that it is the Word of God inspired of God by that Holy Spirit. The Scriptures, the apostle would write later on, which was not by any private interpretation, but it was given unto holy men of God, directed by the Holy Spirit to write down. So may we be thankful that we have the mind of Christ recorded here throughout the pages of this Holy Word.

Yes, today we abide in the same doctrine, the same teaching that Christ gave to the disciples there as He told them to go out into all the world and that they would be baptized with the Holy Ghost. They were to go out and teach the way of salvation unto the very ends of the earth.

We find as we would read further in this account of the early church, they did not enjoy a comfortable life here on earth. They were persecuted. They were tried. They were tempted. They were driven, perhaps against their own desire and will into many areas.

But as they went, they took with them this gospel of salvation. They did not forget what they had seen in the Lord Jesus Christ, though He was not present with them any longer in the flesh, but they carried with them the experiences they had seen, the miracles and the power of God. They would tell these accounts

over and over again unto those who had never heard and who had never seen.

God confirmed their word and their preaching by many miracles and by many signs and wonders. Men were caused to believe and to also take up the cross and follow the Lord Jesus Christ by faith. We yet today, loved ones, are the fortunate ones to have this precious life of

Sermon continued on page 44

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

July 2000

Commitment III

The two previous articles focused attention on making a firm commitment, preparing for a life of service to God, learning to communicate with God and the importance of faithfulness.

This article will focus on heeding the warnings that will help us avoid the temptations that the world has to offer.

Commitment to faithfulness in serving the Lord in our day is especially important because of the prophesy that there will be many who will turn away from following Christ in the latter days of grace. The Apostle Paul warned young Timothy that "...the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (II Tim. 4:3-4).

The desire to have "itching ears" satisfied can produce short term benefits but often has disastrous results over the long term. Ahab, King of Israel, was such a person. Even though it ultimately cost him his life, he preferred false good news rather than the truth.

When preparing to go to war with Ramath-gilead, about four hundred prophets of Israel told King Ahab to go because the Lord would deliver it into Ahab's hand. Jehoshaphat, King of Judah, asked Ahab if there was another prophet of whom they might inquire. Ahab replied, "There is yet one man Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the Lord: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil" (I Kings 22:8). Ahab preferred the false prophets because they sounded better. He hated the truth when it did not fulfill his wishes.

Also, the apostle Paul warned the Thessalonians "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first,..." (II Th. 2:3). Because we cannot fall away from something we have never had, we know this is referring to people

who had at one time served God and turned away. It was not simply a refusal to turn to God, it was unfaithfulness by those who had once served God and left.

The warnings of the dangers of falling into apostasy are numerous and serious. "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God" (Heb. 3:12) and "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness" (II Peter 3:17). Both of these passages are directed to those who believed in, and followed the Lord. Without diligent watchfulness, even sincere souls can be overcome.

The world has so many enticements that are a constant danger to the faithfulness and commitment of a child of God. Many of the fashions and entertainments of our time are based on the love of the world. The scripture tells us "...If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (I Jn. 2:15-16).

The world would much rather go after various forms of entertainment rather than seeking contentment in the simple life of a child of God. Huge numbers are attracted to a variety of activities that fill the mind and consume the resources and energy that could be better used in serving God. According to the 1998 "Apostolic Christian Churches and Ministers" book, on a normal Sunday combined attendance at all of the Apostolic Christian Churches of America is less than 25,000. It is not unusual for more than four times that many people to attend a single college football game. Surely as children of God we would not want to be guilty of spending time and resources on worldly entertainment that is of no lasting value and contribute to the lust of the flesh. We would do far better to use our time en-

gaged in activities that are described as the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

Time and space do not permit a thorough listing of the activities that divert our attention away from God. We who are sincere in our desire to serve God would do well to familiarize ourselves with the meaning of the words that are listed in Galatians 5:19-21 and described as the works of the flesh. We are told that "They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Gal. 5:21). Other places in the scripture such as Romans 1:28-32, I Peter 4:3-4 and Rev. 21:8 also offer a clear warning of activities to be avoided.

To have the peace of God in our hearts and minds, we are instructed, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Phil. 4:8).

To "think on" an issue requires us to focus our attention on that particular issue. As we focus attention on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of a good report our minds become filled with those things that are good. Filling our minds with good allows neither time nor energy to engage in those things that are evil. It is just as easy to form good habits as it is to form bad ones, but the benefits of good thought patterns and proper behavior are eternal.

Commitment to God requires faithfulness, a willingness to listen to the truth, a desire to avoid the pitfalls of the world and a willingness to fill our minds with the Word of God.

The final article of this series on "Commitment" will focus on submission and working together to fulfill our commitment to God.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

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

New Zion's Harp Hymnals Distributed

After years of research and preparation, a revised edition of our treasured Zion's Harp hymnal is presently being distributed to our congregations across the land. We wish to inform our brotherhood of the history of this project and its approval.

Survey and formation of a committee

In 1992 the Elder Body authorized a survey of our churches and their song leaders to ascertain whether or not there was a need and support for revising our hymn book. Since the last revision in 1958, there have been many brethren and song leaders that have felt the hymnal could be improved. When it was determined in 1993 that a majority of the churches favored a revision, the Elder Body authorized a Zion's Harp Revision Study Committee to review the current edition of this book and to make recommendations of melodies to replace ones considered hard to sing. The committee was charged with soliciting and receiving input from the churches for suggested changes and improvements, with the results to be presented to and approved by the Elder Body.

How the work proceeded

The committee began its work in early 1994 with a focus on the history of the Zion's Harp and the changes made in 1958. It established a survey procedure to study recommendations for improved acappella congregational singing. Surveys were taken over the next three years for study purposes and to establish a basis for making

further recommendations. Input was solicited from all congregations. A wealth of information was gathered, and subsequently presented to the Elder Body.

Recommended changes

After reviewing and summarizing all of this information, the committee recommended the following revision proposals for the Zion's Harp.

1. Melody replacement and/or revision for 10% of the hymns as determined by the responses from our congregations. The new melodies come from various sources.
2. Significant harmony revision for easier singing for about 20% of the current melodies found hard to sing. Careful attention was given to use original compositions as much as possible.
3. Other less noticeable changes have involved pitch, fermata placement, and less significant melody revision for other hymns. Most of this is technical, but hopefully allows the melody to be more conducive to good acappella harmony.
4. Changes in wording are minimal and of a corrective nature. Reformatting of songs for easier reading and an expanded definitive index were also a part of the revision proposal.

Preparation of prototype book

Before the final presentation of the work to the Elder Body, a prototype hymnal was prepared for the churches to review for final comments. Direction was given for suggestions or comments to be

made by the end of 1998, at which time the project would be submitted to the Elder Body. It was estimated that the costs of the new books would be \$5.25 per copy.

Approval by the Elder Body

The above proposal reflecting a great many hours by devoted brethren was presented to our Elder Body at the Rittman conference. Approval was subsequently given to proceed with the printing and distribution of the new books.

The study process has been one of careful and prayerful consideration because of the significance of the Zion's Harp as a precious treasure to our brotherhood. Each person that has worked on this large project wishes to express their thanks to our great God for His guidance and for the many expressions of support as the work progressed.

Printing and distribution

Printing began early in 2000, and has now been completed with 33,000 copies printed initially. It is hoped that all of our congregations will put the new books into use in their local churches.

A substantial contribution was received to pay some of the printing costs of the new hymnals. At a meeting early this year, the Mission Committee approved an allocation from these funds to cover the costs of the new Zion's Harps that will be used in the pews in our churches. This is to relieve any financial burdens that could be incurred by our local congregations.

This applies only to the initial printing, and does not apply to books used personally or for resale. May the Holy Spirit continue to direct this endeavor for the honor and glory of our Heavenly Father.



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

An Opportunity To Serve

The Caribbean Board approved sending a family from the Francesville, Indiana congregation to Haiti for nine weeks early this year. The following article reflects some of their experiences.

Home and family life

The family lived on one end of a house which used to be an orphanage home. They enjoyed occasional electricity, learned how to use batteries and inverters for some electrical needs, and often heard the hum of a generator. The 55-gallon drum outside of the bathroom was the water source during the non-electrical times, and it also served as their water heater. This experience made the family even more thankful for their hot water heater at home. Mosquitoes were a very bad problem, and our brother spent the first couple of days replacing window and door screens and patching holes around the window frames. A typical day for mother and the children might include a walk to the river, daily purchasing fresh produce from the Haitians at their doorstep, a trip to town to purchase grocery store items, and fellowship with the work teams at the guest house.

Local and rural projects

The first few weeks were spent working on the compound doing such jobs as servicing work team vehicles, repairing tools, putting a new engine in a vehicle, and repairing the phone system. This helped them learn about local duties and be much more effective as a team coordinator.

The first team project was at Petit Trou, which has a trade school

established by the Francesville, Remington, and Wolcott congregations. This school is 35 miles from Les Cayes and takes about 5½ hours to drive, due to the very rough road conditions. This team performed maintenance on the buildings and the tools, and our brother had the opportunity to sit in on about 20 hours of administrative meetings.

Our brother also had the opportunity to assist work teams on various projects doing such jobs as constructing and varnishing school benches, and painting at the local nursing home. He writes, "I also enjoyed working with the Haitian men who are in charge of the well drilling and the team that came down to help with maintenance on the rigs. While roaming the countryside of Haiti for nine weeks, I saw in action many wells that have been sponsored and built by our brethren. What a blessing it is for these people to have good drinking water."

SEED project

Another team project was SEED, an agricultural ministry and school. Here the Haitians are taught good sound farming practices as well as animal husbandry. A Haitian man, Franz Clotaire, who loves the Lord sincerely and understands good order, directs the students in their studies.

Plans change

The family learned that they must always expect the unexpected, and also to be flexible with plans. They write of their experiences on one Sunday morning.

"It is Sunday morning 7:00 AM and we are ready to travel one hour to a church where our work team started a school roof project just yesterday. At 7:15 we receive word

by radio communication that due to heavy local rains in that mountainous area, the roads are impassible by 4-wheel drive vehicle. But the team needs an interpreter since one of our own ministers will be having the church service. So I find myself on a motorcycle joined with a dear Haitian man, Sylvan, whom we've grown to know and love over the years. Soon we are off to the village.

My family's plans have been altered, and so they will remain back on the compound listening to a taped service with our Bro. Eric and Sis. Rhonda Tonner who are based in Haiti for a while. Upon our arrival and prior to the service, the local pastor read a very touching letter. He expressed their sincere thankfulness for our brethren who have provided the materials and labor for their school's roof, which is adjacent to the church."

In summary

God uses experiences such as serving in Haiti to make us aware of what we focus on in this life. As Americans we are probably guilty of putting too much emphasis on being successful in providing in excess for our families, in getting ahead, and in material "things."

The Haitian people are different in that they focus on "relationships." Their culture, by default, has caused them to invest in each other. It seems our Heavenly Father's desire is that we as Christians focus on our relationships with each other. As parents, how glad it makes our hearts feel when our children get along with their siblings, friends, and total strangers. How much more then is it pleasing to God when we are concerned with the well being of someone else.

"And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." 1Cor. 3:14

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

We find ourselves in the midst of summer. Aren't the seasons wonderful? One must marvel when pondering on how God created in such detail all the factors that affect these changes. In central Illinois where the seasons change so noticeably, our lives are seemingly affected more noticeably. Our daily activity, at times, depends upon the changing weather. It is exciting to experience the changes which occur around us.

Our plans for activity with the residents can alter with the day. When it is hot, we plan a time at the pool. When the day is comfortable, we may go on a picnic or ride bikes. In the winter, we serve hot chocolate at refreshment time. In the summer, we make iced tea. Each facility has a patio or courtyard where the residents may spend some leisure time enjoying the out-of-doors. These areas are often in use. In the winter months, they are areas for the birds and squirrels which come to feed there.

In experiencing these changes, we are reminded that God is in control and we are not. Those who do not have a personal relationship with God like to be in control. We hear their frustration when things happen that are out of their control. What a comfort to know that we can always look to God for our every need and then faithfully trust Him with the outcome.

AUGUST birthdays at Timber Ridge are: Dan McDonough (2), Eric Ringwald (4), Susie Landis (5), Martha Clymer (6), Nancy Eschmann (12), Shirley Pfeifer (23), Barbara Perkins (30), Christopher Loughe (31). At LINDEN ESTATE: Steve Holmes (18). At 200 E. HAZELWOOD: Wayne Leman (12).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Lauretta Schafer

Since arriving here last fall, it has been a blessing to see Gateway Woods in operation. There is a spirit of love, care, and concern, not only for the residents, but also for one another on the staff. As problems arise, the staff is quick to seek God in prayer and to share ideas for solutions. Staff meetings are like "sitting together in heavenly places." Where else do you get paid for praying openly on the job? There may be other places, but Gateway Woods is certainly one of them. For anyone considering employment at Gateway Woods, job satisfaction is at the top, or close to the top, of the list of benefits.

As we are expanding our Gateway Woods School, we still have a job opening for a Teacher's Aide. Replacement positions open are for an Educational Coordinator, an Assistant Houseparent, and Alternate Houseparents. See the ad section for more information. You will never be the same once you answer God's challenge for one of these positions. Christian growth and maturity seem to go hand in hand with the jobs at Gateway Woods. And that is our prayer for Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany Plattner (Princeville) as they begin orientation as one of the two sets of Alternate Houseparents. We are glad to announce that former Houseparent, Sis. Cheri Blunier (Leo), joined our staff as the teacher for our new third classroom.

We are excited for Sis. Rena Braker as her engagement was announced to Bro. Jason Hodel (Roanoke). She was a part of the team at the Bauman House as Assistant Houseparent. We wish you God's blessings, Rena, in serving God in another capacity.

It is encouraging and revitalizing to see the cheerful countenances on the faces of our summer volunteer workers as they go about their duties. Whether the work is painting walls, washing windows, watching young children, or replacing light fixtures, there seems to be joy in the hearts of the workers. Thank you for your loving work and attitude. New volunteers for this segment of the summer have included: Sis. Amber Stuber (Tremont), Sis. Chelby Kaeb, Jackie Knapp, Sis. Julie Gudeman, and Bro. Clint Kaeb (Bloomington), Bro. Craig Langhofer and Bro. Ben Flis (South Bend), Bro. Luke Wuethrich (Morton), Bro. Kirk Plattner (Princeville), Bro. Tim Stoller (Latty), Sis. Rachel Huber (Francesville), Bro.

Clint Fiechter and Bro. Seth Gerber (Bluffton). "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men..." (Galatians 6:10). We are in the "graduation" stages for a number of our foster children and residents. It's not necessarily the typical graduation, but in some ways just as significant; the celebration of their progress in our programs that enables them to go home to less restrictive settings or out on their own. Over the course of the summer, five of our foster children will "graduate" while several of our residents are adapting to changes in their lives. Leaving the Gateway Woods campus are Erin A. from the Kipfer home, Melissa H. from the Wiegand home, and Dustin S. from the Bauman home. Also making a change is Larissa E. who joined the Wiegand's and Sarah E. who has joined the Kipfer's. Pray for a smooth transition for these dear ones. For the regular type of graduates we are excited that two donors have established scholarship funds for our residents who want to con-

tinue their education beyond high school!

One final celebration is that of the birth of Isaac Joseph Fessenden on 6/17/00 to Bro. Jerry and Sis. Rachel. This boy has Gateway Woods in his blood. His grandparents, the late Bro. Uriel and Sis. Judy Gehring (Burlington), both served on our staff, his father was a resident, and his mother left her position as our Education Coordinator to become a full-time mom. We trust that Isaac's arrival will help ease the pain of losing Jerry's mother and brother in a recent auto accident. Truly we can say, "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." (Psalm 127:3)

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Tom Schrenk**

Today as we hear God's voice, we are to answer Him in a way that will be according to His will. We are reminded so many times of how the people hardened their hearts and refused to obey God. As we begin our summer session here at the Preschool, we continue to work and train these children in the ways that the Bible teaches. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way that he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." This is our purpose here at the Preschool, to instill in these little ones the truth about God, through Jesus His Son. We ask for the prayers of the Church that this be done to the praise and honor of God.

This past week we had a large group from Indianapolis that came to help us. They were very willing and able to work and accomplished many things. We thank each one for their efforts and may God bless you for giving of yourselves.

Our fall classes will begin Au-

gust 21. We still need a teacher for our 4 and 5-year-old class. This position does require at least a two year degree in Teaching or Early Child Development. If God is directing your life in this way, talk with your Elder and then call the Preschool for details.

We are always thankful when anyone comes to visit or wants to spend some time working here at the Preschool. Volunteers are needed anytime. We continue to expand our sponsorship program to reach out to children that have needs. If anyone has an interest in learning more about this program, please contact us here at the Preschool.

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 (256) 232-0037, e-mail:

apostolicpreschool@juno.com

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Joan Reinhard**

This has been a busy month for us here in Athens. Memorial Day Weekend was the time for our annual Tennessee Fellowship Area Singing. We had a record crowd this year with around 500 people attending. There were 38 of our churches represented and our little Athens church was overflowing. We were very thankful to have this many of our brothers and sisters gathered here, and a special thanks to the ministers who gave of themselves to teach, encourage, guide, and instruct us on the Word of God. I could not help but think of what Heaven will be like with the saints of all ages gathered in praise and worship to our God. It is going to be a gathering we can hardly imagine and one we surely do not want to miss.

Many thanks also to all who participated in the Benefit Auction we held Memorial Day Weekend for the Tennessee Fellowship Area. Your generosity in sending items, buying items and donating in general is very much appreciated. May the Lord reward you for your actions of love.

We here at Athens were the recipients of another action of love, when a group of brothers and sisters and friends from Indianapolis, IN, came and spent a few days with us. Three couples and some young people from Indy volunteered their time here working at the church, the preschool, and at the Tennessee Fellowship Area. They were a tremendous light and example as they put forth great effort and accomplished many, many things. Thank you each one for all of the work that you did and especially for sharing God's love with us as you spent time here. May you be rewarded here and much more in eternity. We would also like to thank Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) for sharing God's Word with us during some special services that we held in the evenings while they were here.

Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore was operated on June 1 for an internal blockage. A tumor was removed which was an Adenocarcinoma cancer. He will be going to Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville, TN, soon to begin chemotherapy and/or what other treatment is agreed upon. He would like to thank everyone for their many cards and letters and also he is very, very thankful for your many prayers and asks for your continued prayer support.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"Knowye not, that so many of us

as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death."

Romans 6:3-4

God's presence was truly felt June 4 as Jerry Tooley stepped into the baptismal waters. During his testimony, Jerry admitted there is power in prayer. He gave much credit to his dear wife, Sis. June, whom he has observed serving the Lord for over 20 years and a softened heart working with the orphanage in Mexico. Loved ones came from IL, MN, KS, and Mexico to be with Bro. Jerry and Sis. June. Bro. Jerry, may you always please the One who dwells within.

Sunday evening after the baptism, Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich and John Lehman served Holy Communion. Our appreciation to Elder Bro. John Lehman for being with us June 3-4.

Sisters Barbara Schupbach and Eleanor Hill and Bro. Richard Schupbach were in the hospital for tests. Sis. Linda Zollinger had surgery.

On May 13, Bro. Ed and Sis. Connie Frautschi welcomed a new granddaughter into their family, Lydia Dianne Schlatter.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbara Schupbach became great-grandparents on June 2, when Noah Steffen was born.

Sis. Josephine and Della Martin moved to the Ft. Lauderdale area to be close to Elizabeth and family. We pray God's blessings on them.

"Are You Prepared For the Journey?" is the topic for Vacation Bible School this June 12-16. Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) brought us the messages. Our Sunday School classes presented a short program of verses, songs,

and crafts they learned during the week. Our thanks and God's blessing to each of you for your efforts on a job well done to honor God.

Has God deserted Heaven
And left it up to you
To judge if this or that is right
And what each one should do?

I think He's still in business,
And knows when to wield the
rod,
So when you're judging others,
Just remember you're not God.

—author unknown

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him."

I Cor. 12:18

Our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich led our business meeting in May with the election of two trustees, Sunday School teachers and other positions of service in the church.

Our annual corn-on-the-cob picnic will be held Saturday, August 5, at 5:00 p.m. at Granite Creek Park. All who are visiting in the area are welcome to come and can contact Sis. Jane Hodges or another Prescott member for more information.

Bringing the Word of God to us the last month were Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich, Bros. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH), Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL), Herb Knochel Jr. and James Emch (both of Phoenix). We thank them again for their labors of love and pray God will richly bless them and their loved ones.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Jim Klotzle

Greetings from Altadena!

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth."

III John 2-3

Bro. Justin Moser is planning to leave our congregation for the Chicago area to further his education. We thank God for his presence in our congregation, and pray for God's blessing on his future undertakings.

Kurt Luginbuhl and I graduated from high school this year, and Rebecca Luginbuhl graduated from college. We thank God for the support of our families and friends through this time of learning.

Many of our congregation attended the funeral service of Bobby Fulop this past month in San Diego. This tragic experience has truly brought us closer together and closer to God. We are thankful that Bobby had turned his eyes toward the Saviour in repentance. That is the only hope for all of us.

Bro. Bill Witzig was hospitalized for several days, but has had a full recovery since.

Bro. Carl Kinsinger underwent a cataract surgery in June, and is recovering without complications.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Witzig (Indianapolis, IN) and family are spending several weeks in California. We appreciate their fellowship and Bro. Fred's assistance on the pulpit during their stay.

We pray for God's protection and blessing on all those who will be traveling this summer. May God prepare our hearts for the un-

expected blessings He has prepared for us. And, may we walk in truth, wherever we are!

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Peggy Jevremov

This past month, Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic spent about two weeks with several other Elder brethren in Eastern Europe as a part of our World Relief effort to help our brethren there. We were very thankful to have Bro. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ) come to assist Bro. Doug in bringing forth God's Word to us.

Bro. Rory Strahm has been hospitalized again. We are thankful that he has been able to go home now but still has not been able to assemble with us yet. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family. In the body of Christ, when one suffers, we all suffer.

Our hearts have been heavy with the absence of a precious young soul from our midst. Our Heavenly Father called our dear convert, Bobby Fulop, Home to be with Him on May 29. Though we as a congregation miss his cheerful smile and sincere walk of life as he strove to serve our Lord, we know how much more his dear family misses him. Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers are, and will continue to be, with our loved ones, Bro. Denes, Sis. Joy, Dennis, Linda, Elizabeth, Sarah and Abigail Fulop. The following is one of Bobby's favorite hymns and expresses his sincere love for His Lord and Saviour.

My Jesus I Love Thee
My Jesus, I love Thee,
I know Thou art mine,
For Thee all the pleasures
of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer,

my Saviour art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee
my Jesus 'tis now.

I'll love Thee in life,
I will love Thee in death,
And praise Thee as long as
Thou lendest me breath;
And say when the deathdew
lies cold on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee,
my Jesus 'tis now.

In mansions of glory
and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee
in Heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering
crown on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee,
my Jesus, 'tis now.

CANADA
KITCHENER, ONTARIO
Laura Baxter

"The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and of great mercy."

Psalm 145:8

The above verse gives us a little insight into the nature of Jesus and inspires us to the very nature we should be striving for. If we, like Jesus, are gracious, full of compassion, and of great mercy, we will then find anger comes slowly or not at all when we face conflict in our daily lives. And if our hearts are full of these qualities, then there will be no room for pride, which is many times the root of our anger anyway. "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." (Mt. 12:34). May we fill our hearts, by God's grace, with these Divine qualities.

Our congregation welcomes Vinnie and Justine Pitcaru and

their family as they have begun assembling with us. It is a great encouragement to our small group and we are enjoying their fellowship.

Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher are thankful for the safe arrival of their grandson, Orin Todd. Orin is the new son of Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia Graf (Akron, OH).

We are thankful for the continued support and fellowship of visitors. We especially thank our visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), and Bros. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH). We also thank our home minister, Bro. Mike Ursu, for his willingness to minister to us.

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.

CANADA
REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN

Robin Nesbitt has begun a new walk with our Lord and Saviour. We are thankful for him and wish Robin much grace from our Heavenly Father. May he feel the love and prayers of the brethren.

On Sunday, April 2, we were privileged to have Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) share God's Word with us. Quite a large group accompanied Bro. Art and Sis. Sandra. We were greatly blessed by their visit and sharing the Lord's supper with them.

On April 16, we welcomed Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner (Detroit, MI) to our assembly. We greatly appreciated Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary.

COLORADO, DENVER**Amy Beyer**

Our Denver church has felt God's blessings once again. We are thankful to welcome Bro. George and Sis. Tina Gal and their children, Adam and Heidi, from Akron, OH; and Bro. Steve and Sis. Danae Lehman from Bloomington, IL. We wish God's special blessings of love to Bro. Steve and Sis. Danae as they begin their married life in the Lord. We are thankful that God has directed both families to move to the Denver area and worship with us.

Our regular summer residents are returning. We are thankful to have four new residents with us this summer! Bro. Kyle Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen, Sabetha, KS), Sis. Natalie Lehman (Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Joseph Leman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen, Roanoke, IL), and Sis. Sarah Rumbold (Herb and Diana, Bradford, IL) from St. Louis, MO. How blessed we are to have them as part of our church family this summer.

Our visiting minister this past month was Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI). We pray that God will continue to guide him and his family as he shares God's Word.

As much joy as our church family has felt, we were sad to see Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly Ramseyer and their children, Carrie, Caleb and Grace, move back to Detroit, MI. Although we will miss their family, we look forward to the times our paths will cross in the future! We wish them God's peace and love as they make their home in Detroit.

We continue to enjoy and appreciate the fellowship with the visitors who are vacationing in Colorado this summer. We welcome all!

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE****Cherie Galat**

Our Single Group was blessed to have visited the West Bend, IA, congregation for the Memorial Day weekend. It is so refreshing to be able to travel across the country and greet loved ones of like mind and faith. May He ever bless them for their kindness and hospitality shown unto us. "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward." (St. Matthew 10:42)

Congratulations to our graduates: Eric Abrahamson (Gayland and Charlene), Brittany Andrews (Kurt and Diane), Ben Carlson (Bro. Wally and Sis. Judy), Mark Lanz (Bro. Barry and Karen), Sis. Sarah Lanz (Bro. Sherman and Sis. Joanne), Doug Luginbuhl (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue), Jesse Moser (Chris and Sis. Sue), Amber Reutter (Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay), Amy Skipper (Don and Cindy), Jacob Virkler (Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy), Sis. Deanna Virkler (John and Sis. Maureen), Scott Winans (Craig and Sis. Dawn) and Elisa Zahner (Bro. Warren and Sis. Bonnie). May God guide your each and every step as you prepare for the future.

With the summertime approaching, we most likely will be getting many visitors since the children are out of school and we have some vacation time. It truly is a blessing to get reacquainted with loved ones or meet brethren for the first time. "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." (Philippians 2:12). As we meet and then part again to our own home congregations, may we continue to "...seek those things

which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1).

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

"This do in remembrance of me."

Luke 22:19

We were privileged to join the Philadelphia congregation for Communion this month and were thankful for Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Duane Farney (Croghan, NY) and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) who came to serve us. May the Lord continue to bless them and their families for their service to us.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA). Our other visitors this month were from Rockville, CT; Smithville, OH and Philadelphia, PA.

During the summer while some of us are on vacation, we also have many visitors vacationing here. We are thankful for your visit and hope that you feel welcome.

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

For more information, assistance, or just to let us know you are in the area, please call Bro. Barry

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

**FLORIDA
FT. LAUDERDALE**

Gretchen Webb

Ft. Lauderdale wishes to extend a warm welcome to several new residents. Sis. Julie Heinold (La-Crosse, IN) is living here while she completes a college internship for the summer. Sis. Josephine Martin and her daughter, Della (Phoenix, AZ), have moved here to be closer to family. We would also like to welcome back Bro. Matt and Sis. Nancy Rocke and their daughters, Jennifer and Jessica. Bro. Matt has been transferred back to our area. The congregation extends a very warm welcome to all of them.

Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy Sutter welcome a new granddaughter, Emma Kate, into their family. Emma joins her parents, Bro. Win and Sis. Amy Stoller (Peoria, IL), and her big brother, Pete.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FT. MYERS**

Dorothy Beer

This Sunday we celebrate Father's Day. How thankful we are that we were raised in a Christian home where God was honored, and we were taken to Sunday School and church by our fathers and mothers.

Our church was blessed to share Holy Communion together on May 21. We thank Elder Bros. Doug Sabo and Tom Hoffman for their love and service.

Even though our church family is small, we are surprised and blessed with visitors or winter residents almost every Sunday. A Bar-B-Que was also enjoyed by all this month.

Sis. Viola Keller is home after

spending several days in the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with dear Sis. Vi and Bro. Roland. They appreciate all their family always rallying around them.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Carol Koehl

We are very happy to report that our converts, Frank and Angela Keifer, are at peace and awaiting baptism in the near future.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee."

Isaiah 26:3

Bro. Eugene Metzger (Lester, IA) has our sincere appreciation for ministering to us this past month.

Our love and prayers are with the family of our dear Sis. Dorothy Reineck (Detroit, MI) who is now safe in the arms of Jesus. Sis. Dorothy always claimed me as one of her babies. When I was born, she came to our home to help my mother take care of me and my brother for a short time.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Keith and Carol Kaufman

What a privilege to live in a land where we have so many freedoms. To obtain these freedoms, our forefathers had to fight many battles. We are privileged also to live in the dispensation of grace. We have opportunity to be free from sin and Satan. But, to obtain these freedoms, we must fight many spiritual battles. How thankful we are to have the Bible that tells us how to fight the battles.

Are we being faithful soldiers? Are we going into battle prepared to fight the enemy? Are we listening to and following the Holy

Spirit, the leader of this army? Remember, there is a reward and a crown awaiting the true and faithful.

We are so grateful that we are reminded of this each time the Word of God is spoken. May the Lord richly bless Bros. Vic Beer (North Ft. Myers, FL) and Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI) for their willingness to allow the Spirit to speak.

The Lord has truly blessed us with the love and fellowship of the brethren who have stopped in on their way to Camilla, GA, to help rebuild the houses that were destroyed in the tornado back in February. May each one of you feel God's blessings and closeness as you labor for Him.

Our prayers are with Bro. John Wieland and his wife, Sis. Liz (Princeville, IL), as he undergoes treatment here in the Atlanta area. May they continue to feel God's nearness and be a light and example to those they will come in contact with.

We want to extend a hearty welcome to all this summer! We look forward to the fellowship; not only for the adults, but for our children also. We are happy to plan an evening of fellowship when you come.

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. If you are in the area, please plan to worship with us. We really appreciate it. 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 (this also helps us plan our Sunday lunches): 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

"Be like a thermostat, not like a thermometer."

With summer here and days that are hot and humid, I am reminded of this quote I heard on one of our topical Bible Study tapes. A thermostat changes things but a thermometer just goes up and down with the atmosphere. If you're like a thermometer, when it's gloomy in the room, you become gloomy. If someone is in a bad mood, you get in a bad mood. So when you go to turn on your air conditioner, remember a Christian needs to be like a thermostat!

BIBLE - Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth. Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Chuck Kellenberger, Edwin Strahm (Elgin, IL) and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN). We want to thank our visiting and regular ministers for their continuing basic instructions from the Bible.

Bro. Shannon Stahl chose the topic of Jesus' parable of the talents for our Bible Study on a Wednesday evening. We were grateful for Bro. Shannon's willingness to repeat the study of this parable for our Bible Study the following evening in Madison, WI, when one minister had a change of plans and our other minister was delayed due to a storm and tornado alert.

Kelsey Ann was born to Bro. Chad and Sis. Kristy Kaeb on May 18. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Brenda Kaeb (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann Hoffman (Roanoke, IL). This precious, wee baby girl was born two months premature. We are so grateful for Kelsey's weight gain

and no major complications but we need to continue to remember her in our prayers. We are thankful for Sis. Kristy's recovery from eclampsia, also.

"Love never faileth". May 27 was the wedding of Alisha McCoy (Dave and Sis. Sheila) and Bob Maly (Robert and Jan). Just as the rain didn't seem to discourage them for their outdoor wedding, may they always see God's love and blessings surrounding them.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Shawn Masters

Dana Knapp

We rejoice with Bro. Pete and Sis. Lisa Monagle on the birth of their daughter. Leah Marie was born on May 12. Her grandparents are Gary and Sis. Kay Monagle (Washington, IL) and Bro. Ted and Sis. Mary Staker (Morton, IL). Kelsey Anne was born on May 18 to Bro. Chad and Sis. Kristy Kaeb (Belvidere, IL). Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda Kaeb and Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) are the thankful grandparents. Sis. Jana Knapp has recently adopted little Emily. She is a 3-year-old from China. Her full name is Emily Zheng Knapp (Zheng was her Chinese name). Emily's grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Knapp (Eureka, IL). May God provide each of you the knowledge and wisdom in raising your children.

Our church family is very excited over the repentance of two souls. Rebekah Kaufmann (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie) and Eric Huber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Debbie) have answered the call to serve our Lord. We pray for God's grace and protection as you begin your new life in Christ.

We want to remember Bro. Darl

Schieler (Sis. Cindy) and his family with the passing of his mother. We wish all of you the comfort that only God can provide.

Our best wishes to those who recently graduated. Our college graduates are Bros. Clint Kaeb, David Kieser, Jr., Steve Lehman, Rocky O'Shea and Sis. Leslie Masters. Jonathan Grieco, Matt Hany, Sis. Tami Inoue, Sis. Christa Kaeb, Rebekah Kaufmann, Bro. Duane Kieser, Jeremy Knapp, Bro. Lucas Knapp, Sis. Sunita Kupferschmid, Sis. Amanda Loy, Megan Moore, and Sis. Rachel Schieler all have graduated from high school. A Senior Breakfast was held for the high school graduates.

We are happy to have Sis. Erica Shambach back worshipping with us. She has spent the last 7 months in Mexico. We would also like to welcome Ben and Yin Feng and their family. We are excited to have you worshipping with us.

June 5-9 our church had VBS. The topic for the week was "Seeking a Servant's Heart". We were privileged to have Bros. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), and Steve Gutwein (Francisville, IN) to share the week with us. Bros. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) were also with us this month. God bless you for your time and effort.

We have a lot of weddings to report this month. Laurie Randoll became the wife of Tom Anderson (Sam and Sis. DeAnn) on May 13. June 3, Jennifer Cordes and Tony Young (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Anne Marie) were united in marriage. Sis. Danae Dallas (Doug and Kathy of Mahomet) and Bro. Steve Lehman (Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne, Denver) became one in Christ on June 4. Bro. Dale and Sis.

Carol Strassheim's daughter, Alison, married David Orns on June 9. Nathan Masters (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary) and Sarah Foran (Kevin and Dorothy) were joined as husband and wife on June 10. Bro. Clint Kaeb (Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda) wed Sis. Jami Ringger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla Ringger, Gridley) on June 11. May God daily grant you wisdom as you begin your lives together as one.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Chad and LauraLee Plattner

God's blessings to our graduates this year. They are Brock Elsasser (Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon), Adam Endress (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky) and Ryan Pyles (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky). We pray they will each seek God's direction as they choose which path to follow.

We would like to thank Bro. Nate Stoller and Sis. Ann Ehnle for their years of service as Sunday School teachers. Their terms are ending and they will be replaced by Bro. Bill Endress and Sis. Deb Knobloch. Let us continue to prayerfully support our Sunday School that it may be blessed.

Steve Loudenberg (Marjie) was hospitalized this month. We thank God for his quick recovery.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) and Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN). God bless them for their willingness to serve.

ILLINOIS

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Samuel and Pamela Furrer

Summertime always brings with it a change in the activities in which we engage. Church picnics,

family outings, vacations, camps and such have begun. Our church enjoyed a picnic with many out-of-town guests in mid-June. A church tradition from several years ago has been revived, and we are now having Bible study on Colossians. These take the place of regular services on every other Wednesday evening for eight weeks. The last week of June will be Vacation Bible School week for our young students. We are fortunate that the college students help out a lot with VBS.

Bro. Melvin Walder recently had surgery on his back. Though it was not on his list of fun summertime activities, he is now recovering at home and looking forward to being up and around soon.

Though the start of another school year is still a month or so away, we want to remind families about our annual student welcome picnic. This year's picnic will be on the afternoon of Sunday, August 27. In early August, a letter with details will be sent out to new students. Any students who have plans to come here but doubt that our present students know of those intentions should contact Luke Wuthrich at 811 W. Oregon #1, Urbana, IL 61801. Luke's phone number is (217) 384-7463 and email is wuthrich@uiuc.edu.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

It often surprises me how the Lord weaves learning events through our lives. Many times we don't even realize the correlation of the events until we turn around and look back. It is then that we see how they begin to fit together and the lesson God is teaching.

As I take a look back on my own life, I have noticed the Lord teaching me to be actively working with

my hands and mind to accomplish what I am able while at the same time trusting to Him those things that are beyond my reach. This can be a real challenge for me at times. I find it very difficult to be productive when I am worrying about a larger problem. This usually further complicates the problem.

I am thankful for the prayers of those I love, ministers who preach the truth, notes of encouragement and the other ways God chooses to speak to me. It assures me that God must see in me some worthwhile potential for His kingdom in order to continue His efforts on my life.

We were blessed abundantly this month with visiting ministers. Bros. Scott Schafer (South Bend, IN), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) and Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) shared God's Word with us.

We offer congratulations to our two high school graduates, Bryant Leman (Bro. Jay and Sis. Teri) and Nathan Rassi (Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla). May God direct the future choices of these two young men.

We want to welcome two newcomers. Sis. Amber Kellenberger (West Bend, IA) is spending a couple of summer months with us and Sis. Sandy Leman (Roanoke, IL) is attending school in the area. We are glad to have these two sisters with us.

We also want to welcome a very tiny newcomer. Baby Kristen Leigh Wegman was born May 31. We rejoice with Kristen's parents, Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn Wegman, and her two loving brothers, Brett and Philip. Grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Rosemary Wegman (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally Haerr (Taylor, MO).

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Darlene Walder
Cheryl Eisenmann**

Since our last writing we have commemorated Memorial Day, Father's Day and soon Independence Day. The battle of freedom still rages. In Micah 6:8 we read, "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly and love mercy and walk humbly with thy God."

The High School graduates from our congregation are Zach Anderson, Sis. Bethany Frank, Sis. Sarah Laubscher, Sis. Valerie Rinkenberger, Sis. Traci Rudin, Jess Walder and Joshua Walder. We wish each one God's guidance as they go on to schools of higher learning or into the work place.

The engagement of Bro. Lee Hoffman (Merle and Elsie Eisenmann) and Sis. Shalome Knobloch (Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl) of Morton has been made known. Bro. Dan Walder (Sis. Wilma and the late Bro. Charles) and Sis. Pam Eisenmann (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon) were united in marriage on June 18. May our Lord supply the special needs of these couples and bless them.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Valerie Kaeb have been blessed with a new little baby boy, Trevor James. He is welcomed home by his big sister, Amber, and big brothers, Nathan and Justin. Grandparents, Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb and Bro. Sid and Sis. Sandy Kaufmann, are enjoying this precious gift from Heaven. Vincent and Gail Lober have been blessed with a new baby boy, Conner James. He is welcomed home by his big sister, Adrianna. Grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Joan Rudin.

Visiting us on the pulpit this month were Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Robert Walder (Congerville, IL), as

well as Bros. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN), Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL). We appreciated their visits.

We gathered children together for two weeks of Vacation Bible School beginning June 5. It is always a growing experience for the children as well as the teachers. On four evenings of our Vacation Bible School, the Bible Class was given the opportunity to listen to Topical Bible Studies by Bros. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) and Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN). We want to thank these brothers for their many efforts.

A recent surgical patient was Elsie Eisenmann. Another hospital patient this month was Sis. Helen Lackey.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

**Renae Dietrich
Glenna Rinkenberger**

Depart vain world, with all your sin!

From bondage I am free.

A humble offering do I bring;

My heart I give to Thee!

Zion's Harp #163

Our congregation enjoyed overflowing cups May 20-21 as we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of our new brothers, Adam and Aaron Ott (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Mardell). Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) assisted our Elder Bro. Bob Walder in this important work. Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) also shared the pulpit.

That same evening we partook of the Lord's Supper, Elder Bro. Jay lending himself once more to

God's service.

Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee

Through Thy blest sacrament, which we

Partook, that joined in heart and hand;

To Zion's realm and holy land
We journey on.

Zion's Harp #200

Our Bible Class enjoyed a day at ISU for Sunday School June 4 followed by a song program in the afternoon for their families. The message instructed the youth to make the right choices in their lives even as Daniel and his friends did. We pray for our young people in this wicked world that they can stand up and "Dare to be a Daniel".

All of our Sunday School students spent a week of Bible School June 5-9. We'd like to thank Bros. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and Dennis Rassi (Tremont, IL) for each spending an evening with us.

June 5 was the birthday of Jenna Marie Dietrich. Her family includes Bro. Tim, Sis. Sandy, Tyler, Jessica and Travis. We welcome her into our growing church family.

Bros. Gene and Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) were with us along with their families on May 28.

June 11 was the wedding day of our Sis. Beth Zobrist (Bro. Clarence and Sis. Luann) and Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO). Our church was full and we were blessed with several of God's servants. On the pulpit were Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS), and Bros. Don Braker, Randy Kellenberger and Brandon Emch (all from Kansas City, MO). In Sunday School were Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Greg

Rassi (Chicago, IL).

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

Following the wedding, an en-
gagement was made known to
those assembled of our Sis. Bonny
Rinkenberger (Bro. Mike and Sis.
Pat) to Bro. Doug Wenninger (Bro.
Larry and Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH).
We wish both these couples God's
abundant blessings and His divine
guidance.

Clint McClure (Bro. Jeff and
Sis. Marilyn) was a surgical patient
recently and is recovering quite
well.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Peggy Heiniger
Norma Schambach

We have four seniors who grad-
uated from high school this year:
Jenean Schambach (Bro. Tom and
Sis. Connie), Jacob Schambach
(Bill and Jose), Laura Schambach
(Bro. Ed and Sis. Gayle) and James
Wonneberg (Jerry and Sis. Gail).
We wish them God's blessings and
direction in their future.

May 27-28 we were privileged to
hear the testimonies of four dear
souls. The new brothers and sis-
ters added to our family of believ-
ers are Bro. Scott and Sis. Andrea
Heiniger, Bro. Todd Schambach
(Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne), and Sis.
Jessica Schifferer (Wayne and
Joyce). May they continue to look
to God to guide them throughout
their lives. We look forward to add-
ing more to our family in the com-

ing months.

June 10 was the wedding of
Wayne Sauder (the late Roger and
Sis. Gert) and Jennifer March. We
wish them God's blessings as they
begin their married life together.

We want to ask God's healing
hand on our Sis. Gail (Jerry)
Wonneberg who has been experi-
encing a serious neurological dis-
order. May she and her family feel
our love and prayers.

Sunday mornings for Bro. Bill
Banwart were spent looking out
his nursing home window, and
praying for each car that drove
past to go to church that they
would receive a blessing. We will
miss those prayers as Bro. Bill was
taken Home on May 24. We pray
for his sister, Sis. Ella, who still
resides at our nursing home and
longs to go Home, too.

We were very blessed this
month with visiting ministers: El-
der Bro. Wayne Banwart (Cham-
paign, IL), and Bros. Ken Dietz and
Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL),
Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North,
IN), Tom Lemman (Denver, CO),
Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL),
Garth Steffen (Portland, OR) and
Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL).

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Janet Zimmerman

"I have planted, Apollos wa-
tered; but God gave the increase.
So then neither is he that planteth
any thing, neither he that
watereth; but God that giveth the
increase."

I Corinthians 3:6,7

We thank God for the rain He
has blessed us with. It has been so
good for the farmers' beans and
corn and for our vegetable gardens
also. May we always thank God for
His rich blessings He gives to us.

Again we are reminded of God's
great love as another soul has
found grace unto repentance. We
are thankful for Aaron Hoerr (Bro.
Norman and Sis. Connie) and wish
him God's grace to build a firm
foundation on Christ Jesus.

We are happy for Bro. Gary and
Sis. Elna Wettstein as they wel-
come little Timothy Arthur into
their hearts and home. Timothy
was born on May 26. Welcoming
him home are Sam, Ed, Sis.
Christy, Curt, Keith, Andy, Ellen
and Gary. His grandparents are
Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mildred
Bauman (Goodfield) and Bro. Art
and Sis. Donna Wettstein (Eu-
reka).

Our children spent the first two
weeks in June for Vacation Bible
School. May those memory verses
and songs stick with them for all of
their lives. May they always have
special memories of VBS.

Our visiting ministers this past
month were Elder Bro. Curt Frank
(LaCrosse, IN), and Bros. Paul
Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), David
Zehr (Gridley, IL), Mike Ursu
(Kitchener, Ontario) and Carroll
Gerber (Bluffton North, IN). May
God bless each one.

Sis. Martha Grusy was a hospi-
tal patient this month. We pray she
will feel God's nearness as she re-
covers.

May God protect each one as
they travel this summer.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone
for the beautiful cards, gifts and
flowers given to me on my 96th
birthday. May God bless each one.

Sis. Eveline Sinn

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr
Joann Zehr

"And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

I Corinthians 11:24-26

We gathered in solemnness to partake of Holy Communion on June 14. We were blessed to have with us Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) who assisted our Elder Bro. Art Bahler in serving us. We thank them for their efforts.

Partaking of the bread is a reminder to us also that, as is the wheat, so we must be broken and crushed and then blended together with the life-giving leaven of God's Word before we can be useful as bread for a starving soul. Both individually and collectively, as the entire body of the church, this brokenness and losing of one's self is a necessity. When the grain is made into flour, it can no longer be separated. And flour has no life in itself, but the yeast or leaven gives it life.

"...that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."

John 17:22-23

It is this oneness and unity, the blending together and the losing of one's self, the selfless love of the brethren, that is the greatest witness to the world.

Bro. Edward Hohulin, 94, passed from time to eternity on June 1. Surviving are one sister, Sis. Lillie Luthi (Morris, MN), and five nieces and nephews whom he raised as his own: Sis. Lillie Ann Moore (Forrest), Susie Smock of Ashland, Lena Kestner and Joseph Moore, both of Forrest and Mary Hinkelman, Pontiac. We are thankful that Bro. Ed was able to come in repentance and live his latter years for the Lord.

Sis. Ruth Meyer and her daughter, Sis. Roberta, lost two family members recently. Sis. Ruth's sister, Sis. Emma Beckley (Remington, IN), and her brother, Bro. Edward Witzig (Gridley), passed away within several days. Our prayers have been them in these losses and also in Sis. Roberta's recovery from a recent accident.

We have been very blessed by having Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO) and his wife, Sis. Phyllis, with us for Wednesday evening services frequently in the last several months. We appreciate his willingness to share with us as he works on a job in our area. Also visiting this month were Bros. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), and Ralph Garber (Morton, IL). May the Lord bless you and your families.

Bro. Rick and Sis. Kim Steidinger welcomed little Trevin Scott into their family on June 2. Trevin has two brothers, Clayton and Jordan. Grandparents are Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley Fehr and Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne Steidinger.

Another little boy, Anthony James, came to bless the home of

Keith and Shelly Huber on June 17. His brother, Corbin, and grandparents, Bro. Jesse and Sis. Donna Huber and Bro. Mark and Sis. Lavern Aberle (Forrest), welcome him.

Tim Steidinger and Amy Lessman have announced their engagement. Tim's parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger. Our prayers are with them as they plan a July wedding.

Those submitting to surgery recently are Bro. Walt Edelman (Sis. Rosie), Bro. Trent Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne) and Sis. Sharon Kelson (Bro. Bud). Also, Sis. Laura Bauer was hospitalized recently. May the power of the Divine Healer be with you.

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

Psalms 32:8

Congratulations to our high school graduates: Bro. Brent Young (Bro. Norman and Sis. Lollie), Bro. Darl Rassi (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane), Bros. Karl and Kyle Steidinger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn), Bro. Matt Kaisner (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna), Craig Davis (Mark and Elaine), Bro. Ryan Stoller (Bro. Randy and Sis. Ronda), Sis. Amber Huber (Bro. Rich and Sis. Dawn), Sis. Karla Kaisner (Robert and Cherie) and Sis. Alicia Schmidgall (Bro. Bill and Sis. Anna). May they always commit their ways to Him and trust in Him to guide them.

Our prayerful support is with Bros. Mark Hartman (Sis. Judy) and Corey Steffen (Sis. Beth) as they have been chosen to serve in Sunday School. Thanks to Bro. Ben (Sis. Carol) Kafer, who labored much in the Sunday School and whose term has now expired.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp
Linda Anliker**

"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."

Proverbs 3:5-6

This is our prayer for our high school graduates, Bro. Bryan Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne), Paula Bachtold (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary), Wendy Dotterer (Sis. Kathy), Janae Drayer (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria), Sis. Shawna Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy), Trent Johnson (Bro. Harry and Sis. Til), Bro. Tim Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida), Bro. Nicholas Roth (Bro. Ken and Sis. Deb), Heidi Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy), Daniel Steidinger (Bro. James and Sis. Marlene), Sis. Heidi Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill), Elijah Stork (Bro. Paul and Sis. Dawn), Jenna Walter (Pete and LaRae), Rachel Walter (Keith and Jackie), Ryan Zimmerman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeanette) and Tory Zimmerman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy).

Taking vows to be joined together as husband and wife on May 20 were Jayne Bahler and Kevin Eisenmann. Their parents are Jim and Rita Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. John and Sis. Bev Eisenmann. May the Lord bless their marriage.

May Bro. Clint Dotterer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Rebecca Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida) continue to seek the Lord's direction as they plan their August 20 wedding.

We thank visiting ministers, Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL)

for serving us from the Word of God. We also thank Bros. Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), Craig Martin (Princeville, IL), Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) and Dennis Rassi for teaching our high school students during Vacation Bible School. May God bless them for their works of love.

Our hospital patients were Sis. Pauline Wiegand, Ryan Wenger (Bro. Rich and Sis. Jill) and Bro. Clarence Koehl (Sis. Doris). May God grant healing according to His will. Sis. Janny (Bro. Duane) Schneider is in our thoughts and prayers as she battles cancer and is having surgery.

Funeral services were held for Bro. Perry Honegger on June 7. Our thoughts and prayers are with his children, Brenda (Charles) Johnson (Nome, AK), Joan (Robert) Moser (Manito, IL), Verna (Lonnie) Rieches (Cissna Park, IL), Jack (Roberta, Lafayette, IN) and Walter (Cindy, Otterbein, IN). 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. Verna (Bro. Anton) Schaefer (Morris, MN), Sis. Marge (Bro. Wilbur) Schneider (Ellington, CT), Sis. Ruth (Bro. Les) Roth, Sis. Donna Leman and Harley (Lorraine).

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Heather Hohulin

We were blessed this month to have our summer Bible School. Elder Bro. Everett Hari, Bro. Duane Kilgus and Bro. Gary Brown were here with us to discuss how God can provide His grace in difficult times of need. It was a very uplifting week and we thank the brothers for sharing their experiences and their time with us.

We have quite a few engagements to share this month. Justin Zobrist (Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann) and Sheri Brady (Kevin and Gail) have chosen July for their wedding. Ron Wiegand (Bro. Gary and Sis. Karen) and Cassandra Beckcom (Thomas and Sandra) will be married in August. Christine Rokey (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Phyllis) and Kyle Watson (Randy and Gail) will be married in September; and Bro. Rudy Wiegand (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rosemary) and Sis. Katie Williams (Don and Barbara) of Akron, OH, will be married in August. Our prayers are with each of these couples as they prepare for the upcoming weddings. May God be an ever present Spirit in each of their lives.

Renee Joos (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Bev) and Brandt Mylott (Karen Patash and Steve Mylott) were married in June. Our congratulations and prayers go out to them as they begin a new life together.

A boy, Jacob Daniel, was born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Jenise Wiegand. Jessica is there to welcome him home. What a blessing a new baby is.

Our prayers are with Bro. Josh and Sis. Keri Beer as she is spending time in the hospital awaiting the birth of their second child. May God be with them.

Hospital patients this past month were Bro. Dan Wiegand (Sis. Verla), Sis. Deonne Monfre (Bro. Tony), Sis. Vikki Krizman (Al), Sis. Betty Bauman (Bro. Larry), and Bro. Ben Hohulin (Sis. Esther). Our prayers are with them as they recover.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

During the week of June 12-16 Vacation Bible School was held in Gridley. The theme (for the adults)

was "Millennia — Past, Present and Future". Guest speakers were Bros. Brace Wieland (Leo, IN), Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Robert Pflederer (Morton, IL) and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL).

The theme song for each evening was from page 4 of the Hymns of Zion, "God is our Refuge". Verse 5 reads:

While heathen rage and kingdoms move,
And desolations sweep the land;
The Lord of hosts is with us still,
To save us by His mighty hand.

On Sunday, June 11, the wedding of Bro. Clint Kaeb (Bloomington, IL) and Sis. Jamie Ringger was held. She is the daughter of Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla Ringger. His parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda Kaeb of Bloomington. We wish this dear couple much happiness.

Our annual business meeting was held on Wednesday evening, June 7. Several offices were filled during the evening.

Bro. Tim Vercler was voted in to serve as a church trustee. Bros. Mark Butikofer and Dave Wettstein were chosen as song leaders.

Four brothers were selected to teach Sunday School: Bros. Mike Prevo, David Ringger, Jason Schlipf and Curt Witzig. Sisters chosen were Christa Gramm and Gail Romersberger.

Several brothers were appointed to serve in the following capacities: Bro. Mike Stoller (Fellowship Center Trustee), Bro. Daryl Hodel (usher), Bro. Roger Witzig (Fairview Haven Board), Bro. Mark Campbell (Sunrise Manor Board), and Bro. Jerry Christensen (Home for the Handicapped Board).

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Ken Wuethrich and Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington, IL).

For our 8-week summer Sunday School term the following brothers are serving as teachers: Bros. Art Schlipf, Jerome Witzig, Dale Schlipf, Jim Lavallier, Joel Gramm, Larry Stoller, Philip Romersberger, Rod Wolf and Perry Klopfenstein. Sisters are Becky Funk, Betty Kaupp, Sarah Hock, Janelle Schlipf, Carissa Schlipf, Janice Wettstein, Candace Stoller, Becky Ringger, Kathy Wiegand and Elise Kaupp.

On Monday evening, June 19, a host of brothers and sisters gathered to clean the church and to spruce up the grounds and parking lot area. Many hands make a job easier and in a few hours the task was completed. It is a nice experience to work together toward a common goal. In our spiritual endeavors, the same is true as we work together to seek a common goal (spending eternity in Heaven).

Sis. Rosella Knapp was hospitalized and continues to be very ill. Our sincere prayers are offered to God in her behalf.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney

Cheryl Wuthrich

The Apostolic Christian World War II reunion was held in Morton on June 3-4. It was wonderful to see the love and fellowship among the veterans and their families. It was good to be reminded of the sacrifice they made for our country and to hear the stories of how the Lord's presence was with them in the midst of war. We were privileged to host the reunion. The visiting ministers for the event were

Bros. Walter Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) and Robert Miller (Portland, OR). We thank them for their efforts.

Vacation Bible School was held June 5-9. While the children gathered in the lower rooms, the adults were blessed by a week of inspiring messages. The theme for the week was God's Special Servants. Monday evening, Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) spoke on Abraham, the Father of Faith. Tuesday evening, Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) spoke on Noah in regards to Obedience and Perseverance. Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) spoke on the Patience of Job. Thursday, Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) on the Prayers and Courage of Daniel; and Friday evening, Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) on the Love and Devotion of Ruth. We thank the brothers for taking time in their schedules to prepare the messages and to come to us on a week night. It was an encouraging week.

The Morton Bible Class journeyed to Kingston, Jamaica, for a week of work at the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf campus. They were gone from June 10-17. There were reports of much work and cooperation as they served those less fortunate.

During our Sunday School Picnic several students shared their experiences. They shared how close they became to their fellow students and to the adults that accompanied them. They also shared how they were impacted by the differences in lifestyles between our abundance in the U.S. and the need there. They were especially impressed by the people's love for the Lord and their contentment. The entire church benefitted from their trip.

The annual Sunday School pic-

nic was held on June 25 at the Fellowship Hall. As usual, the food and fellowship was a blessing and encouragement.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

Graduating seniors, parents and teachers observed the occasion with a breakfast on the lower level of the church on May 21. We congratulate them and wish them God's guidance and direction in their further pursuits.

Memorial Day (started in 1868 to honor the Civil War fallen) serves to remind us of a variety of events. When the flood waters of Jordan were parted, Joshua had one man of each tribe pick up a rock as a memorial to end 40 years of wandering and the beginning of a new life in the promised land. "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, what mean ye by these stones? Ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord to be a memorial unto the children of Israel forever" (Josh. 4:6-7). In Luke 21:2, a certain poor widow set up a mighty memorial with her two mites which she cast into the treasury, looking towards Heaven. (Bro. Dave Oberghel)

About 75 traveled by bus and cars to Athens, AL, for the annual Memorial Day worship and singing, with a total of 480 from 37 different congregations enjoying the praise of the Lord. Due to the large group, some attended Sunday services at the Nashville church.

We thank Bro. Andy and Sis. Diane Moser (Valparaiso, IN) for their visit on June 4 and Bro. Andy for his ministry on Hebrews 11, the Hall-of-Faith chapter, where we find even Rahab was used in a mighty way. Faith is the victory. Is

ours strong, or flickering?

VBS 2000 (June 5-9) was attended by 200 students. "Growing in Jesus" was the theme for the younger grades and "Who is Jesus?" for the Bible class and young group, supported by teachings from Bros. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) and Ted Witzig (Morton, IL). Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) spoke June 7 for our monthly family night service on "What Jesus' ministry and examples really teach us," based primarily on John 14. Prostitutes and hated tax collectors had lives changed; hearts were searched. "It is finished!" ...and He became the way, the truth and the life. While His arrival was first told to poor shepherds, He teaches that power is given us, leveraged towards the other person. He, Who first washed even the feet of Judas, called us to serve Him. He has zero tolerance of hypocrisy. Do power, position, performance, prosperity and all the world stuff and toys make us significant? "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall these things be, which thou hast provided?" (Luke 12:20). He has redeemed us from eternal separation from God and given us more than we deserve. Let not your heart be troubled in this nasty old world; there is a far better place coming, but nobody can come to the Father but thru Him, and He expects us to be like Him. What will we do with His teachings? We will be changed by the power of His ministry.

Sincere thanks to all who contributed to make this week a lasting blessing and building block in the spiritual education of our Sunday School students.

We congratulate Nate and Joanie Hoerr on the birth of Annie

Elizabeth, who joined Austin, Evan and Chad on May 23, and grandparents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr and Bill and Fran Sanford. Emma Kate was born on June 3 to Bro. Win and Sis. Amy Stoller and welcomed home by Pete. Congratulations to her parents; grandparents, Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy Stoller; great-grandmother, Sis. Martha Stoller; and great-grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Margaret Tanner; and grandparents, Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathleen Sutter, of Ft. Lauderdale, FL. They came to visit their new granddaughter and we thank Bro. Rich for his ministry on June 11. We are saved by grace through faith, which justifies us, and works are the manifestation that something miraculous is working in our hearts.

The conclusion of our special weekend was the Sunday evening installation service of our two new ministers: Bros. Tim Funk (Sis. Debbie) and Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane). Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) used I Cor. 2:1-5; Eph. 4:11-13; II Tim. 1:5 and 4:2 for his meditation and exhortation. Ministers need to rely on the power and inspiration of God, speak without forethought. God is also listening. Hearers need to respond, draw closer to the Lord, support them in prayer and give them encouragement as they begin their ministry. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer completed the service and closed with prayer, followed by Zion's Harp hymn #113.

The wedding engagement of Sis. Cara Herman to Bro. Rustin Ledford (Washington, IL) was announced on May 21 and we wish them God's richest blessings.

"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies" ...a fitting reference to Sis. Mary Lawless (96) who went to be

with the Lord on June 17. She will be missed by many and we express our sincere sympathy to her family. Bro. LeRoy Hartman (82) met His Maker on June 18. Emotions of love and sorrow were expressed at the funeral from the pulpit, where his voice had sounded so many times. It is difficult to say farewell, but a blissful morning and great reward in Heaven await the believer. He ministered the Word 32 years with the message "be prepared" and the Peoria church is a better congregation for his efforts. May God comfort his wife, Sis. Elsa, and daughters, Sisters Vicki Hartzler and Mary Ann Plattner, and their families.

Sis. Eunice Unsicker and Bros. Dick Haefli and Pete Plattner were hospital patients and we pray the Lord's healing powers will give them good results and recovery from their surgeries.

Two important events took place in June: Ascension Day (6/1 - 40 days after Easter) and Pentecost (50 days after Easter), which are celebrated in many countries as holidays. Jesus went back to Heaven on Ascension Day to assume His regular duties after 33 years of theophany on earth, promising to send the disciples the Holy Spirit, which happened at Pentecost.

Note of Thanks:

I greatly appreciate all the cards, good wishes and gifts, which were sent to me. It made my birthday a wonderful day. God bless each one. Thank you.

Sis. Martha Bittner

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Mary Ehnlé
Crystal Streitmatter**

"Have mercy upon me, O God,

according to thy lovingkindness,
according unto the multitude of
thy tender mercies blot out my
transgressions."

Psalm 51:1

We rejoice with Megan Kieser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy) in that she has recently begun her repentance. Our prayers as a church are with her, and we hope for more to begin!

The opportunity to have visiting ministers in our midst is always an encouragement and blessing. We thank Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) and Elder Bro. Marvin Lemman (Bradford, IL) for their labors on our behalf.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with those who have recently experienced illness: Sis. Esther Kieser (Bro. George) and Bro. John Wieland (Sis. Elizabeth). We are reminded that Christ is the "Healer Divine" and that we are all in His hands.

Two young couples recently took their marriage vows. May 13 was the wedding day of Anne Streitmatter (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Lou) and Craig Thistlethwait (Paul and Linda of Macomb, IL). Brad Bowdoin (Henry and Benola) and Chantel de la Torre of Prophetstown, IL (daughter of Bernie de la Torre and Joyce de la Torre) were united on May 27. May God's blessings be upon their future.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Janna Lou Baer (Ray) and family in the passing of her mother, Sis. Marilyn Schieler (Wolcott, IN).

Jesus

He knows the burden of each
heart,
He sees each falling tear;
He can the truest peace impart
In place of doubt and fear.
He watches o'er me constantly,

He knows my feeble frame;
His keeping power, His faithful
love

Are evermore the same.

—author unknown

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Linda Hodel

Boni Stoller

Our congregation has been blessed by our vacation Bible study the week of June 5. The brothers who spoke and their topics were: Monday - Bro. Dave Zehr "The new millennium - the same old human nature." Tuesday - Bro. Trent Meiss "Where are we on God's timeline." Wednesday - Bro. Rick Plattner "Relative values vs. absolute values." Thursday - Bro. Randy Mogler "How do we recognize that we need Christ?" Friday - Bro. Dave Marquart "Is Christ the answer?"

We bid farewell to Troy and Jennifer Eckman and their children, Abbey and Noah. They are moving to Macomb, IL, as Troy has finished his residency here, and will be setting up a private practice in obstetrics and gynecology in Macomb.

Joel Thomas is the name of the new baby boy to bless the home of Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie Lindberg. Welcoming him home are brothers, Matthew, Mark, Jacob, Joshua, Caleb, Benjamin, and sisters, Lydia and Hannah. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jane Schumacher and Ronald and Jeanette Lindberg.

Hospital surgical patients this month have been: Sis. Lois Descarpentrie, Bro. James (Sis. Doris) Hodel, and Sis. Alice (Bro. Ervin) Kempf. Our prayers are with the family of Bro. Ben (Sis. Ruth Ann) Hodel as he is back in the hospital with severe complications.

Note of Thanks:

We want to express our deepest gratitude to the congregation for their love and support throughout our years in Roanoke. The friendships we have made will last forever. We especially want to thank all of you for your prayers and acts of kindness during Noah's frequent illnesses. We are blessed to have had such a supportive church family. God bless!

*In Christian love,
Troy, Jennifer, Abbey and Noah
Eckman*

ILLINOIS, TREMONT**Barb Kaeb****LaVonne Wagenbach**

On May 27, we gathered together to hear the testimonies of four dear souls, when our electricity went out. As our brothers hurried to set up a temporary sound system and lights, we enjoyed singing hymns we knew by heart. Sunday, May 28, we welcomed our four new brothers. They are Bro. Timothy Sauder (Bro. Gregg and Sis. Cindy), Bro. John Dill (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn), Bro. Michael Koch (Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie) and Bro. Nick Rassi (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy). Visiting Elders for this occasion were Elder Bros. Charles Hemmer (Peoria, IL) and Bob Walder (Congerville, IL). Bros. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) also visited us this month. We appreciate the willingness of the visiting ministers and thank them for sharing with us.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Willis Sauder (Sis. Pauline), Sis. Annie Koch (Bro. Gene), and Sis. Barb Reinbeck (Bro. Larry). May we all remember them

in our prayers as they recover.

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sandi Koch were blessed with a daughter, Charity Rose, born June 7. Her happy brothers, Gabriel and Josiah, are helping take care of her. Grandparents are Bro. Cleo and Sis. Nancy Koch and Bro. John and Sis. Patsy Stoller (Leo, IN).

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**Denise Romersberger****Sue Ruppert**

"By faith, Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead:..."

Hebrews 11:17-19

The example of Abraham and his willing sacrifice of his son should give us pause to think about what it really means to trust in God. God had specifically told Abraham that he would have a son, and through that son, a multitude of family members. First Abraham had to wait until he and his wife were past the age of bearing children. Then, when this miracle child was still young, God specifically asked him to take him up a mountain and sacrifice him. None of this makes sense to us; perhaps it did not make sense to Abraham either. But, he proceeded to do just as God asked him to do and was willing to give up the most precious thing God had given him.

Are we willing to give up the precious things God has given to us when God asks us to do just that? Are we willing to sacrifice good things because we know God is asking us to? Can we believe that God will keep His promises, even if the

circumstances don't make sense to us? What is the "Isaac" in our lives: Family? Reputation? A peaceful life? A good job? Close fellowship with believers? Are we willing to give these things up when God asks us to do something that jeopardizes these good things?

Guest ministers this month were Bros. Walt Herrmann (Princeville), Ken Weerts (Cissna Park), Gerald Wagenbach (Oakville), Bob Pflederer (Morton), and Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke). Thank you.

Testimonies and baptisms were held for Sis. Laura Barth (Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie), Bro. Ryan Schick (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan) and Bro. David Thames (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda). May God continue to work in your lives as you serve Him each day.

The engagement of Bro. Rustin Ledford to Sis. Kara Herman was announced. Parents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Stacy Ledford of Washington and Bro. Larry and Sis. Susan Herman of Peoria. God's blessings to you as you look forward to a new life together.

Vacation Bible School was held the first week of June. The Eureka Bible Class was welcomed as they joined the Washington Bible Class for nightly instruction, while the younger children gathered for stories and crafts. May the things that they learned stay with them throughout their lives.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Luis Gomez and Sis. Ellen Cox. We pray that God will continue to bless you with His presence as you recuperate.

We are thankful for the safety God provided to our Elder Bro. Ron as he traveled with the other brothers around Eastern Europe. Their trip gave first-hand experience to the needs of the people in those countries. We sometimes forget

how much we have in this great country of ours!

Congratulations to Bro. Keith and Sis. Kathy Steffen on the birth of their first grandchild, Noah Thomas, son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Tasha Steffen of Morton. God continues to prove that He wants the world to go on in the birth of babies.

Our condolences go out to Sis. Sally Fritz on the loss of her father, Bro. Ed Witzig, of Gridley. God grant you His comfort in this time of loss.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Beth Aschliman
Tonia Isch**

“Fear thou not for I am with thee. Be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

Isaiah 41:10

What a comforting verse. It's so wonderful to know God is with us and our loved ones all the time. God is so good. We have five souls at Bluffton that have taken Jesus' hand and are trusting Him: Braden Reinhard (Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jan), Jeremy Ringger (Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy), Sheena Milholland (Rob and Sis. Tonya), Shauna Fiechter (Bro. Don and Sis. Susie) and Janel Fiechter (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill). We rejoice with them and their families.

Bro. Chad and Sis. Jami Gerber, along with son, Drew, welcomed new baby Hannah Lynn into their hearts. She was born May 2. Bro. Russell and Sis. Susie Gerber and Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda Moser are the happy grandparents. We also congratulate Bro. Gary and Sis. Stacey Fiechter on the birth of their daughter, Rachel Dorothy,

born May 23. Anxious to hold their new sister is Luke, Matthew, Nathanael, Daniel, Elizabeth and Sarah. Happy grandparents are Herman and Sis. Phyllis Fiechter. What joy a new baby brings.

Looking forward to marriage and trusting God with their lives is Sis. Nichole Ploetz (Norbert and Jean) and Bro. Ron Aschliman (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Rosie).

United in marriage on June 18 were Sis. Heather Cress (Sis. Sheri) and Bro. Kent Merritt (Gary and Sis. Sharon). We wish them God's rich blessings as they start this new journey.

We were saddened by the death of Bro. Ralph Schwartz. His wife, Sis. Leona, along with their children, Bro. Jim (Sis. Jan), Sis. Susie (Bro. Russell) Gerber, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren will miss him greatly.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Jan Schwartz will miss their dad, Bro. Ralph, but also can rejoice, as their daughters, Sis. Rachel and Sis. Jill, along with Sis. Kristen Dubach (Bro. Ken and Jodi), Sis. Dana Gerber (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay) and Bro. Chad Reinhard (Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee) were baptized on June 11. We thank Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) for helping Elder Bro. Ed with a beautiful baptism weekend. We also extend a warm thank you to Bros. Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North), Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL) and Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Sis. Shirley, Milford, IN) for serving us so faithfully. We invite them back to Bluffton soon.

Spending time in the hospital and recuperating at home are Bro. Bob Gerber (Sis. Evie), Sis. Lillian Isch, Bro. Bob Aschliman (Sis. Ida), Sis. Dorothy Schladenhauffen (Bro. Harold), Sis. Ida Aschliman (Bro. Roy), Jenny Reinhard (Bro. Larry and Sis.

Deb), and Dave Hill (Nancy). We pray for a quick and full recovery.

INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH Rhonda Maller Ann Meyer

I want my friends to pray for me,
To bear my tempted soul above,
And intercede with God for me,
I need the prayers of those I love.

Hymns of Zion #201

The signs seem to be everywhere in the community: in yards, on billboards of businesses, painted on cars. What are they saying? “Pray for Ryan.” Many hearts have been touched since the accident of 16-year-old Ryan Steffen (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay) on May 4. Even though Ryan has remained in a coma with his severe injuries, he has started a prayer revival in this town and beyond. Every morning before his school started, up to a hundred classmates would come early to have a circle of prayer led by the students themselves. Little yellow ribbons worn by almost the whole school are a reminder to “Pray for Ryan.” He has made a big impact on our community. We do not always understand God's plan or know what His will for Ryan will be, but we have seen the power of God at work turning hearts back to Him in prayer.

We were grateful to have Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) share the Word of God with us this past month.

More blessings for our church include a friend from school, Jackie Lesh, seeking the Lord in repentance and also Kyle Reinhard (Bro. Roger and Sis. Maureen). Sarah Meyer (Ron and Kathy) wishes to share her testimony of faith and be baptized, too. May these young

souls tap into God's unlimited grace and experience the joy of resting in His hands.

Little Ava Margaret, born June 8, has brightened the home of Bro. Ross and Sis. Kara Frank. Her adoring grandparents include Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Ifer and Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy Frank (Bluffton). A new grandson also arrived for Bro. Tom and Sis. Jan Moser on May 8. Their daughter, Karen, and her husband, Scott Hilt, were blessed with Charles Patrick.

We have more loved ones that have been ill that need our prayers. Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Harold) Schladenhauffen is fighting a battle with cancer, and Sis. Sue (Bro. Steve) Baller also spent time in the hospital.

Graduation is a time to say goodbye to childhood and start a whole new future. We had many high school graduates: Bro. Nathan Bertsch (Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Becky); Vince Francesi (Bro. Len and Sis. Mary), Michael Hoover (Bro. Phil and Sis. Cyndee), Brandon Meyer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann), Bro. Micah Rauch (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Lindsay Reinhard (Bro. Clem and Sis. Joni), Andy Rupel (Bro. Fred and Sis. Rhonda), Jon Ringger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra), Mandy Schladenhauffen (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy), Nick Steffen (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori). It is our hope that each one of these loved ones will let God be their guide in their futures.

Our church family sang a farewell to Bro. Michael Ringger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra) who moved to the Phoenix, AZ, congregation for new employment. We'll miss Michael, but we know he'll "brighten the corner" of his new church.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Lily Pelsy

"And the Lord shall guide thee continually..."

Isaiah 58:11

The following graduates received a Bible from their church family: Sis. Julie Huber (Bro. John and Sis. Bev), Bro. Michael Anliker (Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karel), convert Jon Eide (Chuck and Debbie Eide, and Karen Eide) and Sarah Overmyer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet).

Kyle Wuethrich (Bro. David and Sis. Mim) and Misty Houston (David and Jill) have announced their engagement. May they seek the Lord as they plan to be united on October 7.

Wishing God's grace and blessings upon two marriages this month: Cameron Wuethrich (Bro. Brad and Sis. Nancy) wed to Bridget Laposi (Bob and Brenda Burge, Steve Laposi). Roger Kennedy (Ron and Sue) united to Marci Metz (Bro. Ben and Sis. Miriam).

May God continue to provide for Sis. Esther Gray (Bro. Joe) who has had successful back surgery.

Ross Allen was born to Bro. Gene and Sis. Sherri Huber on June 2. Happy siblings are Eric, Kirk, and Brock. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb Huber and Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Beer (Milford, IN).

Heartfelt thanks to Bro. Brian Huber for presenting a topical Bible Study on Preparations for Blessings. Special thanks to the following brethren who served us this past month: Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Jesse Beer (Milford, IN), Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Bros. Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN) and

Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN).

Note of Thanks:

In all humbleness, I wish to thank all who remembered me with such beautiful and lovely cards and kindness, also telephone calls and especially to my dear niece, Sis. Marie, in Japan on my birthday. May God richly bless one and all.

*Lovingly in Him,
Sis. Minerva Wuethrich*

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Nancy Witzig Lauretta Schafer

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say rejoice."

Philippians 4:4

Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Freed became first-time grandparents when Kyle Jeremy was born June 3 to Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Natalie Freed (LaCrosse, IN).

High school graduation milestones were marked by Tiara Wuethrich (Bro. Blake and Sis. Kim), Traever Guingrich (Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy), Bro. Scott Levy (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue), Bro. Sean Wuethrich (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn) and Barbara Pelsy (foreign exchange student living with Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn Wuethrich). Graduating from medical school was Bro. Rob Honegger (Bro. Robert and Sis. Mary of Bluffton North).

We will miss those who are leaving our congregation. Nathan Lee (son of Sis. Kathy Lee) is relocating in Georgia. Barbara Pelsy will be returning to her home in France. And Bro. Rob Honegger is moving to Columbus, OH, for his medical residency. May God be with you.

Our sympathy is extended to

Bro. Bill and Sis. Conni Witzig upon the death of Bro. Bill's father, Bro. Ed Witzig (Gridley, IL).

We are grateful to Bro. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN) for presenting a topical Bible Study on "Angels". May God bless you for sharing, Bro. Chris.

The ladies from the Indy church started a sewing night the first Monday of each month. May the works of their labors be blessed.

The Bible Class spent some time helping out as needed in Athens, AL. Thank you for making this opportunity available to the students.

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Gal. 6:9

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Heidi Stoller

Vacation Bible School was held the first week of June. Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) spoke on the topic "Blessings Under Our American Government"; Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) addressed "Youth in Christ; the Abundant Life"; and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) discussed "Choosing a career suitable to the Christian". The LaCrosse Sunday School and congregation extends their thanks to these brothers for being used in the service of the Lord and for traveling the miles to LaCrosse.

A joyful day was experienced by the families and friends of Bro. Eric Heinold and Sis. Bobbi Gerber when they exchanged marriage vows before the Wolcott congregation on June 11. Parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. LuAnn Gerber of Wolcott, and Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy Heinold. The couple plans to make LaCrosse their home

church.

Grandparents Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller are overjoyed by the birth of two grandchildren. Eleanora Rose (Bro. Ned and Sis. Heidi Stoller) and Kyle Jeremy (Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Natalie Freed) arrived within two weeks of one another. Additional grandparents of Eleanora are Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne Kaeb of Alto. Kyle's grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Freed of Indianapolis.

Graduating from high school are Shaya Elcock (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ruth), Sam Frank (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan), and Sis. Kristi Massner (Bro. Randy and Mary Lynn). We pray that each of the graduates will seek God's direction as they embark upon the next stage of life.

ILLINOIS, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

Sympathy is extended to Mike and Sis. Janet Campbell on the death of his mother, Betty Campbell, 71, who was involved in an auto accident. A memorial service was held on May 21.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Ron Gasser and family (Detroit, MI), Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa and sons), Bro. Ron Bollier and family (Indianapolis, IN). We were inspired by their messages and welcome them any time that family brings you our way.

We welcome Bro. Duane and Sis. Carol Broquard to our church fellowship. Their children live in this area so they decided to move closer to them.

Sis. Cara Baumgartner was our only high school graduate this year. Congratulations to our 2000 graduate. We wish you God's blessings and guidance in your future plans.

We were richly blessed and in-

spired by the visit of the Gridley, IL, choir and the two ministers who accompanied them. Actually, Bros. Clark Stoller and Steve Baner sing in the choir. They sang on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon. It was a wonderful weekend.

Congratulations to John and Renee Pfister on the birth of a daughter, Breanna Marie, born May 13. Her grandparents are Bob and Sis. Janice Pfister.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Rachel Fessenden are first-time parents with the birth of Isaac Joseph on June 17. May they seek God's guidance as they raise their son. Our congratulations to them and grandma, Sis. Judy Gehring (Burlington, IA), who came to help for a week.

June 17 concluded a week of Vacation Bible School. This year we also had an adult class. All classes are held in the evening. The theme was on Peacemaking. Specifically, the adult class studied "Resolving Conflict". It was a full and good week. Bro. Marty Langhofer and family (South Bend, IN) came Tuesday evening and again Saturday for the picnic. He spoke of his involvement in Romania with veterinary students and national veterinarians. They have adequate knowledge and skills but lack equipment and are hungry for the true Word of God. So our project was raising funds for Romanian Bibles. Our study for peacemaking was challenging.

The Peacemaker's Pledge: A commitment to Biblical conflict resolution.

"...first be reconciled to thy brother..."

Matthew 5:24

"And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye,

but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?"

Matthew 7:3

By God's grace, we will apply these principles as a matter of stewardship.

July is the month we celebrate our opportunity to live in a land of freedom. The nations who do not have freedom are in constant conflict and fear. The greatest freedom is peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank God for the gift of peace that He alone has provided. Peace leads to a life of praise, and a life of praise in turn will lead to a life of peace.

There comes to my heart one
sweet strain,
a glad and a joyous refrain,
I sing it again and again
sweet peace, the gift of God's
love.

—*Peter Bilhorn*

INDIANA, MILFORD
Marguerite Hoerr
Pam Beer

Worship was the theme of our Bible School week held June 12-16. What a blessing it was to sit together each evening and listen to the guest ministers speak on their topic of worship. Monday evening was Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN) speaking about What is worship and Who do we worship. Tuesday, Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) spoke about the Why and How of worship. Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) spoke to us Thursday evening about When and Where we worship, and on Friday evening, Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) spoke to us about the Benefits of worship. All who attended were taught that worship is a daily, hourly opportunity that goes far beyond just

Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings and can be done anywhere, not just in a church building.

Mike and Christy Haab have made the decision to turn their back on Satan and his deceitfulness and follow Jesus. May Mike and Christy feel our prayers, love and support as they go through their repentance.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Deb Beer are experiencing one of God's miracles as a daughter, Amy Lynn, joined their family on June 10. Happy to have a new sister and a future playmate are Anne, Aaron and Ashley. Our prayers are with Randy and Deb as they raise their precious family. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby Beer and Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene Schumacher (Eureka, IL).

Those who have been hospitalized or had minor surgery this past month were our Sis. Mary Gerber and Drew Beer (Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy).

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Beth Virkler
Rochelle Ward

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

I Cor. 13:13

Our topic for our Bible Study this month was "Charity Through Faith" and we were blessed to have Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) with us. We thank him for his labors in love.

On May 1, Erica Clauss (Bro. Rex and Sis. Tammy) married Alan Craig. May God bless them as they make their home together.

We had seven graduates this year: Sis. Lea Stoller, Sis. Angie

Scheitlin, Bro. Clint Bahler, Bro. Nathan Virkler, Travis Getz, Jarod Steffen, Zach Price. May they all look to God for direction in their lives.

We were also thankful to have Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) with us for graduation Sunday.

Amanda Price and Sis. Joy Bahler graduated from college and we wish them the best as they move on to a new stage in life.

Our dear Sis. Emma Beckley, 99, went to be with her Lord on May 17. Her children are: Sis. Loretta Schneider (Bro. Ken), Sis. Velda and Sis. LaVina Beckley, Elmer Beckley (Nancy) all from Remington, Leroy Beckley (Donalou), Stilwell, KS, and Wilma Baer (Neal), Lee, FL. Surviving brothers and sisters are: Bros. Elmer and Aiph Witzig, and Sis. Paulene Witzig, Sis. Anna Schneider, and Sis. Ruth Meyer. Sis. Emma was also blessed with 17 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren. We will miss our faithful sister in the Lord, but are happy for her that she is in a better place.

"It's Time for a Change", was the theme of our annual Vacation Bible School. We first must thank God for allowing us the privilege of such a special week. Thanks to all those who spent time planning and setting up, to the teachers, to the students, to the singing groups and to everyone who attended. A special thanks goes out to the ministers who traveled to speak to our young people: Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN), Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), and Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL).

On June 11, Bro. Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL) was with us for the day. We thank him

for lending himself for the service of the Lord.

Notes of Thanks:

I would like to take this time to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, and well-wishes given for my dear wife, MaryJo, and for my family over the past several months. Thank you to everyone who helped with the funeral, funeral meal or anything else you may have done to help ease this time of grief.

May God bless each of you for your expressions of love.

Herbert Schieler and family

The family of Emma L. Beckley wishes to thank everyone for the thoughts and prayers, visits and cards, and all your kind deeds during her illness and after her death.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Lavilla Langhofer

DeAnn Schlatter

Truly one of the greatest blessings in our church is that of fellowship with each other. The joy of communing and sharing with those of like mind and faith is wonderful. The common bond of faith unites us all, even if we have only met. We at South Bend enjoyed that very blessing during our fellowship weekend. Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer (Milford, IN) were part of the blessing.

Congratulations and God's blessings to Kirk and Celise Beckham in the birth of their daughter, Mia Elyn, on April 26. Grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Carolyn Frank and Jim and Sheryl Beckham of Plymouth.

A lot of hard work was done during the annual church spring-cleaning, and is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Bro. Will and Sis.

Sue Schieler (Milford, IN) for ministering to our small congregation.

South Bend rejoices with the angels and Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer over the repentance of their son, Caleb. We also rejoice over the announcement of peace that their son, Luke, made. His baptism is set for the weekend of July 8-9.

Our thoughts and prayers traveled to Florida this month, along with some of our congregation. A young man of our congregation, Buicky Bouribone, is undergoing three weeks of special therapy to re-train his nerves to function after an accident left him paralyzed. He is accompanied by Sis. Gigi and Samantha Schafer and a friend.

South Bend would like to thank Milford for allowing us to be a part of their Vacation Bible School. The theme of the week was "Worship". Each night was a special blessing.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Hope Bucher

This month our congregation had the opportunity to take Holy Communion together as a church body. We were thankful to have our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and our Bro. Garry Bucher leading us in the fulfillment of Christ's example and instruction at the Last Supper.

We would like to thank Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) for ministering to us this month. We pray the Lord will bless him for giving of his time to come and worship with us. We also want to congratulate Ben Bucher on his High School graduation. We pray for God's guidance in Ben's life as he pursues his college education.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Beckie Lehman

Mary Beth Lehman

Another summer has begun and time is filled with new and various activities. Locally we began school vacation with a week of Vacation Bible School. This is shared with the Remington congregation and alternates each year. We thank Remington for hosting this year as we enjoyed a week of timely lessons, good fellowship and creative crafts. We pray God will bless the ministers who came to share His Word. We also trust God will keep and protect us all, as much traveling will be done during the summer months.

June 11 our Sis. Bobbi Ann Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann) was married to Bro. Eric Heinold (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy, LaCrosse, IN). We wish them much joy and God's blessings as they share life and serve Him as a couple. We'll miss Sis. Bobbi Ann as they will attend the LaCrosse church.

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

Rev. 21:4

It is with mixed emotions our Sis. Marilyn Schieler (late Bro. Bob) was laid to her final rest on June 12. Joy that the victory is won, thankfulness that she's been relieved of physical suffering few of us can even begin to imagine, and sorrow for those left behind who will miss their mom, Grandma, sister and friend. Praying God will comfort and provide for Bro. Darl (Sis. Cindy, Bloomington), Sis. Connie, Sis. Jana Lou Baer (Bro. Ray, Princeville), Bro. Duane (Sis.

Suzanne), Bro. Dave (Sis. Merri), and their families during the lonely times ahead. Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) held the funeral service for his Aunt. God bless him abundantly.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Marilyn Schieler wish to express a special "thank you" to all of you who helped in any way over the past years during mom's extended illness.

There is no way to fully express the magnitude of what your prayers, time, cards, etc. have meant to us, especially during these last few weeks. You have been a blessing. May God richly bless you for your efforts.

With sincere gratitude,

*Darl, Connie, Janna Lou,
Duane and Dave*

IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Karla Gerst
Brenda Schulz**

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

Psalm 127:3

We were happy to hear of the safe arrival of Will and Andrea Buster's baby daughter. Scout will be welcomed home by her two older brothers, Drew and Mason. Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid Buster are the thankful grandparents.

IOWA, ELGIN

**Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer**

Time time to be holy,
the world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret
with Jesus alone.

With all our modern conveniences, we seem to live in a very busy world, and Satan finds great pleasure in causing distractions, and convincing us to do this or that quick before taking time to feed on God's Word that we might know His will and reflect on His goodness, love and mercy. May God help us to set our priorities so we don't deprive ourselves of the blessing He wishes to share unto us.

Hospital patients this past month have been Braden Stork (Bro. Mark) who had the misfortune of breaking his elbow, George Schupbach and Sis. Joy Frieden.

Visiting ministers who shared God's Word with us were Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bros. Garth Steffen (Portland, OR) and Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA). May God bless each one for their love and faithfulness to their calling.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Willa Clark

There is beauty all around,
When there's love at home,
There is joy in every sound,
When there's love at home.
Peace and plenty here abide,
Smiling sweet on every side,
Time doth softly, sweetly glide,
When there's love at home.

Hymns of Zion

And the songwriter goes on to say, love that begins at home spreads through the earth, while God smiles down from Heaven on a love-filled home. We wish God's blessings, and His "smiles from on high" on two new families this month. David Clark (Sis. Willa) and Julie Reno (Roy and Sandra of Humeston, IA) were married May 27 and are living in West Des

Moines. Sara Clark (Sis. Willa) and Duane Lester (Paul and Karen of Tarkio, MO) were married on June 17. They will make their home in Tarkio, MO.

Once again we have been blessed by the fellowship and sharing of the Word with visitors. Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) have worshipped with us, along with many other visitors. It is always a pleasure to meet and greet others following the same guidebook on the pathway of life.

Our thanks to the Pulaski Sunday School for inviting us to share in their Sunday School picnic. Several families enjoyed fellowship, food, games and singing together.

July and August are the months of vacation. As you plan your vacation, consider Garden Grove a stopping point as you pass through Iowa. The early Mormons founded the town of Garden Grove as a resting place for those following after in their trek West. We enjoy the fellowship when you drop in during your travels. To make overnight plans, feel free to call Willa Clark (515) 443-2373 or Brad and Laura Funk (515) 443-2661.

IOWA, LESTER

Dawn Metzger

"And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children."

Isaiah 54:13

The home of Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn Knobloch was blessed with the birth of Becca Mae on May 20. She will be a joy to her siblings, Andrea, Kyla, Maura, and Cade. Grandparents are Dale and Sis.

Mary Knobloch and Bro. Pat and Sis. Twyla Meyer. Great-grandmother is Sis. Emma Meyer.

Delayne Stickling and Lori Schmidgall became husband and wife on May 27 in Morris, MN. Parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Diane Stickling and Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall (Morris, MN). The couple will be making their home in Bloomington, IL, and we wish them God's blessings.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Lawrence Wulf, Bro. Ron Kellenberger, Bro. Delbert Knobloch, Joel TeSlaa, and Leah Doorneweerd. Sis. Martha (E.A.) Feucht and Bro. Paul Leuthold had outpatient surgery. Liz Wulf underwent medical tests and we pray God will provide grace and strength to all those who call upon His name.

Our congregation enjoyed the annual Sunday School picnic on June 1. Special thanks to all those who planned, prepared, and served the meal.

Youth Fellowship Weekend was held in Winthrop, MN, on June 10-11. We appreciate the many efforts put forth by the Winthrop congregation to accommodate our Sunday School students and teachers.

Cory Metzger (Don and Pat) left June 7 for basic training at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX. After 6 weeks he will go to Sheperd AFB in Wichita Falls, TX, for 2 months.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

**Melody Steiner
Debra Wagenbach**

We recently had our annual Sunday School election. Replacing Bros. Chuck Massner, Ron Schmidgall, and Rick Vierling are Bros. Walt Gerst, Tom Lanz and Dave Wagenbach. Sisters Susan J.

Gerst and Monti Wagenbach will assume the teaching responsibilities of Sisters Connie Hay and JoAnn Steiner. We are thankful to have faithful brothers and sisters who are willing to humbly instruct the hearts and minds of our precious youth. May God bless those who have given of their talents and may He direct and inspire the lives of those who will be filling their positions.

Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) has recently visited our congregation in Oakville. May God bless him and his family for so willingly feeding us from the precious Word of Life.

IOWA, PULASKI Katrina Knobloch

"Let us hear and give attention, God's own teaching to embrace." (Zion's Harp #217). On June 11, we were thankful to have Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA) with us to share God's Word. May God bless you for being used on our behalf.

Hannah Kay Teubel joined the family of Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte Teubel on June 15. Welcoming her home are Sara, Jonathon, Ruth Ann, Rachel, Amy, Joshua, and grandma Sis. Wilma Teubel.

Andrew Joos (Bro. Ron and Sis. Christy) has graduated from college. We are thankful he has found employment nearby and still assembles with us.

IOWA, WEST BEND Berniece Banwart Eunice Fehr

June 4 was a special day to us as Sis. Sally Fehr and Bro. Jon Nohl (Morris, MN) exchanged their wedding vows and became one in the Lord. Their parents are Bro.

Dan and Sis. Eunice Fehr and Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice Nohl. Here to share in their joy were Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandy) and Bro. Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce) of Morris, MN; Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) and Bro. Doug Grimm (Sis. Jeryl, Sabetha, KS). We wish this couple many years of happiness and God's blessings as they begin their married life together.

We also appreciated having Bros. Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN) and Myron Knobloch (Sis. Beth, Lester, IA) in our midst on other Sundays. May God bless all who stand Sunday after Sunday proclaiming God's Holy Word to us.

Bro. Lyle Rick (Sis. Irene) and Sis. Evie Bruellman (Bro. Gene) are both hospital patients at this time. We pray that they will feel God's nearness during their bodily afflictions and that they will soon be home again. Sis. Katie Ludwig and Lydia Edwards spent time in the hospital and both are glad to be back in their rooms at the Care Center.

Bro. Bill and Connie Zaugg welcomed a new grandson, Patric John Kenney born to Carolyn and Scott Kenney.

We neglected to write about our high school graduates last month and we apologize for that. We had 10 graduates this year: Sis. Twila Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene), Erica Bruellman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa), Christopher Fehr (Jeff and Beth), John Kellenberger (Warren and Moira), Jeremy Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee), Julia Schneider (Louis and Joni), Sis. Amy Wirtz (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan), Josh Wirtz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila), John Zaugg (Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie) and Nancy

Zaugg (Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly). Congratulations and best wishes to them all and our prayer for them is that they will never forget what they have learned at home and what our Heavenly Father has done for them.

On the weekend of June 10-11, our Bible Class students and teachers traveled to Winthrop, MN, for the annual Youth Fellowship Weekend. A lot of work and planning goes into this and we want to thank the Winthrop congregation for hosting it this year. May God bless you for all your efforts.

We are thankful Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr returned safely from his trip to Eastern Europe. After our mid-week service he related some of their experiences and of the love they were shown. May we be thankful and count our blessings. We have so many freedoms and may we ever be mindful of those who do not have these privileges.

*Attention Vietnam Veterans:
Reunion at West Bend, IA
September 2-3, 2000*

All veterans, wives and families of Vietnam are invited. If you have not received an invitation, contact: Bro. Bill Zaugg, P.O. Box 311, Ayrshire, IA 50515. Phone: 712-426-3106.

JAPAN, SHIODA **Akihiro Ito**

We had a great time with many patients in the Ichinomiya Hotspring Hospital on May 12, Mother's Day. We thanked our Lord that we could give them God's message. When Jesus started His ministry, He said the following: "And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

(Mark 1:15). We pray they start to repent and follow Jesus as soon as possible. We also go there on Father's Day and Christmas. We try to become fishers of men as many disciples did. Every day, every minute, when we see people, we want to help them come to Jesus. We believe that God gives us the power through the Holy Spirit.

We welcomed brothers and sisters from our Tokyo Church. They often visit us and help in our services.

Please remember Bro. Toshio Uchida in your prayers, as he continues to come to church in spite of being weak in body.

I will visit the U.S. soon and I expect to have wonderful fellowship with you.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Chris Aberle

The Lord extended His love and mercy upon our church again this past month and we thank Him. First of all, Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle visited us with their usual good cheer, and the usual special message of our Elder Bro. Willis on June 4. Safe travels were also provided for our local ministers who each had a business trip to the U.S.

Takehisa and Midori Nakazawa also returned from a week's trip to the western part of the U.S. This trip was a gift for them from Takehisa's bank for 25 years of employment there. The next time they hope to visit some of our churches in the states. That trip will be even more enjoyable!

After spending two months with the Klaus family, Sis. Shirley Kieser will return home to Princeville this week. She was a wonderful help to her daughter, Sis. Jana, and their whole family as she helped with the many adjustments of a new baby in the home.

How we noticed that little Rachel Klaus who was once the baby of the family has now learned to "wait" until her turn comes instead of wanting mother's attention "right now". How wonderful when this wonderful virtue is learned in early childhood and carried out in an entire lifetime!

Another act of love and mercy from our dear Lord this month was bringing Makoto Inoue home safely after a year's absence. He has repented for his sins since he left here so it is a special joy to have him in our assembly. In a small group such as ours, we even notice the addition of one more singing voice! May he continue to grow in the love and knowledge of our Heavenly Father.

A quote from a taped sermon: If someone spent a week with you, would they receive a glimpse or picture of the gospel of Jesus Christ?

KANSAS, BERN **Lori Baumgartner** **Jill Hartter**

Greetings of love from Bern, KS. We are enjoying some cooler weather after a couple of much needed rainfalls. We are thankful to God who hears and answers our prayers.

Our prayers were answered when we were spiritually fed from God's Word through visiting ministering Bro. Leland Plattner from Zapata, TX, on May 28. May we all continue to support our ministers through our prayers and attentive hearts.

A baby boy was born to Jim and DeAnne Buser. Kohl Michael was born on May 31. Grandparents are Bob and Ellen Buser (Sabetha) and Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marlene Edelman. May their home be blessed by this new addition.

Barry Stoller and Liberty Alden

were joined together in marriage on June 3. Their parents are Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria Stoller and Bernard and Janice VanLerberg (Bonner Springs, KS). We wish them God's blessing on their union. May Liberty feel a warm welcome in our congregation.

There will be a couple of empty spots in our pews as two have taken employment in other communities. They are Cara Hartter (Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn) who has relocated to Fort Scott, KS, and Sis. Marla Stoller (Bro. Arden and Sis. Darlene) who has relocated to Morris, MN. May they feel His ever abiding presence in their lives. We will miss them and look forward to their visits home.

Another spot in our church is left empty as God called Home our Sis. Kathy Strahm. She passed away on June 13. She was a godly example, a woman who feared and trusted the Lord. Even in learning of her terminal cancer, she told family that God does not make mistakes. She will be missed. Our prayers and support go to Bro. Richard and their sons, Scott, Evan and Bro. Brent. May they feel God's comforting hand in their loss.

Hospitalized this past month were Bro. Joe Marti, Bro. Ed Lehman (Sis. Leola), Bro. Paul Grimm (Sis. Katie) and Bro. Joseph Rokey (Sis. Lila). May the Lord be with each one in their time of need.

Note of Thanks:

Thanks to all who remembered me on my 80th birthday. Also for the cards and prayers while I was recently hospitalized. God's richest blessings to you all.

Bro. Joseph Rokey

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Joleen Sinn

Our prayers are with Lester Sinn (Shirley) as he has suffered from a stroke and is recuperating. May he feel God's presence and protection.

May 27, Alesha Banwart (Bro. Don and Sis. Aleta) and Jarod Martin were united in marriage. We pray that God's blessings will be with them as they travel the road of life and that they will lean on Him in good times and in bad.

On May 28, we enjoyed celebrating Bro. Wayne and Sis. Juanita Sinn's 50th wedding anniversary. Many gathered together to share in their joy.

June 5-9 was our annual Bible School. We had 28 students this year ranging from 3-year-olds through Jr. High. Then on June 11, we had our program and picnic at Gunn Park where we got a little wet. It didn't seem to dampen anyone's spirits at all and after supper the sun came out and we had a wonderful time. We praise God that we were allowed this precious time with these dear children where we could concentrate on teaching and showing them His love.

The weekend of June 17-18 we welcomed a new brother to the fold. Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) were with us at the proving and baptism of Bro. Joel Sinn (Bro. Dave and Sis. Joleen). May he continue to yield to the Spirit's leading as he follows the narrow road that leads us to Heaven.

We want to thank Bros. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS) and Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) for sharing God's Word with us. May God bless you, your wives and families richly for taking the time to come and share with us.

We want to encourage anyone

that might be traveling close to us this summer to stop and spend the weekend with us. Just look in the minister's book and give someone a call. We would love to have you.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Laura Wagenbach
Jenny Stewart

As Father's Day once again appeared on our calendars this month, we take time to acknowledge the men in our lives who have provided us with so much. We thank these men who have toiled to put food on our tables and roofs over our heads. We thank them for their leadership and spiritual guidance throughout all our lives. It is with these thoughts in mind that we say goodbye to Bro. Raymond Roth as he leaves Kiowa for Roanoke, IL.

We would like to thank Bro. Raymond for being one of our "church fathers". He was there to say an encouraging word, to provide a spiritual outlook, to support the church in any way he could. Thank you, Bro. Raymond, for all your love, support and encouragement throughout the years. We will miss you greatly.

The Kiowa church would like to congratulate Sis. Mildred Farney on the arrival of her new great-grandson, Neil Andrew Gugelmeyer. Neil is the son of Steve and Kim Gugelmeyer and is welcomed home by his big sister, Naicee.

KANSAS,
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Sarah Somerhalder

Our congregation was blessed with several visitors this month, including ministering Bros. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) and Samuel Schlatter (Junction, OH). May the

Lord bless them for bringing the Word of Life to us.

Congratulations to Rebecca Burnham (Bro. Max) who graduated May 20 from KU Medical Center with a Degree in Nursing. She is working in the Cardiac Unit at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita. We wish the Lord's blessings and guidance in her life.

As Independence Day is celebrated, may we ever be thankful for the freedoms we enjoy in our country and more importantly, for our spiritual freedom through Christ Jesus.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Brenda Grimm

Mary Kay Wenger

Our congratulations go out to our high school graduates this year. They include Sis. Carrie Aberle (Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia), Lana Grimm (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene), Crystal Keim (Curtis and Valerie), Brett Kellenberger (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa) and Nicole Krogmann (Frank and Sis. Julie).

Shana Knoblock (Bro. Steve and Sis. Rose Ann) has graduated from college and we wish God's grace to be with her and all the graduates as they seek out His will in their lives.

Answering God's call unto repentance, Rick Aberle (Bro. Roger and Sis. LaVonne) has surrendered his life to the Lord. We wish him the Lord's nearness and grace as he calls upon Him.

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Koertland Beyer from Toledo, OH. He has been hired to teach at Prairie Meadows Private School in Sabetha and we hope he feels the Lord's blessings as he assembles with us.

Our newly elected Sunday School teachers for the 2000-2001

term are Bros. Rod Edelman (Sis. Joleen), Tom Strahm (Sis. Carrie) and Sis. Beth Hartter (Bro. Dave). May they feel the Lord's direction as they plant the seed of God's Word into young and tender hearts.

Visiting ministers this month include Bros. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI), Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) and Rex Freiden (Lamar, MO). We are so thankful for their humbleness and submission as they are used in the Lord's service.

We were blessed with many visitors on Memorial Day weekend as the Sabetha/Bern single group hosted company. It is such a special privilege to travel many miles and spend time with those of the same faith and we thank those who came to worship with us.

Our hospital patients this month include Bro. Elmer Strahm (Sis. Phyllis) and Bro. Kaleb Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen). Bro. Kaleb was involved in a farming accident which resulted in serious hip and pelvic bone injuries. Our prayers are certainly extended to him during his time of recovery.

June 4 was the date of our annual Sunday School picnic at the Sabetha High School. It is always a blessing to spend time with the children and their families.

God blessed Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Edelman with a little boy, Pete Bradley, on June 13. Welcoming him home are his siblings, Emily, Elizabeth, Christina, Wil, Ben, James and Katy, along with his grandparents, Cliff and Sis. Barb Edelman and Elvin and Beverly Goodman.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Minnie Keim who passed away May 23. We especially think of her sister, Mildred Kimmel, and her many nieces and nephews from this area.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) was our visiting minister on June 11. We appreciate his ministry and certainly praise God that he and Sis. Ruth were willing to drive the miles between West Bend and Wichita. Each time we have a visiting minister, the prayer base for the well-being of our Wichita congregation is broadened.

On June 8-9, an all church garage sale was held at the home of Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally Funk. The purpose was to benefit Sunday School projects. The cooperation of those who were able to participate was heartwarming.

Sis. Gussie Wullschleger was admitted to the coronary care unit on June 9 and underwent a quadruple bypass surgery on the 15th. At this writing, her condition seems to be under control. She is being uplifted in prayer by her family and by her church family.

Also on June 13, Kathleen Setzer entered the hospital for a brief period of time. Our prayers go out to this young wife and mother. Kathleen and her husband, Chris, are faithful in their church attendance. May their family be blessed.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Glenda Neukomm

Our visiting ministers for the past month were Bros. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL). It means so much to us to have ministers come the distance and bring the Word to us. May the Lord richly bless and reward their many efforts put forth towards the Lexington congregation.

Jacob Huber (Ben and June),

Julie Neukomm (Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda) and Rachel Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) were our high school graduates in May. We certainly wish them each much success, direction and wisdom from the Lord, and His rich blessings in the months and years ahead as they go to college and pursue plans for the future.

We are very happy and thankful to have Sis. Tricia Wuthrich (Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda) from Milford, IN; and Bro. Grant Heinold (Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol) from Champaign, IL, in Lexington worshipping with us. Tricia is a supervisory nurse working at the Galilean Home in Liberty, KY, for as long as the Lord leads, and Grant is a junior in electrical engineering at U of I doing an intern at General Electric in Louisville for the summer. They have been a nice addition to our church.

As we think of our graduates and our young people as they are doing interns and moving away from home for college and for jobs, our prayers are certainly with them that they can remain close to God and continue to grow in Him.

The week of June 10-17, four from our Lexington congregation went to Jamaica with the Morton Bible Class to do a work project. They were Ben and Jacob Huber and Julie and Andrea Neukomm. It was a rewarding experience for them. We look forward to their sharing pictures and telling of their work experience with us.

We were thankful to have Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) visit us June 24-25 for the testimony and baptism of Andrea Neukomm (Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda). It was a special evening for us to hear how the Lord has worked in her life. We also thank ministering Bro. Brian

Huber (Francesville, IN) for being with us also that weekend. Many were present from Smithville, Tremont, Morton, Chicago, Francesville, Wolcott and Remington. We appreciated the efforts of so many that came and shared in this blessed weekend.

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

MEXICO, IXTLAN Lorenia Sibaja

"As cold waters to a thirsty soul,
so is good news from a far country."

Proverbs 25:25

Because of spring vacation in the schools, our young group wanted to invite the neighbor children for a special activity including games, a Bible story, and cookies. We expected perhaps 40 to come but were surprised when we counted about 140! For many people here, an invitation to some special activity is a way for them to feel more comfortable than come to church and Sunday school. The young group also prepared a dinner for the mothers in church for Mother's Day. They all seemed to enjoy the special songs and message.

In this month we said farewell to Sis. Erica Schambach, Bro. Rustin Meister, and Bro. Josue Roldan. We also welcomed Bros. Eduardo (Lalo) Ugalde, Curt Schmidgall, and Kirby Reutter who will be helping us now.

Bro. Rogelio Cervantes and his wife, Sis. Fernanda, have now moved into the house that will be used for church services in Morelia. We plan to continue going every other Saturday to have a ser-

vice at 11:00 a.m. with the small group of believers and friends there.

Meet Sis. Aurora Magana

Sis. Aurora is the daughter of Sis. Luz Avina and the sister of Sis. Leticia Campos whom you met in the past two issues of the Silver Lining. She is a 36 year-old mother of five children and grandmother of three. Sis. Aurora tells us, "I began going to the home of my neighbor, Salud, when there were people visiting who came to share God's Word with their relatives and friends. Later when Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan came to Ixtlan and began having services in their home, my mother, sister, and I began to attend. Within a short time after listening to the messages, I felt a great conviction and necessity to repent of my sins and to give my life over to the Lord. It was then that I felt a great peace and happiness. I was baptized on July 14, 1997. I am grateful to the Lord for the new life He has given me. Now I am happy that my husband, Jose, is repenting and waiting for baptism. My desire is that all my children can give their lives to the Lord also."

MICHIGAN, ALTO Sandy Schutte Kristen Plattner

We have officially begun summer, according to the calendar. With that thought in mind, we will begin with the seniors that graduated. They were given a breakfast accompanied by the ministers, Sunday School teachers and their families. Several thoughts were shared as they begin a new "turning point" in their life.

They were taught about the differences of Abraham and Lot. Abraham went by faith and Lot went by sight. Abraham prospered because he allowed the Lord to lead

him. They were also reminded that as they enter either higher education or the job market, they should be prepared to know the truth and know where they stand as they will be challenged. The final thought that was shared was to seize the moment. Act now by making Godly decisions, that will affect the rest of your life.

Several visiting ministers and their families gathered with the Alto congregation, which was appreciated. Though each minister gave different messages, they all pointed to the true message of Jesus Christ. The visiting ministers were Bros. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL).

We pray for continued strength and healing each new day to Sis. Loretta Steffen, Sis. Margaret Wingeier and Bro. Lloyd Blough.

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

III John 2

Congratulations to Bro. Lyman and Sis. Vivian Feldman and Bro. Joe and Sis. Melva Oesch for the celebration of 50 years together in marriage. What an inspiration and encouragement to all who know them. May they continue to have many more years of love and happiness together with their families and friendships cherished in Christ.

Our annual father-son campout was again a time to strengthen the relationship between fathers and sons and brothers in Christ. It is a strength to be together and be reminded of the true meaning of life in God and to be thankful for so many blessings.

"And let us consider one an-

other to provoke unto love and to good works; Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves...but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Hebrews 10:24-25

Correction: The following young people were not included with the list of high school graduates in the last issue: Bro. Jake Gerst (Bro. Wally and Sis. Donna) and Amanda Blough (Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie).

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Rhonda Knochel

Peggy Jackson

With the coming of summer everyone looks forward to a change of pace. The farmers and their families become busier while others prepare for summer vacation. Children are released from school and excitedly look forward to a few months reprieve before beginning a new year. With the closing of school, also comes the excitement of another graduating class. This year Bay City had five graduates and they are: Jaclyn Knochel (Bro. Jack and Sis. Debbie), Jenay Knochel (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kay), Jeremy Knochel (Jerry and Michelle), Rachel Sochacki (Jim and Sis. Cindy), and Jerod Wrzesinski (Jim and Brenda). It is our sincere prayer that as these graduates move into a new era in their lives that they will feel God's nearness and choose to put Him in the center of their lives. Congratulations graduates!

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who were not feeling well this month. They are: Bro. Alf Kaeb (Sis. Hermine), Mark Kuch (Mark and Lyn), Sis. Mabelle Wackerle and Sis. Marian Knochel (Bro. Floyd). We are so thankful

that we have a Great Physician who loves us very much and often still heals today. May each one know God's loving embrace as they recover.

This month also saw the passing of three loved ones. They were: Sis. Doris Knochel, Sis. Dorothy Reineck (Detroit) and Clare Wackerle. Our condolences and heartfelt sympathy is extended to their families and friends not just here in Bay City, but also in several other of our congregations. We pray that God's comfort and peace would be upon each one.

As we prepare to celebrate our country's Independence Day, let's remember to be in prayer for our nation, that we would once again become a God-fearing, God-centered nation.

May your life be God-filled, your mind God-focused and your heart overflowing with His love in the month ahead.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Bonnie Bedolla

Crystal Ramsier

Our church suffered a great loss this month as our dear Sis. Dorothy Reineck passed from this world into eternity. While we rejoice with her victory, we will miss her loving presence in our congregation. Sis. Dorothy was such a wonderful part of Detroit; she has touched the hearts of many. We are thankful for the time she was a part of our lives. Our friend Frances Pike also passed away last month. Frances was a resident of our retirement community, Woodpoint, and grandmother of Bobbi Kaisner (Ken) and Brenda Shaffer (Ron). Our thoughts and prayers are with both our loved one's entire families. We pray our merciful Lord will heal their tender hearts and provide them the strength they need

during this difficult time.

The Detroit congregation was blessed to have Bro. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie) from Tokyo, Japan, and Bro. Don Gudeman and his wife, Sis. Mary (LaCrosse, IN), here to share God's Word. Thank you, Bro. Akito and Bro. Don, for allowing God to use you as His messengers. It was wonderful to hear the Word and to be able to visit with you both.

As God has promised, our lives are full of change. We are thankful for the high school graduation of many of our young people. This month they were: Michelle Bahr (Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn), Cecily Meyer (Sis. Kristie Meyer and Mark Meyer), Mike Reardon (Bro. John and Sis. Linda), Matt Schmidt (Bill and Sis. Trudy). Graduating from college was Kristen Rauhe (Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay). We pray God will continue to direct their lives and be with them as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

We welcome Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly Ramseyer and their children back to Detroit after spending a couple of years in Denver, CO. We are thankful to have them as part of our congregation again. They were greatly missed while they were gone.

Sis. Amanda Bates (Jim and Sis. Jan) from Roanoke, IL, moved here for the summer for an internship opportunity. We certainly appreciate her spirited addition to the church and our young group. We pray she will have a blessed summer with us in Detroit.

Our prayers will be with the High School Bible Class as they travel to Jamaica on a work team. We pray they will provide a blessing to those they meet and will receive a blessing themselves. What a humbling experience to share God's love and His message of sal-

vation!

After spending several months in Detroit, Sis. Jackie Barton is moving back to her home in Morton, IL. It was nice to have Sis. Jackie with us but we are thankful she is well enough to return home.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to say thank you to all my sisters and brothers in faith, and friends in Detroit for all the prayers, gifts, and cards during my surgery.

Love, Sis. Jackie Barton

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Delores Sauder**

The Minneapolis and Winthrop congregation enjoyed a blessed evening of fellowship and singing at their annual potluck on May 20.

We will miss Lori Schmidgall (Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda, Morris, MN). She was married May 27 to Delayne Stickling (Bro. Dale and Sis. Diane, Lester, IA) and has moved to Bloomington, IL. We wish them God's blessing.

Visiting minister this past month was Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN). We thank him for sharing God's precious Word with us.

We extend congratulations and God's blessings to our high school graduates. They are Andy Messner (Todd and Sis. Renee) and Fabian Lieschke, a foreign exchange student who has lived with Bro. Rick and Sis. Brenda Messner. May they seek God's direction in their lives.

The Minneapolis Sunday School teachers assisted the Winthrop congregation as they hosted the youth fellowship weekend. We thank each one who helped to make a blessed weekend.

We welcome Bro. Eric and Sis. Jodi Strassheim as they will be

here for the summer.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Dianne Kellenberger
Cheryl Messner**

I am home in Heaven, dear ones;
Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.
All the pain and grief is over
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in Heaven at last.

We hold many fond memories of two dear sisters in faith. On May 23, Sis. Anna Nohl, age 92, was called Home. She is survived by her children: Bro. Lloyd (Sis. Joyce) Nohl of Mission, TX; Lucille (Harland) Stueber of St. Paul, MN; and Bro. David (Sis. Eileen) Nohl of Morris.

Very unexpected was the death of Sis. Eunice Koehl, age 79, on June 12. We are thankful that she was ready to meet her Lord. We pray that God's comforting Spirit will be with her brother, Bro. Reuben Koehl, whom she lived with on their farm for many years.

Delayne Stickling and Lori Schmidgall exchanged marriage vows on May 27. That God will ever bless and keep them is our hope and prayer. Parents are Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall and Bro. Dale and Sis. Diane Stickling of Lester, IA.

Bro. Jon Nohl and Sis. Sally Fehr were united in Holy Matrimony on June 4. We pray that God's holy presence will ever abide in their home and we welcome Sis. Sally to our congregation. Parents are Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice Nohl and Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice Fehr from West Bend, IA.

It's truly a blessing when God grants many years of marriage to a

couple. Our dear Bro. Anton and Sis. Verna Schaefer enjoyed sharing their 50th wedding anniversary with many relatives and friends who came from far and near.

We are thankful that Mildred Sauder (Virgil) is recovering from eye surgery.

Visiting ministers included Bros. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ).

Our Bible class enjoyed the annual Youth Fellowship weekend on June 10-11. The Winthrop congregation was host and we thank them for their many labors of love.

Note of Thanks:

Words cannot express our heartfelt thanks for the love and kindness shown to us on our 50th wedding anniversary. Thank you for the cards, gifts and flowers given to us from far and near. Also, a thank you to our children and grandchildren who labored so diligently. May God bless you all.

Anton and Verna Schaefer

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Carol Ann Messner
Marilyn Messner**

The Cross in the Middle

Now, there is no sign of the crosses,
But history records there were three.
Two stood because of men's broken laws,
But I know the other stood there for me.
I didn't know Peter or Judas,
But I know the shame of their cries,
Oh, I am so glad Jesus died in my stead,

But the cross in the middle
should have been mine.

I never deserved such mercy or
met so much grace,
And this unworthy man just
can't understand,
Why that man all alone took my
rightful place.

And if you ever stop at Calvary,
The blood isn't all you will find,
For you will feel it too why I feel
like I do,
For the cross in the middle
should have been mine.

I never heard the hammer and I
never felt the nails,
I never saw when the angry mob
cursed as the prisoners fell,
And they never knew this sinner,
For I was some other place in
time,
The choice was all His but the
truth was and is,
The cross in the middle should
have been mine.

The Apostolic Christian Church Youth Fellowship weekend was held in Winthrop this year. Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA), Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Art Nohl (Sis. Sandy, Morris, MN) and Bro. Donald Miller (Sis. Bernadine, Minneapolis, MN) were in attendance. Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) gave the inspirational message on Saturday evening. We thank everyone for their effort and support in this weekend.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Kara Stoller (Fairbury, IL) gave a slide presentation of their work in Ixtlan, Mexico, fitting glasses. Many of the stories of the recipients are very touching. May the Lord continue to bless their labor of love.

The annual Minneapolis-Winthrop picnic was held on

May 20. It is so good to break bread and fellowship with our closest church congregation.

Our own Winthrop Sunday School held their end of the year picnic this month. Thank you, Sunday School teachers. Sunday School resumes in August.

High school graduates are Ben Schmidt (Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou), Shayla Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda) and Nick Schmidt (Bro. Verl and Sis. Jamie). We wish them God's protection and guidance in their future plans.

Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Hazel Schmidt (Bro. Elmer), Bro. Ray Messner (Sis. Bernadine), Bro. Mike Messner (Sis. Joyce), Patty Jerabek (Harlan) and Sis. Sophie Miller. We pray for God's healing touch in their lives.

Jeff and Keri Knobloch have moved back to Lester to seek employment in their original home area. We will miss their attendance with us. We wish them God's best in their future.

We want to especially thank the young brothers from Bluffton North who made the long trip to Winthrop just to visit our small congregation. We enjoyed their fellowship and sharing their time with us. God bless them.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Komari Neal

What a comfort that we can commit all things to God in prayer. This past month was filled with blessings and adversity for our congregation and the fact that we can take everything to the Lord in prayer is a treasure. As the hymn reads, "Sweet hour of prayer that calls us from a world of care."

Fervent prayers of care and comfort have been with our dear Sis. Sophie Delph who was hospi-

talized briefly this month and continues to battle cancer. As well, our prayers have been with Bro. Kaleb Beyer who was hospitalized with a broken pelvis after a farming accident. We are sorry that Bro. Kaleb will not be able to assemble with us this summer as planned, and we pray for a healthy recovery at his parent's home in Sabetha.

We have had two high school graduates this spring. Kenton Snyder (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara) and Ben Miller (Bro. Dennis and Sis. April) both graduated successfully and we pray that God will guide their steps as they plan their lives.

Many prayers were answered in early June when Neal Kellenberger and Jonathon Wales were both announced for having found peace with God. Our prayers continue as they prepare to give their testimony on July 1.

Our only visiting minister this month was Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS). Many thanks to Bro. Galen for coming to serve our congregation while our ministers traveled to Congerville, IL, to be with Bro. Brent Kellenberger and Sis. Beth Zobrist as they united their lives in marriage before God. It is our prayer that Brent and Beth will model their marriage after the relationship between Jesus and the church.

We would also like to thank the Congerville congregation for their love and hospitality during the wedding weekend. The binding ties of brotherly love are awe-inspiring!

Finally, our prayers have been with our Elder Bro. Gene Marti during his travels to Eastern Europe. We are looking forward to hearing news of our brethren in that part of the world.

The reoccurring theme of this writing has been prayer. May each

of us remember to keep prayer as the reoccurring theme of our life, even as Paul instructed the young church at Thessalonica.

"Pray without ceasing."

I Thess. 5:17

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Kristi Huber

Kristen Braker

"...there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

Luke 15:10

We rejoice with the angels as Christopher Marti (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kathy) and Greg Braker (Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller) have sought the Lord in repentance. May we keep them in our prayers as they seek to change their lives.

Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) visited our congregation this past month. May the Lord bless him richly for his labors of love.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Rachel Schrock

In a recent sermon the following illustration of loving your enemies was given: a woman had a chicken that was notorious for getting out of her yard. Her neighbor did not like this and complained many times as he brought the chicken back. One day the neighbor had enough of this and decided to end the problem once and for all. He beheaded the escaped chicken and threw the pieces back over the fence. The woman noticed the dead chicken, took it inside, and made a chicken pie. When the pie was finished, the woman wrapped it up and took it over to her neighbor.

This woman's love was genuine

for all—no matter what they did to her. In memory of Father's Day, this story reminds me of our fathers' and grandfathers' love towards their children. No matter what kind of mischief we get ourselves into, they love us anyway. What a precious heritage our forefathers have handed down to us! Yet they are simply following in the footsteps of our Heavenly Father who also loves us no matter what kind of earthly trouble befalls us and helps us to overcome.

We thank these brothers who have instructed us on how to overcome these earthly troubles in the past month. Our visiting ministering brothers have included Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) and Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS). It was a blessing to have Bro. Larry visit us for a mid-week service.

Another special mid-week visitor that we enjoyed this past month included Jose Cervantes and his family from Tecate, Mexico. Jose shared with us how the Ixtlan, Mexico, congregation began. He encouraged our small congregation to remember that it is the stars which are farthest isolated in the sky which bear the most distinct light to the earth.

Each new addition to our small cluster of lights is an answer to prayer. A welcomed visitor this month was Bro. Ken Rinkenberger from Chicago, who with his wife, Sis. Devan, are presently building in the St. Louis area. We welcome them into our fold.

We also welcome any of you who may be passing through St. Louis this summer on your vacation to come visit us for a Sunday or Wednesday evening. If your traveling time permits, we do often sing at a nearby nursing home after church for about a half hour. Each one is welcome to join us in spread-

ing the love of God.

**MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Peg Haerr**

We are so thankful for ministering brothers who take time to share God's Word with us! Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL) left our graduates with some inspiring thoughts and Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL) faithfully brought us the Word in May, also.

Kristen Leigh is the new baby daughter of Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn Wegman (Chicago, IL) born on May 31. Big brothers are Brett and Philip and grandparents are Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally Haerr, and Bro. Sam and Sis. Rosemary Wegman (Oakville, IA). Great-grandmother is Sis. Evelyn Wysong (Sabetha, KS).

During the first week of June, our Bible Class students went on a work trip to Jamaica with some others from Princeville, IL. Everyone spoke of what a blessing it was and how fortunate we, in the United States, are. Several from our church attended the annual Father-Son campout held at Mark Twain Lake during Father's Day weekend—lots of fishing, food and fellowship!

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Nerys Lightner (Peter) and Mitchell Sutter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Dianne). May God continue to lend His healing hand.

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Anna Mellnitz**

"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 had visiting ministering Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA). We had a potluck supper on Saturday night and services after, and on Sunday we had a potluck meal and singing at Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney's cottage at Cape Vincent.

On June 4 we had Holy Communion with Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN) assisting Elder Bro. Duane Farney. Afterwards we had a supper and a singing. It was a blessed day.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Norene Virkler's family. She passed away May 29 at her home.

Our sympathy also goes out to the family of Sis. Edna Sturtze who passed away June 15. She had been a resident at Lowville Nursing Home for many years.

Sis. Lori Herzig graduated from college. She is the daughter of Bro. Ron and Sis. Eleanor Herzig.

Renee Farney (Norbert and Joanne) graduated from high school.

At this writing, Sis. Anna Mellnitz is a patient in the hospital and our prayers are with her and all others who are ill and have lost loved ones.

**OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser**

With grateful hearts we assembled in our newly built church building. Our first Sunday worship services were on Sunday, June 18. It is located on a 15 acre country lot at 2360 South Medina Line Road, Wadsworth, OH. Directions are Route I-76 east of Wadsworth to Exit 11, east 0.2 mile on State

Route 261, and north on Medina Line Road 1.7 miles. The church is on the left.

We extend a warm welcome for visitors to come and worship with us.

We sincerely thank our many brothers, sisters, and friends that contributed in any way in the construction of our new church building. Many diligent and talented workers from the Akron, Rittman, and Smithville congregations, as well as some from more distant churches, rendered assistance in a variety of ways. The helpfulness of each contributor is deeply appreciated, whether it was in the manner of physical labor, materials, tools, work equipment, technical services, financial support, food, or prayers. We extend our thanks to you for the many deeds of kindness, and wish for each of you the Lord's rich blessing.

We rejoice that Ben Henico has repented and found peace with God. We look forward to his testimony and baptism in the coming weeks.

Orin Todd Graf was born to Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia Graf on May 31. Welcoming their baby brother are Kenny, Jesse, and Carmen. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Audrey Graf and Bro. Wladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher of Kitchener, Canada.

Our Sunday School students served the noon lunch at church on Mother's Day. We appreciated their loving efforts and good lunch.

Bro. George and Sis. Tina Gal moved to Colorado and will be worshipping with the Denver congregation. We were sorry to see them leave and miss them being with us.

Bro. Joe Miller will be filling the position of usher, which Bro. George Gal vacated in their moving.

Sis. Louise Graf was hospital-

ized and is now back at the nursing home.

We appreciated our guest minister, Bro. Gary Maibach, who visited us for mid-week services.

Sis. Katie Williams (Don and Barbara Williams) is engaged to be married to Bro. Rudy Wiegand of Rittman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rosemary Wiegand, Goodfield, IL). We wish for them the Lord's blessings as they go through life together.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Anita Steiner

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI). May God bless these brothers for their efforts.

Our congregation keeps changing as some of the students have graduated and some have moved home for the summer. We would like to welcome Bro. Rob Honegger from Bluffton North as he will be assembling with us.

We will miss Sis. Ofelia Luiba as she is moving to West New York, NJ (Philadelphia church), to be with her family. May God guide and protect her.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

Once again we are reminded how time quickly passes by as another school year is ended. Our graduates this year are Justin Gherian (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon), Jeff Hurd (Bro. Pete and Sis. Helen), Cindy Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen), Bro. Randy Manz (Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera), Scott Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie), and Kari Manz (Bro. Lester and

Sis. Karen). We trust God will be with you and give you guidance as you make plans for your future.

God again has answered prayer as another soul has answered the call of God. Scott Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie) has heeded the call and decided to turn his back to the world, striving daily to walk the straight and narrow way. "My Lord, an offering do I bring; My heart I give to Thee. I gladly give this heart of mine, Which Thou dost ask of me." (Zion's Harp #163).

Bro. Maburn and Sis. Julia Hale now both reside in the Van Crest Nursing Home. Their new address is Van Crest Health Care Center, Box 558, Van Wert, OH 45891.

We rejoice with Steve and Chris (Schlatter) Sukup, and their son, Jacob, as they are experiencing the double blessing of twins in their home. Jared and Joshua made their safe arrival on May 10. God also sent a double blessing to the home of Bro. Warren and Sis. Cindy Schlatter as Nathan and Naomi were born June 9. Big brother, Jesse, looks forward to having two playmates. Happy and thankful grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn (Latty) and Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter.

We would like to extend our prayers and sympathy to Bro. Gus Dietrich (Sis. Dorothy) in the passing of his sister, Sis. Kathy Strahm (Bern, KS). May God continue to be with you and grant you peace and comfort.

OHIO, LATTY

Heidi Hackenjos Kathy Sinn

Visiting on our pulpit this past month was Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI)

and Bill Gerst (Alto, MI). We wish to thank these brothers for sharing the Word with us. May the Lord bless them for their time and effort.

Two souls have turned their back on the world and are seeking the Lord in repentance: Jonathan Stoller (Bro. Rod and Sis. Leann) and Mitch Schlatter (Gus and Sis. Leann). May these young men establish a firm foundation as they begin their new walk with the Lord.

Believing it is the Lord's will, Bro. Doug Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce) announced his engagement to Sis. Bonnie Rinkenberger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL). We look forward to Sis. Bonnie making her home in Latty.

Jeremy Whitman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen) and Mandy Pitman were joined together in marriage. May the Lord watch over them as they begin a new home together.

Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn are grandparents once again. They welcome Nathan Richard and Naomi Renee into the family circle. Bro. Warren and Sis. Cindy Schlatter (Junction, OH) and older brother, Jesse, are thankful for their safe arrival.

Our prayers are with Sis. Dorothy Stoller (Bro. Wayne) on the death of her sister, Sis. Marilyn Schieler (Wolcott, IN). We are thankful that parting is not forever and loved ones will be joined once again in Heaven.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

John and Marci Pfeiffer

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN). We thank these brothers for visiting us and for la-

boring on our behalf.

Several people in our church family spent time in the hospital recently. They were Bro. Ed Beer (Thelma), Laurence Boor, Sis. Becky Moser (Bro. Lonny) and Sis. Judy Sauder. We hope and pray that our loving Lord will bless and strengthen them each day.

"What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?"

Psalm 116:12

OHIO, RITTMAN

Beth Beery

Lynda Beery

As the passing of the seasons brings changes in our surroundings, so the seasons of life bring many different changes. So it has been in our congregation during the past month. We are thankful to be able to report that six dear souls are experiencing a miraculous change in their lives, as they have realized their need for a Saviour and are seeking Him in humble repentance. They are: Keith Stoller (Bro. Joseph and Sis. Marion), Carlos Soto (Sis. Susie, Akron), Mark Dotterer (Bro. Richard and Sis. Dawn), Tara Steiner (Mark and Sis. Deborah), Ethan Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy), and Trudie Hartzler (Bro. Thomas and Sis. Diane). We rejoice with the angels and know that God will give much grace, joy, and peace to those who sincerely seek Him.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Sherri Atanasov are thankful for the safe arrival of Lindsey Ann, born May 17. They also have another daughter, Kristy. Grandparents are Nikola and Sofija Atanasov and Bro. Zoltan and Sis. Bonnie Bako, Akron.

On May 18, Kevin and Tonia Hanshaw welcomed their first

child, Autumn Joy. Her grandparents are Cheryl Hanshaw, Rusty and Hope Hanshaw, and Bro. Richard and Sis. Karen Hartzler.

Our Heavenly Father showered on us His abundant blessings the weekend of May 20 and 21 as three dear souls gave their testimonies and were baptized. We welcome Sis. Kathleen Shane (Charles), Jennifer Ryan (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Kathy), and Bro. Ethan Steiner (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail) as our new sisters and brother in the Lord and lambs of the flock. "What glorious state, to be a lamb of Jesus..." (Zion's Harp #16). Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield) and Andy Stoller (Smithville) came to assist our Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler in this blessed work. Also visiting us that weekend were ministering Bros. Dave Graf (Akron) and Mark Steiner (Smithville). May God add His blessings to the efforts these brothers put forth in bringing the Word of Truth.

Our Bro. Henry and Sis. Bertha Kiser are thankful that God has blessed them with 60 years together as husband and wife. May they continue to feel His nearness in their home and lives.

Several of our loved ones have experienced pain and discomfort during the past month. Bros. Rod Steiner (Sis. Jill) and Kenneth Rupp, Sr. (Sis. Lillian), Arlene Rupp, and Sis. Margaret Everhard (Bro. Dale) have all been hospitalized recently. We hope they can feel that our loving God cares for them and that we love them.

On June 11, Bro. Tom Stoller (Bro. Harold and Sis. Luella, Smithville) and Sis. Gretchen Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy) became one in the Lord. We wish them many blessings as they journey through life, helping each other on to the Kingdom of Heaven. Bro. Tom's uncle, Elder

Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville), was here and took part in the wedding service.

Also on June 11, the engagement of Bro. Rudy Wiegand (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield, IL) and Sis. Katie Williams (Akron) was made known to our congregation. We wish them the wisdom and guidance of our Heavenly Father as they prepare for a blessed union in the Lord.

On a Wednesday evening, we were blessed to have several loved ones from the Akron congregation visit us, as they were in transition from their old church building to the new, and were unable to have mid-week services. Ministering Bros. Ronald Palitto and Steve Pamer and Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer served us that evening. We thank them and our Heavenly Father for their service to us.

We wish to extend our sympathy to those who have experienced the loss of a loved one recently. Sis. Shirley Rufener (Bro. Darrell) lost a sister-in-law, Sis. Kathy Strahm (Bern, KS); and Sis. Pearl Breece lost a daughter-in-law, Nancy Breece. May our Lord comfort and soothe each aching heart.

OHIO, SARDIS

Angie Figel

We were blessed with the sweet fellowship of several couples who traveled to be with us on an "Invite a Couple" weekend. We want to thank all who visited and are thankful for your safe return home.

Graduates from high school this year are: Joe Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry) and Sis. Sara Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam). May they seek God first before every decision they will make to do His will in their lives.

Graduating from the 8th grade

this year is Josh Ramsier (Bro. Mark and Sis. Alice). May God bless and guide Josh throughout his high school years.

Sis. Janet Indermuhle (Bro. Allen) was hospitalized this month with a serious illness. We are so thankful that she has returned home with her family and is doing well. It is our prayer that this trial will bring this dear family even closer to the Lord.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Virginia Riggerbach enjoyed their 50th wedding anniversary on June 7. May God grant them many more years together of their tender example of a Godly marriage.

Thinking of everything that has happened in all of our congregations this month, and even the blessings of which are not even written in this newsletter, there is a verse written by King David which is very fitting: "For thou, O Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee" (Psalm 86:5). Also Psalm 86:15 states: "But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth." God is good to us.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Edith Miller
Ruth Gasser**

Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing.
Long may our land be bright,
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King!

Gospel Hymns #738

July 4 is celebrated as Independence Day in our country. Often we do not stop to appreciate

enough the freedoms and blessings we enjoy in America. May our great God continue to protect us by His might, and we remain true to Him in good times and bad.

The freedom to worship in our churches is one that is very precious to us. We thank the visiting Bros. Dave Graf and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) who ministered to us one Wednesday evening.

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."
John 8:36

We are rejoicing with two more converts who are seeking the freedom from Satan's bondage. May God grant much grace to Samuel Maibach (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary) and Michael Beery (Art and Eileen). May they find that true peace and joy in serving Him.

Bro. Ted Beery (Sis. Rhea) suffered injuries in an automobile accident and anticipates some time in recuperation at home yet. Also, Sis. Rose Luginbuhl (Bro. Marvin) and Neal Indermuhle (Bro. Darrel and Sis. Janet) have spent time in the hospital. May they feel our prayers and the comfort of the Holy Spirit in times of pain and stress.

On June 10, Bryan Hartzler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Gloria) and Heidi Schrock became husband and wife. Bro. Tom Stoller (Bro. Harold and Sis. Luella) and Sis. Gretchen Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy, Rittman, OH) became one in the Lord on June 11 at Rittman. We welcome Sis. Gretchen to Smithville and wish both couples the blessings of God in their marriage.

OHIO, TOLEDO Rebecca Beard Edie Fetter

"Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."

Philippians 4:9

We were blessed by following God's command to partake of Holy Communion. We thank our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) for serving us. We also appreciated the recent visit and ministry of Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH).

Sis. Clara Beard is in our thoughts and prayers as she has been submitting to various medical tests.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup

Another school year has ended. Since we have two high school graduates in our congregation this year, we hosted a potluck in their honor. We were thankful for out-of-state relatives and other visitors who assembled with us that day and attended the potluck. Jamie Martin (Bro. Denny and Sis. Lori) and Sis. Brianna Miller (Tim and Carol) will both be leaving later this summer to attend out of state colleges. Their families and the rest of us will miss them very much. These two girls are very dear to us and they can be assured of many prayers being offered on their behalf. May the Lord ever guide and protect them as they continue their education.

Ken Knecht (Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie, Silverton, OR) had surgery recently. We hope and pray for a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him in church again soon.

We thank Bros. Todd Zollinger

(Sis. Michele) and Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) from Silverton for ministering to our small flock this past month. We realize it takes extra time and effort for them to drive up to Portland; please know we do not take you for granted! We sincerely appreciate your presence and support. We thank all visitors alike and hope you will visit again soon.

OREGON, SILVERTON **Rosa Lee Kuenzi**

Our Potluck and Singing for our high school graduates was on May 21. The class of 2000 included: Dustin Dettwyler (Gary and Sis. Tami), Maya Dettwyler (Bernie and Margaret), Sis. Jill Dietrich (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan), Jeff Jones (Tim and Sandy), Clinton Kuenzi (Bro. Jim and Sis. Barbara), Sis. Kelsey Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann), Marvin Kuenzi (Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary), Sis. Rachel Kuenzi (Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Beth), Zachary Kuenzi (Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane), and Kenton Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith), all of the Silverton congregation. Jamie Martin (Bro. Denny and Sis. Lori) and Sis. Brianna Miller (Tim Miller and Carol Miller) of the Portland congregation were part of this special evening activity as well. Many wise, kind, encouraging and challenging words have been spoken to these young people in recent weeks...which ones will they heed? Many, many prayers have been uttered in their behalf. With such love and support surely they will succeed in whatever they endeavor. May they choose their paths wisely.

Bro. Jason and Sis. Jo Kuenzi have a new baby in their family. Jamie Rebecca arrived on May 22 and was welcomed home by Megan, Michael, Jared, Kyle and Lisa. Grandparents are Bro. Lee

and Sis. Janet Kuenzi and Wayne and Margaret Stedronsky of Sublimity, OR. Often we hear someone asking our Heavenly Father for an extra measure of grace, love, strength and patience for the parents raising the young families. How well we remember how we needed those very attributes and appreciated the prayers and the help of those around us.

The last weekend in May found a goodly number of our congregation traveling to the Livingston, MT, area. Members, family and friends from the West and the Midwest met at about the halfway point for a blessed time of fellowship.

What a joyous weekend we had the first weekend in June when three lambs joined the flock of our precious Lord, Saviour and Shepherd, Jesus Christ. They were Bro. Ryan Hari (Harold and Sis. Linda), Sis. Regina Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda), and Bro. Chad Walter (Sis. Megan). Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) was here for the occasion. These times are so uplifting to the church and each member as we remember our own testimonies and baptisms.

We recently voted to place new brothers and sisters in the Sunday School for the term beginning in the fall. Bro. Loren Dettwyler (Sis. Marlene), Bro. Tim Schneider (Sis. Dana), Sis. Janet Kuenzi (Bro. Jack) and Sis. Lori Dietrich (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan) were selected to serve our Lord by giving their time, love and efforts in teaching in the Sunday School. We sincerely thank those brothers and sisters who will have completed their terms the end of July. They are Bro. Richard Kraft (Sis. Marianne), Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa), Sis. Mary Kuenzi (Bro. Nick) and Sis. Richelle Kuenzi (Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosa Lee). Also Bro. Mike

Leman has completed his term as Sunday School Superintendent and Bro. Nick Kuenzi was selected for that responsibility.

Our deep sympathy is offered to the family of Sis. Kathy Strahm (Bro. Richard) of the Bern, KS, congregation. Sis. Kathy passed away on June 13, at the age of 48. Oregon family members are: parents, Bro. Clarence and Sis. Bess Dietrich; brother, Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich; sister, Sis. Carol and Bro. Greg Wackerle; eight nieces and nephews and two grandnieces. May each one look to our Lord for His nearness and promise...the only real and lasting comfort.

Many, many thanks to our visiting ministers during the past month. They were Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), and Bros. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH) and Robert Miller (Portland, OR).

PENNSYLVANIA **PHILADELPHIA** **Nathan & MaryElizabeth** **Gasser**

We were blessed this month to join our hearts as we ate the Lord's Supper. We thank Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) for serving us.

"When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. One of his disciples,

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand."

John 6:5-10

We thank Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and his wife, Sis. Charlen, for visiting our congregation this month and for ministering to us. As we read the timeless story of Jesus feeding the five thousand, we were reminded that, although we may ask "what am I among so many?" the Lord is able to bless whatever small contributions we may make. Through His wisdom and power He can turn our humble efforts into wondrous miracles that touch the lives of others.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

This past month we were privileged to enjoy the ministry of Bro. Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL), Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest, IL), and Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL). We are so thankful to all of our ministering brothers for their loving efforts to encourage and admonish, and thereby strengthen the church. May we ever do our part to heed God's Word and live in obedience to His will. Throughout the month,

we also enjoyed the fellowship of visitors from Fairbury, Forrest, Roanoke, and Tremont, IL; Francesville, IN; and Lamar, MO. On Memorial Day weekend, we also enjoyed the opportunity to gather with many brethren and friends at the Tennessee Fellowship Weekend at Athen's Tennessee Fellowship Area. Approximately 500 people from 38 congregations attended the weekend of worship, singing and fellowship.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. We normally 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: Taylor, MO (July 16), Washington, IL (August 20), Bluffton North, IN (Sept. 3), and Oakville, IA (Sept. 17). 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. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL) and John Stoller

(Sis. Patsy, Leo, IN). We truly appreciate those who are willing to be used by the Lord for our benefit.

Our August schedule of worship services and churches sending ministers include: the 6th at Austin (Oakville, IA), 13th at Austin (West Bend, IA), 20th at San Antonio (Wolcott, IN) and 27th at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home in Round Top (Morris, MN).

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**

We wish to extend our sympathy to Bro. Lloyd Nohl. Bro. Lloyd's mother, Sis. Anna Nohl, was called to her Heavenly Home. Sis. Anna's funeral was at Morris, MN.

Andy Plattner and Kristi Bourgon were married on May 20 at Padre Island, TX, where they live. Andy is the son of Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary Plattner. Brethren from Indiana, Iowa and Kansas came for the wedding. On Sunday, church services were held on the island with the visitors and the Zapata congregation.



THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr, noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart.

Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged:

"For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

They gave you and me a free and independent America. The history books never told you a lot about what happened in the Revolutionary War. We, didn't fight just the British. We were British subjects at that time and we fought our own government!

Some of us take these liberties so much for granted, but we shouldn't. So, take a few minutes this year while enjoying your 4th of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid.

Remember: freedom is never free! It carries with it a great responsibility of upholding those things which are right and lawful, and it also requires a people whose hearts and minds are founded on their Creator. God will not be mocked.

Sermon continued from page 2

faith preached to us. We have received it, and as the Scripture says, they believed and they spoke and it moved us to become obedient and to believe. Therefore, we also believe and we speak.

We trust even in our midst there will be those who will hear the Word, will believe and will also take up the cross. Then that Spirit of God will join with you as He moves you to forsake the old life to choose that path of righteousness of which we sang in that beautiful hymn, and to deny yourselves those things that are of this world and time which will all perish.

But you by faith will be willing to take up the cross and to follow after the Lord because you have seen a life of faith and a life of self-denial in your parents or grandparents or someone in the church you have known who has been faithful.

Therefore, it transcends from generation to generation and down through the ages of time there have been those who have been willing and so the plan of salvation continues to be shared with the hearts of men. It is a simple way that teaches us that we must acknowledge sin in our life and there is none righteous amongst us. There would be those here even in our assembly who could perhaps boast of good works or could have told us of how they were obedient to their parents, and how they sought to walk in ways of truth and righteousness.

Yet, each one of us have inherited the nature of Adam. Every one of us, I believe if we will be honest with ourselves, will acknowledge that somewhere, somehow we have transgressed the perfect holiness of the law of God. With God, there is no changing, no variables, not even the shadow of changing, but One who is totally righteous and holy. So much so that as Jesus hung on the cross of Calvary, tainted with your sin and mine that He took upon Himself, though He did not know sin.

Even there as He was carrying your load and mine, the Father had to forsake Him because He could not tolerate sin. He is so righteous and so holy that none of us can approach unto Him except through the Door, through Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. Because as Christ hung there out of love for us and He willingly took upon Himself that burden of sin, and it was a real burden to Him, loved ones, not just the physical pain but the burden of His heart.

For we read and it is testified to us here in these precious words of God, as these disciples recorded, that God looked upon His Son and saw the anguish of His soul. Perhaps wasn't even moved by the pain and suffering but the anguish of His soul. God was satisfied. We have evidence of that satisfaction by the fact that Jesus rose from the tomb to live forever and to be the intercessor for us today sitting at God's right hand.

So, loved ones, as we move as the Spirit would touch our hearts today, may we come to the foot of the cross and may we just believe God's Word. We don't understand how it works, how simply taking that first step and saying, "Lord, I am sorry. Help me to repent. Give me grace." We don't understand any of how it works, but it does.

When that heart is humbled, God does give grace and strength. But we can deny ourselves and stand up against that old sinful life and God can convert the heart and we become a new creature and not do those things that we once loved and thought we just couldn't live without.

I had the opportunity to speak with a dear friend just this past week. He said, "I was steeped in this habit all the days of my life." He said, "When I submitted it to God in prayer, it was gone in an instant." The desire was taken away and he has been free from that temptation. Not that he, perhaps, doesn't think about it. We just don't forget those

things in which we formerly lived, but the power of God is evident in that he is no longer a slave to Satan.

Many of us could testify if we would visit together that those experiences we have made where God has taken from us those sinful ways of life and has replaced them with the joy, of walking by faith and doing those things which are according to His will. Not that we will ever walk in the perfection that the Lord Jesus did while here on earth or will attain unto the holiness of God, the Father.

Even the Apostle Paul later would write that we don't really know what Jesus even looks like, or what He will look like when He comes back. We have read here that account how He was taken up from these disciples and they were challenged by these two angels that stood by them and said, "Why do you gaze up into heaven? This Lord Jesus will come again in like manner." We don't know just what that coming will be like, but the Apostle Paul said, "When He comes, we will see Him as He is and we will be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and we will be forever with the Lord, and we will be just like Him."

We will know as we are known. We will understand the things He taught us for we will be like Him. What a glorious hope! What a joy to think of the opportunity that is given to us mortal men with finite minds that can't really comprehend eternity. We can't really comprehend God who has always been and who always will be eternal.

Visiting with another in recent days, we talked about this concept of God and perhaps we can, as mortals, because we had a beginning and each of us faces an end—a death. There is a certain boundary to our life span. But to try to think of God in the future, perhaps, we can even comprehend and we can believe by faith. By faith, we become children of God and eternity is for

us. We would become the recipients of eternal life. God gives us somewhat of a comprehension that we can kind of imagine in the future that after this life, things will go on and on and on and never end.

But to try mortally, and I found it this way myself, to think back, to think in the past, to try to imagine God always being there, it is just an impossibility with us, but with God all things are possible. We can testify of that even in the changing of our own hearts, that with God all things are possible.

These disciples were commanded of Christ to wait this time for the presence of the Holy Spirit to give them direction. It says He appeared unto them and shewed Himself alive after His passion, after His death and resurrection with many infallible proofs. It doesn't really tell us or enumerate or list what those proofs were. We just have the simple statement, loved ones, that as the Lord arose from the grave, He dwelt among His disciples and His believers.

I believe the Word tells us that He appeared only unto the believers after His resurrection. He no longer presented Himself to the general populace of His generation, but He appeared only to those who believed in Him. He was with them for forty days, as we read here, and spoke of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God and proved Himself to them with many infallible proofs. We just have that simple statement, loved ones, and we believe that if we need a proof at all, we should just believe the word of the apostles that recorded this for us because there was no doubt in their minds that this was the Christ.

They no longer had the feeling that John the Baptist had there in prison when he sent two of his disciples and said, "Are you really the Christ, or should we wait for another?" I don't think there is that thought in any of our hearts this morning, loved ones. I think God

has given us that faith to believe that Jesus is the Christ. He is the only One to whom we can find salvation. It is with Him that we have to do and must do if we hope to enter into that eternal kingdom.

He said unto His disciples here, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power." (Acts 1:7). Again, the apostle later would speak of that. He said, "That of the times and seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you." It is not important that we know just exactly when God is going to do it or how He is going to do it. We just have to believe that He is going to do it. He is going to bring an end to all things that we handle and see and are encompassed with every day. This earthly life is going to end one day, and this physical world and universe about us according to the Word of God as we read in Revelation.

One day it is going to be dissolved with a great noise and a fervent heat. It is going to happen. There is no doubt about it. I believe, loved ones, every one of us, whether we are brothers and sisters or whether we are friends of the truth, we can't help but look up into the heavens. Look at the universe around you and see the order and the precision.

We may not have such a conflict even with some of the theories of men and the "big bang" theory or whatever method God used in the beginning. We just know that if you go back far enough, you run out of theories and there is only one proof of everything we see, and that is God. He is, and He is the rewarder of those who will diligently seek Him.

One day He is going to bring an end to all of this that He has created. He created this universe, He created us as human beings in His image for one purpose, and that is that we would give Him pleasure. The Scriptures tell us very plainly without faith, it is impossible to

please God. (see Hebrews 11:6). We must walk by faith and that means we don't understand everything that happens to us every day. We just walk by faith.

May that be your desire and mine, loved ones, that we appreciate the opportunity to be a part of this precious Apostolic Christian faith. Yet, carry on the traditions and doctrines that these apostles embraced, we believe. Not that we have been perfect in that but we strive to keep the Word that has been recorded for us, even to the very way that we read this morning of one who was chosen out of their numbers to take up the place of Judas Iscariot. Yet we carry that on amongst us today, loved ones.

We have just so recently in our midst reached in amongst our own brethren and by law, perhaps, by the sentiment of this group of believers that have been brethren, who have been called forth and from amongst them, there have been those chosen to take up this mantle and to carry on the work of preaching the Word of God, just as these did in the early church. They took part of this ministry and apostleship and not because one has fallen by disobedience but because of the passing of time and one generation goes and another comes.

From time to time, there is a need to replenish and to fill vacancies, and so we do. Again we live in the physical sense in the doctrines and in the practices of those early believers that from amongst our body we do. We don't go out to a seminary to pick out a stranger somewhere, but we pick from amongst our own brethren who have experienced a like and similar conversion whose testimonies we have heard. From amongst them, we pick out one who perhaps each of us would think, "How can they do it? They don't have that ability." It may not be evident, unless that soul yields itself to the prompting of the Holy Spirit of God.

Sermon continued on next page...

Sermon continued from page 45

Can we not testify, loved ones, God is faithful? He has provided, not through this needy servant but through others who support the preaching of the Word of God. The Word of God comes forth mightily. May that be an encouragement to us to know that the work of God still continues and we are still abiding, we believe, in His will and His way. Let us uphold those traditions and doctrines that we have been taught, even as the letters of the apostles

would encourage us.

We should go from this time of this early church, the time when they lived in somewhat fear and trembling and not knowing what their life would be. Most of them died a violent or martyred death because of their faith. But I believe they died in peace and they died happy because they had taken up the cross with a willing heart and carried on. They had a lively hope. They had a living faith in Jesus Christ and they

knew if they were faithful that where He was, they could go.

May that be your faith and mine, loved ones. Let us hold fast to this precious faith and let us live it every day. Not just talk about it, but let us live it every day that when He comes again, whenever, however, that we can meet Him and be forever with the Lord.

Silver Threads

Well, Oh dear, now, Please Come

Well,
Did you hear that He died for you?
Did you know that this indeed is true?
Do you feel His peace within your soul today?
Do you walk upon the blessed Heavenly way?

Oh,
Did you think the straight and narrow too hard?
Has some struggling soul your view of this road marred?
Are you pondering the glittering things of this earth?
Are you grasping this world's glory and mirth?

Dear,
Did no one tell you of the peace that passeth understanding?
Of the spring in their step, that weightless feeling?
Did they forget to mention the eternal reward?
Did they at least tell you of the Lord?

Now,
Let me tell you of that blessed peace that I feel,
And the weightlessness, the joy is real!
For Jesus Christ bore your sin and mine
Upon the Calvary cross - what love divine!

Please,
Consider where your life is taking you,
Consider the end of the things you do.
Are you singing as the days go by,
Or for more earthly fun do you cry?

Come,
Taste of this joy that has no bounds
Which only in Jesus Christ is found.
Well - oh dear, now - PLEASE COME,
And start on the journey to your heavenly Home!

- submitted by a sister in faith

In Fierce Storms

I will not doubt, though all my ships at sea
Come drifting home with broken masts and sails.
I will believe the Hand which never fails.
From seeming evil worketh good for me.
And though I weep because those sails are tattered
Still will I cry, while my best hopes lie shattered:
"I trust in Thee."

I will not doubt, though all my prayers return
Unanswered from the still, white realm above;
I will believe it is an all-wise love
Which has refused these things for which I yearn;
And though at times I cannot keep from grieving,
Yet the pure ardor of my fixed believing
Undimmed shall burn.

I will not doubt, though sorrows fall like rain,
And troubles swarm like bees about a hive.
I will believe the heights for which I strive
Are only reached by anguish and by pain;
And though I groan and writhe beneath my crosses,
I yet shall see through my fiercest losses
The greater gain.

I will not doubt. Well anchored in this faith,
Like some staunch ship, my soul braves every gale;
So strong its courage that it will not quail
To breast the mighty unknown sea of death.
Oh, may I cry, though body parts with spirit,
"I do not doubt," so listening worlds may hear it,
With my last breath.

"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him."
Job 13:15

- author unknown

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) Chicagg - 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

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Dean Pashek	517-662-7685	517-662-7099	
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Terry Miller	309-747-2212 or 941-485-4302		
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Bill Rager	419-263-2989		
Kevin Sauder	309-925-2409	309-925-2409	ksss@dpc.net

Silver Threads

Just Around the Corner

Just around the corner ahead are new vistas
It will be a feast for the eyes
It may be hard to take at first
Proceed with care — for some of it is inherently de-
ceptive
But as with all things new
Contained in some — though hidden away — bless-
ings abound
Will we see them — Will we seek them
They carry with them their own reward!

Around the corner changes reside
Many things will be different from the norm
Decisions' aplenty await — they will be challenging
They will be with many a surprise twist
It will be a long process — Life long in fact
For each change may bring about two more
We will need assistance in this task
Assistance awaits — in many forms, all around
Forsake it not!!

Around the corner we will meet new people
They are there to bring your life to fullness
It will not seem to be thus at first
For they may not know why they were joined to
your world
Only new people are really the spice that makes
mere staples a meal
They are the speck from which grows the pearl that
glows
Welcome them with due caution...
But foremost welcome them with Love!

Just around the corner lessons await
Yes, they surround us in all we desire to do
Hide not from them, though tempting it may seem
For their teaching are but life's nutrition
Life long learners we need be
Take what they hand out and file it away
For while knowledge is said to be power
Experience is the prime tool to channel the energy
of life
That makes of mere living at all!

Just around the corner is a bright new day
Seize it with gusto — with your full will
Don't let it slip past you — its promises fulfill
Contained are new vistas — a vision to behold
New people and plans — a world yet to unfold
Teachings dear await — listen — for Wisdom's
whisper is sweet
In all you find — in anything you do — in one thing
be true
Let the Lord alone be your strength and hope!
Run to Jesus and hold on — He will see you
through!
Have a Blessed Life!

By Michael Kieser

Medical - Dental Team Juarez, Mexico

Sept. 27- Oct. 4, 2000

Contact: Sis. Cheryl Herrmann
309-385-1082

Needs for Mexico

Sunday School Bible
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Contact: Sis. Cheryl Herrmann
309-385-1082 or take to
Goodfield Distribution Center

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A free eye clinic is being estab-
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Please send your used prescrip-
tion eyeglasses (with cases if avail-
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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
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**WE DO NOT ACCEPT ZION'S
HARP HYMNALS SINCE WE DO
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Please get your books to us or the
Goodfield World Relief Center.

Books are mainly distributed to In-
dia, Philippines, and Africa.

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)*

"Cedars" Retirement Home

Leo, Indiana

Opening for a Retirement Home Administrator

Needed:

Experienced - Licensed
Qualified Administrator

For more information call:

David Bertsch
219-627-2923

Or

John Klopfenstein
219-627-2114

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,
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Bible Distribution*

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1254 S. Main Street

Bluffton, IN 46714

Phone and Fax 219/824-5587

E-mail: bibledist@parlorcity.com

Apostolic Christian Counseling Services

73 East Queenwood Rd, Morton, IL 61550

309-263-5536 (local#) 309-263-6841 (fax)

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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

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



*The Story of
Bro. Dale Aeschleman*

On the weekend of June 3-4, 2000, a sizable number of World War II veterans (127) gathered at Morton, IL, to reminisce about their experiences in the service during the early 1940's. It was a wonderful reunion.

There was one man, however, who was absent. It was Bro. Dale Aeschleman, Bluffton, IN, who lost his life serving as an unarmed medical corpsman on the Philippine island of Luzan on January 31, 1945. He was 26 years old. If he could have attended the Morton meeting, he would have been 81.

Bro. Dale was one of more than 1,200 young men of Apostolic Christian origin who served during World War II. All who were members served as non-combatants, and almost all who were "friends of the truth" (non-members) did so as well.

It was a time of widespread heartache when young men of the church left for a world wide conflict. On leaving their homes there was no guarantee they would return. Many tears were shed during these departures.

The Sam Aeschleman family (Bluffton, IN) was one that experienced the anxiety and deep concern of sending boys into the army. Three sons left their home for service to the nation.

Staff Sgt. Ervin Aeschleman served in India; Corporal Walter Aeschleman served in Alaska. Both returned home safely.

One son, however, did not survive the conflict. Yet, he had wisely prepared himself for an unexpected

death. In 1938, at age 18, he had turned his life over to God in repentance and became a child of God. This was a great comfort to everyone and helped to cushion the grief of family and brethren at his time of death.

On January 15, 1945, Bro. Dale wrote his last letter home. It was upbeat. He showed courage, even in much distress.

He wrote:

"Mom, you mentioned how you often wonder where I'm at and what I'm doing. Don't worry about me, Mom. We'll just hope and pray everything will turn out okay, and that before too long we'll all be together again. After all, it doesn't matter so much what happens if we are prepared to die, does it? I have so many weaknesses and shortcomings yet, but will try to each day serve my God a little better, and learn to know Him more and more."

It had been a long, tiresome journey for Bro. Dale. A member of the Army Medical Corps, he entered the service on April 19, 1941, at Fort Benjamin Harrison and was sent overseas on December 31, 1943. Prior to his overseas assignment, he served at Camp Shelley, MS; Camp Carabelle, FL; and Camp Livingston, LA.

The United States forces were poised to re-take the Philippines. Bro. Dale's company commander, Capt. Robert C. Thomas, referred to the offensive as "hard and bitter". He made some positive comments regarding the performance of Bro. Dale:

"Dale was one of the best liked men in the organization. Dale had been with us all the time we were overseas.

When the boys had something wrong that didn't require the doctor's presence, they always asked for "Aesch". His cheerful disposition and eagerness to help others won him a host of friends."

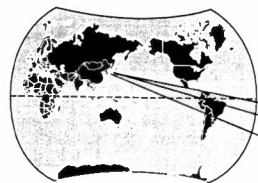
In late January, the Aeschleman family had not received any letters from their son in the Philippines for about three weeks. Deep worry began to set in. Fear that something had happened lingered. His mother, Sis. Minnie Aeschleman, had a dream that Bro. Dale was laying outside all night.

The family's worst fears were confirmed in a War Department telegram that their son was killed in battle. A letter confirming the telegram was received from Major General J.A. Ulio, who wrote:

"It is with regret that I am writing to confirm the recent telegram informing you of the death of your son, Technician Third Grade Dale H. Aeschleman, who was killed in action on 31 January 1945 on Luzan Island. I know the sorrow this message has brought you and it is my hope that in time the knowledge of his heroic service to his country, even unto death, may be of sustaining comfort to you. I extend to you my deepest sympathy."

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

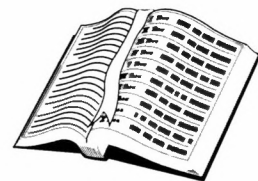
Next issue:
**More on the death of
Bro. Dale Aeschleman**



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

希望の光



“Worthy or Unworthy”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

In 1951, when I was working as a medical corpsman in the Tokyo Army Hospital, one of the patients, an officer, told me that he was not worthy of salvation and that the only difference between him and non-Christians is that he has Christ and they do not. I got the impression that obedience to the Bible as evidence of our faith, was not a part of his theology.

Soon after that I talked with a young man missionary from the Oriental Missionary Society, which is a holiness group whose doctrine is very similar to that of our church. He said he thinks we can say that we are worthy of salvation, meaning that we have met the Biblical conditions for salvation.

In Revelation 3:4 we read, “They shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.” In John’s vision Christ told him to write these words to the angel of the church in Sardis.

In Acts 13:46, Paul and Barna-

bas admonished the Jews for judging themselves “unworthy of everlasting life,” for which they turned to the Gentiles.

The Bible teaches us to be humble and to be dead to self, and also to esteem others higher than ourselves. Therefore, we are inclined to say that we are unworthy of salvation and unworthy of God’s mercy and grace. However, if we are faithful, Christ does not say we are unworthy. He says that we are worthy and that we shall walk with Him in white, assuming that what He said to the church at Sardis also applies to us.

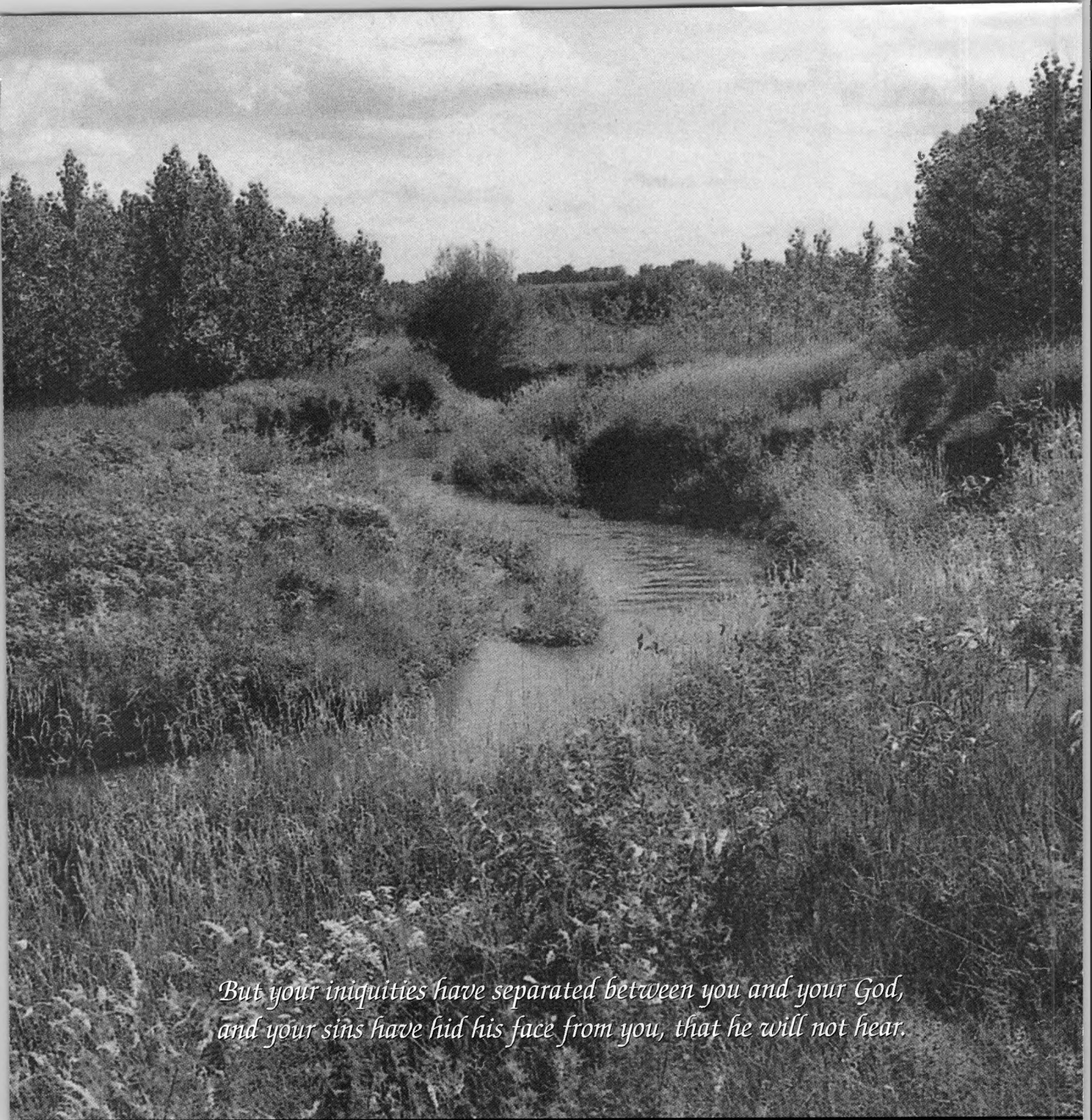
What is the difference between these two positions? When we say we are unworthy we see ourselves in our own strength and self-righteousness. Christ sees us in His righteousness, which has been imputed, or given, to us. Paul writes in Philippians 3:9, “And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is

through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.”

Perhaps it is best for us to say that without Christ’s atonement and His righteousness, we are unworthy of salvation and God’s other blessings. However, with Christ’s atonement being effective for us, and with His righteousness being imputed to us as if it were our own righteousness, we are abundantly worthy. If we are truly the children of God, Romans 8:17 tells us, “And if children, then heirs: heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ: if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”

If we think of ourselves apart from Christ, we can say that we are unworthy of God’s forgiveness and of eternal life. But if we are thinking of what Christ has done for us, and the fact that we have repented and are His, we are abundantly worthy.

希望の光



*But your iniquities have separated between you and your God,
and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

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