

A black and white photograph of a vast, rugged landscape. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by layered, eroded rock formations, possibly sandstone, with vertical ridges and deep shadows. Sparse, dark evergreen trees are scattered across the terrain. In the background, a range of low mountains or hills stretches across the horizon under a clear sky. The overall scene conveys a sense of natural grandeur and geological complexity.

The Silver Lining

...we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of Thy hand.

September 2000

“JESUS WAS THE PERFECT SACRIFICE”

Sermon by Bro. Mike Ursu, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada
 Jeremiah 37:11-21 and Hebrews 13

As we consider, loved ones, just a portion here in the Old Testament, we kind of started in the middle of a chapter in the middle of an experience of which I am not fully understanding all the situation that we find ourselves in the middle of here.

One of the things that impressed me was Jeremiah did not bring his appeal to the king to search out in a very deep way why he was in prison until after he had suffered for some time. Sometimes it is with our own hearts and our own lives that we suffer wrong and we don't always protest that at first. We bear the despise or the shame or the persecution or whatever it is that we might have to bear.

But then God has the blessing and the reward after a time and after a season when we have been blessed by the whole experience to have an opportunity for an appeal and to have an opportunity to experience relief and to experience a change in that trial or that season of difficulty.

The king did not really have a word that he could point to as to why he was but it seems that it was of God that all these things that happened to God's people came to pass, but even though sometimes it might seem that it is in our eyes evil or not good. Some of the things that befall us and that we experience are of the Lord that we might grow in faith and strength. He still had a word to give to the king and God was still working with him and it tells us, loved ones, that no matter what the circumstance might be that God can still speak to our hearts, though we might feel depressed or despised or persecuted.

Jeremiah here had asked the king that if he could at least come out of the dungeon and not die there. It was weary for him to be there evidently as we read these words here. But yet wherever he was, even as the Apostle

Paul when he was in prison, he wanted to do God's will and God was still able to speak to him. The king came to him secretly and asked him, "Is there any word from the Lord?"

It doesn't really matter, loved ones, where we are as a Christian, or as a faithful member of the family of God as long as we are Christian wherever we are. So that God can still use us and God can still speak to us, God can bless our hearts and our lives and we can have the joy and blessing of knowing that whatever our circumstances might be that God is still with us, even as we had sung in the hymns that we had sung, that God is with us.

The circumstances around our hearts might change around our lives, but our faith in God doesn't change. We want to consider the faith that we have in God and Him working in our lives and through our lives as being not determined by those things that happen around us. We want to have the faith.

As we go through this life, there will be the ups and downs and there will be the times when we will feel sad or not as strong. But even in those times, God can speak to our hearts. We want to know of a certainty by the example here and many others in the Scripture that whatever the external circumstances around us might be that God can certainly bless our hearts. We can have faith in Him and though the earthly circumstances are not right or not favorable, God's favor is still with us. God's favor is still upon us and that the blessings of His good and Holy Spirit is able to be with us.

We can see here that we can endure for a season that which God would have us to endure. The bread that even Jeremiah was able to obtain that he had requested or that the king had offered was then somewhat of an

earthly reward for that which he had endured. His desire was fulfilled. Often God comes to us when we continually have a request to Him. God is able to answer our prayers. We don't know how weary Jeremiah might have been in his circumstances. When we think of our own human flesh and ourselves, we probably would also want to be removed from the dungeon. But there is a time when that joy, happiness and deliverance from that season of despair is

Sermon continued on page 43

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

September 2000

The Fear of God I

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Pr. 1:7).

Fear is a feeling of reverence, awe and respect on the one hand and an unpleasant emotion caused by a sense of danger at the other extreme. Fear can be directed toward God, man, or some other object. Fear may be healthy or harmful. If fear brings a cautious, serious approach to life and helps us escape sin, it is very helpful and can help us avoid many problems. If fear is irrational or becomes an excuse for not answering God's call as it did for Adam ("...I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself" Gen. 3:10) it is very harmful and can cause eternal destruction.

At times God wants us to fear in the sense of being afraid. When Ananias and Sapphira lied unto God and were almost immediately struck down "...great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things" (Acts 5:11). God brought fear upon them to show them the seriousness of sin and to bring a measure of control to future sin. They, and others who were there, needed to learn that the sentence of death for sin, as described in Genesis Chapter 3, was a serious sentence.

At other times God wants us to fear in the reverent sense because it will prompt sincere souls to walk even closer to the Lord. Cornelius, "a devout man, and one that feared God with all his house..." (Acts 10:2) was prompted by his fear (reverence) to heed a vision he had seen. In what must have appeared to Cornelius to be a rather bold and unlikely request, he sent for Peter, a Jew, to go to Cornelius, "...one of another nation..." (Acts 10:28). Although it was considered unlawful to do this, Peter, through the prompting of the Lord, went and spread the Gospel message to the Gentiles because "...in every nation he that feareth him (God), and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (Acts 10:35).

Our lives need to portray a balance of the two kinds of fear. The fear of God, in the sense of being afraid, should bring us to repentance. As a repentant soul matures in faith, the fear should change from being afraid to a fear reflecting a profound respect and reverence for God. After conversion we should neither be overly anxious (fearful) nor too bold. "And all the people shall hear, and fear, and do no more presumptuously" (Deut. 17:13).

After we have been converted, we do not need to have the dreadful or timid fear, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Tim. 1:7). Although the fear of God is available to everyone ("Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him" Ps. 33:8) and we know the whole duty of man is to "...Fear God, and keep his commandments..." (Ecc. 12:13), there are many people in the world who do not reverence nor even respect God. We also know that only those who are children of God can truly grasp the significance of Jesus' encouragement to "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Lk. 12:32).

The fear of God is important to each of us. The scripture says "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10:31). Those who do not prepare to meet God by obtaining forgiveness through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ will find truth in the message of the angel who told of the destruction of Babylon. "...Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come..." (Rev. 14:7).

Undoubtedly, there is no greater fear than facing eternal damnation and separation from God. Those who realize too late of the truth of the admonition given in the scripture "...but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment" (Ecc. 11:9) will have fear beyond description. When they hear the fi-

nal judgment, "...Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:" (Mt. 25:41), they will fearfully try to defend themselves but to no avail: "and these shall go away into everlasting punishment..." (Mt. 25:46).

The fear of God is also important for those who love and serve God. The reverent fear that brings obedience to God's Word is more pleasing to God than many sacrifices would be. "...Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams" (I Sam. 15:22). When the children of Israel strayed far from the Lord, their sacrifices were of no avail: "...your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor your sacrifices sweet unto me" (Jer. 6:20). It is not those who sacrifice but those who "...choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant..." (Is. 56:4) who will find acceptance by the Lord.

Jesus clearly explained the importance of being obedient when He said "Not everyone that saith to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Mt. 7:21).

The fear of God is also important to a child of God because we can perfect "...holiness in the fear of God" (II Cor. 7:1). Being holy requires far more than simply accepting Christ; it requires us to be untarnished by evil or sin and have a pureness of thought and intent. It is also a commandment: "...be ye holy: for I am the Lord your God" (Lev. 20:7). The holiness of the early Christians was perfected when "...the churches (had) rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost..." (Acts 9:31).

The fear of God is a very powerful feeling for both those who serve God and those who do not serve Him. In the next article, this topic will be explored further.



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

(Continued from last month)

Observing the construction

There is much construction in Yugoslavia, both commercial and residential. There is some feeling that part of this is being financed by the Mafia. This organization is very present in East European countries. The long-term effect of this situation remains to be seen, but it could be ominous. There is nothing our brethren in these troubled lands can do about this, but they try to cope as best they can while remaining faithful to God.

The churches at Ruma and Indiji

A stop was made at the building in Ruma which is being remodeled by the brethren at a cost of \$50,000. They have 15 members and expressed appreciation for our financial help. They had lunch for us and apologized for the fact that it was meager because they have limited funds. It was plenty good for our brethren.

The group also stopped at Indiji where services were scheduled in their new building after a brief tour of the facilities. Comments by our brothers were translated by Pete. After a good supper, all returned to their beds.

Monday, May 29

When the brothers woke up early in the morning, they noticed that there had been some rain. However, more is badly needed. The day was warm, over 80 degrees, and they appreciated

the air conditioning in the van. There is very little air conditioning in this country otherwise. The group left about 8:00 AM to visit some churches we have helped build or remodel.

As they traveled down the roads, they saw long lines of busses being stopped by police. This is especially common at border crossings into East European lands. There was a special reason on this day, because they were opening a bridge over the Danube in Novi Sad that had been bombed during the war. The president of the country was to be there, so security was high. The travelers felt this was a good time to leave town, and they did. Later they heard that about 200,000 people came to Novi Sad, which doubled the population of the city.

Visiting new church buildings

The group stopped to see a new building at Voike, which was under construction on their last visit. It is very simple and very nice. Not many attend, but there is some growth. This is a village where the church had been closed and torn down but the lot was retained. Some of the descendants of brethren who lived here years ago became interested in building a house of worship even though some of them had drifted away from the faith. There does seem to be renewed interest in many areas of this country.

They then visited Simanovci where there is another new church which is also small but nice. The next stop was at Karovcic where a church has been rebuilt. The lunch stop was at Petrovcic, a place where they also have a new small church. An older sister served lunch there. For some

reason there was a problem with the power company and this church could not be hooked up to electricity. Presently they are getting this from a neighbor.

At Bolevci the church has been totally remodeled. Eight souls have been added to this congregation during the past year. They started coming to church because they noticed this new church. Often the new or remodeled church is the nicest building in the village and it makes an impression on the neighbors. Bombing was so close to this church that it shook the building. Here there was another lunch.

The next stop was at Zemun which is an older church that has been kept up pretty well. It is not far from Belgrade. Here again lunch was served and our brethren met with others visiting from outside the country.

Church services held here

This congregation had church services scheduled for 2:00 PM. It was a source of wonder to our brethren that they could come together at this time on a weekday, but it does show how much they appreciate their faith. Prior to services it was announced that there was some kind of a police blockade in the city and some would not be able to attend, so the group was pretty small. Bro. Wayne Fehr had services with Bro. Pete Petrovic translating.

After services they left in a light drizzle and stopped at Stara Pazova. This is always interesting because it is Bro. Pete's old home. He left here as a young boy but many here remember his family and he is very warmly received. The building had been remodeled since the last visit but it needs much more work. It is much too

large for the present congregation. There was another lunch and then hymn singing, which consisted of mostly old people, but sounded good. One of them took Pete to see his old house that is now in bad repair and to the cemetery where his grandparents are buried. It was an impressive visit.

The travelers arrived back in Novi Sad about 8:00 PM, and the pizza supper tasted good after lots of chicken meals. After a good visit with their host families, they retired around 11:00 PM, weary, but thankful for the day.

Tuesday, May 30

After a good night and breakfast, the group assembled about 7:45 AM and set off to visit some more churches. The day was cooler, but no rain. As they drove through the towns they noticed that the dress of the people has become more casual and westernized. Our sisters now stand out more because of their dress and head coverings, which was not always the case. Now only the older women dress this way, and there is a lot of scanty attire, just like in the USA.

Many women are employed sweeping the streets with a broom. They wear a government uniform that is a green dress. At least this gives them a job and does keep everything cleaned up a little better.

They stopped at Centa, a village where there was formerly a church building. This old building simply collapsed and lies in a heap. They need assistance and are exploring the possibility of erecting a new structure.

The next stop was at Baranda which is a new church that was recently completed. The brothers were much impressed with the building and the people who came to meet them. One minister is 90 years old. The building has a good design with a nice upstairs dining room and rest rooms. The total cost was around \$60,000. Seeing all

these structures that were built using funds provided from our American brethren and friends was truly gratifying for all. It is a joy to be able to report this to our supporters!

Looking at the countryside

The area through which they traveled is a good agricultural region. They saw some tractors and equipment while at the same time there were many people hoeing by hand in the cornfields. Crops varied considerably as to quality, which could be more related to management than to weather.

At Uzdin they saw a very old large church building that is now vacant. Storks have made a nest in the chimney. A few were assembling in a home next door but it is now falling down and cannot be used. They now meet in another home. As they observed this all, our brethren wondered what the future holds in a situation like this. It is obvious that our needy brethren in Yugoslavia have many hard decisions to make as the time goes by.

At Crepaja there is a new church and about 15 attend. Years ago the church here was closed and sold. A young man in years past read the Bible to an old sister who could no longer read it. In doing so the young man became convicted and repented. He is now a deacon in this congregation. More people are coming to church because of the new building. They thanked us very much for our help.

Lunch and more visits

The group went to the home of a minister for a snack. This brother has received a self-help loan to raise chickens. As the work in East Europe progresses, our European Board is seeking out more ways to help these needy brethren to help themselves. It does appear that these projects are working, not only in Yugoslavia, but also in Romania and Ukraine.

As they left this location the brothers found that they were only about 1 hour behind schedule, which is actually quite good in East Europe. The next stop was at Banatsko Novo Selo where some of them had been before. The congregation dedicated the new church here several years ago. Many people met them there and they had a nice lunch, after which they sang a few hymns. This congregation needed \$6,000 to complete their building projects. Since the brothers returned home, the European Board and Mission Committee have approved this sum.

More visits and back to Novi Sad

About 22 people assemble at Omolica, which was the next stop on this tour of congregations in Yugoslavia. The church building is in bad shape and they really need a new facility. They think this would cost about \$40,000 by using much of their own labor. This project has since been approved for construction.

On the way back to Novi Sad the police stopped the van for speeding. The fine was less than \$3.00 and was paid directly to the policeman. One never knows exactly where it goes from there. However, it was a good road, and the driver was moving along pretty fast.

Supper in Novi Sad was served by a local family with three converted single daughters and a younger daughter and son. Following the meal there was a singing, and our group of brothers appreciated the beautiful voices as well as the enthusiasm with which they sang.

As they retired to bed this night, the weary travelers thanked God once again for His great mercies to all of us. We in America truly need to count our blessings.

(To be continued next month.)

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." We have experienced a season of some changes at our facilities here in Morton. You may have noticed in the last Silver Lining issue that four men have moved from Oakwood and Linden Estates to their own house on South Indiana Avenue in Morton. Subsequently, several residents have moved from Timber Ridge to Oakwood or Linden. At this time we would like to welcome Emma Walker, Jennifer Cox and Yvonne Arbuckle to Timber Ridge. Movement means change, and change can be difficult. We feel blessed that all the resident moves these past couple months have gone very well, and everyone seems to have adjusted amazingly well. Psalm 127:1 says, "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it, except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." We believe these words. We continue to pray that our God will lead people to both live and work in our homes. We pray that we will be able to serve according to God's purposes.

Please know that we appreciate more than you know every prayer uttered on behalf of our residents and staff. With these prayers and God's divine grace and help, we can continue to provide services for a wide range of challenged individuals in our homes.

OCTOBER birthdays at **TIMBER RIDGE** are: Tricia O'Donnell (1), Carol Fahrni (5), Mark Mulnix (6), Emma Walker (15), Curt Jewett (24). At **OAKWOOD ESTATE**: Lois Baumgartner (4), Bryan Tiezzi (30). At **LINDEN**

ESTATE: Kent Knobloch (14). At **652 DETROIT**: Anita Schuon (13). At **200 E. HAZELWOOD**: Chad Gerber (9).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Jodee Bauman

As I write this article, we are right in the middle of "sale week" with all of its preparations, excitement, interruptions, visitors, tents, cleaning, rain, repairs and donations. Whew, the list goes on! What an amazing thing to see this "blessed chaos" bloom into such a marvelous event full of fellowship and generosity! We appreciate each one who donates items, volunteers their time, and bids on the items, plus those, who simply by being here, are a tremendous encouragement and confirmation to the efforts and focus of our ministry. We couldn't do it without you.

As summer comes to a close, we would like to let all of the volunteers know just how much they are appreciated and say "Thank you!" The Goodfield group came out August 5-6. They were busy freezing peaches, cleaning windows, waxing floors, working on a bike trail, and mulching and transplanting trees. We would also like to thank the other volunteers this month: Bros. Matt Sauder and Drew Leman (Roanoke, IL), Tim and Nathan Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Dave Sceggel and Gabe Stickling (Peoria, IL), Ryan and Derek Menold and Joel Gerig (Princeville, IL), Jeff Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), John Stoller and Mitch Schlatter (Latty, OH), Paul Hangartner (Indianapolis, IN); and Sisters Bekah Kaufmann, Alesa and Kendra Knapp, and Tami Inoue (Bloomington, IL),

Keri and Kasey Kaeb (Roanoke, IL), Brandy Schwab (Wolcott, IN), Kristen Rinkenberger (Chicago, IL), Ruth Boliantz (Mansfield, OH), Sarah Laubscher, Kim Young, and Traci Rudin (Cissna Park, IL), Nicole Knobloch (Morton, IL) and Amy Knobloch (Peoria, IL) and Rachel Rausch and Rachel Reinhard (Bluffton, IN).

Five special volunteers spent their whole summer helping to make a difference: Sis. Rachel Schrenk, (St. Louis, MO), Sis. Rebekah Inoue (Bloomington, IL), Regina Wiegand (Eureka), Bro. Peter Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and Bro. Phil Yargosz (Milford, IN). And a special thanks to Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) for a spectacular job as our Summer Volunteer Coordinator!

Congratulations to Bro. Roger Gasser (Junction, OH), Bro. Jeff Waibel (Bay City, MI), Sis. Aimee Stoller (Bluffton, IN), and Sis. Jennifer Rufener (Smithville, OH) as recipients of Gateway Woods' Social Service Scholarships.

Lots of changes for Gateway Woods once again. The end of summer means residents leaving and new ones coming to our campus. "Graduating" from our campus are Ruben O. from the Kipfer home and Lisa F. from the Bauman home. We welcome Kenneth W. to the Wiegand home and pray for a smooth transition for all.

Still more exciting changes as we enter the school year. Though it's not unusual, it's always exciting when former staff rejoin us in new positions. Sis. Cheri Blunier (Leo) who was once a Houseparent is now our new Education Coordinator and Sis. Judy Gehring (Burlington/Leo), who served as Secretary when her husband, Bro. Uriel, was the Administrator, will

be the new Assistant Houseparent with us in the East House. Also, Sis. Erica Shamback (Elgin, IL) was hired recently to be the Teacher's Aide as we expand Gateway Woods School. We thank God for providing for these positions. We still have job openings for a Teacher, an Alternate Houseparent couple and a Public Relations & Project Coordinator. (See the notices in this issue.)

As I write about these job openings, I am reminded on how my husband and I came to Gateway Woods. In May 1998, we heard of the job openings for an Alternate Houseparent couple read by our Elder Bro. Wes Knapp in Goodfield, IL. Neither one of us had ever been to Leo, IN, nor knew anything about Gateway Woods except that it was a Children's Home supported by our church.

We called out to Gateway Woods to find out more about it. They told us to come stay for the weekend and see the campus. Neither one of us thought we were ready to pack up and move five hours away from our home and families, neither did we feel qualified, but God had a plan. After a lot of praying we knew that God had this path set out for us. We finally quit resisting God's will for us. He wants us to follow the path that is most pleasing to Him, not the path that may be most pleasing to us. "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." Psalm 32:8. Tom and I and our children have been blessed to join the Gateway Woods' team. We thank all of you out there who pray for GW. Your prayers are felt and needed!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Tom Schrenk

The summer is almost gone and our fall classes here at the Preschool have started; it seems the time goes by so quickly. As we continue to work with our children here, we see so many changes. As we begin our fall classes, we have many new faces and personalities. This is always a new challenge for the teachers and staff here. It takes a few weeks for some to learn to be with other children and to listen to the teachers as we talk about God and His Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus.

These children will be taught many things during the next nine months. They will learn to write their name and numbers and the alphabet. They will also learn a memory verse from the Bible for each letter of the alphabet. We are also excited about a new flannel graph that we are using during our circle time Bible story. This helps the children to visualize and better understand the things that are so important in our lives because of a loving God who gave us Jesus so all might be saved. Our mission is to plant that seed in these children's lives, that in due time God might be glorified.

During the past month several volunteers came and spent time working here at the Preschool. The churches represented were: Tremont, Morton and Gridley, IL; Milford, IN. We want to say a special thank you to Bro. Gene Butikofer from Davenport, IA. Bro. Gene spent five weeks with us.

The staff and I here at the Preschool want to thank each one that thinks and prays for the Preschool. We only want to do God's will, and we need the prayers of the Church

and those we love that we may do this. As we have many new children, it also brings additional financial situations. The sponsorship program for the Preschool has provided us a way to reach out to children that we could not help before. Please call Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (256) 232-2035 or the Preschool at (256) 233-0591 for information. Please note the mailing address for the Preschool has changed to: 15318 Hastings Rd., Athens, AL 35613. Our e-mail address is apostolicpreschool@juno.com.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Joan Reinhard Louise Hall

July 21 was the date of birth for little Haley Elizabeth Lynn. She was welcomed at home by parents, Buddy and Jessica Lynn, and by big sister, Meghan. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Buddy and Sis. Clarann Lynn and John and Diane Haynes. We are always thankful for the safe arrival of a new life.

We also welcome to our congregation Daniel Klaus. He is a brother to our Mark Klaus and will be working in the Decatur area for some time. Every individual is that much more needed when the congregation is small.

Our Wednesday evening get together has been a real blessing as we have studied a list called Seven Evils Facing the Church Today. We do not seem to realize how quickly these things can slip into our midst and to be aware of them is an important step in keeping them out of our lives.

Our older Sunday School class had a car wash on August 5 in Athens. The students worked hard and earned some spending money. Now they get to decide what to do

with the money.

As we start the new school year, we are once again adding a teenage class. Grades 8th on up will now have their own class and grades 4th-7th will have their own. We hope this will make it easier to teach on an appropriate age level and that the students will be better able to relate to the lesson.

As always, we are thankful for our visitors. This month we had visitors from Bloomington, Fairbury, Forrest, and Gridley, IL. Thank you each one for worshipping with us. Special thanks to Bro. Earl Steffen for lending himself for our Sunday morning Sunday School.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

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

Romans 8:28

God's love is to be shared. How fitting to have two wedding engagements announced on August 6. Sis. Valerie Knoblock is engaged to Bro. Michael Howell of Bay City, MI. Their parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl Knoblock (Lester, IA) and Michael Howell Sr. and Pamela Howell.

Sis. Holly Kokanovich is engaged to Bro. Andrew Kieser of Bloomington, IL. Their happy parents are Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich and Bro. Robert and Sis. Laura Kieser (Bloomington, IL). They are attending school in Champaign. We pray God's blessings on all of the families as they make plans for a lifetime together.

We are grateful our Elder Conference was well attended in Lester and we all pray our church will follow God's Word and our Faith stay grounded on the Rock.

Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) was our visiting minister.

The Lord's comforting hand was felt by Bro. Tim Sutton when his fingertips were injured; Sis. Kathie Labudde for a medical procedure on her eye; Bro. Richard Schubach for a two day hospital stay; and Joe Midkeff for major surgery.

On July 3, Brian and Sandy Hunt became parents of Whitney Ann. Her brother, Easton, and grandparents, Bro. Al and Sis. Joyce Yackley and Joe Midkeff (great-granddad) are very happy for a new baby.

Our sympathy to Sis. Jan Elsasser and Bro. Leon and Sis. Nancy Baumgartner on the death of their uncle, Bro. Clarence Knobloch, in Bradford, IL. Also, on August 3, Sis. Jan Elsasser received word her sister, Phyliss Jean, passed away. Her funeral services were in Princeville, IL. Sis. Jan, God's love, your relatives and Christian family's love will sustain you—you are never alone.

LOVE

There is no difficulty that
enough
love will not conquer; No disease
that enough love will not heal;
No door that enough love will not
open;
No gulf that enough love will not
Bridge;
No wall that enough love will not
throw down;
No sin that enough love will not
redeem.

It makes no difference how

deeply seated may be the trouble;

How hopeless the outlook;
How muddled the tangle;
How great the mistake
A sufficient realization of love
will

Dissolve it all...If you only could
Love enough you would be the
happiest and most powerful
being in the world.

—*Emmet Fox*

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

“Blessed are they that mourn:
for they shall be comforted.”

Matthew 5:4

We claim the Lord's promise on behalf of Sis. Jan Elsasser in the unexpected death of her only sister. We extend our sympathies and pray the Lord will also give her strength for the challenges of each day.

Our annual corn-on-the-cob picnic on August 5 was attended by approximately 100 from the Phoenix, San Diego and Prescott area. We thank the Lord for blessing us with the opportunity of fellowshiping together.

Our ministering brethren this month were Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Bros. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Ken Lawson and James Emch (both of Phoenix). We thank them for their labor in God's vineyard.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Jim Klotzle

Greetings from Altadena!

We heard this month about the miracle of Lazarus being raised from the dead. We were reminded

of how he was a testimony of the power of Jesus Christ wherever he went from that day forward.

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Romans 6:4

Let us too be constant witnesses of the power of the resurrection and the new life it has given us.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,”

I Peter 1:3-4

Elder Bro. John Klotzle attended the General Conference this month, along with ministering Bro. Richard Aberle and several others of our congregation. They returned with great encouragement for us to be “overcomers”. We thank the Lester congregation for their efforts in hosting the Conference.

Elder Bro. Ron Messner and his family (Washington, IL) visited us this month and we thank him for ministering to us.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Peggy Jevremov

We surely have enjoyed and appreciated our summer visitors. May the Lord bless each of you who have visited us. We also want to thank Elder Bro. Ron Messner

(Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) and Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jodi, Altadena, CA) for their service to us in bringing forth God’s Holy Word this past month.

We were privileged to see Elder Bro. Peter’s slides of his recent World Relief trip to the eastern European countries. We have so much to be thankful for in this country. May we keep our brethren over there in our prayers.

Our thoughts and prayers were certainly with our Elder brethren as they met for our annual church Conference in Lester. Those of our congregation who were able to attend felt very uplifted and blessed. May we always hold up the arms of our dear shepherds, that the load they carry may be as light as possible.

We are so thankful to the Lord for directing Bro. Jim and Sis. Hilde Koehl and their family to move here to our area from Morris, MN. We know they will truly be missed in Morris and that their loss will be our gain. We know the Lord has promised to be with us no matter how small the number, but it is such a blessing to have more.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO

CANADA

Laura Baxter

“Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.”

Proverbs 4:25-27

We were rejoicing this past month as we heard the testimony of Sis. Maria Toth and witnessed

her baptism. She had pondered the path of her feet and realized her need for salvation through Jesus’ blood, just as we all have need of. Now our prayer for her and all of us is to let our eyes look right on, turn not to the left or right, and remove ourselves from any evil. May we pray for grace and humility to do this.

The blessing of coming together for Holy Communion was ours on July 30, as Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) came to serve us. It is so good to spend extra time in remembering our Lord’s suffering and the loving sacrifice He made for us at Calvary, even when we were yet sinners. We are thankful for the love He has shown us and the love of the brotherhood. We thank Elder Bros. Wayne and Mark for their love, service and encouragement they kindly gave us that weekend.

Summertime brings many visitors and we truly enjoy the fellowship. We also thank our other visiting ministers this past month, Bros. Dan Stoller and Duane Reutter (both of Rockville, CT).

Several in our congregation were privileged to travel to the Brotherhood Conference in August. We are thankful for God’s protection and the blessings they received there. Our congregation is now listening to these tapes and pray we could be as the wise man which built his house on the rock: that after we have heard these Biblical teachings, we would do them.

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 month we have enjoyed the blessing of several visiting ministers and their families: Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA), and Bros. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), Herbert Knochel (Phoenix, AZ) and Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN). We thank the Lord for their willing service.

We welcome Sis. Jeanette Feucht (Lester, IA) as she is continuing her education. We pray she can feel our love and soon feel at home here in Denver.

We enjoyed having our summer interns (Bros. Kyle Beyer and Joseph Leman, Sis. Natalie Lehman and Sis. Sarah Rumbold) with us these past few months. We wish each of them God's blessings as they continue their work and education.

Please continue to pray for our church as we are in the process of investigating the building of a new church! We trust this can be a glory to God and the Holy Spirit can direct each of us in this decision-making process.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Cherie Galat**

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

Proverbs 22:6

Precious Bethany Jean was born July 15 to Bro. Tom and Sis.

LaNae Bahler. Her brothers are Michael, Robert and Timothy. Grandparents are Sis. Maxine Bahler and Bro. Ed and Sis. Bev Gerber. On August 11, little Marissa Nicolle was born to Bro. Steve and Sis. Shannan LaPlante. Grandparents are Bro. Leo and Sis. Sherri LaPlante and Carlo Bocchino and Sherrie Bocchino. May each one consider the importance of teaching their children God's way of life.

Streams that from Thy wounds
are flowing
Bless for us this water bath;
With the Word in union growing
With the pow'r that Jesus hath.

Zion's Harp #162

We rejoice with our new brother and sisters, Bro. John and Sis. Erin Hoffman and Sis. Amy Carlson (Bro. Wally and Sis. Judy). We pray that God continue to lead them on paths of righteousness and live in peace with Him. Assisting our Elder Bro. Kevin was Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY). We appreciate the service that they willingly offer in the Lord's work. We also thank our other visiting ministering brethren, Elder Bro. Robert Walder and Bro. Michael Rinkenberger (both from Congerville, IL), and Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA).

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

"And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house."

Deut. 6:7

As a Sunday School teacher I see proof of this verse often when teaching the story and a little one is eager to tell the story. I recently had another experience along the same line. Stephanie Stoll (Bro. Ed and Sis. Ginny, Winthrop, MN) was born after the family moved from here. Yet in Sunday School she felt very confident when talking to me, not even stumbling over my name. I knew she had grown up knowing me, even if we just met that weekend.

This summer has been one of much travel, both locals traveling to be with their families and visitors including us in their vacation plans. Our ministers this month were Elder Bro. Curt Frank (La-Crosse, IN), Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Brace Wieland (Leo, IN) and Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL). Other visitors were from Remington, IN; Cissna Park, Eureka, Roanoke, and Princeville, IL; Phoenix, AZ; Altadena, CA; and Kansas City, MO.

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**

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

Luke 15:10

We rejoice with Adriana Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz) who has decided to answer God's call to repentance. We pray that God will bless her as she journeys down this pathway.

Our annual elections were held this past month. Elected into new positions are: Bro. Mike Hohulin - Sunday School and Usher; Bro. Bob Huber - Sound system; Bro. Rod Gress - Trustee; Sis. Kathy Sutter - Kitchen Committee. Bro. Rich Sutter and Sis. Doris Huber will continue their terms as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Retiring this year from their positions are Bro. Aaron Webb - Sunday School; Bro. Mike Hohulin - Sound system; Bro. Bob Huber - Usher; and Sis. Doris Huber - Kitchen Committee. We thank them for their service.

Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL) was our visiting minister this past month. We enjoyed a Family Worship Night where Bro. Tim spoke on the Father of Lies and the Father of Truth. The evening was a blessing to all who attended. We thank Bro. Tim for sharing the Word with us.

After a brief period of hospitalization, we are thankful that Sis. Kathy Sutter is once again worshipping with us.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FT. MYERS
Dorothy Beer**

For most of us the time goes by so quickly! Summer is almost over and our children and grandchildren are back in school or college again. With the challenges and temptations they may be faced with, they certainly need our prayers.

Sis. Viola Keller spent some time both in the hospital and nursing home this month. Since they are unable to live in their own home, their son, Wally, and daughter-in-law, Jackie, have happily opened their home to care for them. Also, we're glad to have Bro. Art Keller back with us again after undergoing surgery.

Our church has enjoyed the fellowship of the visitors we've had. Our thanks to Elder Bro. Doug Sabo (Sis. Linda) for ministering to us August 6.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Carol Koehl**

Sarasota is currently listening to the Conference tapes. We sincerely pray for continued Godly wisdom, grace, and strength for all of our Elders and ministers.

"I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night; ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence."

Isaiah 62:6

Note of Thanks:

Words cannot express our heartfelt thanks for the love and kindness shown to us on our 50th wedding anniversary. Thank you for the cards, gifts and flowers given to us.

*Bro. Glenn and Sis. Norma
Blume*

**GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Keith and Carol Kaufman**

Inspire, O Lord, each servant
With love and ardor fervent
Thy gospel to proclaim;
That, prompted by Thy Spirit,
They work and toil with merit
Unto the glory of Thy name.

Thy messengers Thou sendest,
By them to us extendest
The living Bread of heav'n.
That none of us may perish,
Arouse our hearts to cherish
The grace and healing to us
given.

Zion's Harp #207

We are so thankful that God has inspired His servants to proclaim the Gospel. May God richly bless Bros. Dan Beer (Milford, IN), Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN), Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Dave Graf (Akron, OH) and Glenn Riggensbach (Smithville, OH) for speaking the truth to us. May they and each of God's servants continue to sound the trumpet. What good is the sounding of the trumpet if the people don't heed the warnings? "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." (James 1:32)

The last week of July we held Vacation Bible School. Our theme for the week was "How does Jesus want us to be?" We are so thankful for each brother and sister who were willing to teach and for each of the children who eagerly listened. May we continue to think about how Jesus wants us to be and look to Him for help to strive more earnestly to be that way.

The last Sunday of July there were 95 people in attendance. The singing was beautiful (a foretaste of Heaven) and the fellowship very uplifting. Thank you to all who came, not just that Sunday, but throughout the year. We really appreciate each of you. May God richly bless you and direct you to visit again.

Our prayers are with all who are starting back to school again. May you always remember that your Heavenly Father is watching and caring for you.

We look forward to all who will be coming to see us. Sunday services start at 10:15 and 12:30. Song service is held the second Wednesday and Bible Study the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. If you are in the area, please plan to worship with us. The church is located at 6225 Campbellton-Fairburn Rd., Fairburn, GA. Take I-85 south to Exit 64. 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 helps us to plan our Sunday lunches and Sunday School. Thank you.

Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554, Bro. John Brewer (770) 463-0701 or Bro. Keith Kaufman (770) 304-8335.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Sheila McCoy
Doreen Moser**

Driving out of a place of business, I needed to cross the highway. Not seeing any cars, I started to proceed. But, then it was there! A car was quickly approaching. I was able to stop in time but I was sure bewildered as to how that car had appeared. Could I just as easily

be blinded to spiritual truths? I was surely reminded I need to be more prayerful and watchful of Satan's cunning ways.

We are ever grateful to God's servants who spoke at our Brotherhood Conference in Lester, IA. We want to thank you for helping to keep us on the straight and narrow path and warning us of harmful obstacles in our road of life.

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice"

Romans 12:15

Our congregation is rejoicing that Alice Thompson (Bob) has a desire to make the Apostolic Christian Church her church.

We were able to rejoice when baby Kelsey Anne Kaeb (Bro. Chad and Sis. Kristy) was able to come home from the hospital. Kelsey Anne has been gaining weight steadily.

Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene Mueller are rejoicing at the birth of their first grandchild, Dylan Mueller (Ryan and Tammy), on July 24.

August 5 was a day of rejoicing at the wedding of Angela Mueller (Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene) and Josh Flickinger (Tony and Cindy). We pray that God will bless and keep them at their new home in North Carolina.

Our Belvidere church is rejoicing that approval has been given to start construction on our new church. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it"...Psalm 127:1.

Praying For One Another

I asked the Lord to bless you
As I prayed for you today

To guide you and protect you
As you go along your way...
His love is always with you
His promises are true,
And when we give Him all our
cares
You know He will see us through.
So when the road you're traveling
Seems difficult at best
Just remember I'm here praying
And God will do the rest.

—author unknown

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

**Dana Knapp
Shawn Masters**

Our prayers were with our Elders and ministering brothers as they gathered in Lester, IA, for the General Conference on August 11. We trust they felt the Holy Spirit as they strive to lead this body of believers.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL) minister the Word to us. We always appreciate having Bro. Joe with us and pray God's blessings for all his labors.

Trusting that it is the Lord's will for their lives, Bro. Andy Kieser (Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura) and Sis. Holly Kokanovich (Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy) from Phoenix, AZ, announced their engagement. We wish them much happiness as they make plans for their new life together.

On July 24, Bro. Brian and Sis. Roze Strassheim welcomed Savannah Roze to their family. She is joyfully received by brothers, Sant, Killian and Quinn. May the Lord continue to grant all parents much grace and wisdom as we raise our children for His glory.

Our deepest sympathy is ex-

tended to Bro. Doug and Sis. Jean Greiner at the passing of Jean's mother, Sis. Virginia Hunziker (Bro. Albert), of Morton. May we continue to lift them up in our prayers that they may feel the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Our prayers were with Bro. Stan Vogel (Sis. Nate) as he underwent surgery this month. We are thankful he is at home and doing well.

This month we said farewell to Bro. Gary and Sis. Peggy Ifft.

We enjoyed spending time together at the Sunday School Picnic on July 23. It is always a blessing to watch our children enjoy spending time together.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Chad and LauraLee Plattner

We were blessed to have visiting ministering Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) with us on his trip out to the Conference. May God freely bless as our brother freely gave.

Alisa Pyles (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky) was recently joined in marriage with Tom Merna (Bill and Della, Canton, IL). We pray that they will experience the joys and blessings of the Lord in their marriage.

ILLINOIS

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Samuel and Pamela Furrer

If you know our now-retired minister and Elder Bro. David Wiegand and the role he has had in our church, you understand the difficulty we had as a group in doing something special to acknowledge his March retirement. Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel were here since our church was in its infancy and have been integral elements in its

stability and growth and real "doers" of the Lord's work. As a church family, we hosted a special day of appreciation for them in conjunction with the annual Sunday School Picnic. Following our meal at the park, we had a program expressing our appreciation through song, poetry, and readings. A scrapbook was compiled with a photo history of the Urbana-Champaign church and personalized messages from our present congregation and many who were here over the years. The book was very nice and will serve as a reminder of the people who have made up our church. As a way to have a little piece of the church itself, we had a smaller version of our stained glass window made and presented to them to have as a representation of the physical structure. Later in the year, a tree of Dave's favorite kind will be planted in the church yard. Though we know that David and Ethel always say that they did the service for the Lord and the honor goes to Him, it was their willing and loving attitude which has made us grateful to them for the service they've given in the Lord's name. We gave them a little program and a few momentos. The Lord will give them their true reward for all they have done for our local and national church and for the furthering of the Word.

"...being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

James 1:25

As the school year gets under way, we issue our reminder that families are encouraged to come spend time with their students and join us for church. This is espe-

cially true for the families of our unconverted students. Many times, these students are more likely to come to church if their family is here to help them establish the connection with us. Throughout the school year, our Wednesday evening services/Bible studies are held at either the church or at the Illini Union. A schedule is established for each semester, so it is a good idea for Wednesday evening visitors to check with someone regarding location. We'd hate to have our visitors get lost!

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

Psalms 32:8

We are very pleased that two of our recently-graduated students will be staying here for jobs and will be remaining a part of our church! U of I graduate, Sis. Gretchen Knepp, of Roanoke will be the enthusiastic teacher of a first grade classroom at Oakwood Grade School in the small town of Oakwood. The Lord is surely blessing those young children who come from a variety of backgrounds in giving them a young Christian woman as their teacher. We wish Gretchen many blessings and an extra measure of energy as she embarks on this first year as an elementary school teacher. Parkland College graduate, Sis. Jenny Hoffman of Cissna Park, gained employment as an occupational therapy assistant with an agency working with handicapped adults. Jenny will be aiding these people with their therapy and their integration into their community. Many are the rewards and blessings of working with each of these

groups, and we know these young women will touch many lives that could use some joy.

“For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.”

Psalm 33:21

Back-to-school preparations for a few of our students include getting wedding plans together. Trusting that the Lord's leading has directed them to one another, U of I students, Bro. Andy Kieser of Bloomington and Sis. Holly Kokanovich of Phoenix, are planning a wedding for the semester break. Another U of I student, Sis. Nicole Yackley of Taylor, is engaged to Bro. Todd Witzig of Gridley and will be leaving us at the semester to be married in late December. Our wishes for them are that their love for one another and for God will only increase as time passes. Congratulations to both couples.

Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) was our only visiting minister in the past month. We thank Bro. Mark and Sis. Sara for their willingness to serve us. We look forward to having more visitors now that our students are back in school.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

It is with thankful hearts that we could welcome home our Bible Class and chaperones from a World Relief trip to Jamaica July 29-August 5. The group put a great deal of effort into the making of a basketball court for the students at the Knockpatrick Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf. We pray that God will bless both the

givers as well as the receivers of this work.

Our visiting ministers for this month were Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Bill Brake (Sardis, OH). We appreciate these brothers for sharing God's Word with us.

We bid farewell to a dear family this month. Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon Rinkenberger are relocating to the St. Louis, MO, area. We know the St. Louis congregation will gain a blessing from Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon, but it is difficult to see them go.

There's a miracle called friendship
That dwells within the heart.
And you don't know when it happens

Or where it gets its start.
But the happiness it brings you
Always gives a special lift,
And you realize that friendship
Is God's own precious gift.

—author unknown

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Darlene Walder
Cheryl Eisenmann**

The harvest fields are bending
With precious, ripened grain;
More reapers now are needed,
Ere Christ comes back again.

Harvest time! Harvest time!
Precious gospel seed is sown.
Reapers go! Reapers go!
Jesus, King, must have His own,

His loved ones;
Soon He'll come! Soon He'll
come!
Come and catch away His Bride.
His own! His own! His own!

Tabernacle Hymns #71

We've had visiting ministers this month whom the Lord has used to bring forth the message of truth. They were Bros. David Oberghel (Peoria, IL) and Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO).

Since the last writing, we've had many sick ones. Our recent hospital patients have been Sis. Laverne Farney, Bro. Dennis Walder, Sis. Rosie Martin, and Aubrey Maul (Sis. Alicia). Sis. Bonnie Young, Bro. Dale Walder, Vernon Clauss and Sis. Elsie Ehman have had surgery. We trust God's healing touch will be on each of you.

Our children will be back in school as you read this edition. Please pray for our youth. There is a battle raging for the mind, heart and soul of these young people. God works behind the scenes and He will hear and answer the prayer of the righteous.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Glenna Rinkenberger

“And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny.”

Matthew 20:9

We were witness to God's loving mercy as our Sis. Marie Eglin was laid to rest August 10. She was the last of her family and we are so thankful that in her later years she was able to seek the Lord and find Him. While there is life there is hope. Keep praying. She is survived by nieces and nephews locally.

Having clothed yourself with Jesus
And your faith has made you

whole,
Do not fear the tribulations
That assail and try your soul:
For the enemy oppresses
All who would the world forsake,
Seeking that he might compel
them
On themselves his yoke to take.
Zion's Harp #52

Joan Craig has found peace with
God and man and awaits baptism.
It is such a blessing to see young
people make the right decision
early and then to watch them grow.
Joan's parents are Bro. Kim and
Sis. Carol.

Call and cry, ye watchmen boldly:
Call aloud and spare them not!
Zion's Harp #112

Visiting ministers were Elder
Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis,
OH), and Bros. Tom Schambach
(Elgin, IL), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI)
and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH).
We were all greatly encouraged to
hear the truth so boldly spoken. We
are such weak creatures and we
need instruction often. We would
encourage all our ministering
brothers to indeed "spare them
not!"

Our hospital patients were Bro.
Dick and Sis. Kathy Hasty, Caleb
Zobrist (Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie)
and Bro. Glenn Knapp. Our
prayers also go out to those who
have been ill at home among our
congregation.

As school soon begins, let us re-
member to say a special prayer for
our children.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Kay Kellenberger

We have been blessed this
month with the following minis-

ters: Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford,
IL), Mike Rinkenberger
(Congerville, IL), Neil Ramseyer
(Bay City, MI) and Larry
Wenninger (Latty, OH). Also here
for our Vacation Bible School were
Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Brad-
ford, IL) and Bros. Doyle
Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN),
Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Wayne
Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), and
Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL). We ap-
preciate their willingness to travel
the many miles to share the Word
with us and our young people who
will be our future church.

August 4 was the wedding of
Andy Tobler and Lori Battuello.
Andy is the son of Sis. Madelyn. We
wish them many blessings.

We extend our sympathy to the
family of Sis. Tillie Kellenberger
who passed away on July 29. We
will miss her sweet smile and gen-
tle ways. We also express our sym-
pathy to Sis. Alison (Bro. Les)
Schambach who recently lost her
father on July 23. May God bless
these families as they reflect on the
special memories they shared.

We will miss Carrie Morgan as
she moves to St. Louis to further
her education. May she feel God's
nearness as a new convert. We pray
for her and all of our converts that
they hold up the shield of faith as
they face the fiery darts of Satan.

I place myself in Jesus' hands
and there abide forever;
No grief, no joys shall loose the
bands,
nor yet our union sever!
In these dread days
when earth decays,
Who stays in Him and thus obeys
shall be preserved forever.

And let Him do with me His will,
what He will do shall please me;

I cleave to him with strong faith
still
and hope that He will bless me.
He must be blest
who loves Him best
and on His Word does firmly
rest;
Lord, with this truth impress me!
Zion's Harp #177

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Janet Zimmerman

The Boundlessness of God's Grace

Thy grace so rich and free,
To me in high degree
Thou dost unfold;
Thou only, great and strong,
Couldst break the dreadful
thong,
And draw from Satan's throng
Into Thy fold.

Therefore my voice I'll raise
In glad and joyous praise
Now on this shore,
And then in chorus clear
I'll sing Thy praises near,
O Lord, to Thy blest ear
Forevermore.

Zion's Harp #201, vs. 5-6

We are happy for Jeff Rocke
(Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth) who is re-
penting. Jeff lives in Oregon and
attends Silverton church.

It is nice to have Eunice Schlipf
assemble with us since she has
moved to the Eureka Home from
her home in Gridley. We are thank-
ful she is doing well again after
spending some time in the hospital
with a broken hip. Most recently,
Eunice has turned to the Lord in
repentance. We rejoice with these
our loved ones and wish them
much grace to establish a firm
foundation in Jesus Christ.

August 12 was the wedding day for Tarla K. Martin (Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta) and Stephen J. Gibbs (the late William and Barbara). We wish this couple God's blessings in their future.

Earlier in August we bid farewell to Sis. Angie Kupferschmid (Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth) who moved to Lester, IA. We miss Sis. Angie but wish her God's blessings in her new home at Lester.

Sis. Eileen Blunier (Bro. Duane) spent time in the hospital recently. We are thankful for her recovery.

We are promised that God will never leave nor forsake His children. During times of illness and suffering, many dear ones lean so heavily upon this precious promise. Sis. Martha Grusy (Bro. Alf) has not been able to assemble with us for some time because of medical problems and Sis. Clara Hunzicker is suffering from injuries from a fall. May God continue to provide His healing mercies to these loved ones and may they look to Him for strength as they battle the physical ailments that lay upon them.

Our dear Sis. Cathryn Wettstein passed from this life into eternity on August 29. We are thankful she could be relieved of her suffering. Sympathy is extended to her surviving family: her brothers, Bro. Art and Harold of Eureka, Leslie of Arkansas, and Willis of Bloomington; her sisters, Sis. Lula (Bro. Orville) Zimmerman of Congerville and Sis. Wilma (Bro. Les) Pulfer of Tremont; sisters-in-law, Sis. Verna (late Bro. Robert) Wettstein and Rose (the late Joe) Wettstein, both of Eureka; and her many nieces and nephews. May God provide comfort as only He can.

Our two visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) and Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO). May they be blessed for their willingness to share God's Word with us.

Last night I heard a robin singing in the rain,
And the raindrop's patter made a sweet refrain,
Making all the sweeter the music of the strain.

So, I thought, when trouble comes, as trouble will,
Why should I stop singing? Just beyond the hill
It may be that sunshine floods the green world still.

He who faces the trouble with a heart of cheer
Makes the burden lighter. If there falls a tear,
Sweeter is the cadence in the song we hear.

I have learned your lesson, bird with dappled wing,
Listening to your music with its lilt of spring —
When the storm-cloud darkens, then's the TIME to sing.
—*Streams in the Desert*

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr
Joann Zehr

"I cried unto God with my voice, even unto God with my voice; and he gave ear unto me. In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord..."
Psalm 77:1-2

Several from our congregation have been hospitalized or had surgery recently. Our prayers are with

Sis. Helen Zimmerman, Sis. Martha Maier, Sis. Sandra Stoller (Bro. Dale), Sis. Dolores Zehr (Bro. Warren), Bro. Reuben Bach (Sis. Louise), Bro. Trent Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne) and Martha Roth. May they find in the Lord a solace for their time of trouble.

Rejoicing over the birth of a new son, Tanner Lee, are Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy Hartman. Tanner was born August 16 and has two brothers, Timothy and Trevor. Grandparents are Sis. Wilma Walder (Cissna Park) and Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman.

We were blessed by the ministry of Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bros. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) in the past month. May the Lord reward your willingness to be used in our behalf.

We wish God's blessings on Tim and Amy (Lessman) Steidinger as they establish a new home. They were married in July. Tim's parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger.

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine..."

II Timothy 4:2-3

Recently, after listening to the tapes of the recent Elder Conference, this verse was brought strongly to my mind, as well as the thought that we should be very thankful for such exhortations. The tendency of the world today is to not desire "negative" preaching. According to the dictionary, reprove is to rebuke with bitterness. Rebuke is a reprimand or reproof;

to reprove sharply. Exhort is to incite or urge; to warn earnestly. These are all "negative-sounding" terms; however, in the above verse, the apostle implies that if we do not wish to hear such things, we spurn sound doctrine. Rather, let us do as the first churches did and "rejoice for the consolation" of such preaching.

"So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle: Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation. And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them."

Acts 15:30-32

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jean Knapp

Linda Anliker

After a lovely summer of beautiful weather and bountiful gardens, the school bell rings. As each student gains earthly knowledge, may Godly wisdom also increase. Perhaps devoting the beginning and ending of each day around God's Word would prove beneficial to both parents and children. May God's guiding hand continue to protect them as school begins.

We have begun to play the tapes of our Elder Conference. As we listen with prepared hearts and humbleness of mind, may the godly instruction direct our thoughts and motives to a more Christ-like fashion.

As Jesus died for all our sin,
So all His own new life begin;
Through baptism we renewed
shall be,

And clothed in immortality.

Zion's Harp #8

We welcome Sis. Kristi and Sis. Paula Bachtold (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary) and Bro. Tory Zimmerman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy) as our new sisters and brother in faith. May they always show themselves obedient, in love and faith unto God's Word.

Visiting us for different occasions, we thank Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and ministering Bros. Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) and Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL) for sharing with us from God's Word.

First-time parents, Bro. Michael and Sis. Jodi Stoller, are enjoying their new son, Collin Greg. Rejoicing with them are grandparents, Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay Steffen (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller.

Welcoming home Clay Louis are Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette, Jesse, Jordan, Amanda and Pete Zimmerman. Grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Al and Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman.

August 20 was the wedding day of Bro. Clint Dotterer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Rebecca Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida). May the Lord always be present as an unseen Guest as they establish their home.

May God grant healing to those who have spent time in the hospital which include Bro. Larry Bachman (Sis. Donna), Sis. Jean Ricketts (Bro. Nick), Bro. Clarence

Kachelmuss (Sis. Doris) and Neva Farney.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Heather Hohulin

"...Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 19:14

Our church has again been blessed with the births of three more precious babies. Bro. Josh and Sis. Keri Beer are happy to welcome into their home Grace Olivia. Grace's big brother, Reilly, will have a playmate now!

Marli Elise was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Laurie Hohulin. Grant and Maci will be a big help with their new little sister.

Clayton and Cole Carroll are delighting in the addition of their little sister, Shelby Ann. Bro. Harold and Sis. Laura are the thankful parents.

We were excited to hear the announcement of the engagement of our Bro. Scott Rinkenberger (Bro. Jaye and Sis. Peg) to Sis. Heidi Knapp (Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy). It is always so refreshing to see the handiwork of God as he chooses mates with His infinite knowledge.

Our thanks are extended to Bro. Darren Plattner and his family for giving of himself to share God's Word with us.

Note of Thanks:

Ray and I would like to thank all the sisters and brothers in faith and friends for all the prayers, cards and food during and after my surgery. May God bless each of you.

Sis. Viola Wagner

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

Some of us from Gridley were privileged to attend the General Conference on August 11 in Lester, IA.

Thanks be to God, our brethren are striving, with God's grace, to adhere to God's Word. We are justified by faith, and when the Holy Spirit resides in our hearts, we become motivated to obey and follow Christ. This fulfills God's command and is pleasing to Him.

A defining aspect of our faith is that we are likeminded, both in doctrine and practice. Over the years our unique sense of common practice has bred a deep unity. May God give us grace to stay unified in doctrine and practice. May our hearts be humble as we dispel diversity and spiritual independence.

At a recent service, our Elder brother reminded us of an oft stated quote by deceased Elder Bro. Joe M. Klopfenstein:

"If the death angel visited your bedchamber tonight, where would you spend eternity? In the land of torment? Or, in the land of delight?"

Many times Bro. Joe would ask this question at the end of a sermon. It was a penetrating query to the unconverted souls who heard his message from the pulpit.

It was interesting to note that nearly 35 years after his death this question was mentioned and still lingers. It's no less relevant now than then. May souls take heed while it is still the time of grace and salvation. And may we who serve the Lord take heed to make our calling and election sure. A crafty enemy lurks in an effort to deceive

even the very elect if it were possible.

Three of our sisters have been hospitalized: Sisters Kathy Taylor, Mary Stoller and Rosella Knapp. As of this writing, Sis. Rosella remains in the hospital and is very ill. Two surgeries were performed to assist her condition, but she remains in need of our continuing prayers.

Eric Harris (Bro. Ron and Sis. Barb) is in the armed forces. His address is:

Recruit Eric W. Harris
Plt. 2087 Fox Co., 2nd RTBN
MCRD, San Diego, CA
92140-5554

Eunice Schlipf of the Eureka Home is recovering from a broken hip. She is repenting and would appreciate letters and notes of encouragement.

We were saddened at the passing of our dear Sis. Ella Schlipf, 88, who died on August 2. She is survived by a son, Bro. Enid Schlipf, Gridley; a daughter, Sis. Elma Fleming, Bloomington; one sister, Sis. Louise Witzig, Morton; and two brothers, Bro. Alwin Funk, El Paso and Roy Funk, Gridley. Five grandchildren and one great-grandchild also survive.

Her husband, Bro. Emil, preceded her in death in 1979. They were married for almost 34 years. Sis. Ella had a gracious kindness to her. She had a unique way of showing interest in people, and we will all miss her.

ILLINOIS, MORTON
**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Our dear Sis. Velma Schwenk went to be with the Lord on August 4 at the age of 86. May our Heavenly Father comfort and bless her

son, Gordon; her daughters, Charlene (Chuck) Harr, Sis. Sharilyn (Solomon) Rassi, and Rosemary Bayless; her nine grandchildren, five great-grandchildren; and her many other relatives and friends.

The congregation rejoiced as we heard the testimony of Milton Yentes and witnessed his baptism on August 16. Our prayers are that Bro. Milton will continue to feel the Lord's leading and guidance. We rejoice that at the age of 86, Bro. Milton could receive the gift of salvation.

We wish to thank Bro. Dave Zehr (Gridley, IL) for visiting us and sharing the pulpit with our ministering brothers this month.

On August 13, Elder Bro. Joe Braker announced to the congregation his intention to retire from the eldership and ministry. The congregation thanks Bro. Joe, Sis. Shirley and his entire family for their sacrifice and labors of love to us during his 26 years of serving as Elder. We know the Lord will continue to use him mightily.

Notes of Thanks:

Bro. Al and Sis. Wilma Wiedman have recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They wish to thank all who so kindly remembered them with cards and gifts of love. May God bless all who were so kind.

I wish to thank you for the cards, flowers, gifts, food, and most of all for your prayers and the love you always show me. May God bless each one.

Sis. Edith Getz

ILLINOIS, PEORIA**Peter and Mabel Weber**

Visiting ministers were Bros. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Dave Zehr (Gridley, IL), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Jeff Thames (Washington, IL). We thank them to reveal to us from the Scriptures that which God wants us to know.

A reception was held at the Fellowship Hall on August 13 for Steve and Heather Kaisner (Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice Kaisner and Bruce and Pam Branlund, Bend, OR), who were married at Bend, OR, on July 1 by Bro. Ken Hoerr. They will be living in Portland, OR, and we wish them the blessing of a happy married life.

Two local weddings were: on July 23, Sis. Michelle Herman to Bro. Dave Kellenberger (Washington, IL); and August 6, Sis. Jenny Honegger to Bro. Billy Schick (Washington, IL). May the rich blessings of the Lord accompany them on their lives together.

We have enjoyed a generous helping of engagements and weddings recently and are happy Sis. Rachel Waibel and Bro. Andrew Honegger contributed to the list of marriage engagements on July 23. May the Lord add His bountiful favors to their undertaking.

Creighton Michael was born August 1 to Bro. Brandon and Sis. Cassie Schock (grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Jan Schock and Bro. Carl II and Sis. Debby Hoerr) and Tecca Joy came to live with Bro. Ryan and Sis. Joy Hoerr on July 21 (grandparents are Bro. Carl II and Sis. Debby Hoerr and Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann of Princeville, IL). Hearty congratulations to their happy parents and grandparents.

The topic of Bro. Chris

Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) for our family night on August 2 was "Forgiveness". As we go through life, we wished there wouldn't be offenses, but Satan is still free to roam. How do we react to heartaches? It's God's will to forgive one another, but many times this is not our first response. We internalize, let it fester into bitterness, retaliate, get even! This is not correcting a wrong, but a new heartache. Jesus was falsely accused by those He loved, but He forgave and asks us to do likewise, look past our selfish hurts to the blessings of God. When we forgive, we pardon and give up the right to retaliate. What price do we pay when we don't forgive? It consumes our thoughts, tires us out and leads to emotional and physical ailments. Satan tries to tell us we must get even; we think we are gaining, yet he destroys us. God is the righteous judge, He will repay as "vengeance is mine" (Rom. 12:19). Forgiveness is something we choose to do by the grace of God, and it will bring peace and relief. It may not always restore a relationship as it takes time to build up trust again. Forgiveness is emptying the heart from any resentment, bitterness, grudge and desire to get even. If we are willing to forgive, it may draw the bitterness out of the other person and cause repentance.

Do we expect more from somebody else than what God expects from us? We can be forgiven by our Heavenly Father, but if we choose to take up unforgiveness again, or any kind of sin, the forgiveness we received, our salvation, could be taken away and we could perish. What is our role if we are the cause of offense? We must seek to make it right, recognize our sin and confess it, which brings healing and

blessings. What if we have sought God's forgiveness and tried to make things right, but they won't forgive us? If we have done all we can and are at peace with God, that's all we can do. Go on and pray that some day they can find the grace to forgive us. If we are obedient to God, we will be blessed. It's our choice: are we going to forgive or be resentful? He'll grant us the grace to trust Him, to forgive and be a blessing to others.

Sis. Cora Pfister (92) passed away on July 16 at the Skylines. She and Bro. Art Pfister had made their home together for many years and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to him and the rest of the family.

Hospital patients were Sisters Esther Herrmann, Lydia Meyer, Jan Schock, Martha Tanner and Clara Veatch. May they experience the healing powers of Jesus.

In John 5:1-9, the Omnipotent comes face to face with the impotent. As with the infirm man at Bethesda, when Jesus sees us, He knows us and whether our heart is pure and clean or full of disease (Bro. Mike Rieker 8/13).

Note of Thanks:

Thank you all so very much for all your love and support during our time of need. We so very much appreciate all the visits, gifts, meals, rides and especially prayers. It was such a help and source of strength to feel your love and prayers and receive your support and encouragement. I am not sure how we would make it through this without you. You are surely a shining example of Jesus and His love.

Our sincere love and thanks,

Mike and Janet Weber and family

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Mary Ehnle
Crystal Streitmatter

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

Psalm 127:3

Bro. David and Sis. Kara Blunier became first-time parents on June 22 when little Faith Dena was born into this world. Paternal grandparents are the late Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce Blunier and maternal grandparents are Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Lemman (Bradford, IL). May God be with them as they bring up their daughter in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Two more souls have found the need for repentance and we are happy for them. We pray that God will grant Jim Martin, who attends Bloomington church (late Bro. Ray and Sis. Edna), and Cam Blair (foster child of Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner) much grace as they have started on the straight and narrow way that leads to Heaven.

We welcome a new couple to our Princeville church family. Converts Brian and Kristin Knobloch have been assembling with us recently.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Carol Baurer as her father, Bro. Clarence Knobloch, has passed away recently. Our hearts also go out to Sis. Jan Elsasser as her sister, Phyllis Elsasser, has recently passed away. The daughter of Dave and Susan Schricker, Annamarie, has laid her head to rest and gone on to the realms above. We weep with those who have lost loved ones

and pray God will grant them comfort.

It's that time of year again, and our children are going off to school. Whether it's grade school, high school, or college, as our children are sent off to school, let us pray for them. Their tender hearts need much guidance and protection in the evil world in which we live.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you all so very much for all your love and support during our time of need. We so very much appreciate all the visits, gifts, meals, rides, and especially prayers. It was such a help and source of strength to feel your love and prayers and receive your support and encouragement. I am not sure how we would make it through this without you. You are surely a shining example of Jesus and His love.

*Our sincere love and thanks,
 Mike and Sis. Janet Weber and family*

Only As a Child

Unless you become like children
 And love Me as they do,
 You cannot enter My Kingdom,
 For the door is closed to you...

For Faith is the key to heaven
 And only God's children hold
 The key that opens the gateway
 To that beautiful City of God...
 For only a child yet unblemished
 By the doctrines and theories of
 man

Is content to Trust and Love Jesus

Without understanding His Plan.

—*Helen Steiner Rice*

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Linda Hodel
Boni Stoller

Now the field is ripe for harvest;
 Let us then all garner in,
 For if we should stand here idle,
 Who would bring the sheaves of
 grain?

He who gathers not at harvest,
 Will a beggar be at last.
 Therefore rise today and labor,
 gathering golden sheaves with
 haste!

Hasten gladly to the labor.
 Consecrate to God your heart.
 Say this day unto your Saviour,
 Lord, I'll gladly do my part.

Hymns of Zion #46

As we busily go about our work during this harvest time, let us not neglect our part in the greater harvest of men's souls.

We have been greatly blessed in the past month with willing laborers on the pulpit. We thank Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Mike Lemman (Denver, CO), Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN), Art Bauer (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bros. Willis Ehnle (Shioda, Japan) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN). May God bless your labors with a fruitful harvest.

July 22 was a special day for Jennifer Plattner and Sean Murray when they were united in marriage. Their happy parents are Bro. Russ and Sis. Marge Plattner and Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Murray and Diane Murray.

Kristen Fischer and Brian Schneider chose July 29 as their wedding day. Kristen is the daughter of Sis. Clara Fischer and the late Bro. Wilmer. Brian is the son of Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta

Schneider of Remington.

Many gathered together to witness the marriage vows of Bro. Jason Hodel and Sis. Rena Braker on August 6. Their parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy Hodel and Bro. Harland and Sis. Martha Braker, all of Roanoke. We pray God's blessings for each of these couples as they walk hand in hand along life's pathway.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Leota Byrd are happy to welcome a new granddaughter into their family. Little Natalie Lynette was born July 9 to Matt and Marlise Byrd. Her other grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Helen Michel (Tremont, IL).

T.R. Hoffman is the proud big brother of Parker William, born July 24 to Bro. Kirk and Sis. Lisa Hoffman. His dotting Grandma here is Sis. Jeannie Hoffman.

Our prayers are with those who have spent time in the hospital this month. We are glad Sis. MaryLou Martin and little Steven Fischer are home and recovering. Bro. Jim Hodel has had surgery and hopes to be home soon.

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven for our new brothers and sister in Christ. August 20 was the day of rebirth for Bro. Eric and Sis. Jodi Hoffman and Bro. Jeremy Knepp (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann). May you always look to God to direct you along life's pathway.

Note of Thanks:

To our family, friends and neighbors for their many acts of kindness, we say thank you! They will always be remembered. God bless.

Ervin and Alice Kempf

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Heather Rassi LaVonne Wagenbach

Four dear souls shared their testimonies of faith and were baptized July 22-23. We welcome Bro. Dick Miller (Cindy), Bro. David Wagenbach, Sis. Marci Zuercher (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Jill Wagenbach (Si and Sis. LaVonne). Elder Bro. Andy Virkler assisted Bro. Charles. We appreciate all our visitors and especially visiting ministers, Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL). We welcomed two more souls into the fold on August 4-5. They are Sis. Carmen Kaiser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marcia) and Bro. Nick Uhlman (David and Joan). We want to thank Elder Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Gerry Hertzler (Sabetha, KS) for their assistance. Other visiting ministers were Bros. Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington, IL) and Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH).

"Blest be the Tie that binds..." We are thankful for all of the visitors who came to Tremont for the "Ft. Sam" reunion on July 30. Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), and Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Don Gudeman (La-Crosse, IN), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS), Glenn Riegenbach (Smithville, OH) and Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX).

We are thankful that all of the dear ones who had to spend time in the hospital are now home. They are Bro. Bob Frank (Sis. Rose-Mary), Sis. Miriam Frank (Bro. Marvin), Sis. Carrie Reinbeck and Bro. Elmer Brunner.

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Paula Wagenbach are happy parents of a new little daughter, Bethany Jean, born August 14. She was welcomed home by Lucy, Megan and Nathan. Grandparents are Bro. Elmon and Sis. Janice Koch and Bro. Bob and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach. May God bless their family.

Doug Sauder (Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary) was married to Brooke Bartholomew June 25. We wish them God's nearness as they set up their home together in California.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Denise Romersberger Sue Ruppert

The Washington congregation had much to be thankful for this month. God is so good to us. So often we take our blessings for granted, and are not as thankful as we should be. It seems sometimes that our attitude is one of "It's always been that way, so of course it is supposed to be that way." We should look for opportunities to be thankful for the provision of our loving, Heavenly Father. None of us has to look very far to see how God provides for us in our everyday lives. It is just that we have to learn to focus on the blessings that seem so commonplace to us. We will find more than enough to fill up our prayers.

Bro. Dave Kellenberger and Sis. Michelle Herman were married on July 23. Parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Carole Kellenberger and Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth Herman (Peoria, IL). Also married this month were Bro. Billy Schick and Sis. Jenny Honegger. Parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick and Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane Honegger (Peoria, IL). Their wedding took place on August 6. May the Lord be

the center of your homes, and may He give you wisdom and love so that your marriages will fulfill the plans He has for you now and in the future.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN). Although we know that these brothers do not want recognition for their actions, and that it is the Spirit that works through and in faithful hearts, we always want to thank them for the efforts they put forth on behalf of the Word of God. May the Lord bless you richly in this life and beyond.

Dan and Dawn Boles' baby daughter was stillborn. We sympathize with their loss. Dawn is the daughter of Bro. Harvey and Sis. Sharon Martin.

Having surgery this month were Sis. Judy Witzig and Sis. Sue Ruppert. Others in our congregation continue to have health issues as well. We continue to pray for all of you. May you feel the presence and peace of the Lord each and every day.

Thank you, Lord, for who Thou art, and all that means in our lives. Let us worship Him with our thankfulness and praise!

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Tonia Isch
Beth Aschliman

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song: he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation."

Isaiah 12:2-3

We rejoice with six new con-

verts. As they start this journey we pray for Cory Aschliman (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Beth), Lori Steffen (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean), Carson Gerber (Bro. Doug and Sis. Ruby), Scott and Jamie Johnson (Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise Maller) and Aaron Gerber (Bro. Darryl and Sis. Jinny).

We celebrate as four new brothers were brought into the fold. Bro. Cory Steffen (Bro. Ramon and Sis. Lorena), Bro. Andy Bertsch (Bro. Jim and Sis. Christy), Bro. Byran Gerber (Bro. Leon and Sis. Pat) and Bro. Clint Gerber (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay) can call Jesus their brother. We're so happy for these families. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) was here to share the weekend and help Elder Bro. Ed. Also visiting Bluffton was Bros. Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann) and Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene), both of Bluffton North.

We heard wedding bells in Bluffton as Bro. Bryce Isch (Bro. Les and Sis. Ann) was united in marriage to Sis. April Kipfer (Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda). Bro. Dave Sinn (Sis. Joleen, Ft. Scott, KS) visited Bluffton for the wedding. We thank Bro. Dave for his willingness to share.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Jaime Maller are rejoicing at the birth of their son, Luke Taylor, born on July 27. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda Maller and Bro. Jack and Sis. Diane Schwartz. Bro. Brian and Sis. Annette Clark have a beautiful new son named Lance David born on July 7. We're thankful for these little blessings.

Lance Clark (Bro. Brian and Sis. Annette) spent some time in the hospital. We're thankful he is going to be fine. Also spending time in the hospital was Sis. Irene Reinhard. Our prayers are with

our dear Sis. Naomi Ringger (Bro. Orville). She has had an extended illness and has spent many long hours of bedrest. Bro. Orville has been so faithful. Such an example of a beautiful Christian marriage. We pray God's comfort and strength for our Sis. Naomi.

Celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary is Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Longenberger. They have been happily married for 50 years. What a joy. Congratulations!

We were saddened by the death of Kenneth Gerber (Alyce). His children, Arlen (Marjorie) and Karen (Larry) Herring, will miss him greatly.

INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Ann Meyer
Rhonda Maller

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

Hebrews 12:1

We are looking forward to hearing the testimonies and witnessing the baptism of three converts, Jesse Frauhiger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene), Janelle Steffen (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay) and Natasha Gilgen (Bro. Gene and Sis. Melinda). Our prayers are with them as they prepare for this special opportunity to share the story of their redemption. Our prayers are also with our friend, Angela Loker, who has begun her walk with the Lord. Angela resides with Bro. Denny Drayer (Sis. Jan) and family. We are confident that "He

which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil. 1:6).

We have been blessed abundantly with little ones this summer. Bro. John and Sis. Laura Beeks and their children, Sawyer and Lindsay, are delighted to welcome baby sister, Payton Rene. Grandparents, Bro. Mike and Sis. Linda Dubach, are also enjoying Payton.

Bro. Sam and Sis. Becky Ringger are the happy grandparents to Haley Jo. Haley's parents are Joe and Mary Jo Schlarman of Weston, OH. She has a big brother, Cedric.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE **Lily Pelsy**

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:"

Matthew 6:14

We thank Bro. Chris Wuethrich for presenting a Topical Bible Study entitled "forgiveness", which brings peace, healing and joy. We are grateful for the servants who came to bring forth the Living Word: Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Bros. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) and Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN).

August 13, Bro. Rustin Meister (Bro. Dick and Sis. Sharon, Remington, IN) and Sis. Amanda Ward (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandi) were married in the Lord. We wish them God's blessings upon their home in Indianapolis.

May the Lord be gracious upon the lives of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emilie Anliker. At separate times this month they had brief hospital-

izations.

We welcome Joe Daniels to Francesville. May the grace of God be with him.

Sincere thanks to the Elders for the labors of love as they met for the Conference.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS **Nancy Witzig** **Lauretta Schafer**

"Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart..."

Acts 2:37

Assuming the weighty responsibility to teach and guide our children in Sunday School are the newly elected teachers: Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Witzig, Bro. Phil and Sis. Judy Schlatter and Bro. Chris Frauhiger. May all of our Sunday School teachers feel the presence of the Holy Spirit as they prepare their lessons so that the hearts of the children will be pricked and will respond to the call of God.

Sis. Sara Frauhiger (Bro. Chris) is a graduate of Ball State University.

Our prayers and best wishes are with Bro. Andy and Sis. Jill Wuethrich as they move to Peoria. We will miss them.

Two newly married couples will be making Indianapolis their home. Bro. Stuart and Sis. Alivia (Metzger) Gutwein (Francesville) and Bro. Rustin and Sis. Amanda (Ward) Meister (Remington). We welcome them and hope they will soon feel at home.

Our high school students enjoyed a day at Bluffton with Christian Endeavor.

We are grateful to all those who labored on our behalf for our new

revision of the Zion's Harp. Psalm 69:30, "I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving."

Did you know the Bible says, "There is no God"? Look in Psalm 53:1. The lesson is that we use the whole Bible, not just phrases here and there to suit us.

INDIANA, LACROSSE **Natalie Freed**

The time flies on
And death draws nigh
Unite us, Lord, with Thee on
high!

Prepare us now to live with Thee
Forever in eternity!

Zion's Harp #188

Our prayers are with Sis. Kathy Nuest and Sis. Jo Frank (husbands Dan Nuest and Bro. Bill Frank) in the passing of their fathers. May our Heavenly Father be your Comforter in this time of bereavement.

We also pray for Bro. Lynn Feller as he suffers from cancer. Swiftly our lives pass, yet how precious when one can reflect in peace and wait in hope. By God's grace, a Christian finds strength to overcome even in pain.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ted Steffen who preached of faith, works and the love of God, and dear Bro. Larry Wenninger. Our congregation felt inspired by these brothers and we appreciate their willing service.

As the Elder brothers gathered for the preservation and strengthening of our beloved Christian heritage, we lifted them in prayer. Satan will continue to attack the church in hopes that we perish, but our trust is in the omnipotent God of Heaven and the sacrifice of His

only begotten Son.

Sadly, we bid Bro. Ned and Sis. Heidi Stoller and their baby Eleanora farewell as they move to Alto, MI, closer to Heidi's family. However, we are thankful they are following the Lord's leading.

Several of our young people are leaving for college. They are Sis. Kristi Massner at Ball State University and Sisters Michelle Stoller, Melinda Heinold and Julie Heinold at Purdue University. Sam Frank will also be attending at Purdue and Shaya Elcock at IUSB. Also, Bro. Neil Stoller will be going back to the University of Illinois. They were encouraged to look to Christ for guidance and spiritual sustenance.

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

August 12 was the wedding day of Sheri Pfister (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon) to Brad Conner. The ceremony was impressive. We wish them God's blessings.

Prayers for the Lord's blessings on Sis. Rena and Bro. Jason Hodel as they walk the path of life together following their marriage on August 6 at Roanoke, IL.

We are fervently praying for healing for Sis. Rachel (Bro. Jerry) Fessenden who is suffering from a staph infection since little Isaac was born.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Robert Meyer, Jr. (Bluffton North, IN) and Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH). We are thankful to God for feeding us with the Bread of Life and our brothers who are willing to serve.

Bro. Lynn Stieglitz was interviewed at the Elder Conference and approved as Elder for Leo. We

look forward to a date for his ordination.

What a blessing is ours to have faithful brothers, concerned with our welfare, to take the oversight of the churches.

Praise ye the Lord, who in glorious majesty reigneth;
Beareth thee upward, on wings like the eagle's sustaineth.
He can provide, after thy own heart's delight,
What to thy welfare pertaineth.
Zion's Harp #5

We are renewing old acquaintances and making new friends as volunteers come to prepare for Gateway Woods annual auction.

We welcome Sis. Erica Schambach from Elgin, IL, and Sis. Judy Gehring from Burlington, IA, to our church fellowship. May they feel the Holy Spirit's presence as they serve at Gateway Woods. Prayers were answered.

A Home-going service was held on August 14 for Sis. Mary (Bertsch) Martin, 91, who passed away August 10 at her daughter's home in Warsaw, IN. She was preceded in death by Bro. Oscar, her husband of 50 years. Her daughter, Alice, was a great comfort to her after Bro. Oscar's Home-going. Their love for each other can be compared to God's love for us. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16). Those who survive are three daughters, Arlene (Harley) Kelly, Joan (Tim) Truex and Alice Martin; a son, Philip; and three stepsons, Robert, James and Richard. A brother, Herman Bertsch, and sister, Sis. Louise

Rager, also survive. We extend our sympathy and pray for God's comforting Spirit to be with them.

On August 15, memorial services were held for Bro. Lloyd Klopfenstein, 95, who died of a heart attack on August 11. Surviving are sons, Bro. Dennis and Bro. Lynn (Sis. Chris) with whom he made his home; five grandchildren, Troy, Kelly, Bro. Mike, Bro. Scott, Tod, and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sis. Pearl; a daughter-in-law, Sis. Roberta; and eight brothers and sisters. May the Lord's comforting Spirit meet every need.

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

Psalm 23

INDIANA, MILFORD Marguerite Hoerr Pam Beer

Bro. Ray and Sis. Paula Haab are rejoicing in the birth of a new granddaughter, Breann Marie, born on June 26. Bro. Jon, Sis. Deb and big brother, Tyler, welcomed her into their home. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Wayne and

Sis. Shirley Lehman (South Bend, IN).

Those who experienced hospitalization or medical care this past month were Sis. Kate Price (Bro. Glenn), Bro. Bob Cockburn (Sis. Sue) and Kathy Holderbaum (Rick). We are glad prayers have been answered and all are home and on the mend.

We at Milford are rejoicing with the angels in Heaven that Troy Wuthrich (Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda) has decided to give his life to the Lord. We also extend our congratulations as Troy has recently graduated from Indiana University with an accounting degree. Our prayers go with Troy during his repentance and as he starts a new job.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

I John 1:9

We appreciate Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and their family gathering with us and also Bro. Ron ministering God's Word to us.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank all those that remembered us on our 50th anniversary, with cards, gifts, good wishes and prayers.

Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy Steffen

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler
Rochelle Ward**

We are thankful for all those who have visited us recently. We especially want to thank ministering Bros. John Stoller (Leo, IN),

Jaye Rinckenberger (Goodfield, IL), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) for offering themselves in the service of the Lord.

A group of brothers and converts from our home church as well as a couple of neighboring churches took a trip to Camilla, GA, to help with the rebuilding of homes destroyed by tornadoes. Among those from here were: Bros. Jeremy Scheitlin, Justin Clark, Joel Virkler, Clint Bahler, Eric Frantz, Jerry Bahler, Nathan Virkler and convert Travis Getz. These young men are a wonderful example of the teachings that Jesus gives us about helping those in need. May they each receive a special blessing.

Again we rejoice as the Lord has brought together two couples in Holy Matrimony. On July 29, Brian Schneider (Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta) was united in love to Kristin Fischer (late Bro. Wilmar and Sis. Clara, Roanoke, IL). We wish them God's nearness as they make their home together.

On August 13, Bro. Rustin Meister (Bo. Dick and Sis. Sharon) and Sis. Amanda Ward (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandy, Francesville, IN) also gave their vows of love and commitment before God and man. Our prayers are with them as they start their new life together in Indianapolis.

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Romans 10:15

Believing that it is the will of God and trusting the guidance of

the Holy Spirit we give our full support to Bro. Alan and Sis. Sarah Schambach as he has been called into the ministry. May they both be filled with peace as he assumes his new position in the church.

As we begin a new school year, may we lift up our children and their teachers' names in prayer. May what is taught and learned give glory and honor unto God.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND DeAnn Schlatter Lavilla Langhofer

Join us in prayer for Buicky Bouribone who has made a decision to seek the Lord and commit his life to Him. Pray for him that the joy of the Lord can be his strength mentally and that he will gain physically as he has very limited motion of his limbs from an accident and injury to his spine. We pray that as he goes to high school and others see him in his wheelchair, they will also be inspired to serve the Lord with "Joy".

Joy

God cares, He does, I know He does; always has and always will,

He cares and loves us all so much; He died on Calvary's hill.

Last night as I lay in bed; I heard some wondrous news,

My brother gave his heart to God; and so brightened up my blues.

I had cried and prayed so hard for him; said "God, I love him so"

And God, He whispered back to me, "I love him, too, you know."

I opened up my Bible then and saw in letters red:

"I will come and heal him",
words that Jesus said.
I whispered, "God, Thy will be
done" for You know what is
best.
And now God has answered me,
I'm filled with peace and blest.
You've given me my brother,
Lord; I give him back to You.
And pray that we would never
stray but always cling to You.
Guide my feet and his, oh Lord,
wherever we may trod,
That someday we may go to
Heaven and be with Thee, our
God.

We look forward to the testi-
mony and baptism of Brad
Langhofer, one of these "friends/
brothers" on August 27. May we
give glory to God with our Joy.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Hope Bucher

This month we were thankful to
have our annual Sunday School
Picnic and Program. The children
performed the songs that they
learned during Vacation Bible
School and were rewarded for
faithful attendance and memori-
zation of Bible verses.

Bro. Herbert Knochel (Phoenix,
AZ) and his family were with us for
two consecutive weekends, and we
were very blessed by Bro. Her-
bert's ministry. We were thankful
to have their family along with sev-
eral other visitors during this sum-
mer month.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Beckie Lehman
Mary Beth Lehman

After a busy summer of vaca-
tions and time spent with family,
we once again settle into the school

year routine. We are thankful for
God's protection over so many as
they traveled here and there. Now
we ask for a special blessing on our
children as they begin their school
year, whether at home or in school
buildings. Our prayer is that God
would bless not only their minds as
they learn and grow, but that He
would hold their hearts and keep
them close to Him.

We enjoyed a blessed weekend
hearing the testimonies and wit-
nessing the baptisms of Sis. Katie
Schwab (Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel)
and Sis. Renae Bahler (Chris
Bahler and Sis. Teresa). May God
continue to guide and keep them as
they walk with the Saviour. Elder
Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) as-
sisted during the weekend. Also
serving on the pulpit were Bro.
Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) and
John Stoller (Leo, IN). We thank
each of them for their willing ser-
vice in the Lord.

We appreciated other ministers
visiting throughout the month.
Bro. Ted Steffen (Alto, MI) and
Chris Wuethrich (Francesville,
IN) shared the Word with us. May
God bless them for sharing their
time and efforts.

God continues to call those who
are lost in sin. We rejoice with
Melynda Ames (Bro. Tim and
Joyce) for heeding that call and
turning to God in repentance. May
He grant her grace and peace as she
seeks His will.

Bro. Don and Sis. Rita Furrer
are thankful for the safe arrival of
another dear grandchild. Jeff and
Sharon Niese are the joyful par-
ents of Daniel Jeff. What a pleasure
to welcome a new little one.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Brenda Schulz
Karla Gerst

Thy goodness and Thy mercy
shall
Abide with me forever.
Within my Lord's abode I'll
dwell,
Till death this life shall sever.
And when my pilgrimage is o'er,
On wings of fervent love I'll soar
Up to the Father's mansion.
Zion's Harp #153

Once again our little congrega-
tion was reminded of the brevity of
life as Sis. Leola Heiniger (late
ministering Bro. Harvey) passed
away August 3. Our thoughts and
prayers are with her children:
Larry (Vallejo, CA), Sandra
Heckenberg (Cumming, GA),
Mike (Burlington), Doug and Tim
(Oakville); and her sisters, Sis.
Martha Buehler, Sis. Betty Baker
and Sis. Liberty Gerst (all of
Wapello), as well as her grandchil-
dren. We are thankful that Sis.
Leola could go quickly, but we are
even more thankful for the hope of
salvation. What a comfort it is. We
will miss her very much. We also
thank Elder Bro. Ed Lanz
(Oakville, IA) for having the fu-
neral service, along with our local
ministers.

The weekend of August 6, many
of our congregation traveled to
West Bend to witness the wedding
of Bro. Darin Massner (Bro. Den-
nis and Sis. Gail) and Sis. Twila
Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis.
Marlene). We welcome Sis. Twila
to our church!

August 20 was the beginning of
the 2000-2001 Sunday School year.
We thank the two outgoing teach-
ers, Sis. Monica Eisenmann and
Bro. Dennis Massner, for their

years of service in teaching our children and grandchildren. Our new teachers are Sis. Lorna Knapp and Bro. Leo Banwart. Our prayers and support are with them!

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

Our annual Sunday School picnic was again well attended by the young and older of our entire congregation. Besides all the good food, a blessed evening of fellowship was enjoyed.

At our annual election, Bro. Lon Butikofer (Sis. Sandy) was elected to replace Bro. Jim Knobloch (Sis. Marcy) as Sunday School Superintendent and Bible Class teacher. Sis. Gloria Frieden will replace Sis. Sue Schneider (Bro. Charles) as teacher for the intermediate class. Bro. John Schupbach (Sis. Janet) will continue as head song leader. Our thanks to those who have fulfilled their terms. May they feel blessed by God for their service.

Twice this month we were blessed with a visiting minister at mid-week worship service. Our thanks to Bros. Andy Virkler (Sis. Becky, Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH). May God bless them for their deeds of kindness.

August 19 was the wedding day for Amy Butikofer (Bro. Tim and Sis. Kathy) and Rhett Jensen (Collin and Joan). May God's presence ever be felt in their home as they face the struggles and enjoy the blessings of their life together.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Willa Clark

August is a month for those last

chance vacations, before school begins again. How refreshing it can be to enjoy different vistas of God's handiwork, while wandering in the mountains that appear to have been mightily pushed from the earth by a powerful hand, or lingering by a lakeshore shaded by whispering trees.

Visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) and Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) along with their families. It is always a blessing to fellowship with God's family. We appreciate every visitor.

In July we held Vacation Bible School. We thank God for soft hearts that the seed of His Word might fall on fertile soil.

This has been a summer of weddings in our congregation. Aaron Parmer and Beth Hitt were married on August 12. Aaron is the son of Buck and Sis. April Parmer and Beth's parents are Rita and Allen Hitt. We pray for God's blessing and guidance for this new family.

As the children return to school, whether getting on the bus, opening books in a home school room, or packing for college, we pray for God's guiding hand in their lives. For those of us who are not in school, wouldn't this be a good time for a recommitment of time and energy to study God's Word, to sit in the school of His wisdom?

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz

Greetings of love to all! Our congregation was blessed with many visitors this month, including ministering Bros. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL),

Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) and Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and their families. We're thankful for each one who makes the effort to worship with us.

We reluctantly say "farewell" to Andy, Jayne, Mendi, Adam, Greg and Maria Sauder as they relocate to the Morton, IL, area. They faithfully attended Sunday School and church for many years and we will surely miss them. May they feel God's blessing and may they feel welcome in whichever congregation they choose to assemble.

We, especially those of us who were not privileged to attend the Conference, eagerly look forward to listening to the Conference tapes. They will be scheduled on the Wednesday evenings in September. May we attend with prayerful hearts and seek how we can shed the worldly influences which "so easily beset us", narrow our focus to our Heavenly goal, and renew our zeal for our Lord.

IOWA, LESTER
Sue Warner
Dawn Metzger

Three dear souls gave their testimonies and were baptized on the weekend of July 29-30. They were Sis. Annie Metzger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois), Sis. Betsy Doorneweerd (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marlys) and Sis. Marcy Van Whye (Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan). Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) was here to help Elder Bro. Dennis. Other visiting ministers were Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Vern Wettstein (Congerville, IL) and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN).

July 20 was the wedding day for Sid Meyer and Tana Teigen. They are the children of Bro. George and

the late Sis. Charlyn Meyer and Dave and Lila Teigen of Buffalo, SD. We wish them much joy and God's blessings.

Sharing the Word of Life with us the weekend of July 23 were Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN). Thank you for the inspiring messages.

There are two engagements to share this month: Bro. Steve Warner to Sis. Liz Zaugg (West Bend, IA). Parents are Elder Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther Warner and Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie Zaugg. Also, Sis. Valarie Knobloch (Phoenix, AZ) to Bro. Mike Howell (Bay City, MI). Parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl Knobloch and Pamela Howell and Michael Howell. May God be your guide as you plan to become united in the Lord.

A warm welcome is extended to Sis. Angie Kupferschmid (Bro. Richard and Sis. Maribeth) as she has moved here from Eureka, IL (505 S. Greene St., Rock Rapids, IA 51246, 712-472-4489); and to Bro. John and Sis. Donna Gerber who will be living in our area again (2484 270th St., Rock Valley, IA 51247, 712-476-9379).

Our sympathy goes to the families of Gib and Sis. Vicki Knobloch as they laid to rest their dear mother-in-law and grandma, Sis. Tillie Kellenberger (Elgin, IL). We also remember the family of Bro. Clarence Knobloch (Bradford, IL) and extend our sympathy to them.

Allison Klostergaard (Brad and Sis. Linda) underwent facial surgery after being bitten by a dog. We hope she will have a complete recovery. Surgical patients this past month were Bro. Jon Blomgren and Sis. Elaine Kellenberger (cataract). Hospitalized were Chayla

Besonen (Brant and Samantha), Sis. Chalea Knobloch (Bro. Vern) and Sis. Emily Leuthold (Bro. Art) who continued to have therapy following a stroke. She is hoping to be able to return home soon.

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son."

Revelation 21:7

The highlight of our month was hosting the 2000 Brotherhood Conference on August 11. Looking back we can truly say it was a blessing for all of us who were able to help with and attend all the services. It was very encouraging and uplifting to sit under the sound of God's Word so often that week. Visiting ministers who preached the Word were Elder Bros. Jon Kokonovich (Phoenix, AZ), Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL), Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA), Marvin Lemman (Bradford, IL), Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Bros. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) and Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR). We especially appreciate the Elder brothers who gave of themselves on Friday to exhort and encourage us to strive for our eternal goal. Also, during this week the annual informational World Relief meeting was held. The National World Relief committee met together on Saturday, August 12. We trust the Lord will bless all these undertakings.

"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous."

I Peter 3:8

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Melody Steiner

Debbie Wagenbach

We rejoice with Bro. Curt Schmidgall (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) as his engagement to Sis. Lorenia Sibaja (Felix and Sis. Lourdes) of Ixtlan, Mexico, was announced to our congregation. May God richly bless them as they plan for a future together in Him.

Our prayers of sympathy are extended to the family of our Bro. William Cordill. Bro. Bill was blessed to reach a high age in life, yet we know that a void in this life does exist when one of our loved ones is called Home. We are thankful that he has now reached his eternal reward, but we offer our support to his family left this side of the grave; his dear wife, Sis. Bertha, and daughter, Sis. Doris, and sons, John and Leroy. May God comfort them in their loss.

We are thankful that Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) visited our congregation on the Wednesday evening before the Brotherhood Conference in Lester. May God richly bless them for sharing His good and inspiring Word.

Several from our congregation were privileged to attend the Annual Brotherhood Conference in Lester. What a blessing and spiritually uplifting day we spent together listening to our dear shepherds relate kindly admonitions, concerns, and wonderful encouragement to the brotherhood.

May we apply our hearts to

these teachings whether we were in attendance there or listening to the tapes in our home congregation.

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

Hebrews 13:17

IOWA, PULASKI

Katrina Knobloch

"There are friendships that we cherish..." (Hymns of Zion #91). We have enjoyed the fellowship of many friends and family over the last month. Among them were ministering Bros. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL), Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL), Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington, IL), Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA) and Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH).

Bro. Albert Wuthrich celebrated his 100th birthday August 1. On July 29, his family met at the Bloomfield Care Center where he lives and shared a birthday cake with 100 candles. Later in the day all his children and 21 of his 26 grandchildren gathered at the Troy Park for dinner and lots of visiting and reminiscing. Bro. Albert also has 58 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Bro. Albert has a sister, Leah Ward, living in Burlington, IA, who is 98. Leah's daughter and granddaughter were also at the reunion.

Bro. Albert's children are Rob-

ert of Osceola, IA; Bros. Russell and Joel of Bloomfield, IA; Bro. Bill of Chillicothe, IL; Sis. Lois Sutter of Taylor, MO; Delores Kiefer of Wapello, IA; and Sis. Mary Gramm of Gridley, IL.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Berniece Banwart

Eunice Fehr

This past month we have been blessed to have many ministers for special occasions including those that were traveling to and from the Conference in Lester. They were Elder Bros. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO), Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and retired Elder Bro. Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield, OH); and ministering Bros. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Ben Manz, Don Manz, Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), Paul Zimmerman, Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Ron Palitto, Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT), Bill Emch (Lamont - Gridley, KS), Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO), Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA), Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) and Michael Baumann (Mansfield, OH).

On August 6, Sis. Twila Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene) and Bro. Darin Massner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail) were united in marriage. We will miss Sis. Twila and wish them much happiness as they make their home and worship with the Burlington, IA, congregation.

The engagement of Sis. Elizabeth Zaugg (Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie)

and Bro. Steve Warner (Elder Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) was announced. We wish them God's direction as they plan for their October wedding.

The weekend of August 12-13 was so uplifting as we listened to the testimony of our convert, Issac Mogler (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Beth), and then to witness his baptism on Sunday. We welcome Bro. Issac into the brotherhood.

We extend our sympathy to Darrell and Sis. Julie Zaugg and family on the death of her mother, Julia Biddle.

Also, Joan Traub mourns the death of her father, Vern Nelson.

Word was received here of the death of Sis. Margaret Banwart of Portland, OR. She and her deceased husband, Bro. Ray, were formerly West Bend residents and have many relatives here. May all who have lost loved ones feel the prayers of our congregation.

Our prayers are with our hospital patients, Ben Skoglund (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori) and Bro. Mark (Sis. Deb) Bruellman. We are thankful that they are both home again.

Our congregation has been blessed to have three new babies join their families. All three have been the third child to be born into their family circle.

On July 25, Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karen Schmidt welcomed Trissa Rose. Excited to have a new baby sister are Dana and Brooke, along with grandparents, Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn Schmidt and Sis. Velma Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL).

Brandon James arrived on August 1 to Bro. John and Sis. Wendy Fehr. Heather and Michael are happy to have a new brother. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis.

Eula Mogler and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr.

On August 3, Bro. Darren and Sis. Nora Fehr welcomed their son, Lincoln Dennis. Ashton and Travis are happy to have another boy to play with. Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr and Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi (Silverton, OR) are Lincoln's grandparents.

We had a church carry in farewell supper on July 30 for Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen Kellenberger and Bill and Jan Bogue and families as all have moved to Kansas City, MO. We will miss them and wish them God's blessings in their new home and occupations.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Marie Inoue

We have many reasons to be thankful to our Heavenly Father at this season. One in particular is that we are free to assemble and worship the true and living God. In recent days our village speaker has reminded us of Hiroshima and Nagasaki which were bombed in WWII. Now today the bell tolled in remembrance of 55 years since the war has ended. Even though it brought many hard times and destruction, one of the results was that our precious faith could make a beginning here.

This thought was emphasized at our annual summer fellowship held at the end of July as our theme was "spreading the Word". Effective ways of doing this were listed on a white board. Many felt the most effective way was to become burdened for the salvation for our friends and relatives and invite them to church. Along with this is the first step which is lots of prayer. While there we also enjoyed a short hike together, min-

eral baths, and lots of singing. The meeting was held in an area of high altitude, away from the high humidity where we all live.

Two of our young folks returned to the States to continue their education. There are some changes in their addresses. The correct ones are as follows:

Mr. Kan Umemura, Apt. 13, 104 Irving St., Normal, IL 61761, (309) 451-1654; and Mr. Makoto Inoue, Apt. 4, 230 Marstellar, West Lafayette, IN 47906, (765) 743-0658. These boys face challenges as they adjust to life there. We pray they will often call upon Jesus to be their helper each day.

KANSAS, BERN

Jill Hartter

Lori Baumgartner

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

Revelation 21:7

As we will begin the first session of our Brotherhood Conference tapes this evening with the Sabetha congregation, our hearts look forward to the warnings and encouragement that will be given in overcoming the world. In this "race of life" we know that the prize of "inheriting all things" is not given to the swift but to those who can endure until the end. May we each, by God's grace, do our part to preserve our faith so that when we reach the end of our race the baton may be passed on to our next generation, our youth!

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held July 18 at Mulberry Creek, near Sabetha. We are thankful to the teachers and their wives for organizing the nice eve-

ning.

We have a total of 77 students who will be in Sunday School this coming year. We offer our thanks to Bro. Matt Edelman, Bro. Mike Rokey, and Sis. Kaye Meyer whose Sunday School terms are over. We offer our prayerful support to Bro. Jeff Baumgartner, Bro. Brad Strahm, and Sis. Jana Strahm who will be taking their places.

July 29 was the wedding day for Jasper Frazee and Gina Strahm. Jasper's parents are Dennis and Linda of Sabetha and Gina's parents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan. They are making their home in Sabetha at the present time. May they feel the Lord's presence as they begin their life together. We wish them much happiness.

On July 30, we were thankful to have visiting minister, Bro. Edwin Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Elgin, IL) here to share God's Word with us. May the Lord bless him and may he and his family feel welcome to come back and visit us again anytime.

We rejoice with Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn Hartter as they are grandparents of a new little granddaughter, Elyna Grace, born to Ryan and Nicole Hartter of Pulaski, WI. Elyna has two sisters, Kayla and Allison.

Matt Meyer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet) has made the decision to leave our area and move to Ithaca, NY, to continue his education at Cornell University. May he feel the Lord's nearness while he is so many miles from home. We hope the time passes quickly and look forward to his visits home.

For those wishing to correspond with Benji Strahm, we have a new address to report:

L. Cpl. Benjamin Jacob Strahm
513-86-7703

2/5 Fox Comp. Hdq. Plt.
Camp Pendleton, CA
92055-5473

Note of Thanks:

We pray the Lord will richly bless all who shared love and sympathy with us during the sickness and passing of our beloved Kathy.

Our heartfelt thanks!

Richard, Scott, Evan and Brent Strahm

Clarence and Bess Dietrich

Jim and Joan Dietrich

Gus and Dorothy Dietrich

Greg and Carol Wackerle

Helen Liebig

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Joleen Sinn

We want to thank our visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) and Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO). May God bless them richly for serving us.

Our souls have been united in
sweet union
and many precious hours have
gone by.
Our thoughts arose to Christ, our
Lord and Saviour,
And He our hearts with love did
sanctify.
We sang our songs of praise unto
the Father,
For He is worthy of our praise
and honor.
And so, farewell to you, beloved
brother,
As now we part and say our fond
"farewell!"
Should we, again be meeting one
another,
Then may we find that in you
still doth dwell
The love of Christ, that first and

dearest treasure,
That always fills our hearts with
grateful pleasure.
Our hand to you in brother-love
extending,
Beloved friends, accept our fond
farewell;
God speed you on until your jour-
ney's ending,
On to His throne where you His
praise will tell!
We look beyond to those untrou-
bled regions,
In hopes to join the Lamb and all
His legions.
Zion's Harp #114

With sad hearts we say farewell
to Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen
Sinn, Mark and Matt. They are re-
locating to Eureka, IL. May God
continue to be with them in their
new location, and may He bless
their family and keep them close in
heart even though some are sepa-
rated by many miles. Our prayers
are with you.

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Sarah Somerhalder

We rejoice and are thankful that
Rick and Mary Jane (Kraft)
Anliker have found the precious
peace with God and we look for-
ward to hearing their testimonies
and witnessing their baptisms.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch are
the grandparents of a new little
grandson, Brandon Lee, born to
Bro. Duane and Sis. Jill Gudeman
(Congerville, IL) on August 5. He
has a big brother, Daniel, to wel-
come him home. Also, Bro. Eldon
and Sis. Dorene Metzger are the
grandparents of a new little grand-
daughter, Mallory Dorlyn, born to
Bro. Shawn and Sis. Sandy
Metzger (Philadelphia, PA) on Au-

gust 9. Mallory has three brothers,
Hunter, Tanner and Walker, to
welcome her.

Visiting us this month was min-
istering Bro. Leland Plattner
(Zapata, TX). May the Lord richly
bless him for bringing us the Word
of Life.

Our congregation began listen-
ing to the Conference tapes on
Wednesday evenings. May we ever
hold fast to our precious faith and
support our Elder brethren as they
watch for our souls.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger
Brenda Grimm

Dan and Cheryl Wenger are
thankful for the birth of a daugh-
ter, Kirsten Rae, born July 19. Lexi
(2 1/2) is thrilled to have a baby sis-
ter. Grandparents, Phil and Alice
McClain and Bro. Harvey and Sis.
Arleta Wenger, welcome their new
granddaughter.

Elliott Lane Strahm, born Au-
gust 6, is bringing joy to the family
of Bro. Tom and Sis. Carrie Strahm
and his brother, Payton (1 1/2).
Thankful grandparents are Bro.
Dale and Sis. Rachel Zeltwanger
(Morris, MN) and Bro. Carl and
Sis. Sharon Strahm.

We rejoice with Heidi Hartter
(Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen) who
is repenting. May God grant her
much grace to build a firm founda-
tion.

In days of youth seek ye the
Lord,
His love and truth with one ac-
cord,
Go offer Him thy youthful days
and walk within the Saviour's
ways.

Hymns of Zion #135

We are thankful Brett and Tiffany Kellenberger (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa) and Kelly Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene) feel they have repented and are at peace with God and man. Their provings are planned for September 9.

While there has been joy among us, Bro. Kent Grimm and his wife, Sis. Molly, and Derik Keim (Curtis and Valerie) were hospitalized. We are grateful they have been given a full recovery.

Our Sunday School is taking a month's vacation. Lots of families have been taking trips before their children go back to school.

We were grateful for visiting ministers, Bros. Galen Rokey and Darryl Stoller (Bern, KS), lending themselves in God's service this month.

May we remember our teachers and children in prayer as a new school year begins. Some will be going to school for the first time or off to colleges. May each one let their light shine as they interact with others.

"I pray not thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."

John 17:15

Note of Thanks:

The family of Loren Strahm wishes to express their heartfelt thank you to all those who offered prayers, brought food, or offered assistance in any way in the care of our dear husband and father during the last eight months of his life. The outpouring of sympathy at his death reaffirmed our knowledge that, by God's grace, each of us can make a difference in this world. We appreciated the many acts of kindness and kind words which helped

make Loren's last months and passing from this life easier. God bless you all for whatever you did, big or small; all were deeply appreciated.

Sis. Liseten Strahm and family

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

We were blessed on July 30 by Bro. Doug Grimm's ministry. Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl and children made the trip from Sabetha so the Wichita congregation would have a minister since both Bro. Glen and Bro. Max were out of town. We are a fortunate people to have brothers who are willing to make the effort to provide for our spiritual needs.

On the following Sunday, Bro. Wally Ramsier and Sis. Helen of Mansfield, OH, were visiting relatives in Wichita, so again we were blessed with the privilege of hearing his ministry.

On the next Sunday, many from our congregation were missing because they took part in a weekend outing with friends and brethren from the Kiowa congregation. They had journeyed to eastern Oklahoma to canoe the Illinois River. (No, it is not a part of the Illinois River that most of you know.) The weekend of fellowship was punctuated with hymn singing and worship services. However, on that very Sunday, the Grimm families from Bern and Sabetha were in Wichita for a family celebration and their presence in our assembly was greatly appreciated. As a bonus, Bro. Darrel Stoller ministered to us.

Sis. Gussie Wullschleger had been released from the hospital but suffered complications and at this time is being cared for at St. Joseph hospital. Her son-in-law, Bro.

Glen Funk, conveyed her greetings to the church last Sunday and commented on her love for the Lord.

MEXICO, IXTLAN
Lorenia Sibaja

"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."

John 3:8

We have also experienced many blessings from God in our church here in Ixtlan. On July 30, we heard the announcement of the engagement of our Sis. Lorenia Sibaja to Bro. Curt Schmidgall from the Oakville, IA, congregation. We wish them many blessings from the Lord in their new life together.

From July 31 to August 4, we had summer Bible school and had an average attendance of 90 children. We know that the Lord is blessing us because He had prepared the hearts of the people to receive His Word. Then the following week, our Sis. Ana Cervantes went to Morelia to help Bro. Rogelio and Sis. Fernanda Cervantes hold the first VBS at our new church in Morelia. They were pleased that many young people came and showed interest in the stories. After that week, Rogelio and Fernanda went to Acapulco to help Sis. Pauli Angelito have the first VBS in Acapulco and again there was a greater participation than anticipated.

Bro. Jose and Sis. Aurora Magana now have another grandson, Jesus Armando, born to their daughter, Griselda, and her hus-

band, Jesus. He was born on July 24.

Meet Sis. Adela Chavez (submitted by Sis. Sue Klotzle, Altadena)

Sis. Adela Chavez is the youngest child of our Sis. Delfina Lira. She is 53 years old and has six children who all live in Los Angeles, CA, where she now spends part of her time.

Sis. Adela was first exposed to the gospel through her sister, Lidia, of Tecate, Mexico. Although Sis. Adela attended church occasionally, it was not until about seven years ago that the Lord began working in her heart. The things she heard brought fear to her. What if Jesus came today? In her heart she knew she was not ready to meet Him. She began searching for answers and peace. Sis. Adela lived in Los Angeles at this time and she couldn't just hear the Word of God when she was visiting Tecate or Ixtlan. She was desperate and hungry for the Christ that she felt was missing in her life. She started attending a small church close to where she lived in Los Angeles. She then moved to Ixtlan and there made confession of sin and her need for a Saviour and was baptized along with her mother on November 3, 1996. A joyous day for mother and daughter.

While staying in Los Angeles with her daughters, Sis. Adela worships with the Altadena congregation. When two of her daughters were asked, "Did you notice a change in your mother?" they replied with a resounding "Yes!" All of her children felt a new attitude of family and closeness from her. This is evident today as one of her daughters shares the same gift of salvation and is a member of the

Altadena congregation. Others of her children and grandchildren come with her occasionally and are exposed to the Word of God. Sis. Adela loves to give from the heart especially encouraging others in times of need.

One of her favorite chapters of the Bible is Psalm 23. It gives her comfort and strength during the day as she recites it. The desire of Sis. Adela's heart is to be strong in the Lord throughout her life. When she is worshipping in Altadena, the love of God beams forth from her face. There is a oneness with the believers even though there is a language barrier.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Kristen Plattner
Sandy Schutte

We have been blessed in this area with mild summer weather, and adequate moisture which makes for a beautiful summer. We anticipate a bountiful harvest. We have so much to be thankful for in that we have a gracious God who truly supplies all our needs. Now permit us to turn to a different harvest found in Mark 4:26-29.

"And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come."

Bro. Ben Kaeb and Bro. Aaron Plattner were welcomed into the family of God. We were reminded

that each one of us is the seed. We have to be true, take root, and mature as the plant. We cannot let anyone or anything stop our growth.

We were thankful Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen for this occasion. His wife, Sis. Connie, was able to share the weekend. Visiting ministers and their wives were Bros. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS), Jim Ramseyer and Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI).

Matthew 16:25 tells us, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. Our prayers are with our new convert, Ruthanne Oesch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle), as she gives her life to Christ and begins a walk with our Lord. May she find strength, love and support from the Alto congregation as she makes this very important life change.

Also, please remember our children and college students in prayer as they are leaving homes to attend various schools. May they know our Saviour is always with them and takes them through their struggles.

A "thank you" to all from the Alto congregation who made and contributed items for the Gateway Woods sale.

Ecclesiastes 11:1 states, "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." When we invest human and financial assets, then they will grow.

Our Sunday School elections were held and may those who finished their present terms feel the gratitude and appreciation from our congregation for their time and effort. Likewise may those who are beginning to serve terms

feel the support from the church. Bros. Brian Knudstrup and Wally Gerst and Sis. Laurie Steffen and Sis. Sarah Gerst were selected.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Rhonda Knochel
Peggy Jackson

We were very pleased to hear of the engagement of Bro. Mike Howell (Michael and Pamela Howell) and Sis. Valerie Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Cheryl, Lester, IA). It is our sincere prayer that their wedding plans go smoothly and that they feel God's nearness as they begin a relationship together with God at the center of that relationship. We, as well as they, look forward to their wedding day.

We had several in our congregation spend time in the hospital this month. They are: Sis. Lorraine Wackerle (Bro. Sam), Bro. Glenn Ruegsegger Jr. (Sis. Maria), Sis. Hermine Kaeb (Bro. Alf), Bro. Howard Wieland (Sis. Pauline), Bro. Winsor Mosher (Sis. Loretta), and Bro. Ron Wackerle. It is our hope that each one will feel God's nearness and healing touch in the days ahead. We are thankful that we have such a powerful God who loves us and wants the very best for us.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Cathern Long, especially to Rick and Joan Long and their family, as they lost a mother and a grandmother. We pray that they will feel God's nearness in the days ahead as they work through their grief at the loss of such a precious loved one.

We were very thankful to have a visiting minister this month. Our thanks and gratitude are expressed to Bro. Jim Kaeb and his

wife, Sis. Diane (Bern, KS), for their work and labor of love. May God richly bless them in their service to Him.

We pray that each of you will experience a deeper, richer relationship with the Lord in this coming month. As the children start back to school, we pray for them as well that they may be protected from the enemy and that they will feel God's nearness each day. May God bless each one.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Bonnie Bedolla
Crystal Ramsier

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

I Corinthians 15:58

This past month has been one of thankfulness and transition for our Detroit congregation.

We saw some of our congregation move into a new phase of their lives and leave the Livonia area. God has been faithful to us and provided us with the blessing of a close church that truly misses each brother or sister and friend when they depart.

As the school year begins, some of our loved ones will be leaving for college. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Scott Bahr, Sis. Heather Hitz, and Michelle Bahr as they head for Kansas State University. Cecily Meyer will be going to Michigan State University and Bro. Sasha Mojic will be at Kettering University for the school year. They will be missed but we look forward to them returning

home often.

After spending the summer here for an internship, Sis. Amanda Bates will return to college at the University of Illinois for the year. It was a blessing to have her with us and we look forward to her visiting the friends she made while she was here.

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

Matthew 5:16

Missionary work is an example of how we can let our light shine to those around us and those who are less fortunate. The Detroit Bible School class returned from their trip to Jamaica on a work team with the Chicago, IL, Bible class. They were in our prayers and we are thankful for their safe return. It was a blessing for all who went and those who they shared God's love with. We are also thankful for those who left their families and volunteered to chaperone the students.

We are thankful Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Stoller (Remington, IN) were able to be with us this month. Bro. Dan was filled with the Holy Spirit as he shared the Word with us on Sunday. We were also thankful that Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) lent himself in the service of the Lord as he conducted Tuesday evening services at our Woodhaven Retirement Community. We are always prayerful that God will continue to grant our ministering Brothers his inspiration and nearness as they share His Word, and we pray God's blessings on them for their service.

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Delores Sauder**

We have enjoyed the Christian fellowship of many visitors. Among our visitors were ministering Bros. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) and Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT). We thank them for sharing God's Holy Word with us.

We wish Wade Miller and Amber Wittstruck God's blessings as they were united in marriage on August 6. Bro. Don and Sis. Bernadine Miller are Wade's parents. Our prayers are with them as Amber begins treatment for bone cancer.

Many of us were blessed as we traveled to Lester, IA, for the General Brotherhood Conference. We certainly thank the Lester congregation for all their labors of love.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Dianne Kellenberger
Cheryl Messner**

Our congregation has appreciated the timely messages brought to us through visiting ministers. They were: Bros. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL).

Brady Wulf, young son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Twyla, fell into a swimming pool. Fortunately, his parents and older brothers were close by and he was rescued. Brady spent one night in the hospital. We're so thankful God spared his life and we look forward to seeing his sunny smile in church again.

Other hospital patients in-

cluded Bro. Larry Nohl, Sis. Nancy Messner and Bro. Ryan Kellenberger. May God grant each a full recovery.

We rejoice with Hannah Koehl who has found grace unto repentance. Our prayers are with her and her parents, Bro. Guy and Sis. Lynette.

Brad and Kristi Fehr are first-time parents with the birth of Karly Diane on July 12. May they seek God's guidance as they raise their precious daughter. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Diane Fehr and Ronald and Diane Ritter.

Ty Allen was born to Bro. Craig and Sis. Paula Feuchtenberger on July 26. He was welcomed home by brothers, Max and Alex. May God continue to bless this family. Grandparents are Bro. Wallis and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley Kellenberger.

The birth of a little daughter blessed the home of Mark and Lori Mattson. Ashlyn Hope arrived on August 11 and joins a sister, Sabrina. May God bless and keep them in His hand of love. Grandparents are Roger and Patti Mattson and Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte Luthi.

On August 13, tears were shed at the farewell singing for a beloved family, Bro. Jim and Sis. Hildy Koehl and their daughters, Melinda, Stacy and Ashley, who have moved to the San Diego, CA area. We will truly miss them, but do realize that our loss will be the San Diego church's gain. It's our fervent prayer that God will ever keep His guardian angel over Jim, Hildy and family as they settle in their new location.

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank all my family, relatives and friends for all the prayers, visits, flowers, gifts and phone calls. It was all greatly appreciated. May God bless each of you.

Minnie Kussatz

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Carol Ann Messner
Marilyn Messner**

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

Rev. 21:7

Many of us were able to attend the annual Brotherhood Conference at Lester, IA. We thank Lester for their labor and effort, and that so many of us from the surrounding area could be in attendance.

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

Hebrews 13:7

On August 15, Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH) visited our congregation for midweek services. We were blessed by the inspirational message. Thank you for your labor of love. As the last chapter in our lives is written, will it be "At Home Tis Well"?

Sis. Anita Nyari from Onosha, Hungary, was a visitor in the home of Sis. Rebecca Schaefer. We were grateful to have the opportunity to hear about her home and church. She is living in California and working as a nanny near San Diego.

Vacation is over. Sunday School

has started a new session with the smiling faces of our youth. We pray for God's guidance for the teachers as they undertake their duties this year.

Some from our congregation were able to help the tornado (F4) victims at Granite Falls, 60 miles west of Winthrop. Over 200 homes were destroyed plus many farm damages in this small rural town. We are so blessed when we can help and serve others.

In April, Sis. Rebecca Schaefer traveled to Hungary and the Ukraine. The two weeks in Hungary were spent going from town to town to visit various churches, members and friends made while living there in 1998 for six months. From Hungary she went to the Ukraine (which is part of the former Soviet Union) with a van load of Hungarian members, and one American sister, Shelli Grant, from Latty, OH. They took clothing and medical supplies, and food (purchased there in the market) for distribution to our Ukrainian brethren and a state run orphanage. She stayed at believers' homes the entire trip and really enjoyed the fellowship with them.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Komari Neal
Jonathan Wales

"And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up new kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding."

Daniel 2:21

We have indeed witnessed a major change occurring within our own congregation during the past

few months as our Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Sis. Mary) has been preparing to retire from the ministry. Elder Bro. Gene has served as a minister in the Apostolic Christian Church for 44 years, and 35 of those years as an Elder. Often, he has served in multiple churches at the same time and has also been active on numerous Elder committees. The congregations in Sabetha, KS; Lamar, MO; and Gridley, KS; have each been blessed with his leadership. The Kansas City congregation started meeting in February of 1975 and has seen growth in numbers and spirituality under the loving guidance of Elder Bro. Gene for the past 25 years. Although we will dearly miss having Bro. Gene as our Elder, we fully support his decision.

Several months ago we were blessed to have three visiting Elders assist our congregation in the gathering of support for Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen) to serve as our next Elder. We are pleased to announce that Bro. Don has not only received the support of our congregation but the support of the Elder Body as well. The weekend of August 19-20 has been set aside for the ordination of Bro. Don.

We would like to ask for all of your prayers and support for Bro. Don, as well as our congregation, as we undergo this transition and Bro. Don prepares to become the shepherd of our flock.

Our congregation has been blessed with many traveling brothers and sisters this past month. We appreciate the large group of single brothers who made a special effort to worship with us in late July. Also, we appreciate the labors of ministering Bro. Robert Stoller (Sis. Janice, Lamar, MO) who was also with us this month.

Many of the brothers and sisters from the Kansas City congregation were able to attend the Brotherhood Conference in Lester, IA. We are truly thankful to have an Elder body that labors to uphold the teachings of Jesus Christ and His apostles. The instructions, admonishments and encouragement to the brethren give us strength and direction in a world that would lead us astray. Let us press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Kristi Huber
Kristen Braker

We were blessed this month with visiting Elder Bros. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and ministering Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN). May God bless them each for their labors on our behalf.

Venetta Banwart (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Carolyn) plans to move to Kansas City to attend college. She plans to attend church both in Kansas City and Lamar. May she seek the Lord's direction in each of her endeavors that she may feel His blessing.

Sis. Marie Marti and Bro. Dale (Sis. Corrine) Marti were hospitalized this past month. We pray God will be near them and continue to provide a healing hand.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Rachel Schrock

"I will praise Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are Thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from Thee, when I was made in secret, and cu-

riously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in Thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them."

Psalms 139:14-16

We rejoice with Bro. Kevin and Sis. Rachel Schrock as little Rebekah Lyn made her safe arrival into this world on July 27. The thankful new grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Schrock (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie Stoller (Eureka, IL).

Our little congregation is also blessed with the arrival of a convert, Carrie Morgan (Elgin, IL), and Crystal Knobloch (Bro. Jack and Sis. Diane, Bradford, IL). Carrie plans to study chiropractic medicine at Logan College, and Crystal will be attending St. Louis University, studying dietetics. We welcome them and wish them God's blessings.

We are thankful for the blessings that we have received from God through our visiting ministering brethren this past month. They include Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) and Bros. Ken Weertz (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL), Ken Knapp (Sis. Phyllis, Taylor, MO) and Doug Grimm (Sis. Jeryl, Sabetha, KS). May God's peace and blessings fill their lives as they willingly work in His vineyard.

Looking forward to hearing the words of encouragement and admonition that our Elder brothers willingly gave to the church this past month during the Brotherhood Conference, we wish God's blessings on each of these dear brothers. They, too, work so fervently in His vineyard, helping to

ripen and harvest our souls. It does not seem that we can thank our Elder brethren enough for all their efforts of love and tender care.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Peg Haerr

Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp are happy grandparents to Jenna Dietrich who was born June 5 to Bro. Tim and Sis. Sandy Dietrich and also to Jordan Knapp who was born to Bro. James and Sis. Lisa Knapp, all of Congerville, IL. God's blessings to all!

Bro. Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene, Peoria, IL) was able to be with us for a Bible Study in July. We're always thankful for visiting ministers!

Shelby Sutter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Dianne) and Nikki Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally) were our hospital patients. Both are doing well.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Sis. Nicole Yackley (Bro. Elwood and Sis. Trudie) and Bro. Todd Witzig (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary) of Gridley, IL. May God bless their engagement and forthcoming marriage!

On behalf of the Taylor church, our deepest sympathy goes out to Sis. Peggy Haerr (Bro. Shon) in the sudden loss of her dear mother, Sis. Virginia Hunziker (Bro. Albert) of Morton, IL. May the Lord comfort Sis. Peggy, Bro. Shon and their family with the wonderful hope of meeting again in that beautiful home above.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour,

especially they who labour in word and doctrine."

I Timothy 5:17

The annual Elder Brotherhood Conference was held at Lester, IA. It is a blessing that our dear Elder brothers gather to seek our God's will and to keep our precious faith with brotherly love.

Kenneth Farney entered the hospital in Watertown on July 22 for surgery. He is doing fine now. We pray that he continues to seek his Lord in repentance. Sis. Esther Rauhe (Bro. John) has returned home from Rhode Island from a long illness. We thank God that she was able to come home. May God continue to give her strength. Elizabeth Stockburger has been in the hospital, but she is home now.

On July 31 we had our annual business meeting. We approved new Sunday School teachers, Sis. Hope Graves and Sis. Rachel Snyder. May our Lord give each one of us wisdom to teach and to show to the world the way of salvation.

On Saturday, August 5, we had our annual Sunday School picnic at Whetstone Gulf Park.

On August 13 we had visiting brothers and sisters from Illinois.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to send our love, appreciation and heart-filled thanks, first to the Lord and then to all who remembered us with prayers, cards, gifts, telephone calls and visits while in Rhode Island. All the love sent our way provided much needed support during a long and difficult time. On July 27 we returned home. Although we are glad to be home, there are many months of physical therapy ahead.

Bro. John and Sis. Esther

Rauhe

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

We rejoice that Harold Fritz called upon our Saviour Jesus Christ in repentance and received peace with God. Our Elder Bro. Gene Pamer and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) held baptism services for him in his home where he gave a strong testimony of his faith before witnesses and was baptized July 24. About 30 hours later Bro. Harold (83) passed away on July 26. His funeral service was held at our Akron church July 29. His wife, Sis. Esther, to whom he was married for over 60 years, survives, along with sons, Mark, Bruce, and a daughter, Diana Stingley, four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Sis. Katie Williams and Bro. Rudy Wiegand (Rittman, OH) were united in marriage on Sunday, August 6. Bro. Rudy's parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rosemary Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and we appreciated Bro. Wayne ministering to us that day. Sis. Katie's parents are Don and Barbara Williams of Wadsworth. We rejoice that Sis. Katie has been a part of our Akron congregation and we now welcome Bro. Rudy, also.

We appreciated visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Bros. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL). We thank these brothers for serving us.

Sis. Margaret Gruenig and Sis. Janice Graf were hospital patients, but we are thankful they have been released.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Anita Steiner

"So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me."

Ezekiel 33:7

On August 20, Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) brought forth the Word of Truth. After services, Bros. Eugene and Andy asked the congregation to give their support to Bro. Mark as he will take on the responsibilities of shepherding our flock. We lift Bro. Mark (Sis. Jeannine) up in prayer and wish to give him our full support. We also want to express our heartfelt appreciation to Bro. Eugene (Sis. Eleanor) for serving as our Elder for the past 17 years. May God be his rich rewarder.

Also visiting us this month were Bros. Jerry Bauman and Ron Steiner (both from Rittman, OH). We want to thank them for their efforts. Our appreciation also goes to the many visitors we had.

On September 17 is our annual College Welcome Day. All students attending college in the Columbus area and their families are invited to church and a picnic following services.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

July 21 was a blessed day for Jason and Jennifer Carnahan as their little Abigail Marie was born. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Pauline Carnahan of Wichita, KS, and Ken and Marsha

Barnes. August 4 brought two little bundles of joy into the lives of Bro. Corbin and Sis. Audrey Schlatter, Natalie Elaine and Nicole Renae. Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila Schlatter and Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic (Lexington, KY) are the thankful grandparents of these little girls. May God be with each of these new parents as they raise their little girls up to know and love Him.

Our Bro. Roger Gasser (Sis. Sue) has fulfilled his term as Sunday School teacher, and Bro. Ralph Schlatter (Sis. Sheila) has been chosen as the new teacher. We trust God will richly reward Bro. Roger for his time and efforts and at the same time be with Bro. Ralph as he begins his teaching.

We wish James and Sis. Julie McCullough and their girls, Sierra and Skyler, a warm welcome as they have moved into our area and will be assembling with us.

Larry Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) has made the decision to give his life to the Lord. Our prayers are with him as he daily allows our Lord and Saviour to work in his life.

OHIO, LATTY

Heidi Hackenjoes

Kathy Sinn

Elder Bro. Ray Sinn reported to us that the Brotherhood Conference held in Lester, IA, was a blessing to all those who were able to attend. We are thankful for the united shepherds who look after our spiritual welfare. May the Lord bless them for their diligence.

Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) has our sincere appreciation for ministering to us this past month.

Alisha Rager (Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise) has turned her back on the

world and began a new walk of life. May Alisha establish a firm foundation in Christ and look to God's grace during this time of repentance.

We sympathize with Sis. Louise Rager (Bro. Carl) on the death of her sister, Mary Martin (Warsaw, IN).

Cody Stoller (Sis. Irma, Latty, OH) and Kara Bauman (Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH) were joined together in marriage. May the Lord be with them as they establish a new home in the Smithville area.

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

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

Zion's Harp #79

OHIO, MANSFIELD

John and Marci Pfeiffer

Our guest ministers this month were Bros. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT), Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH). May God bless each one for their love and faithfulness to their calling.

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven as Tony Eichof has sought the Lord in repentance. Tony is the father of Sis. Pat Beer (Bro. Ken). Let us keep him in our prayers.

We welcome our son, Isaac Andrew. Isaac was born on July 18. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Michael and Sis. Norene Miller (Rittman, OH) and Bro. John and Sis. Zuzanna Pfeiffer.

Youth Fellowship Day was held on July 30 at Pleasant Valley Ranch. We appreciated the many efforts of the Sunday School teachers and ministering Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH).

Please remember Sis. Theresa Keiper (Bro. Phil) in your prayers. We extend our sympathy to her and her family in the loss of her brother, Fred Fetzer.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Beth Beery

Lynda Beery

Several of our loved ones have recently taken an extremely important step in their lives, that of marriage. On July 1, Jody Hartzler (Bro. Richard and Sis. Karen) became the wife of Adam Aubrey (Allan and Ruth Aubrey).

Linden Moore (Randy and Sis. Bev) and Amanda Tawney (Mike and Sandy Tawney) were united in marriage on July 22.

And on August 6, several of our congregation gathered with the Akron brethren to witness the marriage vows of Bro. Rudy Wiegand (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield, IL) and Sis. Katie Williams.

Bro. Gary Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeannette) and Sis. Michelle Dotterer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Mardel) became one in the Lord on August 13. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville) was with us that afternoon and brought forth precious teachings from I Corinthians 13, the charity chapter.

For all of these young couples, we wish God's blessings as they share together in life's joys and sorrows.

On July 23, the wedding en-

gagement of Bro. Alan Blough (Sis. Lucille) and Sis. Renee Miller (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Doris, Sardis) was made known. We wish them many blessings and the further guidance of their Heavenly Father as they make their wedding plans and prepare for a marriage in the Lord.

Also on July 23, a farewell singing was held for our Bro. Matt and Sis. Jennifer Feucht as they have felt God leading them to move to the Roanoke area. We will miss them here, but we wish them God's richest blessings and know that they will be welcome in the Roanoke congregation.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Camille Hartzler are thankful for the safe arrival of their precious baby daughter, Abigail Leigh, born on July 28. Abigail has two sisters and a brother, Anna, Caleb, and Emily. Grandparents are Bro. Dale Hartzler and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia Strahm (Bern, KS).

We want to pray for those who must suffer physical pain and discomfort. Those who have been hospitalized recently are: Sis. Ruth E. Beery, little Connor Gasser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Jill), Bro. Ralph Weber, and Bro. Andy Winkler (Sis. Mary Jane).

We also need to remember in prayer those who have lost loved ones. Sis. Lorena Riggenschach's daughter-in-law, Wanda Riggenschach, passed away recently. Also, Sis. Joan (Bro. John) Hartzler's brother-in-law, Bro. Harold Fritz (Akron), passed away. We are thankful that, in the last few weeks of his life, Harold acknowledged his need for a Saviour, repented, and was baptized.

May our Heavenly Father continue to bless our dear Elders and ministering brothers as they exhort us to remain upon the narrow

path that leads to eternal life. We thank Bro. Dave Graf (Akron) for visiting us on a Wednesday evening and bringing us the truth of God's Word.

OHIO, SARDIS
Angie Figel

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?"

Romans 10:14

We are so thankful for our ministers who labor for us in the Lord. Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL) and Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH). We are thankful that they could come, and felt blessed by the loving Word of God that was brought forth.

The engagement of Sis. Renee Miller (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Doris) to Bro. Alan Blough (Joe Blough and Sis. Lucille Blough) from Rittman, OH, was announced. May they look to God to bless and guide their every footstep as they plan their lives together as husband and wife.

David and Valerie Fisher were blessed with their second child, a precious baby boy, Daniel Ryan. He is gladly welcomed also by "big" sister, Kelly. Joyful grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Doris Miller.

"O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!"
Psalms 8:9

Correction: In the August issue,

it was reported that Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler was a visiting minister. It should have been Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL).

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Edith Miller
Ruth Gasser

"Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer...Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep."

Romans 12:12,15

We have had occasions of joy, and times of sadness and anxiety as well in this past month. What a blessed privilege we have to take everything to the Lord in prayer.

We are thankful for our Elder Brothers who gave of themselves at the General Conference, and we hope their kind admonitions will fall on receptive ears and hearts. We at Smithville Church will be listening to the tapes of the Conference on Thursday evenings in September. Modern technology surely gives us advantages that our ancestors did not enjoy.

We appreciate the ministry of Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), who paid us a visit on Wednesday evening before the Conference. May God continue to inspire His servants with the truth.

Jason David arrived safely on July 25 to bless the family of Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener. Sisters and brothers who will share their love and home are Sis. Jenny, Jacob, Jared, Joy, Josie, and Julie. Grandparents are Bro. Gordon and Sis. Emily Greenbank and Bro. Chester and Sis. Roma Rufener (Rittman, OH). May God give grace and wisdom to all par-

ents who are entrusted with the precious little ones.

On August 5, Cody Stoller and Kara Bauman made vows to one another and to God to become husband and wife. Parents of the couple are Sis. Irma Stoller (and late Bro. Millard) of Latty, OH, and Bro. Victor and Sis. Brenda Bauman. We wish God's blessings on this union, and that He may become a third party of the marriage.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Bro. Andy and Sis. Elizabeth Fetzer and family, as Bro. Andy's father, Fred, was recently called to his Heavenly Home rather suddenly. May God provide His comforting Spirit.

Illness and injury often plague God's people when we least expect. Those needing hospitalization this month were Jim Gasser, Sis. Roberta Stoller (Elder Bro. Andy), Bro. Charles Nieman (Sis. Delphine), and Catherine Marty (David and Michelle). We pray that each one may experience complete healing.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter

Children are such a wonderful blessing from God. We join Kevin and Jennifer Sancraint in welcoming Hannah Marie to their home. Hannah joins her brother, Zachary. Her grandparents are Dave and Sis. Connie Sancraint.

We are glad to welcome new and returning college students to our area once more. It is a blessing to have a larger group assemble in God's house, and to share in the fellowship that is so precious.

OREGON, SILVERTON**Rosa Lee Kuenzi**

The Brotherhood Conference of 2000, held this August at the Lester, IA, church is now history. We appreciate the many labors of love of the Lester congregation in hosting this very important gathering. We also want to thank our Elder brothers for their many hours of service for us, the Church, the Bride of Christ. May they be richly rewarded now and much more in all eternity. Now what can we do? Dear Lord, send us Thy grace that we be a willing people; willing to set aside the time to come and listen to the tapes of the Conference that many of our churches are now playing; willing to heed the good advice, warnings and/or admonishment that our dear shepherds share with us; and willing to put into action whatever necessary to be supportive to the conclusions of our Elder body.

Our dear older friends, Elmer and Verna Bolliger, have recently moved into the Keizer Retirement Home in nearby Keizer, OR. We know this is a big step and a big adjustment for them and we hope and pray that it soon seems more like home.

Tonya Dettwyler and Tim Mallorie were joined in marriage on August 5 in Silverton. Parents of the new couple are Bernie and Margaret Dettwyler of Silverton and Rob and Nancy Mallorie of Culver, OR. We wish them God's blessings as they begin life's journey together.

The engagement of Kristen Walter and Matt Brockamp was recently announced. A September wedding is planned. The parents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Walter and Jim and Bonnie Brockamp, all of Silverton. May

they look to the Lord now and always as they plan their future together.

Deep sympathy is extended to Bro. Andy and Sis. Renee Angstrom and family at the tragic death of Bro. Andy's nephew, Nick King. Just 17 years old, Nick was struck by a vehicle while riding his bicycle to Bro. Andy's house early Friday morning, August 11. We must keep them in our prayers for we know that these wounds of loss and sorrow heal very slowly, but with our merciful Lord's help, they do heal.

We have been enjoying our many summer visitors, among them several visiting ministers: Bros. Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH), Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) and Robert Miller (Portland, OR). We do appreciate their willingness to serve.

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA****Nathan and MaryElizabeth
Gasser**

We rejoice as our dear friend Emily Lanz (Bro. John and Sis. Kay) has found grace to give her life to the Lord. Our prayers are with her and her family as we give thanks and praise to our God for His continued mercy to His children.

The newest arrival to our congregation is a healthy baby girl! Mallory Dorlyn was born this month to parents, Bro. Shawn and Sis. Sandy Metzger, and welcomed by brothers, Hunter, Tanner, and Walker. May the Lord watch over and protect her, even from her very first days to her very last, and may she grow to love Him as He loves us all.

The joyous news of the engage-

ment of our dear Sis. Nancy Aeschleman to Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) was made known to us this month. May God richly bless them as they prepare to join their lives in Him.

We are saddened when we must bid farewell to those who move away from our congregation. Bro. Merle and Sis. Bev Rocke are planning on moving to Indianapolis, and Bro. Ryan and Sis. Becky Weiss are moving to Kansas City. Also, Bro. Josh Steffen who was worshipping with us for the summer is returning home to Bay City, MI. We wish each dear soul God's grace and protection and we pray we might hold these friendships dear and hope to meet one another again.

**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Mike and Monica Fritz**

We were overjoyed to learn recently of yet another example of answered prayers. Our faithful friend, Faye Sauder (wife of Bro. Don), has expressed a desire to be a part of our brotherhood, and has requested to share her testimony and to be baptized. We are looking forward to this with loving anticipation, scheduled for October 1.

Also, we would like to welcome Tiara Wuethrich (Bro. Blake and Sis. Kim, Indianapolis, IN) to the area as she begins her college studies here in Nashville at Belmont University.

With busy summer schedules, we were only able to have visiting ministers one Sunday this past month, but what a blessed weekend it was. Our cups were filled to overflowing as we were ministered to by three willing visiting brothers, Bros. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL), Frank Sauder (Sis.

Kathy, Roanoke, IL), and Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN). We are so thankful that each of these brothers and their families made time in their vacation travels to worship and fellowship with us. We also enjoyed the fellowship of other visitors from Forrest and Roanoke, IL.

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 weekends of each month, and tape services on the other Sundays. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Oakville, IA (Sept. 17), Tremont, IL (Oct. 8), Roanoke, IL (Oct. 22), Goodfield, IL (Nov. 5), and Rittman, OH (Nov. 19). If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Don and Faye Sauder 615-373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz 615-952-9933 (email: Michael.Fritz@juno.com); and Sis. Gwen Leuthold 615-662-2946.

**TEXAS, CENTRAL
Dan and Pam Sauder**

Visiting ministers who have shared the Word with us recently

were Bros. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL), Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO), Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL), John Stoller (Sis. Patsy, Leo, IN), Jon Zeller (Sis. Christy, Morton, IL), Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA) and Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN). We truly appreciate those who are willing to be used by the Lord for our benefit.

Our October schedule of worship services and churches sending ministers include: the 1st at Austin (Akron, OH), 8th at Austin (Taylor, MO), 15th at San Antonio (Cissna Park, IL), 22nd at San Antonio (Remington, IN) and 29th at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home in Round Top (Bluffton North, IN).

We extend a welcome for anyone who may be in the area to worship with us. For your benefit, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (979) 249-5102; Brian and Terri Kaisner (512) 266-0178; Bro. David and Sis. Shella Brummitt (512) 360-3379; Sis. Dorothy Martin (210) 658-1968; and Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Sauder (210) 651-4996.

**TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz
Melva Messner**

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters."

Isaiah 55:1

What a soul saving invitation!

We were so blessed to gather with our Zapata brethren at the Fairbury-Forrest Fellowship Center on July 29. It truly filled our hearts with love and thanksgiving as we met loved ones whom we had spent some time with in Zapata. We wish to thank those from that area who hosted and helped serve us so graciously.

We also enjoyed listening to Bro. Perry Klopfenstein on our church history that same evening. Our forefathers worked so diligently to save this faith for us and we were urged to reconnect to these teachings so our faith could be reinforced. We thank you, Bro. Perry, for a soul searching exhortation.

Our winter resident, elected usher Bro. Richard Bricker and his wife, Sis. Helen, from Mansfield, OH, visited us for a short time this month. We enjoy having visitors.



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over and then God is able to grant us the request that we have and to answer our prayer.

Sometimes it seems, loved ones, that if God doesn't answer our prayer right away, we don't think that God is with us. But we can see that over a long period of time, God is able to work in our hearts. Sometimes He answers our prayers in ways that we didn't really realize that He answered realize that He fully answered our prayer and that He was able to give unto us that which we requested, but sometimes it didn't come in the way we thought it would.

We often might have the desire to pray unto God for something, but then we might also want to give Him the answer as well. In good faith, we do that with the hope and desire and we pour all of our heart out before God. Also, we want to give Him how He should answer or respond to the thing that we prayed to Him about. That is somewhat natural. Sometimes, loved ones, we can see that God answers our prayers in a way that we didn't necessarily suggest to Him that they should be answered. But they came in a different way, and that is okay, too, for God knows best.

In the New Testament we have this chapter in Hebrews. The first verse here is such a beautiful short one, "Let brotherly love continue." (Hebrews 13:1). Loved ones, we want to trust and have the faith that brotherly love does exist within the church of God or within the remnant of the faithful believers. Here it says, "Let brotherly love continue." Hebrews 13:1. It must first exist and be there in order for it to continue, does it not, loved ones?

We don't have an outward form of worship to express love to each other. Perhaps the communion service and the passing and sharing of one cup is a physical expression. In other ways, we can help each other, but for the most part the love that we have for each other is first from the heart and

then an outward expression. The encouragement we have here is that it would continue.

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Hebrews 13:2. I have often perhaps thought about this verse and how it might be that we would see this verse, and if it is connected to the brotherly love that we have and that we are exhorted to continue.

It might be that God gives us experiences in our lives of situations or things that we ought to pursue or to do. Where it has been somewhat illogical or somewhat unanswerable as to what we have experienced, or we have done something to someone or we have just been motivated to do something that we normally would not have, it could be that God had a purpose in it, not only to bless our lives with having done a good work in entertaining strangers, but also the whole heavenly host.

It reminds us of the (briefly looking at Ephesians chapter three for a moment), terms of the purpose of the church. It reminds us of God's work in our lives. Our hearts are not only for ourselves and for the earthly work but also to express by the church to the heavenly host some things that both the church and about God himself. It's in Ephesians chapter three, I believe it is. The whole beginning of that chapter is talking about how the apostles and prophets and the whole work of the church got started. In verse ten it begins, "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:" Ephesians 3:10-11.

So it is that God has a purpose in the church, not only to preserve the believer, to sanctify the saints unto full redemption when the Lord Jesus would return or when our life would

end. But also to the intent in heavenly places and in the principalities that would exist in the heavens above that of the manifold wisdom of God might be known by the church unto all those around.

It seems that here we want to, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Hebrews 13:2. Behold, we are to be used by God whenever He wants us to be, however He wants us to be. It is not that natural for us to entertain strangers. We would intend to invite those who we are more familiar with and to entertain them. Do you remember when Jesus said that when we make a feast not to call those who we know and who can give us thanks again and who can call us again, but to bring those who are halt and maimed and those who might be crippled?

He said, "But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind:" Luke 14:13. He gives us the impression that we ought to consider having those in our company and bless them with food, clothing and shelter who cannot help themselves, who might not be able to have us over again, who might not be able to give us the return thanks that we are able to give to them. "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers:" Hebrews 13:2.

The first verse tells us to "Let brotherly love continue." Hebrews 13:1. We certainly want to encourage each other and to entertain each other and to help each other in the homes and to share food and fellowship. Also, don't forget the stranger so both are comforted.

As we think of the Old Testament, God had always remembered to inspire in His Word that the Israelites, God's people, were to also take care of the stranger, to take care of the person that was sojourning in the land—the foreigner. Also to treat them the same way that they would

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for one of their own. If someone had in their house a servant or a slave who was not of their own family, they would want to treat them the same way. This Scripture here reminds us of that thread that goes through Scripture that we ought to remember strangers. Brothers, in love continue to entertain strangers.

Now it goes on to those who are in bonds, as bound with them in the various categories of society as we see it. If we are to think of our own generation, we can break down the groups of society here in various different ways. It says here, "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them;" Hebrews 13:3. It might perhaps speak of a physical prison but it might be those who are spiritually in bonds, those who are not able to free themselves from the grip of Satan on their lives as bound with them.

It gives us a bit of understanding here, loved ones, of how we can really help someone. We want to place ourselves in their shoes, though we don't need to physically do the things that they have done in order to get to where they are. But to place ourselves in their shoes and to try and help them by looking at it from their point of view and having sympathy for them because someone who is in bonds—if it is not a physical prison that we are speaking of here—doesn't really know they are bound. The person who is deceived is the last person to know it.

Here it gives us the impression and reminds us of the apostle when he had written for us to know as an example. When I am with the Romans, I am at the Romans and with those that are bound, and the whole idea of trying to understand someone before we can help them. It is very simple, loved ones, we don't need a degree in anything to do with human psychology, but simply to live off the Scripture here. Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them whether it is a physical imprisonment or not. Of-

ten we hear of the example of brethren who visit the prisons to share with them the gospel and comfort of the Scriptures.

Then it goes on, "...and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body." Hebrews 13:3. So, loved ones, we have the complete example of a cross section of the job we have to do in this life to those that suffer adversity as being yourselves also in the body. We need to picture ourselves actually being in the place of the person that is suffering adversity, and to think of how they are doing.

The ultimate example we have that we are encouraged to approach is Jesus Christ. This chapter is leading up to that, and we want to do it for ourselves and those around us. One of the ways—it seems here as we look at this chapter—is to understand the suffering of Jesus Christ because we were not there and we never will be.

When the Lord Jesus returns again, He will come as a Judge, as a Saviour, as the Lord, as the Master of our lives and to redeem His own. So we will never be able to fully be there and to witness the suffering of Jesus Christ. We can have the fellowship of His suffering as we would read the various parts of the Scriptures that point towards that.

But one of the things that lead up to going without the camp or being there where Jesus was outside of society and rejected is to spend the time with those who are suffering and to spend the time with those that are in bonds and spend the time with those who are in prisons and who are strangers. That gives us a good picture and indication of what Jesus Christ went through. He was rejected and He was not popular for the most part. He was sentenced, executed, crucified and He suffered reproach. This chapter seems to give us the direction of how to do that in an earthly way.

Often it has been said that if we want to help our spiritual life and our

physical life if we are suffering or if we are down is to go spend some time with someone who does not have it as good as we do. That intends to lift us up and intends to help us see that our burden is not as difficult. Here we have that direction and encouragement. We can approach the sufferings of Jesus as we become closer to the sufferings of those who do not have it as good as we in this life—our neighbors, children, whatever it might be, those that might have sufferings, wrong, handicapped, however it is in our circumstance and our surroundings around us. We can just look to some of that. If we try to put ourselves in their shoes, we can see some of the suffering and it comes a little closer to us and it brings it a little closer to home.

It goes on to say, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5. It was interesting and it caught my attention as to one of the reasons why this verse might be here, "So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper." Hebrews 13:6. Loved ones, if we were to say to each other, "I like what you have and can I have it?" we might be obligated to give it out of love. We might be obligated to help each other and we are certainly encouraged to do that, but if that is to be the only help we get is just from ourselves, then it might not be so easy for us to say, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Hebrews 13:6.

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have:" Heb. 13:5. If we always have that discontentment, if we always desire someone else's things or people or situations or circumstances, then we might not rely upon God. We might just look on earthly things of others and desire to have that and we would not rely upon God possibly as much so that the Lord

is our helper. It is saying here that we may boldly say, "The Lord is my helper." Not only that we should forget that all things come from God and all power is from God but that we can boldly say, "The Lord is my helper." Sometimes when we desire and need the help from each other the most and we don't get it, then sometimes we rely upon God all the more earnestly and the more fervently and pray unto Him and rise above the horizontal relationship that we have with each other and rely upon the vertical relationship with God and strengthen that and then we can boldly say, "The Lord is my helper."

Sometimes the Scriptures that we have here can help us in a very practical way to draw closer to God. Isn't it to say, loved ones, that we can give and help each other? The overall emphasis here is that God was certainly the One who we draw upon, and when we need it the most, we turn to Him and not to each other. Remember that Scripture that often comes forward in Jeremiah. It says, "Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm..." Jer. 17:5. But the arm that holds us up should be God Himself, that which we rely upon should be God Himself. Again, isn't it to say, loved ones, that we should live completely independent? But we want to be interdependent on each other to assist each other but in a proper balance and proper relationship with God Himself. Lest God should be out of the picture for we know that the ultimate goal of the humanistic approach of this life and somewhat more in some of the communist countries but it is coming here as well. Everyone for himself and we have to help each other and God isn't there to be the glue between us, that we have to look to each other in a human way and we want to have that balance of Scripture in relying upon God.

"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto

you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation." Hebrews 13:7. Loved ones, we can think of those, the under shepherds, the earthly shepherds that we have who have the rule over us. As it says further that they have that account as those that would have an account for us. They can do it without fear and with thanks and with a good conscience. Then it points very, very quickly to "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." Hebrews 13:8. Jesus Christ is certainly the One that is He to whom whose faith we follow. He is the example to being a Christian, to be Christ-like and not to diminish the earthly and practical responsibility that we have been given to follow the elders and shepherds that we have, for they do have the rule over us and we want to follow their faith, considering the end of their conversation.

To think of that, loved ones, it is not just the first part to follow their faith, but it is a whole long-term experience of considering the end of their conversation. When we think of the balance of following a man, so to speak, in this case let us use the elders as an example. We also want to consider the end of their conversation. How would their life be if we on a continual basis simply did not follow the faith as God has given the practical customs, traditions and the wisdom, the Biblical teachings over the pulpit? How would it be for them if all they did were to strive to give unto us the way that we should walk?

The Scripture even gives us the encouragement to mark those that do well and who are prospering for the faith and to follow them as an example, keeping the proper balance of how much we make an example out of a human being. But if they were to strive day in and day out and we were not to follow that, we are just simply going in the other direction. The end of their conversation would be very difficult.

Also, loved ones, on the other hand to consider their end of the conversation, how we want to follow, but we need to use discernment not to follow anything. Jesus Christ said, "My sheep hear My voice." The other sheep don't hear His voice. As a natural shepherd for a sheep, the ones that are in his fold hear his voice and follow him. The ones that are not just simply don't follow that calling. When he takes them out to pasture, they don't follow and they are lost in the fold. They don't enter into the proper gate. That discernment of hearing the Shepherd's voice, whether it is Jesus Christ that says here, the same yesterday, today and forever. Also the under shepherds under Jesus Christ that we have upon this earth, to hear their voice and to listen with discernment to the voice of the Shepherd and to know that God will always provide even to the end. "Lo, I am with you even to the end."

Faith will be here, though it might be a remnant and God will provide shepherds whose voice we can hear and we can take comfort in that, though we still need to use that discernment, loved ones. We can't say as a blanket statement that any person that would proclaim himself to be a shepherd in this spiritual realm upon this earth across the land. If we think of all the churches that are out there, God provides shepherds that can be helpful along the way. We are so thankful for that opportunity.

"Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace;" Hebrews 13:9. One of the purposes of the shepherd is to keep the sheep away from things that would be strange or false or diverse doctrines. The purpose of that is so the heart can be established with grace and we don't wander.

We think of an actual earthly sheepfold if the shepherd knew that there was a strange kind of grass in a

Sermon continued on next page...

Sermon continued from page 45

different pasture, if there were thorns, if there were troubles, if there were cliffs and he warns the sheep by having the dog to go with them and by using his rod and staff and himself. If the sheep were not to obey that and they went to eat anyway, they might get sick and not feel well. If we are to take that as an example over to our own lives being in the fold and the family of God, the shepherds warn us against eating in a spiritual way and partaking of spiritual food that is outside of the fellowship and faith of God and outside of the Scriptures. We can see that we might feel ill or strange or carried away with diverse or strange doctrines.

We can see the example that we have here that we want to be content with the things we have and to have our hearts established with grace. God wants to feed us. God wants to give unto us all the nourishment that we need so that we don't have to go looking elsewhere. We don't have to be in danger of going to a pasture that is foreign to us and partaking food that is foreign to us and not that which God has given unto us.

The high priests of those days were an example of how the Old Testament schoolmaster needs to come. We know that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins and we can't change that basic premise and principal of God. It says here, "We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanc-

tuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp." Hebrews 13:10-11. This is a comparison of the Old Testament where the high priest brought the blood of beasts for sin. It only served as a remembrance but Jesus Christ Himself was that Perfect Lamb. He was the Perfect Sacrifice and His blood was perfect for the redemption of our own sin.

The shedding of His blood served as the possibility for us to avail ourselves of salvation and to begin a walk of faith in newness of life and the opportunity and encouragement in this chapter is to go forward without the camp and to visit that place often, to remember the dying of Jesus Christ and His shed blood.

"Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate." Hebrews 13:12. He didn't go as a triumphant person in the downtown square and make a big proclamation, but he suffered without the gate. He went outside of the bounds of the town and suffered on the cross at Golgotha. He offered His blood and shed His blood for our sake. We have encouragement here.

"Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach." Hebrews 13:13. On a daily basis, we are to come and sing and to assemble ourselves and offer that sacrifice. Though it might be something importune for us or not a good time and it might be weary if we have children or if we are old, however it might be. It is one of the things that God has

given unto us. It is a sacrifice that we can offer from the altar of our hearts. We don't have to go anywhere without the camp and to offer that blood. Here we have a new and living way because we can offer the sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name.

"But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." Hebrews 13:16. We have a picture of several of them here—to bring a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips, to give thanks to His name, to do good and to communicate forget not, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. Think of sometimes how hard it might be to communicate; yet, it takes a sacrifice on our part. It takes the time and effort to think what it might be what we are going to say. If it is an awkward situation of children, parents, friends, family, or work, there is often those opportunities and we can just do away with it and not do anything, but the Scripture encourages us to communicate and to do good and to forget not to do that. That sacrifice will be blessed if we partake in that, though sometimes it is easier perhaps not to. We then want to take the sacrifice whatever it is that we were going to do and not take the easier route and to communicate with whomever it might be and God will bless those sacrifices. There are others in the Scripture of the spiritual sacrifices that we are to offer. May God bless His Word in our hearts.



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 Ragel	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

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Dean Pashek	517-662-7685	517-662-7099	
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Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885	
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Bill Rager	419-263-2989		
Kevin Sauder	309-925-2409	309-925-2409	ksss@dpc.net
Jon Zeller	309-266-9009		



PROJECT & PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

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.

Bill Eisenmann
Business Manager
[Beisenmann@
gatewaywoods.org](mailto: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 18, 2001

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.

...But God Gave The Increase I Cor. 3:6

Thank you so much for the loving response to our 24th annual Auction. We are in awe of how God takes the portion we have to offer and multiplies it as only He can. Your donations help cover the daily costs of care for each child in the Residential and Foster Care programs, each student enrolled in Gateway Woods School, and allow us to provide many services free of charge through our Home Based and Family Services programs. Thank you for supporting us in this ministry...for the children!

- NOTICE -

Repair and Distribution of
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Bible Story Books,
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Books are mainly distributed to
India, Philippines, and Africa.

Jerry and Arlene Banwart
Box 181 C, 307 W. First St.
Congerville, IL 61729
(309) 448-2416



Alternate Houseparents Needed

Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessing of providing new Houseparents staff in recent months. At this time, however, we still have an opening for one married couple. This is an opportunity for full-time, on-going ministry work at Gateway Woods. These Houseparenting positions offer competitive wages and benefits, and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a common mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore these possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below.

*Jeff Schumacher or Phil Stettner
(Address and Phone listed below)*

"Cedars" Retirement Home

Leo, Indiana

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For more information call:

David Bertsch
219-627-2923

Or

John Klopfenstein
219-627-2114

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

*The Bible Distribution Center which
was formerly in Leo, IN has been
moved to Bluffton, IN.*

All books, including Bibles, in English and other languages, plus Bible Story Books which have been approved by the Apostolic Christian Mission Committee, are available for those who wish to distribute them in the name of Jesus Christ.

The book inventory is computerized, and the personnel at Bluffton can drop ship to nearly any address.

To order, contact,
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Bible Distribution

PO Box 30

1254 S. Main Street
Bluffton, IN 46714

Phone and Fax 219/824-5587

E-mail: bibledist@parlorcity.com

Apostolic Christian Counseling Services

73 East Queenwood Rd, Morton, IL 61550
309-263-5536 (local#) 309-263-6841 (fax)

877-370-9988 (toll free)

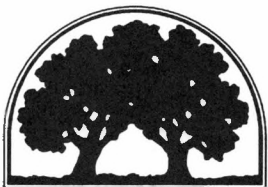
- * Individual, marital, and family counseling
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Teacher

We also have an opening for a third teacher in Gateway Woods School. Applicants must possess a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Education (Special Education degrees are preferred) and be at least 21 years old. We are especially interested in candidates with strong communication and teamwork skills and self-motivation.

Jeff Schumacher
Residential Program Director
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219)627-2159
(888)443-4283

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





Funeral service for Bro. Dale Aeschliman, Bluffton, IN, (1945), conducted by Elder Bro. Noah Schrock, Oakville, IA.

Prayer

Kind loving Father, behold us gathered together in Thy name. Look thou down upon us in grace and in favor. Look Thou down upon the broken hearts, O God, not only of the beloved Brothers and Sisters, the parents of our dear Brother in whose memory we have assembled, but upon this whole congregation, that we also endeavor to share with these bereft parents this great loss and sorrow.

We know that we have not words to give that can soothe the aching heart. That ability does not lie within us, but we believe that Thou, the Living God, can soothe and comfort the wounded and grief-stricken hearts through Thy Spirit and by Thy unseen presence.

It seems to us that above everything else that we should thank Thee, the Living God, for the way of salvation that Thou has provided in Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. For Thy glorious gospel by which Thou hast made and dost yet make known the way of life unto mankind. And for the love and mercy which Thou did extend unto this beloved Brother of whom we now speak that while he was yet in the prime of life and in possession of health and vigor that Thou didst also by Thy grace move his heart to see Thee the Lord Jesus and through repentance and faith found remission of sins and by being baptized upon his faith and confession became associated with Thy death and resurrection and became a member of Thy mystical body.

Thou didst also so lead and guide him and shape the destiny of this world so that he had to forsake his father's house and answer the call of his country and nation and in this line of duty also he lost his life, which grieves us in our hearts to think that never again will he be able to appear

in the presence of this congregation.

But then yet we have a comfort, O God, in Thy Word that Thou didst raise Thy blessed son, Jesus Christ, from the dead and Thou didst also cause that He could bring about the victory over death, sin, and grave, and that He now lives. We believe also that Thou didst not forsake our Brother in trials and tribulations, and that he could also fearlessly and without being ashamed of his Lord and Saviour confess Thee before his superiors and before his associates in this life.

O we have this comfort within our hearts, Lord, that Thou hast called him unto a great reward, and that he now is with the multitude of those that have gone before, and who await the time when Thou Lord Jesus will come and with many, many saints with Thee to rule the world. And then will the blessed condition of which we read in the Prophetic Scripture be realized in this poor war torn world.

And therefore we pray that Thou may cause that these beloved bereft ones, the father and mother, brothers and sister, also may cling to Thy Word and look forward to the meeting and not backward to the parting, that their hearts and minds will not be crushed to such a depth of sorrow that they cannot see the light behind the dark of night. O Father, comfort Thou them.

And also his brother who at the present time is somewhere in the line of duty and no doubt knows of this, of the misfortune of losing his brother, may Thou not leave him without the feeling and experience of Thy nearness and presence, and that this occasion may draw many a heart unto Thee, O God, that they put their hope and trust in Thee.

So now, O Lord, as we meditate upon Thy Word, come Thou into our midst and impart unto us that which is needful, that Thy Word might be magnified in the presence of these assembled here.

Heavenly Father, hear our prayer. We

ask it in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sermon

Text: Thessalonians, Chapter 4, beginning at verse 13.

We want to, beloved Brothers, Sisters, friends and neighbors, make full use, if God may permit, of the suggestion of the Apostle, whereby "Comfort one another with these words."

It was to be expected that the believer was not going to have a path of roses to walk upon in this life here upon earth. But that the man in Christ would be subject to tribulation and misfortune, disappointments in life and also cannot escape duty to state and nation.

We are glad that the source of comfort the Apostle recommends springs from the hope of eternal life and immortality. The same Apostle mentions in one of his writings that if he had hope only in this life, he would be of all men most miserable.

It is the hope of life eternal, it is the hope of immortality that moves and impels the believing heart to further pilgrimage and further to take and meet all the obstacles with which we are confronted in this earthly life and time.

We can believe that the Thessalonians who were for the most part idol worshippers before they were converted didn't know anything of the blessings of that hope in the life hereafter. Their worship and devotion consisted, as we well know, of a certain devotion to certain idols and certain planets, but among the altars of their devotion there was one dedicated unto an unknown God whom they ignorantly worshipped.

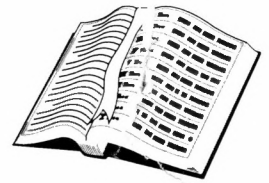
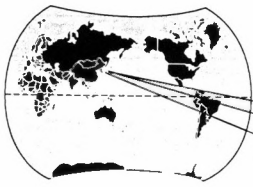
Next Issue:

Sermon Continues

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“The Cross”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.” (I Cor. 1:18). According to this verse, the cross symbolizes the power of God. This power is shown, not only in the atonement Christ made for us on the cross, but it is shown more remarkably in the resurrection. Although the cross was the means of executing criminals during the time of the Roman Empire, it has come to have a very deep and positive meaning to those of us who believe on Christ.

In Galatians 6:14 it is written, “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” Here the cross indicates that the world (the bad things of the world) have been crucified or done away with so far as we are concerned, and that we ourselves have become dead to sin and to self. The cross has come to mean far more than just a vertical piece of

wood and a horizontal piece of wood, put together.

We often sing the hymn, “Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross”, which reminds us of Christ’s suffering for us and exhorts us to maintain a state of mind which not only remembers but appreciates that atonement for us. There are many other hymns which use the symbol of the cross to express a spiritual meaning.

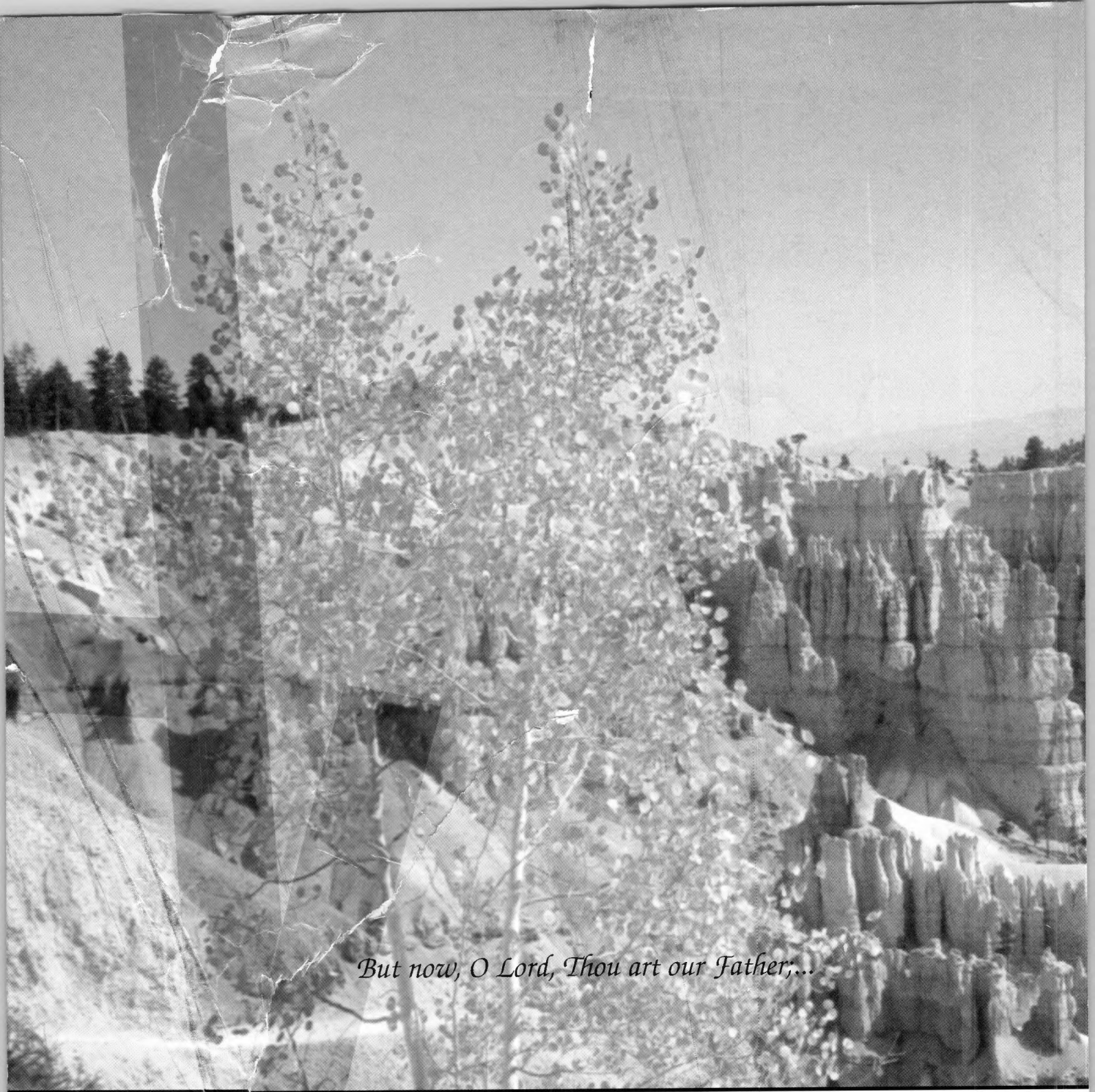
Many church buildings have a cross on them for identification purposes but we shy away from that, preferring to emphasize plainness and simplicity. This is shown also in our dress and our life style.

The cross is also used to indicate trials or misfortunes that believers might have. In Luke 9:23 we read, “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.” In this verse the word “daily” is used and it isn’t likely that we have trials or misfortunes every day so I believe the cross also means that we deny our-

selves of worldly or carnal things. Here the word “deny” means that we throw ourselves away and become dead to self and to sin. I don’t mean that we have reached perfection but we are working at it.

The cross has become a symbol of Christ’s death and also of our death to self. Thereby the cross has come to mean something precious and everlasting, victory over sin and self, as well as peace and eternal life. Because of the cross we can smile and be relaxed, confident that what Christ has done for us is abundantly sufficient and motivating us to put forth all effort to live pure and holy lives which bring glory to God. One hymn writer has expressed it this way, “In the cross of Christ I glory, Towering o’er the wrecks of time; All the light of sacred story, Gathers round it’s head sublime. Peace is there, that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.”

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But now, O Lord, Thou art our Father,...

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