



The Silver Lining

*Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord;
neither are there any works like unto thy works.*

August 2000

"GOD'S ANOINTING IS IMPORTANT"

Sermon by Bro. Craig Martin, Princeville, IL
Job 28 and Luke 4:1-30

As I think of the two people that we read about this morning, Job and Jesus, there is a parallel of the two Scriptures that we read this morning. It says, "And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness." (Luke 4:1). So there is a parallel that Job and Jesus were both by God allowed to go into temptation. It says He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. Both Job and Jesus had the anointing of the Spirit and that is what helped them get through the temptation that was before them.

Likewise in our lives, those of us who are born again, we have a special gift in that we have been anointed by His precious Holy Spirit to lead us through this life. As temptations and trials come our way, we have a hope and a promise that God will be with us with the anointing of His Spirit. There is a short phrase in the Shepherd's Psalm that says, "thou anointest my head with oil;" (Psalm 23:5). It is so important that we ask God to anoint us and fill our minds up with the Holy Spirit.

As a shepherd (going back over in Israel), I believe, that little phrase, "...thou anointest my head with oil;" meant a lot to those shepherds because as shepherds caring for their sheep, they knew what that meant. The sheep on the hillsides would be inflicted with certain insects and parasites. It was very important that the shepherd would recognize what would be coming upon his sheep, and he would have to actually take those sheep and anoint their heads.

I believe it was with olive oil and tar, a mixture, and they would put that on top of the sheep's head. Sometimes when it inflicted their whole body, they would have to put it over their whole body. So the shepherd realized that unless he took care and anointed the sheep, the insects would infect that sheep's head and that sheep would eventually die.

There is a statement in that Psalm that reminds me that we need the

anointing of God's Spirit as we face life's battles. Sometimes Satan brings fear and we wonder, "Are we going to make it?" But God has blessed us and He has promised us that He will anoint us with His Spirit, for those of us who have been born again. We know that natural man and himself cannot be anointed of the Spirit.

As we look at this chapter, we read there where Jesus spoke. He said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4:18-19). I believe that is in Isaiah sixty-one and we can go back and read that. Jesus quoted a portion of that chapter because He was a Redeemer.

He is wanting to help those of us who are willing to subject ourselves to Him and to become brokenhearted and to help those who are bruised. Those of us who are bruised with sin, that is what the Saviour came for. When Jesus was quoting Isaiah sixty-one, He stopped. But in Isaiah, it goes on to say in the next life when Jesus Christ comes back again, when He returns to the earth to set up His millennium kingdom the second time, He is going to come as a Judge.

So we can see here the first time Jesus came, He was anointed by God to come as a Saviour, to redeem us, to draw us out, to help those of us who are bruised and to bring us back unto the Father heart. Then we can be anointed with the filling of His Holy Spirit.

Here we can see how Satan attacks mankind, just like he attacked Jesus. But he came there and said, "Jesus, take this stone and make it into bread." (see Luke 4:3). It would not have been anything for Jesus to do that. He could have done that because He was the Son of God. He was right there with the Father at His

right-hand side. But what did Jesus tell him?

He did not want at all to subject Himself and He said, "It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." (Luke 4:4). That is a teaching there for those of us who are living. We need to take God's Word and apply it to our hearts, to read it and to meditate upon it. That is what is going to bring us peace and help as we walk

Sermon continued on page 44

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

August 2000

Commitment IV

The previous three articles on commitment have briefly covered many concepts that help us establish and maintain a commitment to serve God. Among the concepts covered include making a firm commitment, counting the cost of the commitment, building a solid foundation upon which to build a commitment, communication with God as it relates to commitment, being faithful to God and heeding the warnings that are given to help us avoid the pitfalls that the world may bring to us.

This final article of the series on commitment will focus on the need for submission and to work together to maintain our commitment of a life of service to God.

To succeed in faithfully serving the Lord, it is necessary for God's people to have a submissive attitude and a kind, loving disposition. The first order of submission is to God. There is a beautiful promise that accompanies submission to God. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). If we are willing to submit to God and resist the devil, he will actually flee from us! To flee means to go quickly. What a blessing we have to know that Satan must go from our presence.

Submission is not always easy and at times it may not be pleasant. Even Jesus Christ had to pray fervently that He could submit to the will of his Father in heaven. As He was facing His trial and crucifixion, Jesus "...fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Mt. 26:39). He prayed so fervently and he was in such agony that "...his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Lk. 22:44).

Jesus won His battle with Satan and was willing to submit to the will of His Father. Submission would cause Him to suffer extreme pain, shameful humiliation and, ultimately, his life. He was willing to go through all of these trials

because He was committed to pay the price for our sins.

The Apostle Paul found that it is sometimes difficult but necessary to submit to the will of God. He thought he was serving God faithfully. He was willing to go to great lengths to preserve what he thought was right, but on the road to Damascus he learned that he was not serving God.

He fell to the earth after seeing a bright light from Heaven. He learned that he was actually persecuting the One he was to serve. "And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6). The assignment he received required humility and submission that would enable him to endure extreme persecution as he fulfilled his commitment to God.

It is possible that we also will be required to face difficult times as we submit to God's will.

We must also be willing to submit to the church and to those in authority. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account..." (Heb. 13:17).

The Church and those who are placed in positions of responsibility within the Church, have a tremendous responsibility to sound the warning. Each of us should carefully read Ezekiel 34 to help us understand the seriousness of the duties of those in authority. We should also read Ezekiel 33 to help us understand the seriousness of not heeding the warning. We each have a responsibility that we cannot avoid if we want to spend eternity with God.

As we work together to serve the Lord in unity, we must also be willing to submit to one another in a godly manner: "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God" (Ep. 5:21) and "...Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble" (1 Peter 5:5).

We are our brother's keeper. We each

have a responsibility to help others obtain their salvation. We must spread the gospel. Some of Jesus' last words to His disciples were "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk. 16:15). While we are not responsible for the eternal welfare of those who refuse to believe, we are responsible that we do not place a stumbling block in the path of anyone. Our example may have a powerful influence on others.

To be truly committed we must also be consistent. Christ severely chastised those who were hypocrites and wanted very much to be seen of men as being more righteous than they actually were. "...thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men" (Mt. 6:5).

It does us very little good to appear righteous on Sunday or when we are among brethren if we do not live for God the other days of the week. To appear godly on Sunday and to appear like the world the other six days is hypocritical and is of no more value than "...bodily exercise (which) profiteth little..." (1 Tim. 4:8).

Commitment to serving the Lord requires a great deal of time and effort. It involves preparation of a foundation, a willingness to count the cost of serving God and a willingness to then do what is written in the Word of God. God is willing to help us to truly repent, to be completely converted and to be overcomers of the temptations that come before us. He sent His Son to pay the price of our sin. All He asks in return is our willingness to submit to Him and to commit our trust in His promises. He offers us the gift of the Holy Spirit that will dwell within the hearts and minds of the converted soul. May God give each of His children the grace to be committed to faithfulness until the end of our life on earth so we can join the faithful servants who have gone before us.



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

Brethren visit Churches in Yugoslavia

After many months of planning and making arrangements, Elder Brothers Gene Marti, Peter Petrovic, Wayne Fehr, and Ron Messner were able to complete a trip to Eastern Europe in June of this year. Brother Louis Bikadi met them in Budapest for part of the trip. They were authorized by and represented the Mission Committee, World Relief Committee and the European Board.

As is well known, conditions in Yugoslavia have been quite difficult due to the recent war. Although none of our brethren seemed to be directly involved in the conflict, everyone suffered as a result of the bombing.

Getting visas was difficult

Trips such as this take a lot of planning, but this one was especially difficult, particularly as pertained to permits to enter the country. These visas must be acquired through the Yugoslav government. Since there is no consulate in the USA, our brothers worked through the offices in Toronto, Canada. The visas arrived just days before the trip, which in itself was unsettling. However, many faithful brethren prayed, and the Lord certainly opened the way for our brothers. With gratitude to Him we want to share with our readers the experiences they made as well as the hope we have for continued progress.

Although there does not seem to be much oppression of our brethren at this time, we wish to use caution and not do anything that would

cause difficulty for them. Therefore, we will not print any names of European brethren in this report since it no doubt will be read in Eastern Europe.

Thursday, May 25

Gene Marti, Wayne Fehr, and Ron Messner met at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago and flew on the same plane to Zurich, Switzerland. Pete Petrovic met them there, and they flew together to Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

Friday, May 26

After a long lay-over in Zurich and lots of effort to find their gate, the brothers boarded a plane and departed for Belgrade. They arrived about 2:30 PM, and after the usual delays and inspections at passport control, they gathered up their luggage. Pete's, unfortunately, was not there and he had to fill out forms. He had enough clothes in carry-on luggage to see him through until they arrived.

Two Yugoslav elders and a driver met them. They stopped at Beshka where the older brother lives by himself in the church. Only five attend services and he holds it in his living room. This is a very sad situation.

When they arrived in Novi Sad, a city on the Danube River, the local brethren felt it best to stop at a police station and sign the Americans in. Then they drove around to see some of the bomb and missile damage. After supper in a local home, they were quite ready to retire by about 9:30 PM. It had been a long, hard two days since they left home.

Saturday, May 27

Each American brother was

assigned a place in the home of a local family. They ate breakfast in the place where they slept. Since Pete speaks the Serbian language he could stay with any families, but the other three lodged with people who could speak some English. They were grateful to be able to stay in Novi Sad the entire time they were in Yugoslavia, which makes things much simpler and more comfortable. It is easier when one does not have to move his baggage each day.

Some of them were able to visit some stores, and were impressed at the similarity to those in the US. Almost everything is available and it seemed that prices are much the same as at home. They were doing a pretty good business. It is evident that someone has money. The store had seven or eight computerized check out scanners just like in America.

Before they left home several persons had warned our brothers to be very cautious in Yugoslavia because they were American. It was suggested that they not go in public very much and not to speak English in a public place. Also they were told not to take pictures in public places. Upon discussing this with the local brothers, they were told that these precautions were not necessary at all. There are many nationalities in this war-torn land, and no one pays attention to this. They were always with our brethren and felt safe and secure. They also had faith the Lord would watch over them, and He most certainly did.

Gathering for a day's work

At 10:00 AM the Americans and three Serbs began traveling in a van purchased by US brethren for them. It was purchased in Germany, and

is a good vehicle. It has air conditioning, but they didn't seem to know how to operate this feature. Our brethren were happy to show them, and the travel was comfortable. It was very warm and dry, and the crops were suffering.

A case of dire need

A stop was made at the foundation of a house being built by a very needy couple. Nearly two years ago the brethren brought this case to our attention. This is a couple with twelve children and a grandmother living in a very small apartment on the fourteenth floor of a building. Three children sleep under the kitchen table, some sleep in the bathtub and some on the floor. The mother walks with a cane and climbing stairs is hard for her.

As the children grow, the space becomes even more restricted. One child is suffering from some health problem and is on medication. The doctor says it is because of the crowded conditions. Their furniture is old and worn. The windows are locked and cannot be opened because one of the boys climbed up on the window sill and nearly fell out. Someone saw him hanging on the sill and came to his rescue or he would have fallen 14 floors. The father and two older girls are working, but their combined income is just enough to buy food for the family. Often the wages are late in coming, which is common there. The parents are not complaining, but they are concerned about their children's welfare in this unhealthy environment.

Our initial response

When we first heard about this we decided to see if we could find some way to assist them. At that time the Morton Sunday School had \$15,000 that they were willing to use to assist this family. This money was sent and used to bring the project to its present state. They stopped building because they were out of money.

They had planned to sell their flat and use this money to complete the home. However, the bombing started and there is no market for real estate. Also, a fourteenth floor apartment is hard to sell. Meanwhile the situation is very hard for them.

What we hope to do

The foundation is now pretty well overgrown with weeds. They need additional funds to complete this home, and then perhaps their flat can be sold in the near future. We feel that there is surely a way to help them. By the time this article is read, the European Board will no doubt have already discussed this case, and hopefully the Lord will open the way. Again we wonder just how many families are in a similar situation. Sometimes we feel so helpless because there is so little we can do, but with the Lord's help we must do what we can.

Looking around the city

The brethren visited the open market which is always an interesting experience. This modern city of about 200,000 is bustling with activity. There is no sign of an economic crisis here. They stopped at a very nice leather shop operated by one of our sisters as well as a gown shop operated by another sister. Both businesses seem to be doing well.

Each brother returned to the home of his hosts for the noon meal, and met at 2:30 PM for the afternoon activities.

The church at Futog

The travelers drove past a new home being built by a church family. It is small, but they are thankful to have the opportunity to build it.

A stop was made at the new church at Futog. On a previous visit our brothers had observed the pathetic condition of the old building. It thrilled their hearts to see a new structure which includes two apartments. One is occupied by an

old sister and the other by a young minister and his wife. The cost of the building was \$35,000. Although only ten members worship here at the present time, it seems to have been a good investment. One must keep in mind that many congregations in this land are small and sometimes not far apart because many of them must walk or ride bicycles to church.

On the last visit here a ministering brother was sick, and has since died. Lunch was served here as is customary as we travel from place to place.

On the way back to Novi Sad

When the group drove back to Novi Sad, they waited in line to cross the temporary pontoon-like bridge that takes the place of the three bridges that were destroyed during the bombing. They stopped a few times to take pictures of war damage. It is amazing how the targets were hit with precision. Bridges, refineries, military installations, communication centers and such other places were hit and destroyed, but there was very little damage in the residential areas. In Belgrade there may have been more general destruction. However, our brothers did not spend a lot of time in Belgrade.

The Americans appreciated the comfort of the Volkswagen van mentioned earlier. It was bought for use of the churches, and is badly needed. The German brethren arranged this purchase as well as a number of other vans bought in the last year or so. Normally the cost is shared on a 50/50 basis by the Mission and World Relief Committees. We now have such vehicles in Croatia, Romania, and Ukraine, acquired in much the same manner. We thank our loyal brethren and friends who have helped in financing this good work.

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH.)

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

With summer in full swing many of our residents have been enjoying outdoor activities such as paddle boating, hiking, outdoor band concerts, goofy golf and the Heart of Illinois Fair. The 4th of July was a special day as our group homes and community homes enjoyed cookouts at their facilities. Linden Estate hosted several that evening to watch the fireworks from their home, set off by the Morton VFW. Timber Ridge also has the benefit of being able to view these from the side yard. This activity is always a special one.

As mentioned in June, we have a new Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) in Morton. This has provided the opportunity for four of our residents from the group homes (Linden and Oakwood Estates) to move to a new home located at 208 S. Indiana Ave. These men are Steve Holmes, Chris Knapp, David Maupin and Bryan Tiezzi. Four residents from Timber Ridge will be filling the openings at Linden and Oakwood. The goal is to make room for new residents coming to Timber Ridge because of another area home for disabled closing down. We look forward to meeting these new people and getting to know them. May God be with each one that is making a life changing adjustment during these months.

SEPTEMBER birthdays at TIMBER RIDGE are: Ed Green (3), Judy Vicic (3), Marta Graber (9), Mike Culkin (10), Richard Harvey (14), Janet Christensen (16), Lester Miller (16), Cindy Sigulas (22), Mike Bedford (26),

Ethel Borinstein (29). At OAKWOOD ESTATE: Glenn Getz (20), Nancy Theis (25). At LINDEN ESTATE: Dave Taylor (13), Brent Rebuck (24), Doug Steffen (26). At 207 WAGLER: Marlene Esslinger (8). At 652 DETROIT: Angie Massner (9). At 241 MINNESOTA: Janet Schweigert (10). At 208 S. INDIANA: Dave Maupin (20).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Kent Kloter

I'm amazed at the needs we've been asked to meet just in the last few days. We've had several calls from single women with children who need help finding housing. One woman with three children is in need of a place to live by the end of the day today. Another single woman is in need of a place to live by this weekend. Another woman has been living out of her truck for some time. One widow woman is struggling with lung cancer without funds for treatment. Children of godly parents are making terrible choices and are suffering the consequences. I spoke with a fifteen-year-old girl last week who showed me blisters on her ankles from the shackles she had from being in a detention center. I spoke with a sixteen-year-old girl today that had big bruises under her eyes from a broken nose. Her dad had just beat her up. She is looking for a place to live. Today I visited on the phone with a man who had a motorcycle accident; received two broken legs. Two young men in the last two weeks have found themselves in jail as a result of their bad choices. Both have ex-

pressed a great desire to go God's way. Husbands are deserting their wives and families. Couples are choosing to go their own ways. Hearts are overcharged with the cares of this life. Solomon tells us "but the way of transgressors is hard". In the face of all of this, we are grateful for the privilege to be able to offer hope to everyone we meet. The opportunities to offer the Good News of the Gospel are endless. The Scriptures promise that they can provide direction for all of life. We extend a very sincere thanks to all of you who make this ministry a reality. Your prayers are what make our efforts effective. Your gifts make the Gospel tangible. I heard a preacher recently proclaim that our prayers go unanswered because we don't expect miracles when we pray. As a result, I had been praying all weekend for a miracle; for the LORD to provide an apartment for this young woman that needed a place by this weekend; for the Lord to make Himself real to her. I made several phone calls today, exhausting all known options, yet I kept telling her that God was in control and was aware of her needs. I visited with her on the phone several times this morning. Her husband has filed for divorce. He is threatening to fight for custody of their four children. He promises to take the few material possessions she has as well. With literally no place to live, no money and no one to whom she could turn, she told me she was contemplating suicide. After over an hour-long conversation with her in person, she agreed that she didn't want to experience the consequences of suicide and that she wanted to follow the Lord. It

was a thrill to see the look in her eyes when I described to her what Heaven was like. I told her about Bro. Will Schieler's calculation that each person will have 67 acres each in Heaven. She got excited about that. The idea of God wiping away her tears was amazing to her! The clincher came several hours later. I had only been home a few minutes when the phone rang. She was excited to tell me that her apartment complex had just been sold and the new landlord said she could stay! Praise God for answered prayer! "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong." (II Chronicles 16:9). The needs around us are endless. For those who can't afford the cost or the time it takes to go on work teams to Mexico, Haiti or Jamaica, there are countless opportunities in our own neighborhoods to make a difference. "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." (John 4:35)

(Bro. Kent Kloter works in our Family Services ministry in Central Illinois.)

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Tom Schrenk

We are experiencing a very hot and dry summer here in Alabama. As I am beginning this writing, the temperature is 98 degrees. How thankful we are to know that our Great God knows everything and has it all in His control. Here at the Preschool, we are into our summer program, and have 21 kids enrolled in our Preschool.

We want to thank all of the

people who have spent time helping us here at the Preschool during the last six weeks. The children and staff look forward each year to extra hands to help with the many duties that come with operating a Preschool all year long. Our volunteers have come from the following churches during the past month: Peoria, Morton, Washington, and Eureka, IL; Francesville, Wolcott and Remington, IN.

We plan to start back with our regular fall classes on August 22. That may sound early, but our local schools begin classes during the week of August 14. At this writing, we are in need of a teacher for the coming year. If anyone with a teaching or early child development degree is interested in finding out more about this position, please call us here at the Preschool at (256) 233-0591.

As we begin our fall classes, we have enrolled and will continue to enroll children who come from varied backgrounds. Many of these kids have no training that includes God or His Son, Jesus. We ask for your prayers that we will teach these children in a way that will bring honor and praise to Almighty God. We again thank all who have supported us financially this summer through our sponsorship program.

Please note that we have changed the mailing address for the Preschool. It is Apostolic Christian Preschool, 15318 Hastings Rd., Athens, AL 35613.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Joan Reinhard

On Wednesday nights, we here in Athens meet at the Fellowship

Hall and have our services there. The past few weeks, we have been having topical Bible studies on Seven Evils in the Church Today. It is really amazing how Satan can sneak in and blind us as to what God would have us to do and what our focus should be. How much of the world's thinking and attitudes have we let creep into the Church? How biblical are our attitudes and goals? It has been a good time to refocus on God's Word and the directions contained therein.

We have had many visitors that have worshipped with us this past month. Some of these have just been traveling through the area, and many have come to spend a few days helping at the Preschool and around the church. Thank you to each one that has come and assembled with us. We especially want to thank Bro. Gene Butikofer (Washington, IL) for coming here to Athens for a month this summer to help at the Preschool. Our other visitors have been from Goodfield, Morton, Peoria and Washington, IL: and Francesville, Remington and Wolcott, IN. May the Lord bless you for worshipping with us.

We have put in new trustees this past month. Bros. Don Ross, Daron Price and Joel Schrenk will all serve their terms and help out in caring for our church.

Please continue to pray for Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore as he will begin chemotherapy treatments soon. He and his wife, Sis. Doris, would covet your prayers during this difficult time.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX**Ron and Ev Hoerr**

“Repent ye therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.”

Acts 3:19

Each of us who gathered to hear the testimony of Holly Kokanovich the evening of July 1 once again stood before God remembering our own conversion. Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart and a large group of brothers, sisters and friends came from Champaign, IL, to share in a blessed weekend. Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich will remember July 2 as the day Dad baptized their daughter, Holly. A church dinner and singing was enjoyed by many visitors, family members and our AZ congregations. Sis. Holly, may you always feel the call of God's love you told us about. To be a child of God is the greatest calling!

Despite needing more therapy, our beloved retired Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach was present for Sis. Holly's testimony. We love you and pray for God's comfort and mercy.

Our monthly World Relief meetings truly find many areas to give help where it is needed. May the Lord bless you who come and labor.

Floren Klopfenstein was in the hospital. Sis. Shirley Mohrman and Sis. Linda Zollinger are able to be in church again.

Keep God at your side.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you all for the many prayers, cards, and kindness of

love you showed on my behalf. God has been so good to me in my hours of need. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace. God's blessings be upon you all and keep you in His precious love and care. I love you all.

Sis. Eleanor Hill

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT**Jane Hodges**

We welcome Bro. Ed and Sis. Gail Schambach and their daughter, Laura, from Elgin, IL, to our Prescott church. They have rented an apartment while they are building their house. Laura will be attending Yavapai College in Prescott this fall to pursue a degree in nursing.

Bro. Henry Volz will be leaving us for over a month to visit brethren and friends in the midwest. Bro. Henry serves as our church custodian. We pray God will be with him and keep him safe from harm and evil.

Our ministering brothers the last month included Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA), Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS); and on July 16 we had an extra blessing by having two ministers, Bros. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA). We thank all these brothers for their labor in the Lord's vineyard and traveling the many miles to serve us.

ARIZONA, TUCSON**Lisa Knapp**

Our Bro. Paul Knoblock was

hospitalized recently for surgery. We are thankful he is home again and feeling good enough to come to church and worship with us. We pray God will continue to grant Bro. Paul strength and good health as he recovers.

Our Vacation Bible School was a success as everyone involved received many blessings. We had a few visiting children as well as our own Sunday School children. Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the week such a special time for us all.

Up to now our summer has been quite mild with daytime highs in the 90's and occasionally lower 100's, however, this week we are having temperatures in the 108 degree range. This hot, sunny weather is interrupting what was a very enjoyable monsoon season. Hopefully, we will see our monsoon return.

As our children head back to school soon, we pray God will guide and protect each one. May we as parents instill in our children the values that the Bible teaches so that they can know right from wrong when they encounter different situations.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA**Jim Klotzle**

Greetings, brothers and sisters in the Lord!

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

Acts 2:38

This month, we were privi-

leged to witness the testimony of Johnny Klotzle. He was baptized the following Sunday. We welcome our new brother and pray for God's blessing on his life in the Lord.

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

II Timothy 2:2

On July 16, it was announced to the congregation that Bro. Tom Klotzle would be serving us in the ministry of God's Word. We pray that God's Spirit will speak through him and bless him as he walks out this new calling.

"But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is the word of faith, which we preach."

Romans 10:8

On June 25, our congregation joined the family of Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Witzig in celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. They wish to express their gratitude to all those who remembered them at this special milestone in their lives. It is encouraging to see God's blessing and provision in the lives of our loved ones, and we praise Him for His goodness.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) and Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA), and Bros. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Andy Klaus (Tokyo, Japan), Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) and Herbie Knochel (Phoenix, AZ). Bro. Fred Witzig and

family have been visiting Altadena for a number of weeks. He has assisted in the pulpit during this time for which we are thankful. They will shortly return to Indiana where he will resume his studies.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Peggy Jevremov

We have enjoyed our summer visitors once again. Among them was Bro. Andrew Klaus of Tokyo, Japan, who ministered unto us. May the Lord bless him for giving of himself on our behalf.

We rejoice with Rachel Petrovic (Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian) as she has found peace with the Lord and we look forward to hearing her testimony and witnessing her baptism in the near future.

Sunday School is now on break for the rest of the summer. The entire Sunday School and the teachers were privileged to go camping together. It was a blessing for everyone.

We are so thankful to be able to share the news that Bro. Denis and Sis. Joy Fulop and family have been given another 6 month extension to remain in the United States. We thank the Lord and pray His will be done.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA Laura Baxter

"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his

name."

Mal. 3:16

We as believers in Christ are encouraged by the above verse to speak often with each other and to think often of Jesus. We have opportunity to do this when we assemble in church and believers' homes, but do we speak of things that are spiritual or just earthly cares and business? While there are many times we need and should speak of earthly cares, they should not crowd out and rule over our thoughts. If we truly fear the Lord, we think upon His name and speak often to one another about Him.

This past month we have had many visit us and we have enjoyed the blessings of this fellowship. We have also been blessed with visiting ministers. We thank Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bros. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) and Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) for ministering God's Word 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.

COLORADO, DENVER Amy Beyer

This past month we appreciated the following visiting ministers sharing God's Word with us: Bros. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS).

As summer continues, we ex-

tend a warm welcome to all who may be vacationing in the area to worship with us.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Cherie Galat**

"Haste and seek your soul's salvation; Heed the word of God today!" (Zion's Harp #52 Repent Ye!). More souls are answering God's loving call to walk the narrow way with Him. We are happy for Richard Hany, Jr. (Bro. Richard and Sis. Betsy) and Laura Virkler (Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy) and hope for grace to be granted in the days ahead.

We listened to the testimonies of our new lambs of the flock, Bro. Andrew Luginbuhl (Bro. Ken and Sis. Kay), Sis. Mary Manning (Ray), Bro. Chad Virkler (Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy) and Bro. Joshua Virkler (John and Sis. Maureen). Assisting our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan was Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS). May He continue to guide each one on this path of life.

The summer months have brought many visitors to our congregation of which we are very thankful. As families are reunited, so are new Christian friendships established. May He bless our efforts to keep our families strong in the Lord so that we may be able to fight the battle with God's help. Among our visitors were dear ministering brethren who served in God's vineyard. We thank Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City,

MO), Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Bro. Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Ontario, Canada), Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL).

"But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;"

St. Mark 10:6,7

We rejoice with Bro. Jonathan Moser (Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna) and Sis. Angie Schietlin of Remington, IN (Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori), as their engagement was announced to us. May God help them to prepare for a life of commitment to each other.

Many families have been blessed with bundles of joy. Ron and Kelly Moser are the parents of little Nicholas John who was born May 27. He joins his two brothers, Michael and Luke. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane Moser and Ray and Judy Godek.

Baby Sarah Marie was born July 4 to Bro. Brian and Sis. Cyndi Luginbuhl. She joins her sisters, Harmony, Grace and Miriam, at home. Grandparents are Sis. Florine Luginbuhl and Bro. Dave and Sis. Marlene Galat.

On July 5, Kevin Edward was born to Chris and Trudi Kozak. Grandparents are Kenneth and Laura Kozak and Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Verona Schneider. May God bless each family and through God's leading may they commit each one to the Lord in prayer.

Our annual Sunday School

Picnic was Saturday, June 17. We usually have a beautiful day sharing in the lives of our children. This marked the end of one year and the beginning of another year in Sunday School. May God bless the retiring teachers who gave so willingly of their time and effort to teach the children. May He also give Godly wisdom to our teachers that are beginning their term.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

Summer is here, bringing lots of visitors and lots of blessings.

Our ministers this month were Bros. Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) and Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN). Our other visitors this month were from Altadena, CA; Francesville and LaCrosse, IN; Rittman, Sardis, and Smithville, OH; Lester, IA; Morton and Eureka, IL; and Sabetha, KS. We thank all who made a visit to our church a part of their vacation. Fall vacations are also nice in this area, not as many tourists-see the sites-not the other tourists.

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

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

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

**FLORIDA
FT. LAUDERDALE**

Gretchen Webb

This past month the Ft. Lauderdale congregation enjoyed a Family Worship Evening. A song service was held and Bro. Roger Sauder gave a presentation on World Relief. It was a reminder of the many services World Relief provides and the opportunities that are available. It is encouraging to know that God is providing for those in need.

Frank and Elizabeth Fulop welcome new baby George into their home. He has three sisters, Angelica, Hanah, and Emma. Grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Katherine Fulop. We wish them God's blessings in the raising of their children.

At this time of year, many in our home congregation are traveling. We wish them God's protection as they travel and we look forward to their return.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FT. MYERS**

Dorothy Beer

Many of our permanent residents are on vacation, so our church is small in number. We're always grateful for the visitors we get and welcome them.

We had the privilege of attending the open house and dedication of the Atlanta church. It was a real blessing for all who attended. Being from a small congregation, we encourage anyone who is traveling in the vicinity to stop and worship with them. It's a

beautiful little church and you'll be blessed!

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that built it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."

Psalm 127:1

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Carol Koehl

Sarasota has a lot to be thankful for this past month. We praise God for the much needed rain, after several very dry months. Also, we are grateful to report that nobody has been in the hospital or seriously ill.

We appreciate and welcome those who have come to visit us over summer vacation.

At this writing, four of our young brothers are helping on a housing project in Georgia. It is always encouraging to see brothers and sisters participate on work teams.

Last, but not least, we are thankful that Bro. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI) so willingly brought us God's Word over the 4th of July holiday.

We wish to extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Bob Laukhuf (Latty, OH) in the loss of his dear helpmate. Bro. Bob and Sis. Iris have been winter residents here for many years.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Keith and Carol Kaufman

God has truly been with us and blessed us. We are so thankful for each brother, sister and friend who has helped with remodeling our church and with the outside

work. May God richly bless you for your labors of love and the fellowship. On July 1, we held Open House and then had Dedication Services on Sunday. We were reminded that not only the building was being dedicated, but most importantly our hearts and lives were being dedicated to God's service. May we truly let our whole life be an offering to God and to Christ our Lord.

Ministering brothers this past month were: Bros. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI), Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), Vic Beer (North Ft. Myers, FL), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) and Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN). May God richly bless you for being willing to stand up and speak the truth. Thanks also for bringing your wives and others with you.

Many brethren have stopped through for fellowship and services on their way to Camilla, GA, for the World Relief Work Project. We really appreciate the time you spend with us. We have been so blessed and pray that you feel God's blessings also.

We want to extend a hearty welcome to all who can come! We look forward to the fellowship; not only for us, 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

Doreen Moser
Sheila McCoy

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Ye soldiers of the cross,
Lift high His royal banner,
It must not suffer loss:
From vict'ry unto vict'ry,
His army shall he lead,
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished
And Christ is Lord indeed.

"Soldiers of the Cross" was the theme for Vacation Bible School that was held the week of June 19-23. May all of our dear children some day want to become soldiers in the army of our precious Saviour.

We have been blessed with many summer visitors. Our Sundays are never long enough to enjoy the fellowship of believing Brothers and Sisters and all of the friends who worship with us. Thank you to all who visit us in Belvidere. We appreciate each and every one of you.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), and Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL). Thank you for sharing the Word with us and bringing your families with you.

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

Before our Father's throne,
We pour our ardent prayers:
Our fears, our hopes, our aims
are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear:
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain:
But we shall still be joined in
heart,
And hope to meet again.

A farewell lunch call was held at Bro. Ted and Sis Heidi Schock's for Bro. Myron and Sis. Lori Rumbold as they are moving. As a small congregation we will miss the children in Sunday school and a Brother and Sister who have become very precious to us. Please come back and visit us often, Bro. Myron, Sis. Lori, Katlyn, Tyler and Kalie.

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

Heb. 13:17

As our precious Elders will once again gather for the annual Brotherhood Conference in August, hopefully we all have sent many a prayer heavenward that

the "Lord's will may be done". May we all listen to the instruction that comes forth.

The lazy days of summer are fast fading away and soon school and routines will return. The freedom of late nights and sleep in mornings are nice but we all need to get back to a routine. As we send our precious children off to school or start another home school year, may we lift our children up in prayer each and every day.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Shawn Masters
Dana Knapp

Our church family was blessed to have Bro. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) spend the day with us this month. We appreciate the time and effort that goes into sharing God's Word.

We rejoice with Tim Mueller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jan, Roanoke), Mike Bates (Bro. Steve and Sis. Diane, Roanoke), James Martin (Sis. Edna, Princeville), and Seth Heimer (Bro. Curt and Sis. Sue) as they begin their new life in Christ. May you feel God's peace and nearness.

Valerie Davis (Bro. Denny and Sis. Kathy) and Michael Winterland have announced their engagement. They are planning to wed on August 26. We wish them much happiness as they begin their lives as one.

On July 1, Allecia Finley (Sis. Kathy and Mike) and Jason Steckel (Roger and Peggy) were joined as husband and wife. We pray for Godly wisdom as you travel down life's pathway.

We want to remember Sis.

Janelle Scott and family in our prayers. Her father passed away recently. No one here on earth can fill you with the love and peace that our Heavenly Father can provide.

On June 25, we had an open house out at our new church site. All those who attended were able to see the progress of our new building. It is exciting to see it all coming together.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Chad and LauraLee Plattner

It was a blessing to have visiting minister, Bro. Robert Stoller (Lamar, MO), to spend the day with us. May God bless him.

It is always a special event to have another child born in our congregation. God allowed Elizabeth Sharon Dietz to safely join the growing family of Bro. Barry and Sis. Rachel on June 30. Nathan, Caleb, Anna and Levi welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mardell Dietz.

On July 15, a marriage covenant was made between Brian Knobloch (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Dianne) and Kristin Higdon (Dennis Higdon, Atlanta, GA, and Gerald and Cheri Huffman, Washington, IL). May God be ever present with them as they grow as one in marriage and in Christ.

We are saddened by the death of our dear Bro. Clarence Knobloch on July 18. His wife, Sis. Emma, preceded him in death 8 months earlier. Our prayers are with the family. Their children are Bro. Marvin (Sis. Dianne) of Bradford, Sis.

Carol (Bro. Edwin) Bauer of Princeville, Marion (Mary Ann) of Bradford, Bro. John (Sis. Cheryl) of Morton, Jerry (Mary) of Princeville, Sis. Mary (Bro. Ben) Tanner of Goodfield, Sis. Joan (Bro. Bill) Frank of La-Crosse, IN, Netta (Roy) Ramos of Princeville, Bro. Dean (Sis. Jackie) of Goodfield, and Susan (Alan) Schweigert of Chillicothe. Also surviving are 28 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren; one brother, Bro. Ezra Knobloch of Lester, IA; and four sisters, Sis. Freida Gerber of Eureka, Clara Knobloch of Lester, IA, Elsie (Andy) Leuthold of Lester, IA, and Nettie (Erwin) Banwart of West Bend, IA.

We will miss Larry and Inga Simms assembling with us as they have the last couple years. May God be with them as they relocate to the Bloomington-Normal, IL, area.

Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth) was hospitalized this month. We pray God's healing hand will be upon him.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to express our deep appreciation and heartfelt thanks to each and every one for the cards, gifts, food, phone calls, visits, and especially the love, prayers, and kind thoughts during Elwin's recent surgery and extended convalescence period. Your caring spirit meant so much. May God bless you all.

Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta Rumbold

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA Samuel and Pamela Furrer

"Looking back on all that we've shared and all that is yet to come, I realize that nothing life may offer me could make me happier than a future filled with loving you."

—*Anonymous*

It was shortly after he moved here and began coming to our church that we met Samuel Gutwein's intended bride, Carrie Lankford. On June 25, they were married in Samuel's hometown of Francesville, IN. We look forward to having them here as a new couple, with Samuel working as a pharmaceutical representative and Carrie as an elementary teacher. We wish them God's blessings on their future. Their new address is: 1110 Baytowne Dr., Champaign, IL 61821.

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

Luke 6:38

Our Vacation Bible School always has a theme for the week, and this year's was "It is more blessed to give than to receive." With that in mind, the children were taught about giving and the projects they did revolved around that topic. The children were busy making birdhouses and feeders to give food and shelter to

some of God's little flying creatures. Others helped assemble World Relief kits for less fortunate children and made soups for the shelter for homeless men. A great deal of work went into all of this and the young people learned as they had a good time together. However, it was the Friday evening program that was very moving in an emotional sense.

Traditionally, the VBS program is held in the fellowship area at the church. However, this year's program was moved to the Swann Special Care Home. Swann is a facility for severely and profoundly handicapped individuals. Residents range in age from less than 2 years to 39 years. We walked through the building to the back yard where what seemed like everyone who could be moved in a wheelchair had been assembled in a circle. Children, parents, and others from church gathered in this circle and sang several songs. Our children gave brightly-colored helium balloons to several residents. I looked at these bright, healthy, articulate, and lively children that we brought with us. I looked out at the Swann residents, many of the same ages as our children, yet they could not communicate, move, eat, or live with their own families as our children do. On some of the faces, it was obvious that they genuinely enjoyed the music. After we sang, we went around to many of the residents. Staff people talked with us and tried to help with the communication barriers. While we gave an evening program of a few songs and some balloons, the residents of Swann gave to us without even knowing it. We left

being much more aware of the gifts we have been blessed with. Our children seemed to take in the serious nature of the conditions others their age have. I think that it would be safe to say that each of us departed as a more appreciative, thankful person.

Our only visiting minister over the past month was Bro. David Obergfel of Peoria. We appreciated the Obergfels being with us for the day.

Remember: New Student Welcome is August 27.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Jill Rager

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

John 13:35

This was the theme verse for our Vacation Bible School, June 26 - 30. Each evening the Bible class and adults were taught how the Bible instructs us to relate to ONE ANOTHER and were challenged to examine just how closely we are following those Biblical instructions. The four "one anothers" that we studied were encouraging, being kind, bearing burdens, and being of the same mind. We greatly appreciate those ministering brothers who prepared, spoke and sometimes fought rush hour traffic in order to serve us. Many thanks go to Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) and Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL). The Sunday school students presented what they learned on Friday evening in a

program. They too were learning how to love one another via obedience, prayer, forgiveness and kindness.

On June 17, Katrina Schlatter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy) and Aridio Cordero vowed before God and man to "love one another" in Holy Matrimony. We congratulate this couple and know that they have already been blessed of God as Katrina has also begun her repentance. We rejoice with Katrina and pray that her faith remains strong as Christ lovingly guides every footstep.

We appreciate the two other visiting ministers we had this month. Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) shared God's Word with us.

Lastly, we welcome back Sis. Tina Leman (Roanoke, IL) as she has returned to Chicago for employment.

We certainly all have opportunities to practice our "love one another" skills in just about every area of our lives. We have new couples, converts, newcomers, and visiting ministers just to name a few. May God grant us wisdom in applying those "skills" in the relationships of our lives.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Cheryl Eisenmann Darlene Walder

This month we have had several experience hospital stays or surgery. They are Sis. Nettie Obergfel, Bro. Gerald Rudin, Bro. Bill Rinkenberger, Sis. Maxine Hari, Bro. Curt Sauder, Sis. Marg Kupferschmid; and Betty Beier is undergoing chemotherapy. Earth has no sorrow

that Heaven cannot heal. "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." (I Peter 5:7)

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

Proverbs 22:6

Bro. Phil and Sis. Charlotte Waldbeser are enjoying their new addition to their family. Lisa Kay is a granddaughter to Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Shirley Nester (Lester, IA). Also, we rejoice with Bro. Doug and Sis. Julie Walder at returning home safely from Romania with their new daughter, Ashley Ruksandra, 3. Katie and Ryan are pleased with their new sister.

We offer prayer and consolation to Rob and Joy Sheehan (Champaign) at the death of their precious son, Taylor. He had brought so much of God's love into their home and they will miss him very much. We offer comfort to Joy's mom and dad, Orval and Joyce Cluver, and to aunt and uncle, Bro. Ed and Sis. Marge Alt.

We rejoice with Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Young and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marilyn Young on their recent baptisms. Also, Kathy Maul (Mike) has sought the Lord in repentance and we wish her the grace only God can give.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally Rinkenberger and family have felt led by God to relocate. They are making their home in Forrest. We hope their home and lives are blessed with the Lord's presence and we will miss them. Bro. John and Sis. Jennifer Fehr and family have trusted that God has provided them with a home

here in the Cissna Park area. We welcome them and hope they find Christian friends and family among us. God will order the steps of a man who waits for Him.

We had our annual church picnic in the park. The children and Sunday School teachers enjoyed the activities planned and there was plenty of food to share with everyone who came.

Our visiting ministers this month have been Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), as well as Bros. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL).

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

Gal. 6:10

Sheryl Farney (Bro. Gerry and Sis. Geraldine) and Scott Spohn were married on April 29. They are making their home in Knoxville, TN. We wish them a happy marriage and God's blessings.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE **Glenna Rinkenberger**

Children are such a blessing and we have them for such a short time. We share in the happiness of Sis. Lisa and Bro. James Knapp in the birth of Jordan Allen Knapp on June 15. He comes home to his siblings, Jesse, Jared, Joshua and Leah. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty Bauman (Goodfield, IL) and Bro.

Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp (Taylor, MO). We pray for each parent, that we would strive to be a light to our children by God's grace.

Visiting ministers who preached the Truth in clearness and simplicity for us were Bros. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Steve Martin (Eureka, IL). May God richly reward them for their faithfulness.

Unfortunately, we had several hospital patients: Brandi Payne (Hal and Rhonda), Bro. Merion Miller, Bro. Dick and Sis. Kathe Hasty, Bro. Glenn Knapp, and Sis. Marie Eglin. Our prayers go out to these loved ones that God's healing hand will be upon them.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN **Peggy Heiniger** **Norma Schambach**

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

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

Our Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen and his wife, Sis. Marilyn, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 18. They raised nine children who hosted an open house for their parents. May God bless their future as He has their past.

We appreciate each visiting minister. Bros. Garth Steffen (Portland, OR) and Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) were here to rejoice with Bro. Nathan and Sis. Mari-

lyn.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Janet Zimmerman

Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine Edelman have been blessed with a new baby, Tamra Lee, born July 3. She is welcomed home by her sisters, Ashley, Kyla, Kristen and Tara, and her brother, Arlen.

We are thankful for our two converts, Emily Fehr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy) and Chad Zimmerman (Bro. Tom and Sis. Janet), who have peace and will give their testimonies and be baptized the weekend of August 26. May God continue to guide them with His grace and provide for their every need.

We are thankful that Dave Prather (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marlene) has recently sought the Lord in repentance. We pray that God will be with him and grant him grace.

We extend our love and sympathy to Bro. Alf Grusy on the recent death of his sister, Hilda Fehr, of Maple Lawn Homes, Eureka; and to Sis. Freida Gerber whose brother, Bro. Clarence Knobloch (Bradford, IL), passed away on July 18.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sis. Martha Grusy (Bro. Alf) who is hospitalized at the time of this writing. Also, Dale Graf was seriously injured in a car accident and is hospitalized. Tyler Knapp (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori) had knee surgery recently. We pray that God will watch over and restore health to those who are ill, according to His will.

We pray for our Elder body who will be meeting in August. May God grant them an extra

measure of grace and Godly wisdom to guide our churches. We look forward to hearing the Conference tapes and may we all strive to be more obedient that we may reach our Heavenly Home together.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Sally Fehr

Joann Zehr

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held June 25 and is always a special time when our children and adults can be together. It is a milestone for the children because they move up a class the following Sunday.

Sis. Kay (Bro. Chris) Steffen's term has ended in Sunday School and we wish her God's blessings for the time she served. She has been replaced by Sis. Dawn (Bro. Richard) Huber and we know God will be with Sis. Dawn in her new duties.

We sang a farewell song for Bro. John and Sis. Jennifer Fehr and Aaron, Stephanie, and Michelle who have moved to Cissna Park. We miss them in our congregation but we wish them well in their new home and church. May God bless their family.

A special thanks to our visiting ministers, Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) and Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO). May God bless them.

We are thankful that Bro. Maurice Steidinger (late Sis. Alma) and Sis. Patricia (Bro. Vernon) Hartman are back home. May God's healing be with them. Bro. Maurice would like to

thank all those who remembered him with cards, prayers, etc. following his surgery.

We extend our sympathy to Hazel Morrow in the death of her husband, Ray, who passed away June 22. A loved one is always missed.

Our prayers are always with our Elder brothers as they gather together in our behalf.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jean Knapp

Linda Anliker

Baptized into Thy name most holy,
O Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and lowly
Among Thy seed, Thy chosen host.
Immersed with Christ, I'm dead to sin;
Thy Spirit now shall live within.
Zion's Harp #41

The weekend of July 1-2 our new Bro. Nathan Kelson (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sherri) and Sisters Heidi and Betsi Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy) and Wendy Dotterer (Sis. Kathy) gave their testimonies of faith and were baptized as is commanded in the Bible. May the covenant they made with God remain foremost in their hearts and minds as they experience the many blessings and trials of life.

On July 9, Sis. Jodi Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley) and Bro. Michael Schneider (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra) made a covenant in marriage, committing to each other to become as one through charity. The Lord will provide

peace and contentment as they communicate their love and devotion to each other.

Bro. Kraig Edelman (Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Carrie Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly) are making plans for a fall wedding. May both couples continue to look to God for guidance in each step of their lives.

We are thankful to those who speak the Word of Life and spread the words of salvation. We appreciate Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Jesse Beer (Milford, IN), and Bros. Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL), Dennis Rassi and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) for being willing servants.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sarah Mueller and Clarissa welcome a new baby boy, Travis Jeffrey, into their hearts and home. His grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee Wenger and Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida Mueller.

Those spending time in the hospital this past month were Bro. Roger (Sis. Janet) Farney, Kyla Kupferschmid (Bro. Todd and Kim), Issac Steidinger (Bro. James and Sis. Marlene), Levi Kaeb (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie), Amanda Mueller (Stacey and Tonda).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Leland and Sis. Marge Kuntz in the passing of his sister, Phyllis Peters.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD **Heather Hohulin**

Our prayers go out to our Sis. Vi Wagner as she was in the hospital and is recovering from sur-

gery. We hope and pray that she can feel God's healing hand and the prayers of her church family.

We have two new babies to announce. Bro. Joseph and Sis. Heather Beer had a baby boy, Conner Michael. He has a brother, Cooper, and a sister, Hannah, to welcome him home. Bro. John and Sis. Amy Ott had a baby girl, MaKenna Caroline. She has a sister, Kylie, to welcome her home. What a miracle each new precious child is!

We were saddened this month to lay to rest our dear Bro. Ben Hohulin (Sis. Esther). Our prayers are with Sis. Esther and their children, Bro. Harold (Sis. Carol), Dave (Dorothy), Mary (John) and Ann (Jerry). May God bring them sweet memories to comfort their hearts.

July 8 was the wedding day of Sheri Brady (Kevin and Gail) and Justin Zobrist (Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann). We wish them God's richest blessings in their new walk together.

How thankful we are that Adam Rocke and Lena Knapp have peace with God. We look forward to their upcoming testimony of faith and baptism. May they feel God's ever present Spirit in their hearts.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Marvin Stieglitz, Jim Rinckenberger, Dale Zeltwanger, Kevin Knapp and Gene Metzger. We thank you for sharing God's Word with us.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY **Perry A. Klopfenstein**

In listing Gridley's high school graduates, we mistakenly omitted Sis. Ashley Romersberger.

We are sorry, and we wish her well in her college studies.

On Sunday, July 16, two more souls were added to our congregation. New sisters in faith are Sis. Kaleigh Schlipf (Bro. Art and Sis. Twyla) and Sis. Kristen Zimmerman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Linda). May God's grace be with them. They are high school students and are offered an opportunity to be a godly light and witness for the Lord among their peers.

Indeed, all of us who are converted have an opportunity to be a light and witness for God. Do we comprehend it as we should?

Do we see ourselves as ambassadors for Christ as we interrelate with our peers on a day-to-day basis?

Or has time and the cares of this world and the love of self dulled our motive to be a light and witness? The Scriptures are clear in stating the believer is not to be conformed to the world, and is to be separated from the world.

Perhaps as never before we as converted believers have an opportunity to reflect the light of virtue and godliness, especially as the darkening shadows of cultural and moral decline hover around us.

During the week of August 7, our Elder brethren will have convened in Lester, IA, to address the effects of cultural decline and how we as God's children can, by His grace, maintain ourselves and give a bright light of virtue to the unbelievers around us. May God's Spirit be with our church's leaders each day as they strive to lead us on godly pathways.

“Obey my voice and I will be

your God, and ye shall be my people.”

Jer. 7:27

Eunice Schlipf, who has attended services in Gridley for many years, has moved to the Eureka Home. Her address is 610 W. Cruger, Eureka, IL 61530. A card or letter of encouragement would be appreciated by her. She is a widow with no children.

Paige Marie Metz was born on July 13. Her parents are Bro. Daren and Sis. Rita Metz. She has a brother, Joseph, 2. Grandparents are Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby Beer (Milford, IN) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol Metz (Forrest, IL).

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Summer seems to bring a slow-down of planned church activities as many family vacations and get togethers are carried out. We are thankful for this time of relaxation and reflection.

We rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Tasha Steffen, as they welcome their new son, Noah Thomas. He was born on June 2. Grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly Kaiser and Bro. Keith and Sis. Cathy Steffen (Washington, IL).

We mourn the passing of our Sis. Eileen Hermann. She died at her home on July 15 after a lengthy battle with cancer. May the Lord comfort her dear family and friends. Surviving are her husband, Bro. Don; one son, Dave (Kim); two daughters, Becky (Roger) Roeschley and Sara (Greg) Peters; 11 grandchildren;

one brother, Bro. Levi Schock; and two sisters, Sis. Florence (Richard) Gunthrie and Eldeen Mitchell.

Our heartfelt prayers are for Sis. Virginia Hunziker's family as she passed away on July 18 after a rapid progression of pancreatic cancer. May the Lord comfort and bless her husband, Bro. Albert; her three daughters, Sis. Jean Greiner (Bro. Doug), Janet Schini (John) and Sis. Peggy Haerr (Bro. Shon); her son, Jeffery; her 11 grandchildren; two brothers, Louis Haerr (Carol) and Donald Haerr (Wilma) and her sister, Norma Welch.

Notes of Thanks:

Sis. Mildred Staker wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, visits and cards while in the hospital and at Restmor Nursing Home after falling and breaking her hip. May God bless all who were so kind.

Sis. Jackie Barton wishes to thank her "Morton Family" for all the prayers, cards, phone calls and gifts while she was in Michigan for her surgery. She also celebrated her birthday during this time.

Mabel Yentes would like to thank her friends and family for the love shown during her hospitalization and recovery. The prayers, cards and gifts were much appreciated. May God bless you all.

The family of Sis. Virginia Hunziker would like to thank everyone for their prayers and love shown during her sudden illness

and death. How thankful we are for the "family" of God during this time.

Bro. Al Hunziker and family

Our family wishes to express our sincere thanks to everyone for their prayers and many deeds of kindness during Eileen's illness and recent passing. Thank you to everyone who helped with the funeral in any way.

Bro. Don Hermann and family

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

Proverbs 23 and Luke 5 were the texts for Bro. Tim Roecker's first sermon (6/14): the miracle of the big catch of fish points to an abundant life with Jesus.

Bro. Tim Funk made his beginning in the ministry on Father's Day with Psalm 103 and Luke 16. We are not perfect fathers but have a perfect Father for our example, and the church as a safety net to share each other's woes, reach out, teach and lead a life of dedication to our Lord. The Church fills the void of missing fathers. Ninety-nine were in the fold, but the 1% is critical to God.

The wedding ceremony of Bro. Wes Hoerr and Sis. Brianne Greenwood on June 18 was based on I Cor. 13 and Phil. 4:1-13. Say: "I love you" with words and the things you do. Without the ingredient of love, our faith is nothing. Let God teach you how to love each other and make prayer a vital part of your marriage. Think of things which will enhance your lives, learn to be content and that "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me." We wish them God's abundant bless-

ings for their life together.

Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) contrasted "Selfishness to Service" at our family night on July 5. Service is to put God's will and work ahead of our own personal desires and is inherently rooted in service to God and to one another, while sin is inherently selfish, rooted in the concept that we pursue that which we want, which destroys our relationships with God and man. We have inherited the sin-nature of Adam and the ability to be selfish because we are part of his fallen nature. "From whence come wars and fightings among you?" (James 4:1). Why do we defeat others so we look good? In Mark 9:33-34, Jesus sensed that something was not right, but the disciples didn't answer because they were ashamed, knowing they should have argued who was NOT the greatest. James and John wanted to be great and a wedge was driven into the relationship of the disciples (Mark 10:35-37). If you want to be No. 1, be a slave and don't climb the ladder the human way. Usually washing of feet was left to slaves; it was an act below the dignity of Jesus. You want to be happy? Serve! The beauty of service is that it is life-giving, satisfying and blesses us. Make time to be a servant (Phil. 2:4). Jesus says: "Come and lose your life to gain it spiritually", which is contradictory to selfishness. Service brings life not death, and is joy-filled opportunity, but not at the expense of our own personal needs and those who depend on us. God glorified Jesus because He became a servant. Thanks, Bro. Wayne, for your inspired message.

Bro. Roger Sauder added: What is our attitude towards a life of service in the year 2000? I was hungry, and you were at the all-you-can-eat buffet; I was thirsty, and you were watering your lawn; I was a stranger, and you called the police; I was naked, and you were at the mall shopping; I was sick, and you asked, "Can I catch it?" I was in prison, and you said that's where I ought to be! What is our attitude towards the less fortunate? We have nothing, that God hasn't given us. Let's share our blessings and the Word of God and brighten the corner where we are.

We thank Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) for their visits on July 5 and 9, and Bro. Roger's above comments and sermon on Exodus 36 and John 14. We do not understand until the Spirit teaches us. Do we long to see the mansions He has prepared for us? Thomas was told the way, but doubted. We would love to see Jesus, Who wants to be our friend, but must have our mind on Him to help us believe. Unbelief comes from the flesh as we are like Philip: Sounds good, but show us! "If you can't believe My words, at least believe My works!" Can we raise someone from the dead? We can take someone who is dead in sin and raise him up to Jesus. Do we pray for something, then doubt we will ever receive it? We need to ask in His name. God is waiting to hear from you that you are a sinner...and He will be there for you. Come today!

Sis. Loretta Ross (81) passed away at the Skylines on July 9 and we extend our heartfelt sym-

pathy to her family. Phyllis Bennett has been a hospital patient and we wish her the nearness of God and His comforting Spirit.

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psalm 14:1) and ..."I will wait until tomorrow." Repentance is a gift from God and we are thankful two more converts could give their testimonies and were added to the fold on July 16: Jolyne Scholl and Alyssa Childs. May the Lord watch over them as they begin their walk of faith.

Ixtlan, Mexico, was the destination of Elder Bros. Chuck Hemmer, Jon Kokanovich and Roy Grimm from July 6-10 and we are thankful four more converts could be added to the Church.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Mary Ehle
Crystal Streitmatter

"Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."

Eccles. 12:1

We rejoice with three dear souls who were brought into the fold. We heard their testimonies on July 8 and witnessed their baptisms on July 9. Our new sister and brothers in faith are Lacey Harwood (James and Robin), Michael Herrmann (Bro. Alan and Sis. Rose) and Bob Baer (Ray and Sis. Janna Lou). Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Joe

Stoller with this important work. May God bless each one.

Amanda Kieser (Bro. Randy and Sis. Brenda) and Kendra Baer (Ray and Sis. Janna Lou) have answered the call and begun their repentance. We offer our encouragement and prayers to them as they turn to the Lord.

Several ministers from other congregations visited us throughout this past month and shared God's Word with us. They were Bros. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) and Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL).

Our heartfelt sympathy reaches to Sis. Vicki Hartzler (Bro. Al) in the death of her dear father, Bro. LeRoy Hartman (Peoria, IL).

Notes of Thanks:

Thanks to all, especially my family who remembered me so kindly with cards and gifts on my 90th birthday. A special "thank you" for the nieces and nephews that came from a distance.

*In Christian love,
Leah Stahl*

We want to express our special thank you to all who helped in any way with our premature son, Jesse Herrmann. There is no way to fully express the magnitude of what your prayers, help, and gifts have meant to us. Jesse is doing very well. We pray the Lord will continue to richly bless you for your love.

*In Christ,
Kevin and Grace Herrmann
and family*

Give Lavishly! Give Abundantly!
The more you give, the more you

get
The more you laugh, the less you
fret
The more you do unselfishly
The more you live abundantly...
The more of everything you
share,
The more you'll always have to
spare.
The more you love, the more
you'll find
That life is good and friends are
kind...
For only what we give away,
Enriches us from day to day.
—Helen Steiner Rice

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Boni Stoller
Linda Hodel**

Christ has gone to prepare a place for us, and we must prepare ourselves for that place.

Our two new converts who are "preparing" themselves for that beautiful place called Heaven are Dustin Hodel (Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty) and Kayla Schroeder (Ron and Sis. Peg). We ask the Lord to put His loving arms around them and protect them as we know Satan will be trying his best to get them to turn back to their old life.

We rejoice to announce the birth of Alexander Michael Pfister on May 22 to first-time parents, Mike and Cori Pfister. Grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Ila Pfister and Ed and Judy Schumacher. May God give them the wisdom to train him up "in the way he should go."

We are thankful to report our recent hospital patients last month are at home recovering. They are Bro. Ben Hodel, Sis. Alice Kempf and Bro. Jim Byrd. We also bid farewell to little Willie

Fortune who has recovered enough to return back to Haiti. May our Heavenly Father guide him in this step and also comfort his host family, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Marybeth Zimmerman, as they adjust back to their life before Willie came.

Also, Bro. Rich and Sis. Janet Knepp have taken in a little eight-month-old Haitian girl who needs heart surgery. One never knows how God will work as these precious ones are being taken in to care for... "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." (Hebrews 13:2)

In sorrow and pain
Thy trust do retain
In Jesus the merciful Saviour.
When burdened with care,
when thou wouldst despair,
then call on thy loving Redeemer.
Zion's Harp #46

As a congregation, we lift up our Sis. Erma Moser and daughters, Sis. Jeanie Hoffman and Sis. Jan Bates, and their families in prayer in the death of their son and brother, Ron Moser (Peg). Funeral services were held at the church on July 9.

May God bless our three visiting ministers we had this past month: Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN) and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA). Our thoughts are also with the Elders and ministers as they travel to Lester, IA, the week of August 7 for the General Conference. We pray for the power of the Holy Spirit, for unity and direction from our Heavenly Father. As we

see the decline in morality among the world, may we strive even more diligently to be more united as a body of believers.

What to bring to church:

- A holy reverence for both God and His house.
- An unselfish spirit and love for your fellow man.
- Your tithes and gifts for His work.
- A friendly smile and a hearty handshake for friends and strangers.
- A prayerful heart and a mind open to the Word of God.
- A willingness to join in the worship service by singing from the heart.
- An unsaved friend and pray for him.
- A willingness to serve the Lord in the church.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Kaeb

LaVonne Wagenbach

The gift of life and the responsibility of teaching their children about Jesus was once again given to Bro. Todd and Sis. Valerie Steiner. Little Thadd Edward was born on July 15 and welcomed home by his siblings, Victoria, Trent, Corbin and Philip. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner and Bro. Ken and Sis. Mardell Dietz (Bradford, IL).

We rejoice with happy grandparents, Bro. Paul and Sis. Helen Michel, on the birth of Natalie Lynette on July 9, daughter of Marlise and Matthew Byrd (Roanoke, IL).

Bro. Bob Frank (Sis. Rose Mary) and Sis. Miriam Frank (Bro. Marvin) both spent some

time in the hospital this past month. We continue to lift them up in prayer to the Great Physician who knows our every need.

We trust God will bless Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) for his labor of love toward us in the ministering of the Word this past month.

Note of Thanks:

My sincere thanks and appreciation to all who remembered me with love and prayers and deeds of kindness during my surgery and recovery. May God richly bless you.

Bro. Willis Sauder

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Sue Ruppert

Denise Romersberger

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Proverbs 1:7

The word wisdom occurs 41 times in the book of Proverbs. That suggests its importance. In school, teachers often make one repeat something to emphasize its importance. Therefore, it seems that God is emphasizing the importance of the word wisdom.

Before the 1980's it was thought that knowledge doubled every 10 years. Now with computers and such, it doubles every 4 months. Therefore no one can know much about any one subject. Yet we all have the insatiable thirst for knowledge. How can we be satisfied? God is the only one who can supply all our need for He is infinite and all knowing.

James 1:5 states that "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him". As a Christian, then we turn to God daily as the source of divine knowledge and for His direction in our lives.

Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their children all in attendance. It is a special time to reach the milestone of 50 years together. We wish them God's blessing and pray they continue to have many more years together.

Sis. Jane DesCarpentrie was hospitalized this month and is now home and recovering well. We pray for her continued recovery at home and look forward to her return to worship with us.

We also put in our prayers Sis. Judy Witzig and Sis. Ellen Cox as both have undergone surgery recently and have many decisions to make regarding their medical conditions. The Lord is mighty and promises to never leave us without hope. We as the Church pray with you.

The Sunday School picnic was held Sunday afternoon at the Washington park. All in attendance had a great time and the children participated in organized activities. It is great to gather as a church and fellowship together in the beauty of the outdoors.

The church family rejoiced as another family member was added to our list. Bro. Steve Aberle gave his testimony and was subsequently baptized. We join his wife, Sis. Lea Ann, his children, and many other family members in this celebration of

new life! God go with you!

We had many visiting ministers here for the various activities of the month. Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Daren Plattner (Champaign, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), and Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) all lent their presence and talents to the Washington congregation. God bless you, brothers, and your families who joined you, or lent you to us, for your efforts.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Beth Aschliman
Tonia Isch

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid,”

John 14:27

We are thankful to have four souls announced for peace and baptism this month. They are Andrew Bertsch (Bro. James and Sis. Christy), Byron Gerber (Bro. Leon and Sis. Pat), Clint Gerber (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay) and Corey Steffen (Bro. Ramon and Sis. Lorena). May God continue to bless them while they follow him.

We are also rejoicing with our new converts, Justin Weil (Bro. Doyle and Sis. Lisa), Taylor Aschliman (Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy), Douglas Roop (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Roxanne), Justin Steffen (Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen), Adam Myers (John and Sis. Vero-

na), Joe Leman (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Val) and Kyle Schwartz (Bro. Scott and Sis. Patti). We are praying for them as they now seek their peace.

Sis. Carissa Geisel (Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy) and Bro. Jarod Studabaker (Larry and Carol) have been announced to be wed. We wish them God's blessings in their engagement as they await their wedding day.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Rose Rohr had Maria Jeanne on May 17. Older brother, John, and grandmother, Sis. Marie Steffen, welcome her. On June 12, Joshua Dean Vanhorn brightened the home of Bro. Dean and Sis. Marlene along with Elise and Madison. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lucinda Steffen. Also sent from Heaven is Kyler William born on May 27 to Bethany Neuenschwander. Grand - parents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Jean. God has answered our prayers for Holly and Alyssa Bertsch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Brenda) who have come home from the hospital after an extended stay. Also spending time in the hospital this month was Curt Reinhard (Bro. Larry and Sis. Deb), Sis. Anita Bertsch (Bro. Godfrey), and Colton Frauhiger (B.J. and Sis. Lana). They have all been in our thoughts and prayers.

Sis. Pat Bloomfield (Bro. Jim) has lost her mother, Leola Lehman. Also going to eternal rest was Harry Lantz (Sis. Caroline). Our sympathy is extended to both families.

We want to thank Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) and Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO) for sharing

the Word of God with us this month. On July 9, Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) came to share the reading of the Memorandum. We are thankful for all who serve so willingly.

INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Rhonda Maller
Ann Meyer

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) assist our Elder Bro. Phil Stettner in the reading of the Memorandum on June 25. Using Chapter 1 Timothy 5, Bro Ron related how God wants us to live useful and productive lives, even in our later years. There is no retirement as a Christian since we still have our Father's work to do. Other ministers that shared the Gospel with us were Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA). We really appreciated their visits.

“Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”

Psalms 37:4

Bro. Jarrod Studebaker (Larry and Carol, Bluffton) feels the Lord has given him his heart's desire in Sis. Carissa Geisel (Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy). Their engagement was announced July 2. We wish them joy as they make their plans for their new life together.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Myra Ringger (Bro. Steve) in the death of her niece, Ebony Montgomery. May we remember Myra's sister, Estelle Dahl-

kemper, in our prayers since she has lost all her children in the past two years.

God has heard all the prayers for Ryan Steffen (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay). Ryan is in rehabilitation and making great strides since his accident on May 4. Sis. Dorothy Schladenhuffen remains in the hospital. We are thankful to know God knows their every hurt and need.

Our Bro. Joe Honegger has left on the mission field to Guatemala. He will use his education in construction to help rebuild the badly damaged country. May his love for the Lord also touch their lives.

We had a church supper to thank Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Frauhiger for their eighteen years of service as custodians of the church. They kept our church spotless and shining. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg Yergler have taken over the job.

We wish to congratulate Bro. Eugene and Sis. Delores Maller on their golden anniversary. What an example of love and commitment.

"You should never let adversity get you down—except on your knees." (God's Little Devotional Book, pg. 70)

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Pam Huber

"Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set."

Proverbs 22:28

"Ancient Landmarks" was our theme for Vacation Bible School this year. It was a very edifying

topic and something which everyone could learn from. Our many thanks to the following visiting ministers who joined us for the week: Bros. Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) and Jon Zeller (Morton, IL). Thanks, as well to all the teachers, assistants, baby sitters, singing groups and those who invited guests. Because of your effort, love and sacrifice, it was a blessing to all who attended.

We pray God's grace and joy to Samuel Gutwein (Bro. Phil and Sis. Carol) and Carrie Blankford (Terence Blankford and Belva Lucas) who were married on June 18. May you understand a little more of God's great love through this new and blessed gift.

God's blessings and grace also to our Sis. Sandra Gutwein (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice) and Bro. Nick Waibel (Bro. Gary and Sis. Marsha) of Wolcott, who have announced their engagement. May He be your guide in the decisions and plans you make as your relationship grows.

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

Psalms 91:1

Ebony Montgomery, granddaughter of Bro. Joe and Sis. Ester Gray, passed on to that "secret place of the most High" on July 1. Our prayers for all her family that through this time of pain, they may learn to lean on our loving Saviour.

A heartfelt thanks to Bros.

Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) and Will Schieler (Milford, IN) who have refreshed us this past month with God's Word.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Nancy Witzig Lauretta Schafer

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

Luke 15:10

It was indeed a joyous weekend when Bro. Ryan and Sis. Hollie Meister gave their testimony before the church and were baptized. Bro. Ryan is the son of Bro. Dick and Sis. Sharon Meister (Remington, IN) and Sis. Hollie's parents are Mike and Joyce Pearson (Lafayette). Ministering to us that weekend were Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN), and Bros. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris, Wolcott, IN) and Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN). Also present was retired ministering Bro. Earl Kilgus (Sis. Arlene, Remington, IN).

Sharing the pulpit on another weekend was Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN). We are grateful to all who labor on our behalf and give us spiritual food in abundance, including our home ministers, Bros. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn), Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie) and Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa).

Bro. John Mayer (Sis. Edey) recently spent time in the hospital and is home recuperating. We pray for God's healing mercies on

him and also on Bro. Bill Witzig (Sis. Conni) recuperating after a fall.

Our children and many of their friends enjoyed a week of Vacation Bible School in June. It was inspiring to have so many neighbors at the Friday evening program. The children enthusiastically joined in word and in song to share their week of learning.

Several from our congregation participated in the Junior High Girl's Camp June 24-25 and the Junior High Boy's Camp July 8-9. We appreciated the junior high boys in our congregation for church services July 9.

July 15 was a work day at church. The brothers enjoyed working with one another. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." (Psalm 133:1).

INDIANA, LACROSSE Heidi Stoller

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

II Chronicles 7:14

Independence Day is a day for the believer to praise God for the freedom and blessings that He has bestowed upon our land, a country founded by God-fearing men. A country which still proclaims itself to be "one nation under God". We pray that in the years ahead, our citizenry will humble themselves, and pray and

seek God and turn from their wicked ways so that God will forgive our many sins and heal this land.

We pray God's blessings upon the marriage of Bro. Jim Butikofer and Sis. Diana Heinold. They were united as husband and wife on July 9. Their parents are Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne (Elgin, IA) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold. Bro. Jim and Sis. Diana plan to make Iowa City their home congregation.

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

Bob Pfister (Sis. Jan) had knee surgery following a fall. It is good to see him walking without crutches as he continues to heal. Prayers are answered.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled."

Matthew 5:6

We shall be filled when our hearts are prepared to receive God's Word.

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

II Timothy 4:2

Our spiritual needs were met this month through the preaching of the Word. We had a visit one Wednesday evening from Bro. James Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL), Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN), Ron Bollier and family (India-

napolis, IN) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN). We were blessed by Bro. James' message on Mark 10:17-27 and the conclusions. Other visiting ministers who challenged us were Bros. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO) and Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL).

We welcome Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany Plattner and Bro. Dan and Sis. Susan Meister to our church family. They have come to serve at Gateway Woods. We are grateful for their commitment and pray for God's blessing.

On July 2, Bro. Ron and Sis. Christy Bowie welcomed twin girls, Taryn Lilly Vienna and Tallia Rose Victoria. They were also welcomed by siblings, Alicia, Lydia, Matthais, Will and Teagan. Congratulations and God's blessings to your family.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon Pfister rejoice over the arrival of another granddaughter. Hannah Elizabeth is the second daughter of Karen and Dwight Smith. The exciting part is that Hannah was born on her great-grandmother's birthday, July 15, ONE HUNDRED years after Sis. Mayme Getz (deceased) who was born July 15, 1900. Karen prayed this might be the Lord's timing.

Bro. Otto Bertsch passed away on Sunday morning, July 16, just 14 days short of 96 years. He has not attended church for many months due to weakness. Services were at the Leo church on July 19. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sis. Frances. Our sympathy is extended to his surviving children, three daughters, Carol Witte, Donna Stuckey and Jane Hetrick; one son, Richard;

and grandchildren.

Thro' the shining gate,
where the angels wait,
when the saints are marching in,
The redeemed shall come,
and be crowned at home,
when the saints are marching
in...

What a wonderful chorus
thro' the sky shall ring,
when the saints are marching in.

Gospel Hymns #785

INDIANA, MILFORD

Pam Beer

Marguerite Hoerr

Our good friend, Kathy Holderbaum, was seriously burned on her arm, shoulder, back and side of her face as she lit a trash fire while cleaning up in their yard. Her husband, Rick, was slightly burned as he helped put out the fire on her. She is confined to her home but is making daily trips to Fort Wayne for burn treatments. Her folks came to help her during this time. Kathy and Rick have a blueberry farm and the harvest time is upon them. We are remembering Kathy and her family in our prayers as they deal with this untimely accident.

Our congregation said good-bye to a very special lady this month. Sis. Mary L. Gerber went to be with her Lord on Sunday, July 9. Mary was 96 years old and regularly attended church services with her sister, Tillie Kasbaum. We extend our sympathy to her two sons, Dean Gerber (Valparaiso, IN) and Glenn Gerber (Marion, OH), and to her three grandchildren. Our very deep sympathy is also ex-

tended to her sister, Tillie, who will miss her on a daily basis. Tillie lived with Mary and cared for her as her sight and her hearing made it difficult for her to do things for herself. The love these sisters had for each other was a thing of beauty to behold. Services were conducted by Elder Bro. Jesse Beer on July 12.

Another dear sister left us to be with the Lord just four days later. Sis. Dorothy S. Martin died July 13 in Lakeland Healthcare Center at the age of 92. Dorothy's husband, John, preceded her in death in 1999. Sympathy is lovingly given to her children: three daughters, Verla (Alan) Suttor, Bremen; Joyce (Bob) Wolferman, Milford; and Ruth (Pete) Blaettner, Fort Wayne; and also two sons, John and Gerald, both of Milford. She had 17 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson. Dorothy was a loving and loyal friend to so many of us and will be remembered with a great deal of love and admiration. Her services were conducted by our local ministers on July 17.

Along with sorrow comes joy. And what a joy it is to welcome little Trevor David Price as a newcomer to our congregation. He was born on July 6 and his happy first-time parents are Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Heidi. Maternal grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Pam Lehman of our congregation. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane Price, also of our congregation. We ask God's richest blessings on this entire family.

Our new sister in faith, Lauriel Fece, gave her testimony before the congregation July 15 and bap-

tismal services were conducted the following day by Bros. Bob Beebe and Jesse Beer. She has become a good friend to many of us and we rejoiced with her as she expressed her desire to walk with the Saviour.

Michelle Lehman and Brett Devenney were married in sunny Jamaica on July 4. Michelle's parents, Bro. John and Sis. Pam Lehman, attended the wedding. Steve's parents are Barb and Steve Devenney of nearby Warsaw. The couple will be residing in their Milford home south of town with their two little girls. We ask God's blessings on them and their family.

Our friend, Julie Beer, has spent a few more days in the hospital this past month but we're happy to report she's home again and feeling better.

Members and friends of our congregation have seen a birth, a marriage, a baptism, a painful accident, hospitalizations, and two deaths during the past month. Life continues to bring changes to a church home. Each person adds his or her contribution to making it the church home it is. We rejoice in happy times and grieve for those we lose, but God continues to walk with us and to guide us through all these experiences. Through all of these events, we become more keenly aware of His presence, and become more thankful for His influence in our lives.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler

Rochelle Ward

Sis. Angie Scheitlin (Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori) announced

her engagement to Bro. Jonathan Moser (Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenda) of Rockville, CT. Even though it's difficult to see those we love move so far away, witnessing their testimony of how the Lord has brought them together in total faith brings sweet comfort enabling us to bid her a fond farewell on October 1, their wedding date.

Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) ministered to us this past month along with Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) who attended the baptism of Sis. Tammy Waibel (Dean) and Sis. Peggy (Sutter) Hillenberg. We were so refreshed with the testimonies of these two dear sisters as they shared of God's special love in their lives.

Our new church facility has certainly been tried and tested the first three months of use. In the first thirteen Sundays we've had: open house, Communion, dedication, Easter program, a wedding, two funerals, graduation services, Vacation Bible School with thirty extra students and a baptism. Even with many hands making light work, much unseen service by various brethren has been completed to keep everything running smoothly. We are very thankful for each quiet, dedicated act of service.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**DeAnn Schlatter
Lavilla Langhofer**

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice." July 9 we all rejoiced as we greeted Luke Schafer as a brother in Christ following his baptism. How refreshed we feel after such a

weekend.

The home of Bro. Matt and Sis. Jennifer Mangold has been blessed by the arrival of Zachary William on July 11. Big brothers, Andrew and Benjamin, welcome him excitedly and we all look forward to a new baby in church.

Our prayers are with Bro. Wayne Lehman as he is recovering from hip surgery. We pray he will gain full recovery.

The Word is Truth and the Truth shall set us free. We are thankful for teachings from the Word we have had this month, especially visiting ministers, Bros. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) and Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN). May we take the challenges from the Word and apply them to our lives discerning the many things that bombard us in our day. II Corinthians 10:5 instructs, "Casting down imaginations and every thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Hope Bucher

One of the best treats of summer is Vacation Bible School. Our three day theme was "Peer Pressure" from our theme verse "For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." (John 12:43). This year we were blessed with special messages from Bros. Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN), Chris Huber (Francesville, IN) and Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL). Our featured singing groups were a men's octet from Bluffton, a men's quartet from Francesville, and the Ward sis-

ters from Francesville / Valparaiso. VBS is always a time of spiritual revival, and we want to thank all those who came and shared God's Word with us. Our children's theme was "God's Plan For You". We were especially excited to have great attendance in our Sunday School.

We also would like to thank Bro. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) for sharing the Word with us this month.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Karla Gerst
Brenda Schulz**

Our visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. Bill Gerst (Sis. Judy, Alto, MI) and Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL) and Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) and Ed Lanz (Sis. Joan, Oakville, IA). They were very much appreciated. May God bless them for their labors of love.

The engagement of Bro. Darin Massner and Sis. Twila Banwart (West Bend, IA) was made known to the congregation. Their parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail Massner and Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene Banwart (West Bend, IA). They are planning for an August 6 wedding.

**IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer**

With mixed emotions many of us worked together to disassemble our beloved church building. Our thanks to the West Bend brethren for their help with this project. It was greatly appreciated. Perhaps a brief history of our as-

sembly room would be interesting. In 1900, it was added to the original 1866 stone structure located 3 miles east of Elgin. In 1955, it was moved into town and became a part of our then "new church". In 1972, a foyer was added. So, for the past 100 years, it has been a place where people have gathered together to worship God and fellowship with one another; a place where tears of joy were shed at weddings and baptisms and tears of sorrow as last respects were made to loved ones called to their eternal rewards. May God's name be praised as we continue to labor together in love and unity to build our new worship edifice. During the time that our new church is being built (at the same location), we plan to worship in the basement of the Postville State Bank, approximately 10 miles northeast of Elgin. Since there are a few Sundays when we will be gathering elsewhere, we encourage any visitors to call ahead.

"...where two join hand and heart, we find a three fold cord, not lightly rent apart." (Zion's Harp #79). Many from our congregation attended the July 9 wedding of Bro. Jim Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne) to Sis. Diana Heinold (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie) in LaCrosse, IN. May God continue to bless them as they help each other along the narrow pathway.

Those of us who were unable to attend the wedding were thankful for the surprise visit of Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA) and his family. We always appreciate Bro. Fred's willingness to be used in God's service here. His wife, Sis. Kathy, was formally

from Elgin, so we're always glad for her visits "home", too.

Our sympathy is extended to LaVerne and Kathy Schneider who received word of the sudden death of Kathy's son, Warren Davidhizar (Hollsopple, PA). May God grant them the faith to continue to trust in His perfect will and timing.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE **Willa Clark**

We have been blessed with visitors this month as dear ones visit us while on vacation. Bro. Rex Frieden and family (Lamar, MO) visited to share God's Word and gave our minister, Bro. Brad and Sis. Laura Funk, an opportunity to visit family for a weekend.

An old saying that a farmer's corn should be "knee high by Fourth of July" is outdated with hybrid corn. This year, however, the warm and dry spring allowed exceptionally early planting. By July 4, the corn was nearly head-high and ready to tassel. But beautiful tassels do not necessarily mean a bountiful crop. The dry spring also means a severe shortage of subsoil moisture. Since the earlier dry spell, the Lord has blessed us with frequent rains to make the crops look beautiful. It appears a bountiful crop is ahead. But every farmer knows that lurking under the beauty there is not enough moisture to sustain crops if August turns dry. We trust God for frequent rains.

Parallel this with our spiritual walk. Do we have the outward beauty of a Christ-like soul, but "not enough moisture to make it through a drought"? Or are we

watered deeply with God's Word and allowing His presence and His grace to work in our lives, so if spiritual hardships come we can draw from His sustenance deep within?

IOWA, IOWA CITY **Janette Schulz**

Greetings to all! We are thankful for the many blessings God has shown us individually and as a congregation over the past two months. We appreciated many visitors, including ministering Bros. John Steiner and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Ed Strahm (Elgin, IL). May God richly bless each of you who traveled to worship with us and for those who "covered" for them at home.

Many of us missed some of the visitors as a number of us were able to travel to LaCrosse, IN, to witness the marriage vows of Bro. Jim and Sis. Diana (Heinold) Butikofer. We rejoice with them and wish them God's love, wisdom and blessings as they establish a new home together.

Sunday School elections were held, and we prayerfully support Bros. Christopher Eland and Jim Butikofer and Sis. Sharon Gerst as they assume these important positions. Our thanks to outgoing teachers, Bros. Ben Weyrick and Brad Eland and Sis. Emily Peterson for their diligence and love.

We congratulate and wish God's blessings for Ryan Eland, our high school graduate this year. May he feel God's guidance as he seeks out the path God has

planned for him.

Our annual College Student/Family Picnic will be held Sunday, September 17. Any area students and their families are welcome to attend. We look forward to meeting any new students and welcoming those who are returning for another year. It would be helpful if you could RSVP to Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst by September 3 at (319) 846-2348.

IOWA, LESTER
Dawn Metzger
Sue Warner

We are thankful for our ministers who share with us the Word of Life. We thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), for their willingness to be spent on our behalf.

We are so thankful for every soul who finds the grace to repent and finds forgiveness from their sins. Annie Metzger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois) and Betsy Doorneweerd (Bro. Butch and Sis. Marlys) have been granted the gift of peace. We pray that God will continue to be with them.

The engagement of our Sis. Angie Warner (Elder Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther) to Bro. Jason Fehr (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy), West Bend, IA, was announced. We are so happy for them and wish them God's richest blessings as they plan for their wedding.

On July 2, Wes Meyer (Bro. George and the late Sis. Charlyn) was united in marriage to Dawn Naatjes. We congratulate them

and pray that God will bless them.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Kathy Knoblock (Bro. Travis) on the death of her grandmother, Sis. Grace Heinold (La-Crosse, IN).

We welcome Bro. Phil Nenadov into our midst. He has moved here from the Minneapolis, MN, area.

We were saddened to say farewell to Sis. Jeanette Feucht who is moving to Denver, CO, to further her education. We pray that God will go with her and keep her in His care.

We have many in our midst who have been hospitalized or are suffering bodily afflictions: Gilbert Knobloch (Sis. Vicki), Bro. Ron Kellenberger, Sis. Emily Leuthold, and Sis. Shirley DeSmet (Bro. Bob). Bro. Lawrence Wulf and Liz Wulf (Emil) are battling with cancer. May God be near all of our loved ones, hold them up in His arms of compassion, and heal where it is His will.

Our plans are well under way for our upcoming Brotherhood Conference. We look forward to our many visitors and pray that the Conference will be a blessing to all.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with Bro. Bob Lanz in the passing of his dear wife, Sis. Emma Jean (Wagenbach). Although her suffering was very great, her attitude through it all has really touched so very many. What a strong faith she carried

with her to the very end. Sis. Emma Jean will be greatly missed in our congregation.

We also think of her dear family that remain here. We know they meant so much to her. They include one daughter, Sis. Lori White (Jeff), as well as three sons, Bro. Robby (Sis. Kris), Bro. Monte (Sis. Kelly) and Bro. Regan (Sis. Tricia), and also 12 grandchildren.

We also extend our love and sympathy to her brothers and sisters that survive. They include from Burlington: Sis. Verna Woodward; from Oakville: Sisters Ada, Barbara and Bertha Lee Massner, Dorothy Schulz, Dolores Anliker and Teresa Marti; from Morton: Sis. Edith Wagenbach. She is also survived by three brothers from Oakville: Bros. Paul, John and Gerald Wagenbach. May the Lord be near this dear family that they can all be together again someday. We also have much to rejoice about with the arrival of some precious new bundles from Heaven.

Dan and Pam Massner welcome into their hearts and home their third child and first son, Cauy Daniel. His big sisters, Darby and Allie, are also excited about a new baby brother to love. Also rejoicing in his safe arrival are his grandparents, Bro. Eric and Sis. Norma Massner and Larry and Pat Darbyshire.

Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn Wegman (Chicago, IL) and their sons, Brett and Philip, welcome to their home a brand new baby girl. They have named her Kristen Leigh. Her grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Rosemary Wegman and Bro. Norm and Sis.

Sally Haerr (Taylor, MO).

May the Lord be near each of these dear ones as they strive to raise their growing families.

We also want to thank our visiting ministers this past month. They were Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Bros. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA), Roy Koehl (Morris, MN) and Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN). May the Lord continue to bless them and their families for their labors of love.

IOWA, PULASKI

Katrina Knobloch

Two souls were baptized this month after testifying what God has done in their lives. We welcome Bros. Aaron and Andrew Musselman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy) into the fold. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) assisted our Bro. Doug. Also joining us for the day was Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL).

We were exhorted about unbelief. Interestingly enough, the word lie is in the word unbelief. We were reminded about the dangers of deception.

Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA) was with us for a Wednesday evening service. We thank you all for sharing God's Word with us.

Announcing their engagement and upcoming marriage are Joshua Townsend (Danny and Sis. Lynn Townsend) and Tara Hawkins. We wish them God's blessings as they plan for the future.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Eunice Fehr

Berniece Banwart

We appreciated our visiting ministers. Those here to share God's precious Word with us were Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandy, Morris, MN), LeRoy Messner (Sis. Joan, Winthrop, MN), Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Gene Marti (Sis. Mary, Kansas City, MO) and Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN), Myron Knobloch (Sis. Beth, Lester, IA), Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA), and Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN).

Our prayers and support go to Bro. Darren and Sis. Nora Fehr and their family as he has been chosen to minister the Word. May he always feel the inspiration of the Spirit as he carries out the will of the Lord and feeds the flock.

Lord willing, many from our congregation plan to go to Lester, IA, for the Conference. May our brethren feel the prayers of each congregation as they meet and deliberate the many concerns facing our church. May we in humility and submission uphold our precious faith.

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

I Cor. 15:58

On June 10, Konni Haverman (Don and Mona) and Cory Cantrall exchanged wedding vows. This same day, Amy

Schneider (Dave) and Lee Smith were married. We wish both of these couples much happiness and God's blessings throughout their lives together.

On June 18, we witnessed the baptism of Minny Bruellman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Deb) after sharing her testimony the previous evening. We welcome Sis. Minny into the fold and wish her much grace as she has given her life to the Lord in her youth.

We rejoice with another young convert, Isaac Mogler (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Beth), as he has found peace with God and man. We look forward to his testimony in the near future.

Believing that God has directed them to become husband and wife, Bro. Darin Massner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail) of Burlington, IA, and Sis. Twila Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene) have announced their engagement. Bro. Jason Fehr (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy) and Sis. Angie Warner (Elder Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) have also been led by faith to be joined in marriage. Congratulations to both of these couples and may they feel God's direction and love as they plan their August weddings.

When we start back to school in August, along with new eager preschool children, we have some new Sunday School teachers. Accepting these positions are Sis. Joan Wirtz (Bro. Jim), Sis. Lori Skogland (Bro. Mark), Bro. Harlan Metzger (Sis. Shirley), Bro. Ken Banwart (Sis. Marlene) and Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie). Thank you to those who have served their terms in Sunday School. It is so important

to teach our children in their youth, not only on Sunday, but every day in our homes.

Sis. Hulda Wirtz and Bro. Marc Banwart had a short hospital stay. Bro. Lyle Rick has been released from the hospital and is now at the West Bend Care Center. Lucille Wirtz submitted to heart surgery and is now in her home. We have missed her in our fellowship and hope she can soon feel well enough to gather with us. We have others in homes and care centers who need our prayers and visits to encourage them.

*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 **Ayako Inoue**

Greetings in our Saviour's name again this month!

The rainy season is coming to an end and the hot and humid days will soon be here. The Shioda area is called the Kofu Basin, and is famous for its hot weather. However, the Shioda area grows a lot of peaches and as some of you may know, this month is the time of harvest. We thank the Lord for these blessings, which are the fruit of the land.

One of the scriptures that was opened to us this month was James 3:1-12, "Even so, the

tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things...Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be." We often find ourselves saying things that we really don't want to say, and then feel "I was not a good witness of God", or "I was not a good example to others today." The tongue is a very small organ that is very easy to use, but it is also easy to be misused, and we are warned to be careful in the way we use it. We ask God's wisdom and help so that we may use our tongue in a good way, praising Him and spreading His Word.

This month was the last month the Aberles were with us in Japan. We loved it whenever they visited Shioda, and we will greatly miss them. We thank God for the years we could be with them, and pray that He will keep them and guide them after they return to the States.

We are looking forward to the Tokyo and Shioda's summer gathering coming up next week. The theme will be "Growth of our Faith and our Church" and we ask for God's blessings upon it.

JAPAN, TOKYO **Marie Inoue**

Our rainy season is finished and now we will be having hot humid weather for several months. This is a bit uncomfortable but helps the fruit to become very sweet as it ripens on the trees.

"I'd Rather Have Jesus" was the farewell song chosen by Bro. Andy Aberle for his family (Sis. Chris, Ben and Drew) at the farewell dinner and singing held in their honor. After four years of a

blessed relationship in worshiping and fellowshiping together, the Aberles finished their duties with Caterpillar - Mitsubishi and have returned to the Tremont, IL, area. They were a vibrant part of our church and taught us many scriptural truths in word and deed. We thank them for spending and being spent on our behalf. May God's blessings be with them as they adjust to life back in the States and take their place in the Tremont church.

One Sunday after church several cars of us drove to some sites available for building a new church edifice. The present location has no legal parking area. The sites were in nice areas but seemed rather far for our brethren and not so affordable. We continue to pray what the Lord would have us to do.

Desiring fellowship during the week were visitors from Paris, France, and Bay City, MI. Our Bro. Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne) came in June and Sis. Carolyn Schamback, daughter Jody, and friend, Kaly, visited us in July. We enjoyed each one as we sang several hymns together and thank them for making an effort to stop by.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Lester, IA, as they host the 2000 Brotherhood Conference. May God be with each one who participates as we carry on our precious faith.

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

"Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor

his mercy from me.”

Psalm 66:20

This verse in Psalms is just one of many beautiful reminders of God's promises to us. To all of us who have come in our sin-sick state to the foot of the cross, we have found that God truly does answer our pleas for mercy. Such was the testimony of three of our converts the weekend of June 24-25. We gladly welcome each one into the brotherhood: Jason Rokey (Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy), Steven Edelman (Eugene and Judy) and Angela Edelman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna). We were so beautifully reminded that our testimony does not end on the evening of our “proving” but that we are to be a “living testimony” all of our lives. We are ambassadors for Christ. We are pilgrims in a foreign land, representing our King! Doesn't this stir up our hearts and give us renewed courage to press onward? May our lives always be a reflection of Christ living within.

Sharing in our joy the weekend of June 24-25 were Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), Bro. James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX). We appreciated each one sharing God's Word with us and welcome them back any time.

July 1 was a special day in the lives of Rachel Hundley and Michael McLin as they were united in marriage. Rachel's parents are John and Sis. Margaret and Michael's parents are Marshall and Mary McLin of Silver Lake, KS. We rejoice with Rachel and Michael and pray that they may feel the Lord's presence throughout

their married life.

Our prayers have been with Sis. Nancy Baumgartner (Bro. Leonard) who has recently spent time in the hospital. Also in need of our prayers are Ed and Sara Popkess and their two sons, Hogan and Hunter, as Sara continues to face uncertain health concerns.

Life is constantly changing, but we know that among all the changes God continues to offer grace sufficient to cover all our needs. Bro. Emil and Sis. Grace Strahm have experienced a change in their lives as Sis. Grace is now a resident of our Apostolic Care Home in Sabetha.

Two from our congregation are leaving and relocating in new areas. Bethany Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) is moving to Silverton, OR, to take up employment there. We received word that Tabitha Reist (Dave and Marcy) is planning to move to Baltimore, MD, to finish her schooling. We trust that both of them will feel the prayers of those they love even though many miles separate them from home.

It is always a blessing to have visitors come and worship with us. The weekend of July 15-16 many were here for a Fort Sam reunion in the Bern/Sabetha area. Two visiting ministers that shared God's Word with us were Bros. Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL). May the Lord bless them for their labors on our behalf.

We want to offer our prayers on behalf of our Elder brethren who will be gathering in Lester, IA, on August 11 to share and speak on many timely topics. May

each one be granted much wisdom and grace.

Summer is a special season of the year...it's a time of family togetherness. Whether it be in sharing in the work at home or traveling, parents and children have the opportunity to spend quality time together. All too soon July melts into August and our thoughts turn to school. Let us all remember our administrators, teachers, parents and students in prayer as a new school year will soon be starting.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Joleen Sinn

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

Thayer Banwart (Bro. Lon and Sis. Deb) has decided to turn his back to the world and give his life to his Creator. Our prayers are with him as he begins this new walk of life.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Julie Bahr have a new little one to love and nurture. Austin James was born July 6. He is also welcomed by big sister, Heather, and grandparents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth Bahr and Sis. Martha Feucht (Lester, IA).

KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY Sarah Somerhalder

We want to thank Elder Bro. Gene and Sis. Mary Marti (Kansas City, MO) for being with us on Sunday, July 9. It was indeed a memorable day as this was probably Elder Bro. Gene's last time to occupy the pulpit in our assembly

as he plans on retiring in August. May the Lord richly reward Elder Bro. Gene and Sis. Mary for the many trips to the Gridley, Lamont, and Lamont-Gridley churches and the many labors of love shown to our congregation over the years.

Also visiting us this month were ministering Bros. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA). May the Lord bless them for bringing the Word of Life to us.

“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

After much suffering, retired ministering Bro. Loren Strahm (Sis. Liseten, Sabetha, KS) was called to eternity on July 12. We extend our prayers and sympathy to Sis. Liseten and her children, Sis. Dorene (Bro. Eldon) Metzger, Jake (June) Strahm (Emporia, KS), Sis. Mara Jean (Bro. Albert) Edelman, Kerry Jo (Steve) Beyer (Olathe, KS), Rose Ann (Terry) Schiesser (York, PA), Sis. Julie (Bro. Brian) Bahr, Phil (Gail) Strahm (Rainbow, TX), Scott (Kathy) Strahm (Emporia, KS) and Sis. Tina (Jeff) Schumacher (Leo, IN). God will surely bless Sis. Listen and her children for caring for Bro. Loren during the many months he was ill. Bro. Loren was a minister for 40 years in our Gridley, KS, congregation before he retired in 1988.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger
Brenda Grimm

We are thankful Bro. Korbin Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen) is gradually recovering after a farming accident and has been able to assemble with us.

Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bros. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA), James Kaeb (Bern, KS), Will Schieler (Milford, IN), James Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) were our visiting ministers. We also appreciated all the visitors we had for a Ft. Sam reunion.

We extend sympathy to the families who have lost loved ones. Bro. Loren Strahm passed away July 2 after a lengthy illness. We remember his wife, Sis. Liseten, and other surviving family members in prayer. Funeral services are planned for Bro. Donald Strahm who passed away on July 15. Our prayers are with his sister, Velma Albin (Kenny), and two brothers who survive.

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

June 19 was the birth date for Andrew Christopher and Jackson Lee Setzer. These precious little boys are the sons of Kathleen and Chris Setzer and are welcomed home by a brother, William. Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally Funk are the maternal grandparents and Linda and the late Keith Setzer are the paternal grandparents.

We were pleasantly surprised Sunday, June 25, when Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane Luthi and family (Lamont-Gridley) were in

our congregation. Then Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice Bahr and their daughters (Kiowa, KS) joined us for afternoon services. We were richly blessed by their presence and thank them for sharing the Gospel with us.

Sadly, I must report that Sis. Gussie Wullleger experienced complications after her by-pass surgery. At this time she is being cared for in the skilled nursing unit at St. Frances Hospital. We continue to pray for her well being.

Sis. Kathleen Gallatin was a surgical patient last month. We thank God for her recovery. It is good to have her back in the assembly again.

Our congregation is enjoying the fellowship of Witalis Hagelgans, a carpenter's apprentice from Germany. This sincere young man is living with Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel and working with Bro. Max as a finish carpenter.

July 8-9 was our scheduled visiting minister weekend. We were privileged to have Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) in our midst. After our church potluck dinner on Saturday evening, Bro. Doyle spoke to us about our need to watch and pray and be committed to our Christian calling. Then Sunday morning, Bro. Roger and Sis. LaVonne Aberle (Sabetha, KS) joined us for the day. We thank these brothers for their willingness to spend time and effort in our behalf.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**Barbara Huber**

Summer vacations have brought many visitors to Lexington. We appreciate all those who came to share and worship with us. We have been blessed with the opportunity for Christian fellowship. They represented the following churches: Lester, IA; Bradford, Elgin, Morton, Princeville, IL; Junction, Rittman, and Smithville, OH.

We were blessed with inspiring messages from the following visiting ministers: Bros. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL). We're thankful for their willingness to travel many miles to serve and share God's Word with us. May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

As another summer comes to a close, young people will return to school. We encourage them to remember Solomon's words in Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding, but in all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

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**

We rejoice with the Avina family in the birth of a new baby in their family. A baby girl was born on June 29. Her parents are Miguel and Dolores (Lola) Avina. This is their second child. Miguelito is her big brother.

We are very happy because we have four new members in our church family. On July 6, three Elders, Bro. Charles Hemmer, Bro. Roy Grimm, and Bro. Jon Kokanovich, arrived and then went to visit the church in Morelia on the following day. On Saturday, July 8, the new believers gave their testimony to the church and then on Sunday, many people witnessed their profession of faith and baptism. They are Jose Magana, the husband of our sister Aurora, Lourdes Leon Sibaja, the mother of three of our sisters, and Claudia and Rosario Gonzalez, whose mother and sister are also awaiting baptism.

Meet Sis.

Rosa Cabrera Montejano:

Rosa tells us, "I am 22 years old, single, and there are ten members in my family. I am a believer and was baptized on November 3, 1996. Before I knew Jesus Christ, I lived like any other person not knowing Jesus and living in sin. I thought that everything I did was good because I did not know what sin was. As a result, I was dead in sin but did not know it, as Romans 6:23 says, 'For the wages of sin is death.' I was living in darkness because of my sins and transgressions. But God, who is rich in mercy, rescued me from the darkness to the light, permitting me to know the Lord through an uncle who shared the Gospel with us. He spoke to us about the Word of God and it was then that I recognized myself as a sinner, and not just an ordinary sinner, a great sinner. I lived a life without meaning and in bitterness and resentment towards everyone.

There was jealousy in my heart, and even worse, sin. My uncle gave us a Bible and I began reading it to my mother who could not read. After about a year of doing this, a sister in the church visited us and invited us to the services. I went with her to meet the ministering brother and then returned the following day in repentance. Now my life has meaning in Jesus Christ. I am infinitely thankful to the Lord for rescuing me from sin and from the clutches of Satan. At first, my family opposed me, but now there are three others in my family that have received Jesus as their Saviour. For this, I am very grateful for all the blessings He has given through Jesus Christ who shed His blood for our sins. To Him be glory forever."

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

Psalms 32:8

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

"When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impels them to the Separation."

"We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are cre-

ated equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, That among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness"... These are powerful words written by Thomas Jefferson that became known as this country's "Declaration of Independence". It is evident that these words were inspired by his love for his Creator in Heaven. All through history the great faith of our early leaders has been recorded. John Adams, our second president, our first president to live in the Washington DC White House, penned on his second night there, "I pray to heaven to bestow the best Blessings on this House and all that shall here after inhabit it. May none but honest and wise Men ever rule beneath this roof." (These words can be seen on the mantel in the White House today.) This is what the celebration of the country should be about. This is why God built a hedge around our country and blessed it with prosperity above all other nations. But will the hedge remain? Will God still protect our nation as it stands today or will God leave us to our own demise? Are we still "One nation under God"? Not only should we consider these words this month, but in the coming months of this election year.

VBS was a fruitful week not only for the children but for the parents alike as Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jan Frauhiger (Bluffton, IN) came to minister to us. This year's VBS had to be held at Dari's Banquet Hall because of water damage at the church. We would like to thank all those

brothers, sisters and friends who made the week possible.

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

Romans 5:1

We rejoice in the announcement that Ben Kaeb has found peace with God. We look forward to his baptism, along with Aaron Plattner's on July 29.

Congratulations to new parents, Bro. Ned and Sis. Heide Stoller, (Grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne Kaeb) on the birth of their daughter, Eleanor Rose. We wish you God's blessing on your new arrival and on your upcoming move to Alto.

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

Genesis 2:18

And again the Lord did show his promise and united in marriage Kathy Byam (Doug and Marilyn) and Ted Austin. We pray God's blessing on the union and wish them the best as they make their home in Seattle, WA.

Once again this month we send out prayers for Sis. Margaret Wingeier and the upcoming surgery on her leg. May God strengthen you as this ailment continues to hamper you.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Rhonda Knochel

Peggy Jackson

We want to begin our news with thanks this month. Last month we enjoyed a wonderful

week of Vacation Bible School. This is not only an exciting time for the children, but it is also a special time for adults as well. Every evening we gather to hear a guest minister speak on a designated topic. This year our theme was "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." Joining us to speak on this topic were: Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Bro. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Robert Meyer (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL). These brothers and their wives traveled many miles to be with us and we are so thankful and blessed because of their sacrifices. It is our prayer that God blesses each one for their faithfulness.

We had several in our congregation spend time in the hospital this month. They are: Bro. Dean Pashak (Sis. Connie), Bro. Dave Schlatter (Sis. Margaret), Bro. Ron Wackerle, and Frank Bragiel (Sis. Irma). We are so thankful that each one was able to get the help they needed and pray that God's healing and Almighty hand will rest upon them in the days ahead.

Some in our congregation recently experienced the loss of a dear sister, Sis. Dorothy Reineck (Detroit). They want to express their thanks in the following note:

"We want to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for all the cards, prayers and kind acts of help and support extended to us during the passing of our dear sister, Sis. Dorothy Reineck. Thank you and may God bless you richly."

Dorothy's brothers and sisters

It is our sincere prayer that each of you will feel God's nearness and presence in your lives and that in this month you will come to deeper knowledge of Him. God bless you!

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Bonnie Bedolla
Crystal Ramsier

"Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding."

Psalm 47:6,7

Our annual choir benefit for the Woodhaven Retirement Community was held on July 9. We enjoyed the delicious pork chop dinner and were inspired by the hymns the choir sang in the evening program.

We hope that Bro. Floyd Wieland and Bro. Ben Belsley will be able to assemble with us again soon. They have both spent time in the hospital this month.

Our sympathy goes out to Chuck and Dorothy Leman and Sis. Amanda Bates in the loss of Ron Moser, Chuck and Dorothy's nephew and Sis. Amanda's uncle.

Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen held Tuesday evening services at Woodhaven this month. We appreciate he and Sis. Loretta's faithfulness in serving the Woodhaven residents.

Bro. Kevin Rauhe (Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay), Sis. Alexis Gasser (Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue) and Sis. Danielle Mojic (Laza and Ranka) gave their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of

July 15-16. They shared how God had made them "whole" by converting their hearts and sending His Holy Spirit to dwell in them. It was truly a joy to welcome them as our brother and sisters in faith. Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN) were here for the baptisms and shared God's Word with us. Elder Bro. Mark Masters also assisted with the testimonies. Thank you both for being willing to be used in God's service.

Our support and prayers are with several individuals who have taken on additional responsibilities at church. Bro. Doug Maibach is now a trustee, Sis. Beth Knochel is our new secretary and Bro. Mark Ramseyer and Sis. Kristine Krieger have been added to the Sunday School staff. We appreciate the dedication and sincere efforts of those whose terms were recently fulfilled.

At the time of this writing, we are in the midst of our Vacation Bible School week. The theme this year is "Stand Up for Jesus". We pray that the students will understand God's love for them and plan of salvation a little better as a result of this week.

MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Delores Sauder

We enjoyed the blessed fellowship of loved ones from far and near as we hosted our annual invite-a-friend the weekend of June 17-18.

The Sunday School finished this term with their picnic on June 25. Classes will resume

again after Labor Day.

We have enjoyed the blessing of having visiting ministers share with us God's Holy Word. They were Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bros. John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) and Rod Bajema (Lester, IA). We thank them for their labors of love.

Children are a blessing from God. Bro. Sam, Sis. Ruth and Ethan Moser welcome Wyatt Noah. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Moser (Morris, MN) and Dale and Sis. Freidora Wiegand (Eureka, IL). Carter and Amy Leuthold became parents for the first time with the arrival of Madison Lyn. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Mardi Leuthold (Lester, IA).

Fabian Lieschke, a foreign exchange student, has left to return home to Germany. He was living with Bro. Rick, Sis. Brenda and Tyler Messner. When he left, he handed Sis. Brenda a note stating how much closer he had become to God this past year and for the church family. It is a reminder that we minister daily to those around us.

"Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight" was the theme of Vacation Bible School held the week of July 14. Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA) spoke to us on Friday evening reminding us of the great price that Jesus paid and what a privileged people we are. He also reminded the children to obey their parents and that as parents to train up a child according to God's Word. We thank Bro. Rod and appreciated his participation in making the week a blessed one.

Our prayers are with the Elder

brothers as they are preparing for the Conference in August.

Reminder: Silver Lining dues are due in August.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Cheryl Messner

Dianne Kellenberger

We're thankful for all of our visitors this past month that have come to worship and fellowship with us. Our special thanks to Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) for ministering unto us.

On July 5, God blessed the family of Bro. Dwayne and Sis. Kay Feuchtenberger with a precious newborn. Along with their parents, Tristan, Shanda, and Natalie welcomed Tracy K. into their home. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Lois Koehl and Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen Feuchtenberger. We wish them God's grace and continued blessings as they raise their children.

We're mindful of those who suffer pain and deterioration of the body. Those who have been hospitalized are Bro. Anton Schaefer (Sis. Verna) and Michael and Paul Koehl (Bro. Guy and Sis. Lynette).

I think of a very dear sister in faith who so patiently endures her illness and pain as God's will. She's so peaceful and so close to God. What a blessing to visit with such souls!

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry

Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness,
Take it to the Lord in prayer!

Hymns of Zion #161

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Carol Ann Messner

Marilyn Messner

Jesus' death arena
And His cross and grave
Teach me wait serenely
God's will sure and safe;
My support and pillar
And my gain is He,
My strong fort in terror
God is still with me.

Zion's Harp

We're so thankful for our ministers who bring forth warnings and blessings following Christ. Our visitors were Bros. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) and Steve Baner (Sis. DonnaLou, Gridley, IL) and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL). We were reminded that the purpose of God is the saving of souls. We are thankful these brethren came to Winthrop to share the Gospel and the truth of His Word.

God's blessings are extended to Nicole Miller and Allan Fettig on their marriage. Parents are Tom and Maggie Miller and Robert and Vicky Fettig of Fargo, ND.

This past spring, a group of us from our area were privileged to go to Kingston, Jamaica, on a

work team to the CCCD (Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf) campus. The majority of the work we did was cement work, plumbing and drywall. We thoroughly enjoyed laboring together with the 37 member work team and we received countless blessings from the deaf children and the staff there at CCCD! They appreciated us and the work we did so much and were genuinely thankful to our Lord for what we did for them. We went there to do God's work and to help these precious children; yet we feel like we came away with so much more than we gave.

It truly was a life-changing experience and we're thanking God for the opportunity. "When Jesus comes with trumpet sound the young deaf ears will then hear sound; because of loving hands from there our hearts will always hold them dear." (CCCD Kingston Work Team - March 2000)

Hospital patients were Sis. Hazel (Bro. Elmer) Schmidt, Sis. Gerry Messner (Bro. Harold) and Sis. Delores Messerli. Improvement from God's healing hand is prayed for.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Kristen Braker

Kristi Huber

We are thankful for the visitors we have had with us this past month, including Bro. Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL). We appreciate his labors in ministering God's Word to us.

Bro. Raymond Luthi (Sis. Violet) and Mark Luthi (Bro. Troy and Sis. Vannessa) were our hospital patients this month. Thank-

fully, their stays were brief as God blessed them with recovering health.

Jason Banwart (Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda) and Elizabeth Sprouls (Doug and Pam) have announced their engagement. We pray they may look to our Heavenly Father to direct them as they make plans for their future together.

We apologize for failing to report that Ryan Braker (Terry and Rene') had graduated from high school. Our prayers are with him as he has moved to Texas.

"And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter."

Acts 15:6

As the Brotherhood Conference is nearing, may we uphold our Elder brethren in prayer so that the true faith may be preserved.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Rachel Schrock

Lately we have been studying the Messianic prophesies that are scattered throughout the book of Isaiah. During one such Bible Study the comment was made that a God we understand is smaller than we are. How often do we belittle our Heavenly Father as we try to understand the reasoning behind His workings in the Bible and in our lives! Truly, "for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts," (Isaiah 55:9) saith the Lord.

God's ways are higher than ours as we have experienced in

the last months here in St. Louis. He has seen our small congregation and has drawn a few more souls to gather with us. Linda Martinez and her daughter, Amanda, have been a welcome addition to our congregation and Sunday School. Also, Bro. Jim and Sis. Vi Barton (Detroit) will be among us for a few months as he oversees a construction project for work. We are thankful for the fellowship of each one.

We are also thankful for the fellowship of our visiting ministering brethren. This past month we have enjoyed Bros. Loren Knapp (Sis. Joan, Tucson, AZ), Ken Knapp (Sis. Phyllis, Taylor, MO), Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene, Peoria, IL), Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol Anne, Peoria, IL), Tim Funk (Sis. Debbie, Peoria, IL), Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL) and John Stoller (Sis. Patsy, Leo, IN). One Sunday we set a St. Louis record by having six of the aforementioned ministers at once! May God bless each one of these dear brothers and their families.

May God also bless each of our many other visitors from this past month. We appreciate your taking time during your vacation to fellowship with us and we encourage any others who may be passing through to spend their Sunday with us as well. May we all appreciate the blessing we enjoy of traveling from church to church and feeling the love of the brethren across the land.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Peg Haerr

It was a joy to celebrate James and Lois Sutter's 50th anniversary on June 25. Their children had a lovely reception for them at the Fellowship Center. Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marian Pflum celebrated their 40th anniversary with a family get-together in Oakville, IA.

Our graduates this year are Jay Gottman (Jim and Sally), Amber Heimer (Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan), Brad Marquart (Bro. David and Sis. Lori), Cory Meyers (Danny and Jody) and Ben Runser (Steve and Anne Wiegand). May the Lord direct their paths throughout their lives.

We've been blessed to have several visiting ministers this month: Bros. Jim Ramseyer (Sis. Marlene, Bay City, MI), Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL), Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington, IL), Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) and Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL). We appreciate their willingness to serve.

Brenden Adair Massner was born July 16 to Chad and Lisa Massner. Courtney and Blake are happy with their new brother! Grandparents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Rosie Massner and Carl and Alice Adair.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Bro. Jason Strahm to Sis. Courtney Hoerr of Peoria. Her parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Joann Hoerr of Peoria and his parents are Clayton and Sis. Miriam Strahm of Bern, KS. We pray God's blessings will be upon them.

I neglected to mention that

Doug and Amy Hoerr, along with their children, Jessica, Mackinley and Mark, have moved to Auxvasse, MO. Also, Bro. Todd and Sis. Lisa Bryant have recently moved to central Illinois and will be attending the Peoria church. May God go with these families wherever they go.

Our hearts are still saddened by the death of my dear mother, Sis. Ginny Hunziker (Bro. Al, Morton, IL), on July 18. May we all be ready to meet again in those heavenly mansions that God has prepared for those that love Him.

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Anna Mellnitz**

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

John 4:23-24

Our annual Sunday School wiener roast was held at Croghan Park.

We had visiting ministering Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO). We had services on Tuesday night instead of Wednesday night.

On July 15-16 we had visiting ministering Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie) and others from Rockville, CT. We had a potluck supper on Saturday night and singing afterwards.

We also had Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie) from Tremont, IL, and had a supper on Sunday

night and then a singing. We are thankful for all our visitors.

**OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser**

We rejoice that our new house of worship was dedicated Sunday, July 16. We appreciated the many visitors that day, including Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis), Andy Stoller (Smithville), and Merle Hartzler (Rittman); and ministering Bros. Mike Ursu (Kitchener), Glenn Riggensbach (Smithville) and Jerry Bauman (Rittman). Also, retired Elder Bros. Henry Dotterer (Rittman) and Ken Sauder (Mansfield). Inspiring messages were given to us. It is our desire that this new edifice will continue to be a place where God's Word is proclaimed in truth and sincerity and those that hear it will be directed heavenward.

Open House had been held the previous Sunday on July 9. We were glad for all who could visit us on that day, including Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield), and ministering Bros. Tom Leman (Denver) and Gary Maibach (Smithville).

We of the Akron congregation are thankful the Lord has opened the way for us to have this new church building, and are grateful for the many people who labored to make this possible. Visitors are welcome to assemble with us.

We rejoice that Gregory Henico has peace with God and awaits giving his testimony. His parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah Henico.

Bro. Bryon Palitto had a mishap and was hospitalized over-

night. He is back assembling with us, and we pray for his full recovery. Harold Fritz was hospitalized and we wish for him the Lord's mercy.

**OHIO, COLUMBUS
Anita Steiner**

Should I restrain the Spirit's course

For fear of man so feeble?

Though Satan's hosts are raging here,

Should I not be more faithful?

Awed by a mortal's frown, shall I

Conceal the Word of God Most

High?

Zion's Harp #113

Our visiting ministers for this month were Bros. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH), Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Ben Manz (Junction, OH). May God bless these brothers for their continued efforts. Our prayer is that whoever would be called upon to bring forth God's Word would be inspired by the Holy Spirit.

We continue to pray for Will Sauder as he is stationed at Texas in the Army Reserves. Those who wish to write to him, his address is as follows: PFC Sauder William K., 2nd PLT Class 19-00, FCO 232 MED BN, FT. Sam Houston, TX 78234.

**OHIO, JUNCTION
Cindy Schlatter**

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth..."

Luke 15:7

We are thankful to be able to report that we have not one but two souls that have given their lives to the Lord this past month. Those souls are Cindy Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) and Kari Manz (Bro. Les and Sis. Karen). What joy it brings to our hearts when we hear that God has again, and continues to hear and answer our prayers.

We were blessed to have several ministers visit us. Those who labored on our behalf were Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL). May God richly bless you and please visit us again.

Our Sis. Anna Manz was laid to rest on July 14. She will surely be missed by her family, but we can all be thankful that she was able to go to be with her Lord and Saviour. Surviving is Sis. Louise (Emmanuel) Manz of Cissna Park, IL. Sis. Anna was preceded in death by her parents, Bro. Jacob and Sis. Anna (Dotterer) Manz, and five brothers, Henry, Herman, Samuel, Adam and Emmanuel; and nine sisters, Katie, Emma, Lydia, Hulda, Frieda, Frances and Helen Manz and Magdalena Stoller.

Last month Bro. Roger Gasser (Sis. Sue) spent time in the hospital. We are thankful God has restored health and that Roger is doing well again. Please forgive me for omitting this last month.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Anna Manz wishes to thank all those who were so kind to their loved one during her long illness and who assisted in any way after her death with visits, food, prayers,

etc. May God bless each one.

OHIO, LATTY Kathy Sinn Heidi Hackenjos

It was such a joy to hear our children, the future church, sing songs and recite verses during the Bible School program. May these young souls make decisions that will direct their lives toward "The Lighthouse", Who they learned more about during the week. May our examples also be in according to and show that we are striving to direct our ships of faith undeviatingly toward "The Lighthouse".

To Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), and Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN), we extend our thanks for their visit to our congregation. May the Lord bless each one as he continues to preach the Truth of the Word.

Our congregation welcomed four new babies into our church family. Bro. Ben and Sis. Kendra Stoller, as first-time parents, welcome Lucy Ann. She is gladly received by grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb Stoller and Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene Banwart (West Bend, IA).

Another precious baby girl was born unto Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam Stoller. Siblings, Sis. Heidi, Ryan, Heather, Holly, and Hannah, embrace Haleigh Renae. Her grandparents are Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvne Stoller and Sis. Mary Ellen Walker (Akron, OH).

Luke Sinn became a big brother to Weston Mark during

the month. These boys will be raised in the nurture and fear of the Lord by parents, Bro. Mark and Sis. Diane Sinn, and grandparents, Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn and Bro. Otto and Sis. Marian Sinn (Silverton, OR).

Another couple became first-time parents by the birth of another boy. Josh and Chrissy Sinn will cherish Trae Michael. His grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn Sinn and Mike and Julie Pease.

During the month, Ken Stoller (Sis. Esther) submitted to surgery. We are so thankful that he seems to be healing and will be able to return to church. Bro. Alvin Klopfenstein (Sis. Ellen) was briefly hospitalized during the month. We are thankful for God's healing hand for Bro. Alvin also.

Our congregation experienced sorrow at the passing of another soul from time into eternity. Sis. Iris Laukhuf (Bro. Bob) passed away July 2. She gained a victory over cancer and death as she now lives in eternal bliss. She will be sorely missed by her husband, Bro. Bob, and children, Gaye (Mark) Myers and Gary. May the Holy Spirit be a Comforter during the coming days.

OHIO, MANSFIELD John and Marci Pfeiffer

Peter James was born on June 13 to Bro. Ed and Sis. Judy Dawson. Peter's brothers and sisters are Marjorie, Jonathan, Matthew, and Elizabeth. His grandparents are Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue Beer.

Karissa Layne arrived on June 15 to first-time parents, Bro. Eric

and Sis. Stephany Maibach (Rittman, OH). Her grandparents are Bro. Clair and Sis. Beverly Keever and Jeff and Elsie Maibach (Rittman, OH).

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

Psalm 127:3

Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 19-23. We thank our ministering brothers and Sunday School teachers for their many efforts. The ministers and topics were:

Monday - Bro. Mike Baumann, “Hold Fast to What’s Right”

Tuesday - Bro. Lester Huber (Lexington, KY), “Teaching by Parables”

Wednesday - Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Regular Wednesday service

Thursday - Elder Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL), “Spiritual Joy and Servanthood”

Friday - Elder Bro. Mark Masters, “Internet Paper” and “Abundant Life” tape by Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL)

The Lord blessed our congregation with many visiting ministers. We thank Bros. Sidney Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL), Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), and Tom Leman (Denver, CO) for their labors of love.

Through the tender mercy of God, another soul is repenting! Abigail Ramsey (Bro. Ed and Sis. Laura) has answered God’s call. Let us continue to pray for those still lost in sin.

Sis. Peg Graszl (Bro. Frank),

Bro. Jim Zimmer (Sis. Clara) and Dick Vent (Sis. Becky) spent time in the hospital this month. We pray that God will comfort and heal where it is His will.

Our Sunday School picnic was on July 9 at the home of Ron and Vickie Kirschenmann. Many thanks to the hosts and all the Sunday School teachers.

Thirty-six brethren and friends from our congregation traveled to Jamaica as part of a World Relief work team. Their focus was to assist a School for the Deaf in Knockpatrick. May God bless these efforts.

OHIO, RITTMAN

**Lynda Beery
Beth Beery**

“Be still, and know that I am God...”

Psalm 46:10

“In the cool of the day He walks with me, in the rose covered way He talks with me, In love’s holy union and sacred communion, In the garden of my heart.” (PRAY ON - by Brothers in Song, Phoenix, AZ)

“And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.”

1 Kings 19:11-12

Be still, my soul: the waves and

winds still know...

His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Hymns of Zion #191

And the Lord does talk to us. We are grateful that the Lord talked to Mary Bauman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha) and she is seeking the Lord in repentance. We rejoice to welcome new pilgrims on the road to Heaven.

There are joys and sorrows on this earth. On June 15, Karissa Layne was born to Bro. Eric and Sis. Stephanie Maibach. Karissa has had a few problems since she was born premature, and has been hospitalized twice. The family has the prayers of the church along with grandparents, Jeff and Elsie Maibach and Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev Keever (Mansfield). Connor Mark was born July 6 to Bro. Mark and Sis. Jill Gasser. His brothers and sister, Kirk, Clint, Chase, and Andrea, along with grandparents, Sis. Doris Gasser and Bro. Michael and Sis. Norene Miller, welcome him.

O I love to talk with Jesus,
for it smooths the rugged road;
And it seems to help me onward,
when I faint beneath my load:
When my heart is crush’d with
sorrow,
and my eyes with tears are dim,
There is nought can yield me
comfort

like a little talk with Him.

Hymns of Zion #87

Bro. Ken Rupp (Sis. Lillian) has been able to return to church after several hospitalizations. We are thankful God has helped you. Bro. Dan Gasser (Sis. Di-

ane), Bro. Dale Hartzler, and Sis. Martha Dotterer (retired Elder Bro. Henry) had surgery and we are thankful they have recuperated.

Two special events occurred on June 18. We were privileged to hear the Word of the Lord brought forth by Bro. Marvin Dotterer. Thanks to Bro. Marvin and his family for visiting us.

Bro. Gary Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeanette) and Sis. Michelle Dotterer's (Bro. Robert and Sis. Mardel) engagement was announced. God is good to us that He reveals His will.

OHIO, SARDIS Angie Figel

"...Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Hebrews 10:25

Our church in Sardis would like to thank everyone who traveled so far to assemble with us at the New Martinsville church this year. Your presence was truly a blessing. Ministers who shared the Gospel with us were: Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Ron Palitto (Akron, OH).

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank all who attended our 50th wedding anniversary and for the prayers, cards, thoughts, gifts and the love that was shown to us. May God

richly bless you.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Virginia Riggensch

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Ruth Gasser Edith Miller

Call and cry, ye watchmen
boldly;

Call aloud and spare them not!
Jesus wants a faithful witness;
Teachers not confessing Jesus
Have stern judgment as their lot.
Call and cry, ye watchmen
boldly;

Call aloud and spare them not.
Zion's Harp #112

By the time this issue goes to print, the 2000 summer General Conference will be history. We pray that our Elder brethren will again be able to say they have felt our prayers for God's presence throughout the entire week. May we continue to support that which God would bring to us through His servants.

We thank the visiting ministers who have labored on our behalf during the past month. May God bless and reward Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), and Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) for their effort.

It's always a special privilege to be able to report a new convert. Garth Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois) has made a beginning on the path that leads to Heaven. We wish him an abundance of grace that he build his house of faith upon a firm foundation.

Two little boys were born to families in our congregation. On June 19, Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim Stoller welcomed Chad Daniel

into their family. Happy for a new brother are Lydia, Roseanna, Wayne, and Karleen. Also welcoming Chad are grandmothers, Sis. Lucille Blough (Rittman, OH), and Sis. Luzelda Stoller.

On June 30, Matthew David was born to David and Shelly Colvin. At home to welcome Matthew are Zachary, Morgan, Amanda, and Lauren. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth Steiner (Rittman, OH). May both of these families experience the Lord's blessing and guidance in raising their children in the fear of the Lord.

We wish to extend our love and sympathy to Bro. Charles Nieman (Sis. Delphine) and their family in the death of Bro. Charles' brother, Alvin Nieman.

We are mindful of those who have experienced pain and affliction in recent times. Bro. Mark Maibach (Sis. Julie), Bro. Elmer Blough (Sis. Lorene), and Bro. Ben Maibach (Linda) have all had to spend time in the hospital. May we continue to lift up in prayer those who must endure physical problems.

In sorrow and pain thy trust do
retain
In Jesus the merciful Saviour.
When burdened with care, when
thou wouldst despair,
Then call on thy loving Redeemer.
He'll lighten the load, and level
the road
And bear thee on hands of compassion.
He's gentle and kind, rich blessings
thou'lt find;
His Word gives thee peace everlasting.

He'll shield and defend His child
to the end;
No suff'ring or death shall appall
thee.
Keep Him for your gain, earth's
pleasures are vain;
Sweet rest is found only in
heaven.
In patience then bear all trial
and care;
Above streams of bliss will re-
fresh thee.
Zion's Harp #46

OHIO, TOLEDO
Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter

We extend our congratulations to Kevin Sancraint (Jennifer) on his college graduation. He has earned a degree in business administration. Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) visited us recently and spoke to us from the Word. May God bless them for their efforts and may we bring forth fruit to His glory.

James, Sis. Julie, Sierra and Skyler McCullough are moving to the Junction, OH, area. We will miss them and hope they will return to visit often. May God bless them in their new home.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Louisa Gallup

Greetings everyone!

We are enjoying both fine summer weather and more importantly, a fairly steady flow of summer visitors. What a blessing modern day travel is. The entire nation and ocean can be crossed within a day to see loved ones!

We had the pleasure of being able to listen to several visiting ministers recently. Bro. Ronald

and Sis. Ruth Steiner (Rittman, OH) spent some time in Portland and we do thank Bro. Ron for his inspiring sermons that Sunday. Later, on a Wednesday evening, we had Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary) from Detroit, MI, minister unto us. And we do appreciate Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie Knecht (Silverton, OR) for their unfailing support of our small congregation. May the Lord bless these ministering brethren who took extra efforts to serve us.

We wish he did not have to leave, but Bro. Adam Merkle finished his internship here in Portland and had to return to Indiana to finish his education. Bluffton North is his home church there. We wish him God's blessings and guidance and hope he might return here some day.

We wish everyone safe summer travel and hope you will visit our church if you are in the area.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Rosa Lee Kuenzi

We are enjoying the many summer visitors coming our way. If you are planning a trip to the West Coast, be sure to include the Oregon churches in your itinerary.

June was a busy month for our Sunday School Bible Class and their teachers as they held their annual Sunday School Picnic on June 17 and then the following weekend was their "Bible Class Weekend". This year's "Weekend" guests were ministering Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae Dill (Minneapolis, MN). Among the planned activities for the weekend were time together at the Restless Surf beachhouse at

Yachats, the Saturday night meal and talk especially for the Bible Class students and then Sunday's all-church supper. We are thankful for these precious times and opportunities for our young people and pray that God will bless them now and in the years to come.

We rejoice with Karla Dettwyler (Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene) as it was recently announced that she believes she is at peace with God and her fellow man. This is the precious pearl she has diligently sought in her repentance. May she feel our Lord's nearness as she awaits her opportunity to bring her testimony to the church.

Our visiting ministers for the last month were Elder Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), and Bros. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) and Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI). May our Lord be their rich Rewarder now and much more in all eternity.

PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

Nathan and MaryElizabeth
Gasser

We were saddened this month to learn that our Bro. Franz Soni's dear mother passed from this life. Our prayers are with him in this time, and it brings to mind how blessed we are for every day the Lord continues to lend us breath. Let us all learn to receive each new day as a gift from Him.

The spring and summer months bring welcome visitors from across the nation to our area, and we're so thankful when they're able to spend time in worship with us. We especially thank

Bros. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) for ministering the Gospel to us this month.

“And Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also, neither would he let the people go.”

Exodus 8:32

As we read together from the story of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt one Sunday, we were reminded of the tragedy that fell upon Pharaoh and his people as a result of his hard heart. May we learn from this story and ask the Lord to soften our hearts to the needs of others, and especially, to the will of God.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

Recently we were blessed to learn that the Lord is leading another family to move to the Nashville area. Bro. Craig and Sis. Raelynn Plattner (Chicago, IL) have expressed that they have felt the Lord's direction to move to the area, and our all knowing Father has provided employment for Bro. Craig. They will soon be joining our congregation along with their children, Anissa, Jonathan, Emily and Zachary. We know that they will be missed in Chicago, but we welcome them

with open arms and hearts. What a joy to know that we serve a loving God who hears and answers prayers both in Nashville and in Chicago, as well as anywhere else that His children seek Him.

This past month, God's Word was brought to us by Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Francis, Wolcott, IN), and Bros. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL) and Arnold Gerst (Sis. Marge, Taylor, MO). Throughout the month, we also enjoyed the fellowship of visitors from Bradford, Chicago, Congerville, Forrest, Princeville, and Roanoke, IL; Francesville, IN; Taylor, MO; and Latty, OH. What a privilege it is to fellowship and worship with loving brethren from across the land.

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: Washington, IL (August 20), Bluffton North, IN (Sept. 3), Oakville, IA (Sept. 17), Tremont, IL (Oct. 8), and Roanoke, IL (Oct. 22). 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, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz Melva Messner

We have a cactus in our yard that opens to a beautiful bloom at night and then the bloom dies the next day. We have a bush in our yard with a beautiful bloom in the morning and then that bloom dies that afternoon.

People ask us if it is very hot in Zapata during the summer months. We have lovely mornings and evenings and we just try to take advantage of these times. It is also nice to have air conditioned homes. We go north for a few weeks to visit family and friends.

There is almost always a nice breeze on our patio. It is nice to sit on the patio and watch and listen to the mockingbirds sitting and singing on the telephone lines. Also, watching the humming birds and oriole flying around our flowers. These times remind us He made the flowers that open and the birds that sing.



Sermon continued from page 2

through life.

Going back there in Job, It says wisdom. "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding." (Job 28:28). Let us just take that little word fear. We need to fear of falling away from God, don't we? We need to fear of slipping away. I think we can read in Hebrews and we can read in various New Testament chapters where it says, "Fear lest thou slip and fall away." So we need to fear that, but God will help us with the anointing of His Spirit.

But on the other hand, Satan uses fear and he tries to discourage us and he tries to draw us away from God in any way that he can. You can go back in the Old Testament and there is going to be times in our lives when it is the fear of the unknown. I believe the children of Israel had that fear of the unknown.

We can read that as the Lord brought the children of Israel out of Egypt through the wilderness, and they were getting ready to cross over into the land of Canaan and to the Promised Land.

Likewise, we, too, are going to Canaan land, but there is a fear there, isn't there, of the unknown, just a little bit? But here in the Old Testament, we can see how God will help us deal with that fear of the unknown. In Joshua chapter three, I believe it says here that the people were standing right there by the Jordan River. It says "...as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee." (Joshua 3:7)

There is a phrase in there. Okay, here it is. If we can imagine this, there were three and one-half million Israelites, approximately, waiting to cross into the land of Canaan. Here are some teachings that Joshua was going to give the people. It says, "...for ye have not passed this way heretofore." (Joshua 3:4). So he was telling them.

They had the wilderness behind them and they had Canaan ahead and they had reports that there were giants in the land. Yet, God had promised them that if they were faithful to Him, He would wipe them out and He would give them that promised Canaan land. But he said, "Ye have not

passed this way heretofore." As you read that chapter, there are some promises that came from God that will help us deal with our fears in life.

One thing, as I read that chapter, that will help us face those fears are the promises that God gives us. You can go home and read that chapter, and the other thing that we need to do in our lives is we need to reflect back and see how good God has been to us. All of us, I think, can feel God's moving at times in our lives.

If there are any here that have not yet repented and sought out their salvation, it is a wonderful thing to have a relationship with Him. These are not just rules in God's Book; it is a relationship and it is a beautiful joy and peace to walk side by side. As we face those fears, we can look back, those of us who have walked with God in a relationship, we can look back and we can remember how God delivered us from the hands of Satan oftentimes.

The children of Israel fell into sin and if we are not careful, we can, too. If they would have just thought back at how God provided for their moms and dads! I believe there were only two that crossed over into the land of Canaan but we know those parents of those kids, at that time, taught those kids of the history of the nation.

As the children crossed into the land of Canaan, if they would have remembered how God provided for them in the land of Canaan, it would have helped them as they would face their fears of the unknown as they crossed over the Jordan River.

So fear can keep us from God, but fear can also help us and keep us from sin. We want a healthy fear. We want a healthy understanding of God and who He is. That is wisdom, and we need to pray for wisdom.

Going back here to the temptation of Jesus, we know that the devil said to Jesus, he said, "All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it." (Luke 4:6). Today yet, Satan is coming into our lives and offering us the world's power, isn't he, just like he did to Jesus? Again, Jesus being the Son of God, He had it all. He owns it all any-

way.

Yet, for a short time, He has delivered the world's power into Satan's hand. Yet, Jesus here in this situation told him, "Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." (Luke 4:8).

We should be healthy so that when Satan comes, we can fight him off.

As we think of this, the world, there are many things that shine or glare before our eyes. But a lot of the temptations Satan brings to our hearts, start through our minds. If we find ourselves slipping, if we find ourselves falling into temptation, God has provided ways whereby we can get back up to the level that the Bible wants us to be living, to the level of understanding, or the level of truth and virtue that God would want us to be.

If we find ourselves at God's level here, God's Word says, "Here is a holy life." If we find ourselves down here just a little bit and Satan has tripped us up just a little bit, God has provided ladders to get us back up to a holy life, hasn't He?

Through repentance, through confession, through different ways, through the brotherhood, God has provided those ways whereby we can get back up to that standard, I guess, if you will of a holy life in Christ.

"And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence. For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee:" (Luke 4:9-10). I believe that is in another Psalm. It says that He would do that. God has angels that are willing to help those of us who are believers.

He is willing to help all mankind with guardian angels, I believe, sent out from God to help us, but we don't want to abuse and tempt the Lord our God.

It says, "And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee:" (Luke 4:14). Let us look at that. It says in the first verse, "And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the

Spirit." (Luke 4:1). But at first, He was filled with the Holy Spirit, then He was led by the Holy Spirit, and after the temptation was done, He was in the Spirit's power. It was an anointing from God. It was a power from God.

Just like the children of Israel, if they would have reflected back, they would have had divine help. They had manna from Heaven. They had a pillar of cloud during the day and pillar of fire at night. Divine assistance! We, too, today have the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our pillar of cloud and is our pillar of fire to help us have a divine guidance system and divine provision.

Going on here in this chapter, it would be nice to hear Jesus preach. That really has always impressed me how Jesus stopped right in the middle of quoting those verses from Isaiah while preaching on that because He realized that His first calling was from God. His first mission to mankind, His first coming down from Heaven, He was going to be a Redeemer because there are those of us who are bruised. All mankind is bruised.

We can go back and read in Isaiah and He realized that mankind needed a Redeemer. God was going to send Him and He did. Sometimes we wonder and maybe some of you who have not yet answered the call of repentance wonder, "Is it really true?" But once you take that first step of faith, God will provide and God will help.

When the children of Israel were going into the land of Canaan, they had to first put forth an effort to walk towards the Jordan River. I believe the Jordan River at that time was very wide. I believe you can read in that chapter where the Jordan River was overflowing its banks. A lot of

times, the Jordan River was real small; you could walk right through it. But God allowed it to bring those children of Israel right there where they would have to rely on God.

We of ourselves cannot find salvation in ourselves. We need God's calling. We need God's grace. We need the blood of Jesus Christ. We need His mercy. We need to realize that and it will help us as we come to the Lord.

There was a woman who had a son and he committed a crime and he was before the judge. This woman went and stood on the stand on behalf of her son and she pleaded with the judge that he would be gracious to her son. After she got done, the judge said, "Justice has to be served out. He has to pay the penalty for the sin he committed." After the judge was done, the woman said, "I am not asking for justice, I am asking for mercy." There is a difference. We of ourselves need to come to God and ask for mercy. "There is none righteous, no, not one:" (Romans 3:10).

Jesus definitely had His conflicts when He was here upon the earth. It says, "No prophet is accepted in his own country. But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow." (Luke 4:24-26).

Sometimes we might think, "Why didn't the people at that time recognize Jesus Christ? He was right here in the flesh. Why didn't they recognize Him as One sent from God?" Yet, they missed it, didn't they?

We, too, need to always have our eyes opened by our Heavenly Father in prayer. Remember the prayer of

the persistent widow. "Dear God," she kept praying and praying and praying to God and He answered her prayer. Too, we need a life of reading, meditating the Word, spending time in God's Word and prayer and with one another. He will open up our eyes and show us His salvation.

God is good. There will be conflicts and there will be fears but God has promised us the anointing of His Spirit within our minds. It will rule our hearts and our minds if we allow Him to come in.

When I think of that, first of all, God needs a clean heart to come in, doesn't He? He won't enter into a heart that is filled with sin, and there are provisions through repentance and confession whereby that heart can be cleansed.

One more thought as far as the leading of the Holy Spirit. In Saint Luke chapter six, I just happen to think here, there are times in our lives when God allows us and He wants to see what our reaction will be. He actually sent His twelve apostles out on a ship and a storm came up. Jesus was up on the mountain praying to His Heavenly Father. Those apostles became fearful out there on the lake, and they did not realize Jesus was up there on the mountain. It says even in that Scripture, that He looked down on the lake and He saw them. He saw them in their distress.

Likewise, in our spiritual lives, there are times when God is going to lead us out into the lake. Maybe the storms of life will come our way, but let us remember, like Job, we have a Saviour who is looking down at the lake and He is praying for us. Eventually He came down and He walked across the water and He calmed the storm. He will do the same things in our lives if we but ask Him.



THE CASE AGAINST A WORLD CHURCH

Submitted by Elder Bro. Noah Shrock to the Silver Lining in July 1964

Christian churches are preparing to unite as one great world church. This will include the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Protestants.

Consider what conditions have resulted where there has been a one (world) church monopoly. By the 5th or 6th century, the Church at Rome had gained dominion over all others in western Europe. The dark ages settled, until the Reformation and the break away of those who protested.

In eastern Europe, it was the Greek Orthodox. The end of this rule over the lives of the people in Russia did not come until the Communist revolution. A primary target of this revolution was against the domination and corruption of this church.

Volumes could be written about one Protestant church or another, where that church was made the state church, resulting in persecution and discrimination.

In Spain...it is the Roman Catholic. The police and other government agencies bowed to the will of the big church and did their bidding, arrested pastors, closed their churches.

The Greeks believe that all should belong to one great Greek Orthodox Church. Because of its size, and because it is the state religion, the government backs them up in their persecution of other groups.

What will happen if a great, world church is formed?

They say that, with such unity and

greatness, they will be able to make themselves heard throughout the world, and thereby be a great power for good to all mankind. We can expect that the will of this world church will not only be suggested, but enforced. Great churches in the past forced even kings to their knees.

Liberty will be threatened the moment a great monopoly is organized. This mammoth may begin to throw its weight around, and thousands, yes millions, may suffer as a result.

The mind and heart of unconverted man is centered in himself. His supreme desire is to satisfy his personal appetites. He is completely separated from God. His thoughts and ambitions are earthly—not godly.

Christ's prayer for the eleven, and indeed all who follow, is oneness of heart with God, the Father, and Christ, that their very lives would prove that Christ lived within them.

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."

The burden of His prayer is for the salvation of those who believe on him, that they might be with Him forever. God does not depend upon the strength of numbers to accomplish His purposes!

The world is impressed when it sees a person who is genuinely sold out to God,

and is truly in oneness with Him. The world seems to sense and know God loves that person.

A tragic mistake is that this great prayer has been misinterpreted by the great majority. The wheels of movement are turning ever faster. The world church is approaching culmination faster than we ever thought possible. Already the Roman church is preparing herself to be more acceptable, so that this can come about.

Warning! Danger Ahead!

This great world church will dictate in every sphere. The anti-christ will arrive and declare that he is God.

Your children brought up in such a church will soon be going right along with the rest. Your influence on others is vital. In speaking of a great church in Revelation, the message says, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

Now is the time to come out of all lukewarm and apostate churches. It's much later than you may think. Come out now, while you can still bring your children and others with you!

It's time to pray. Don't let your church slip. It's time to fight for that which is right. It's time to join ranks with Peter, Paul and the host of others who contended for the faith, even unto death!

The time of the end is near. Stay awake!

Mark your calendars, Gateway Woods' 24th Annual Auction and Sale will be held on Saturday, August 19, 2000! Everyone is welcome and, in fact, encouraged to attend this exciting event. We would like to ask you to make an effort to bring a friend who has never attended the Sale (there are still quite a few of them out there).

Each year over 2,000 people attend the Sale, helping Gateway Woods raise over \$200,000. The Sale actually includes five separate auctions and a Kiddie Corner under three big top tents. All Auctions begin at 9:00 a.m.

—The Quilt and China Auction includes handmade quilts and clothing, baby blankets, afghans, and quality antique china.

—The two Craft Auctions are well known for quality, handcrafted furniture, paintings, assorted tools, camping equipment, and a variety of toys for children and adults alike.

—Our Specialty Auction, held at noon, will offer a high quality backyard play set, a go-kart, a vacation package to Marco Island, FL, and more.

—Our Silent Auction offers a large supply of kitchen appliances, small tools, and gift certificates to local vendors.

Feel free to join us for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and stay for lunch where we are proud to offer our famous pork chop sandwiches, sloppy joes and homemade pies.

Gateway Woods is an outreach of the Apostolic Christian Churches of America. As a non-profit agency, we serve troubled youth ages 6-18 and their families in a variety of programs including three residential Family Group homes, Specialized Foster Homes, Gateway Woods School and Home Based services in both Indiana and central Illinois.

Call Patsy Stoller or Janel Ramseyer at (219) 627-2159 or toll free at (888) 443-4283 for more information or just reply to this e-mail.

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, Fax 1-734-454-9259 or E-mail thitzhome@juno.com. For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-925-2409 or E-mail ksss@dpc.net.

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%
Haiti	MEBSH	Nov 30 - Dec 8, '00	Les Cayes	Jon Zeller	Generator	6	0%
Haiti	MEBSH	Dec 7-15, '00	Les Cayes	Jon Zeller	Generator	6	0%
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan 4-12, '01	Les Cayes	Craig Emch	Grade School	9	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jan 5-13, '01	Montego Bay	Mark Criss	Deaf School	40	100%
Haiti	AWA-FRW	Jan 18-26, '01	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Vocational Sch.	4	100%
Haiti	AWA-T	Jan 18-26, '01	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5	100%
Haiti	AWA-B	Jan 18-26, '01	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational Sch.	2	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan 25 - Feb 2, '01	Les Cayes	Dean Pashak	Grade School	9	0%
Haiti	SEED	Feb 15-23, '01	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	9	0%
Haiti	SEED	Feb 22 - Mar 2, '01	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	9	0%
Haiti	Palm Grove	Mar 2-10, '01	Puit Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 2-10, '01	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40	40%
Haiti	MEBSH	Mar 8-16, '01	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	9	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 9-17, '01	Deaf Village	Kevin Sauder (TBA)	Work Place	40	10%
Haiti	MEBSH	Mar 15-23, '01	Les Cayes	Jim Walter	Grade School	9	0%
Haiti	Palm Grove	Apr 6-13, 01	Puit Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11	60%
Haiti	MEBSH	Apr 19-27, '01	Les Cayes	TBA	Grade School	9	0%
Haiti	MEBSH	Apr 19-27, '01	Les Cayes	Bob Pflederer	Hosp. Lumiere	TBA	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	May 11-19, '01	Deaf Village	Kevin Sauder (TBA)	Work Place	40	85%
Haiti	AWA-FRW	May 25 - Jun 01, '01	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Vocational Sch.	4	100%
Haiti	AWA-T	May 25 - Jun 01, '01	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5	100%
Haiti	AWA-B	May 25 - Jun 01, '01	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational Sch.	2	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jul 14-21, '01	Knockpatrick	(1) Ak-Rit-Sville BC	Deaf School	40/50	100%

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

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

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
Derek Sauder	309-925-7502		
Duane Schieler	765-567-2922	765-567-2922	
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	330-939-4591	
Dean Pashek	517-662-7685	517-662-7099	
Jim Walter	815-692-3158	815-692-2851	
Bob Beebe	219-291-2158	219-299-8173	robertebb@aol.com
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885	
Terry Miller	309-747-2212 or 941-485-4302		
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	734-454-9259	thitzhome@juno.com
Bob Pflederer	309-266-5853	309-676-8455	
Mark Criss	309-693-2532		redemed1@aol.com
Andy Bauman	309-965-2174	309-691-6739	arbauman@juno.com
Les Gerber	219-824-2734	219-824-8048	
Art Mueller	608-676-4365	608-676-5200	amueller@ticon.net
(1) Jay Maibach	330-939-5234		jimaibach@aircraftbraking.com
Bill Rager	419-263-2989		
Kevin Sauder	309-925-2409	309-925-2409	ksss@dpc.net
Jon Zeller	309-266-9009		



OFFICE POSITION

If your gifts are more administrative in nature, please consider a new opening in Gateway Woods' office. This position would involve developing and purchasing public relations materials, writing and editing publications (including The Gate Post), researching and writing grants, coordinating various events (Annual Sale, Rep Meetings, Retreats, Reunions, etc.), and a variety of other office support functions. Applicants should possess the knowledge of or ability to learn various software programs (Adobe Page Maker and Photo Shop, Micro Soft Office), self-motivation, creativity and strong written, verbal, and people skills.

Business Manager

*Beisenmann@
gatewaywoods.org*

PO Box 151

Leo, IN 46765

(219) 627-2159

(888) 443-4283

Phil Stettner,
Counseling Elder
(219) 565-3499

Medical - Dental Team Juarez, Mexico

Sept. 27- Oct. 4, 2000

Contact: Sis. Cheryl Herrmann
309-385-1082

Needs for Mexico

Sunday School Bible
Story Coloring Sheets

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

USED EYEGLASSES ARE NEEDED FOR FREE IXTLAN CLINIC

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

Bryan Stoller
817 S. Locust
Pontiac, IL 61764

Gateway Woods Auction

Saturday, August 19, 2000

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 students 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 description of the scholarship and application are available by writing 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 immediate opening for a single sister, directed of the Lord, to work in full-time ministry with troubled children. The Assistant Houseparent works directly with and supports a Houseparent couple in the day-to-day activities of our on-campus group homes. This position offers competitive wages and benefits. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Jeff Schumacher
Jschumacher@gatewaywoods.org
(219) 627-2159
(888) 443-4283

Phil Stettner, Counseling Elder
(219) 565-3499

- NOTICE -

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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)*

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Leo, Indiana

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Home Administrator

Needed:

Experienced - Licensed
Qualified Administrator

For more information call:

David Bertsch
219-627-2923

Or

John Klopfenstein
219-627-2114

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

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was formerly in Leo, IN has been
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Bible Distribution

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Bluffton, IN 46714

Phone and Fax 219/824-5587

E-mail: bibledist@parlorcity.com

Apostolic Christian Counseling Services

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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

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



**Bro. Dale Aeschliman's
Death in World War II**

The story of Bro. Dale Aeschliman, Bluffton, IN, who lost his life as a medic in World War II, is one that brings sorrow to the heart. Yet, an aura of joy transcends this tragedy—he had repented for his sins and was prepared for the end of his young life.

It seems that God's Spirit was with Bro. Dale in a very strong way as he existed in a combat theatre during his last months. In a final letter to his parents, he had indicated that so long as one's soul was prepared for eternity, when one's end came didn't really matter.

And too, he wrote a gorgeous poem while on a boat enroute to a military destination:

Somewhere at Sea"

(By Bro. Dale Aeschliman)

We are now many days at sea
Our destination is unknown to me
But whether I'm on sea or land
I'll put my trust in Jesus' hand.

I've left the home I love so well
And more dear friends than I could
tell

But even though I'm far away
My thoughts will be with you always.

Some times I sigh at all this strife
That's come to pass in my young life
Then I think how many more
Have bore a heavier cross before.

Oh, our dear Saviour suffered great
pain
But did He murmur or complain?
He bore His cross and victory won
He said, "Not mine, Thy will be done."

At night when I lie down to sleep
I ask in prayer that He will keep
Us from all evil and from harm

And protect us with His mighty arm.

I ask that He will safely bring
Us to our friends and home again
Back to the harbor we left before
Where we'll see lights along the shore.

There is another harbor though
Where we will all wish to go
And oh, what glorious joy t'will be
To anchor there so safe and free.

Because of the fears and anxieties of this great world-wide conflict, people such as Bro. Dale looked to the Lord for solace and consolation. Even President Franklin D. Roosevelt implored people to pray: "I ask that our people devote themselves in a continuance of prayer. As we arise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips."

A fellow brother-in-faith and a good "buddy", Bro. Homer Reineck, was in the area when Bro. Dale was killed by a sniper. On March 4, 1945, he sent a letter to Elder Bro. Sam and Sis. Minnie Aeschliman regarding the circumstances of their son's death (incidentally, Bro. Sam was 54 and Sis. Minnie was 50 when he died).

As troops were marshalling themselves for an eventual assault in the Philippines, Bro. Homer's unit briefly traveled by Bro. Dale's. Bro. Reineck writes, "We were sitting beside the road and Dale passed by. I had to call to him several times before he noticed me. We exchanged greetings. He waved his hand and marched on. That was the last time I saw Dale alive."

He further wrote, "He was killed on the evening of January 31, 1945. It was about dark the first day the outfit he was with met their first enemy resistance. He had already crawled out under mortar and sniper fire and brought two injured men back to safety, but there was another man further out who needed aid.

It was nearly dark and they were still

under mortar and sniper fire but Dale wanted to go make the man comfortable in his fox-hole since it was too late to get him out that night. The other Medics advised him not to go but Dale couldn't stand to let the man lay without aid. He reached him and made him comfortable for the night but on his way back Dale was hit by a sniper. He died instantly. He was among the first three killed on the first battle they were in but if he was to die, it was good it came quickly.

The rest of the men went through three weeks misery beyond description. Of his buddies in the Third Battalion, all but one received Purple Hearts and seven more were killed, including his Captain. I didn't get to see him before he was buried but there were only three in one cemetery so they reburied them about a week later. I saw his body when they buried him the second time. It may be of some comfort to you to know that prayer was offered at his burial by one of his own Faith, a short prayer, but you can believe it was from the bottom of my heart.

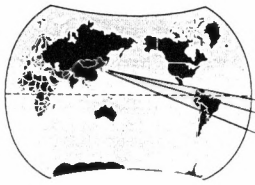
Bro. Dale was more than a friend, more than a brother to me, and his passing leaves a vacancy in my heart that can never be filled. Deeply as I mourn for him, I know it can never reach the depths of grief of those of his own family.

Knowing mortal words are vain, I can only pray that God will comfort you in your darkest hours. It is hard to understand why Dale was taken, a fine Christian in his best years, but we can only say 'God knows best.' He died a brave man and a hero, making the supreme sacrifice for his country. Knowing that Dale had given his life to the service of the Lord, we can now believe he is resting Safe in the Arms of Jesus."

By Bro. Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next issue:

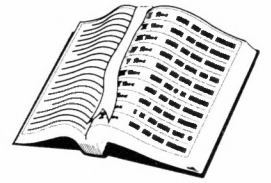
Funeral excerpts of the Bro. Dale Aeschliman funeral conducted by Elder Bro. Noah Schrock



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“Love in Marriage”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

It is easy to get married but it may be difficult to have a good marriage. In I Cor. 13:5 it is written regarding charity or love, “Seeketh not her own.” It is good to always seek after God’s way, but we should never seek to have our own way. We should never be selfish but rather, we should forget self to serve God and to serve others. “Love seeketh not her own.” This is important in marriage.

We all have a great need to be loved and respected but married people have a special need to be loved and respected by their spouse. In John 3:16 we read, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son.” God’s love is wonderful but it doesn’t take the place of love from those around us, especially from our spouse if we are married.

Each of us who are married should not concentrate on how our spouses are doing in regard to showing us love and respect.

We should concentrate on how we can show love and respect to our spouse.

Toward our spouse, we should be kind, and we should be sympathetic if he or she has any difficulty or sorrow. I Cor. 13:4 reads, “Charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.” Therefore we should never put ourselves above our spouse, as if we have all the answers.

I Cor. 13:5 tells us, “Charity (or love) does not behave itself unseemly.” Therefore we should always be polite to our spouse. Whoever started the idea that we could speak roughly or impolitely to our spouse and then very politely to our guests? It should not be so.

It is good to remember wedding anniversaries and birthdays, etc. A homemade card will do, but do or say something about the anniversary.

Your spouse, if you are married, has many good points, so praise him or her, every day, if

possible. In regard to bad points or weak points, simply caution and advise in a soft and loving voice, with a kind and sympathetic expression on your face. It’s not so much what you say as how you say it.

By words or deeds, we should express appreciation to our wives for marrying us. Of all the wonderful men in the world, my wife decided to marry me. I should be forever grateful. Wives should be their husbands greatest treasure and husbands should be their wives greatest treasure.

Husbands and wives should have some time to talk with each other in a loving way, every day, if only for 30 minutes. Each should have the attitude of being willing to sacrifice himself or herself in order to help the other with any problem.

Husbands, always thank your wives for the meal, and pray together. That’s love.

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Thou, O God, doth hide the beauty of thy creation from the eyes of the proud.

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