



The Silver Lining

*I (the Lord) said, I will go up to the palm tree (the Church - the Bride of Christ),
I will take hold of the bough's thereof;
I (the Church) am my beloved's, and His desire is toward me.*

June 2001

"GOD LOVES WITH A PERFECT LOVE"

Sermon by Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz, Bluffton, Indiana

Numbers 11

Have you ever wondered what it might have been like to be part of the children of Israel and to be in the wilderness? A group of people who had spent years and years in Egypt who had so many things. It talks here in verse five in Numbers chapter eleven, "We remember the fish...the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic: But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna." I would imagine you could just about hear the contempt in their voices and maybe see the contempt on their faces whenever they said, "beside this manna!"

Manna. If we go back a few chapters and read about that, we would read about how much they appreciated the manna. They became tired of it. They started looking back in their life and started remembering the things that they used to have and started to want it. They desired it. It becomes a reason why we read here that they became lustful people. Lust is an inordinate desire to have something that is not readily ours. That can be a lot of things. If we go back and read the Ten Commandments, we can read in the Ten Commandments of things that protect us from lust and from sin.

But the children of Israel, it seems like, they had a hard time learning their lessons and they continually looked back. It says they complained and it displeased the Lord.

Then we have to look at ourselves. We have to look at our own lives, don't we, and ask ourselves a question whether or not we have a complaining spirit or if we have a thankful spirit. If we had a chapter written about us as a person and there was a chapter in here that was dedicated to us, what would it say? What would our posterity and our great-grandchildren read about us?

What would the future generations look back and read about what we were like? "When Ed complained, it displeased the Lord." Would we hear something like that? "That Ed looked back over his life and he remembered some things that he used to have and he had a desire to have them back in his life? He complained."

What happens whenever we complain? Do people notice? Obviously, they do. If you look around and see the people who you admire the most, are they people who are complaining? Or, are they people who are encouragers? Are they people who are building up the body of Christ? Are they people who are edifying the body of Christ? Are they people who have learned what it is like to love life and to enjoy life and to enjoy the blessings that God has given? Who do you admire the most? I think it is very consistent with what God admires.

We read here that when people complained, it displeased the Lord. Why does it do that? It is because we are telling God that we know what we need in our life. We know what we desire. "I know what I want, Lord. Give it to me." When we come across with an attitude like that, we complain about how life is, and the way it is. We have the tendency, don't we, to displease the Lord?

I remember years ago, the fact is that it was back in November, 1996, that it was my turn to preach. When I opened the Word, I had no idea where it was at the time, but I remember it had something to do with complaining (it might have been this chapter) because we talked a lot about the questions that the children of Israel were asking. Why, Lord? Where is the flesh? Where is the meat? Where are the cucumbers? Where are all these things?

I remember preaching that sermon about being content with situations that we are in and not asking the Lord why when bad things come. It was about five days later that my son got a knee to the side of his head and had a brain injury and about died three times and went through a lot of struggles and a lot of troubles. I really wish that someone would have played back that ser-

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

June 2001

Finally Brethren, Think on These Things

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Phil. 4:8).

What fills your mind and your thoughts? Often as we go through our day we perform tasks that do not require a great deal of concentration. This provides time for a wide variety of thoughts, both good and bad, to fill our minds and compete for our attention.

We either have a spiritual mind or we have a carnal mind. Satan is constantly trying to fill our minds with thoughts of the world, of the pleasures of this life, of evil or of some thought that will just pass the time in a way that prevents us from focusing on God and from thoughts that draw us closer to Him.

Thinking about an issue can be as light as a fleeting thought of something trivial or as serious as deep meditation about an eternally critical topic. When our thoughts are of spiritual matters, the scriptural admonition is to "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all" (1 Ti. 4:15).

The issues we are encouraged by the apostle to think upon are profound and are of lasting importance.

Philosophers have long delighted themselves in asking the question "What is truth"? In many of their arguments, the implication is given that the question cannot be answered. Even Pilot struggled with the question during Christ's trial. When Christ told Pilot that His mission was to bear witness of the truth Pilot said "...What is truth?..." (Jn. 18:38).

Unfortunately for Pilot, he did not hear Christ's prayer shortly before His arrest as He was praying for the Church and the saints who would follow Him, asking God to "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (Jn. 17:17). Thus the Word of God is the basis of all truth.

Truth, as determined by science, changes as man continues his pursuit of knowledge. Information that was at one

point in time "proven" to be true, is later found to not be true. Truth as determined by God's Word, however, has not changed since the beginning of time.

Honesty is applying truth to our speech and behavior so we do not cheat, lie, steal nor deceive. So often it is possible to tell the "truth" without being completely honest. At times it is easy to tell only part of a story, thereby being "truthful" but not necessarily completely "honest".

To be truthful and honest have been so important throughout history that they form the basis for two of the Ten Commandments: "Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor" (Ex. 20:15-16).

To be just is to be righteous and upright, to do what is morally right. Throughout the scriptures the importance of being just is reinforced. "...the path of the just is as the shining light..." and "The tongue of the just is as choice silver:..." (Prov. 4:18 and 10:20). God is described numerous times as being "just". "...Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints" (Rev. 15:3).

Moreover, purity is being free from anything that taints, being faultless or blameless. In the natural sense, it doesn't take much contamination to destroy purity. A very small amount of poison would make a large amount of food unsafe. Our lives are made impure by even a small amount of sin. Jesus' blood was pure, totally free from sin, and it would have taken only one sin to destroy that purity. To pay the price of the sins of the world required purity, a total freedom from fault.

Finally, to be lovely is to be morally or spiritually attractive. The concept of being lovely in the spiritual sense is so much more than the worldly view of lovely. Physical beauty counts for so much to the world and for so little to the Christian. It is so insignificant that the scripture even describes Christ as "...when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him" (Is. 53:2). However, in the spiritual sense, loveliness is so important that we are commanded to meditate upon it.

As the world likes to read bad news, our

newspapers and newsmagazines are filled with it. The focus is on what is not good. The scripture, however, tells us to think upon the things that are of good report. How different would our lives be if in our homes and in our church we could eliminate gossip and evil speaking and talk of those things that are of good report!

How can we know if something is of good report? Does it have any virtue or moral quality that is meritorious? Does it promote general moral excellence? Does it glorify or extol our Lord? Does it help our brother or sister? What impact does it have on the friends of the truth? What is the end result of the report?

There are times, however, when we must think or speak about something that is unpleasant. In doing so we can either choose to think or speak in a manner that is helpful or a manner that is hurtful. If we think or speak properly, even those topics that are unpleasant can be done in a manner that is scripturally sound. This one very short passage of scripture (Phil. 4:8) provides us with excellent guidelines on how to occupy our minds. Not only does it advise us on the qualities that should occupy our minds, it emphasizes the importance of deep thinking.

The importance of meditating is emphasized in the Old and the New Testament. "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success" (Jos. 1:8). "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all" (1 Tim. 4:15).

Thus we can understand that to "think upon" those things that are pleasing to God requires more than fleeting thoughts. It requires full attention, total focus and a substantial amount of time, to meditate upon "whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report..." (Phil. 4:8).



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

An Apostolic Christian Church Develops in Mexico

Mexico, our neighbor to the south, has a population of about 100 million souls. Languages spoken are Spanish, plus more than 200 indigenous dialects. The predominate religions are Roman Catholic, superstition, and various cults.

The Apostolic Christian Church's involvement in Mexico is relatively new. There have been a number of relief efforts undertaken in recent years, but until 1995, no substantial involvement in the spiritual aspect. At that time, the Lord opened the door for Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold to move to Ixtlan, Michoacan and begin having services in their home for the two believers (of the Apostolic Christian Nazarene Church) and others who were interested.

The original purpose was to develop a "home" for orphaned and abandoned boys, but because the spiritual work presented itself much greater than anticipated, the focus has shifted to providing for that need.

The Lord has blessed His work in the hearts of the local believers which now number 29 baptized souls. Much time, prayer, and effort is being given toward nurturing their spiritual growth in the conviction and hope that this small group will be the "first fruit" of many churches throughout Mexico.

New buildings

Construction of the church building in Ixtlan began in December of 1997. It was dedicated on January 24, 1999.

Many brethren and friends from the US churches participated in one way or another to bring this about and now the church is the center of many activities that serve to unify the people.

Because it has also been "sleeping quarters" for many brothers who have come to help, it was suggested we have another house on the premises. This house is now nearly completed. The kitchen, living room, and one bathroom are almost finished. The interior walls and the tile for the second floor are now being put in place. Also, the driveways on either side of the facility are now open and there is more parking space.

Besides the brothers who are working as part of this ministry, it will accommodate others who are visiting the work, and provide a place for other activities involving the young group or teaching English and computer skills.



The Church in Ixtlan, Mexico

Cultural differences

Even though the US and Mexico share a common border, the cultures stand in sharp contrast to each other. It is very difficult for the western mind to understand the Mexican culture which represents many paradoxes, even to the Mexicans. God's Word can clarify what is right and what is wrong.

Because of the relatively small size of Ixtlan, those who visit will want to

be very sensitive to the culture as they will be representing Jesus Christ and the United States. Cultural differences are always something that a visitor needs to be aware of, and any brethren or friends visiting in Mexico need to be quite cautious in their appearance, behavior, and demeanor, because they may be the only way the local people have to view our brotherhood.

New year opportunities

The new year began in a very eventful way as the adobe house of one of our converts in a neighboring village collapsed. The congregation then spent 10 days building him and his family a brick house. Brothers who visited soon after this went and installed electrical outlets and lights.

Wedding and baptisms

February proved to be even more eventful as the Ixtlan church was privileged to have its first wedding with the marriage of Bro. Curt Schmidgall of Burlington, Iowa to Sis. Lorenia Sibaja. The wedding brought 31 visitors from the U.S. and with the local guests the church was filled.

The following Sunday there were 4 baptisms and the congregation rejoiced with Berta Carrillo de Gonzales, Gloria Gonzales Carrillo, Silva Cabrera Montejano, and Eloisa Aguilar de Magana on their special day. In the evening the church was privileged to partake of the Lord's Supper with Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich and Tom Hoffman serving the congregation.

The work in Mexico is evidence of the Lord's patience and blessing. May He continue to bless all that is done for the purpose of glorifying His name. The Mission Committee and all involved in this work thank God and our brethren for their support. May we continue to feel His divine guidance.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

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

Distribution Centers and Material Aid Coordinators

Thanks be to God and our generous supporters who have so freely given to the needy of this world. As contributions continue to increase we have been able to share more humanitarian aid. This is going not only to those who have received help in the past but now also to others as well.

Shipping changes

The three international shipping centers will now specialize collections. Bluffton will send aid primarily to Haiti and Mexico.

Goodfield and Fairbury will send aid primarily to Jamaica, Mexico, and Indians in the southwest.

All of the centers will continue to collect and help locally. The goods that are better suited for shipment to a location that the center does not serve will be transferred by the regular exchanges between our centers by semi trucks.

Examples of useful items

Some examples of goods made and packaged by brethren and friends include: comforters, layettes, home-made soap, motel soap, health kits, sewing kits, pre-natal kits, edible beans, etc. Companies often donate surplus or outdated goods to our local churches. These are appreciated, but must be properly handled, stored, and finally sent to those who can make the best use of them.

Always ask before accepting

Over the years, experience has taught that if an item has value to us it could be of value to others. However, shipping and distributing costs are real,

and becoming greater, and this increases the necessity of good stewardship throughout our entire organization.

For this reason we ask that anyone who learns of items available should seek the counsel of a Distribution Center Coordinator before accepting the goods. In the past we have often accepted nearly anything that became available, but sometimes it is simply not cost effective to do so, even if the products are free.

What kind of clothing?

Clothing should have at least six months of good wear left. It should be clean and mended. Children's clothes are always in high demand. Most families pass these clothes to others, and for that reason not too many come to our Distribution Centers. Undergarments are also vitally needed, but these should be either new or nearly so. Sometimes our loyal supporters find such items at sale prices, and donate them to the work. Even in cases like this we have found it well to ask in advance before purchasing a large quantity.

New distribution centers

The Ohio distribution center is now completed and ready for operation. On the 14th of April they had an open house and dedication. Thanks be to God for giving them grace to see their efforts through.

In Wolcott, IN site preparation has begun on a new building. Some have asked why we are spending money on buildings instead of sending it to the needy. We are sensitive to that thought.

Infrastructure is expensive yet no country, state, business, or organization can serve or survive without it. Our desire is that you will pray that God will show us the correct balance necessary to achieve our goals in meeting needs.

Coordinators

Distribution Center

Bay City – Kurt Munsel
Phone & Fax: 989/671-2109
Work: 989/686-5681

Bluffton – Gerald Fiechter
Phone & Fax: 219/597-7494

Fairbury – Glen Steidinger
Phone: 815/692-2374
Work & Fax: 815/657-8786

Goodfield – Marvin Wagenbach
Phone: 309/925-5628

Regional Aid

Haiti – Bob Honegger
Phone: 219/622-4186
Fax: 219/622-4183

Jamaica – Kurt Munsel
Phone & Fax: 989/671-2109
Work: 989/686-5681

Mexico – Cheryl Hermann
Phone: 309/385-1082

Items

Beans – Kurt Munsel
Phone & Fax: 989/671-2109
Work: 989/686-5681

Kits – Les Fehr
Phone: 815/646-4536

Soap – Glen Steidinger
Phone: 815/692-2374
Work & Fax: 815/657-8786

Soup – Bob Steffen
Phone: 219/565-3383

**He that hath two coats, let him impart
to him that hath none...** LUKE 3:11

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

You've probably heard the question: "Do you see the glass as half full or half empty?" Attitude. Much of our success or failure has to do with attitude, doesn't it? Perhaps that's why the Apostle Paul wrote Philippians 4:6-9. He said, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things...and the God of peace shall be with you." Just maybe God is trying to tell us by these words that we should be active in redirecting our thoughts to positive ways of thinking. Concentrate on whatsoever is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, things of good report, things with any virtue or things worthy of praise. Now that's life changing!

Both staff and residents in our facilities here in Morton know about this truth. Staff are trained to facilitate residents by redirecting certain behaviors or thought patterns. Redirection is often to a response that is healthier, more normalized or one which will encourage greater independent functioning. For example, if someone lives at Timber Ridge and has a severe challenge with thinking skills, that person may not know how to say "hello" to a visitor. The person may approach the visitor, stand too close, and not know what to say. He may really want to be included. He may really want to welcome the vis-

itor. So the staff who redirects may say, "Do you want to meet our visitor? Stand back and shake hands." Sound simple? It isn't always — neither is it easy for you or me to redirect our negative thoughts. But, we know it is possible, otherwise God would not have said it. When was the last time you tried to think of the Philippians 4:8 list when confronted with a problem that really did not have an easy solution? Did the glass seem half full or half empty at that time? Did you sense His peace and overriding provisions?

July birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550 are: Randy Siebenthal (3), Gary Feller (5), Walter McKeever (16), Daniel Zimmerman (18), Clark Lewis (24), Janet Giberson (29), Kristie Ramp (31). At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Todd Schneider (29). At Linden Estate, 1000 Linden, Morton, IL 61550: Billie Tatum (1), Cindy Virkler (6), Michael Oates (18), Michelle Maloney (19). At 1001 E. Idlewood, Morton, IL 61550: Ed Getz (31). At 208 S. Indiana, Morton, IL 61550: Chris Knapp (17).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Cheri Blunier

Spring is a refreshing time of year. I can't wait for the early spring flowers to peek through the ground and to remind me of new life. It always seems to be a wake up call to me that Jesus is new life.

Lisa F. has returned to Gateway Woods and is in the Lehman House. Stacey G. was the new arrival at the Plattner House. Two residents, Morgan A. and Sam F. were discharged from the Meister House and Keith C. has moved in.

So often we as Christians rush about busy with our families and

our lives. Seldom do we stop to think of our priorities; at least this is true for me. But one thing always stops me faster than anything and that is the "premature death" of a loved one, a friend, or acquaintance. Recently a 52-year-old wife, mother, and grandmother, a godly woman, was called to Heaven. Suddenly earth's cares and concerns seem so trivial and my heart soars upward. God has said, "Set your affections on things above and not on things of this earth." (Colossians 3:2)

And I have to ask myself, "Where are my priorities and what do I hope to accomplish in my life? And ultimately who am I taking to heaven with me - my family and my friends?"

But then I think what about those who never knew Jesus? And I realize I am too comfortable in my own little world. As a former Houseparent and foster/adoptive parents, we have raised 3 adopted girls. The joy our adopted girls have given us makes us thankful for the opportunity God has provided and for stretching us beyond belief. We still struggle with the option of fostering more children (there are so many in need) or being selfish and raising our own three children.

Fortunately, God has called former Houseparents to come back to Gateway Woods to work. We are so thankful that Sis. Deb Graf, who was a Houseparent for 4 years, will be our new Teacher's Aide, and a former resident will be our Volunteer Coordinator this summer, Bro. Doug Brewer.

We have openings for an Alternate Couple and for Teachers at Gateway Woods School. How is God leading you? Who will you be taking to heaven with you? This is an ideal opportunity to do mission work in your own back yard.

Volunteers are also needed this summer to come out and serve the Lord, the church, and "the least of

these." (Matt 25:40) Call our office at 888-443-4283 for more information.

God has been so very good to us through the children He has provided and through the support of each one of you. Continue to pray for us.

This month we had some visitors from Denver, CO, and some of Sis. MaryAnn Zamora's family from Colorado Springs area. We appreciate each one who came.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Tom Schrenk

The school year is rapidly coming to a close. Our graduation program was held on Thursday evening, May 17. This is always the highlight of the year for both parents and children. We practiced for a couple weeks getting ready for it. All the kids had special things or verses to say and songs to sing. The 4-5 year old class recited 26 Bible verses that we have memorized this year. Truly many seeds have been planted in these little hearts. May God, in His time and way, cause these little ones to remember what they have learned in these tender years and in due time bring salvation into their hearts.

As this part of the school year draws to a close, we will go directly into our summer session. We have several that have called and volunteered to come and spend some time helping in the Preschool this summer. We appreciate all of you, and if there is anyone that is thinking about coming, please call and let us know. There are so many things to do and not always enough hands to do them.

Last month we made it known that we have an opening for a teacher at our Preschool. This is a very unique opportunity for a Brother or Sister to come and become a part of the Athens church and Preschool family. If God is working in your heart to consider this, please call (256) 233-0591 and we will provide details of qualifications and benefits. It is important to talk with your home Elder before contacting the Preschool. We again want to say thank you to all that continue to support us. The work here is an ongoing outreach and

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Joan Reinhard

Louise Hall

Many thanks to our mothers as we acknowledge Mother's Day this past month. We appreciate each one who has the role of Mother.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Tom Schrenk as he has been having some heart trouble. Bro. Tom entered the hospital the evening of Bro. Lavoyd's funeral and spent a few days there. They were able to put another stint in and that has helped some. Please pray for Bro. Tom and his wife, Sis. Joan.

April 30 was the day that Alexander Ryan Hoover was born to Rene' and Tony Hoover. His grandparents are Tracy and Bud Hill (Missouri) and Steve Hoover (Arkansas). His great-grandmother is Sis. Naomi Hall. Little Alex was born 5 weeks early, weighed 5 lbs., 4 oz. and was 18 1/2 inches long. He has some problems with his heart, so he has been in the hospital in Birmingham since he was born. Please remember these first-time parents as they deal with all the emotions of these events.

This is the time of year when school is ending and we have two that will be graduating from High School this year. Congratulations go to Heather Flannagan (Jeff and Janice). Her grandparents are Dezzie Flannagan and Bro. J.R. and Sis. Louise Hall. We also want to congratulate Michael Taylor. His parents are Bro. Joel and Donna Schrenk and his grandparents are Jerry and Dorothy Weathers and Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan Schrenk. We wish them both the Lord's richest blessings as they begin this new phase of their lives.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."

Psalms 51:16-17

Easter is such a happy time to believers. April Young gave her testimony on April 14 and was baptized on Easter Sunday. Sis. April, we welcome you into our fold and pray your enthusiasm for God will last forever. To know Him is to love Him!

We had many encouraging messages besides our own home ministers. Bros. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) came to share God's Word.

Our beloved Sunday School children presented their Easter program on Palm Sunday afternoon. Their singing and Bible recitations praised our Lord Jesus and pleased us. Thanks to our teachers.

Easter Sunrise Services were held at Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum's residence. The large crowd enjoyed the choir singing and later breakfast. Our heartfelt thanks to Bro. Robert and Sis. Chris for making the day so special. God blessed us abundantly.

We have truly enjoyed our many winter visitors. God's love is our bond. Let us keep praying for one another.

Ray Peuschel was in the hospital. Sis. Toni Bentley was at home

for a lengthy spell with pneumonia. Baby Dakota Pearl Thorpe (Bro. Chris and Sis. Heather) was also hospitalized.

Our church redecorating is moving along nicely, the "big stuff" will soon be coming. Your patience (a virtue) please...

"Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen."

Eph. 6:23-24

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

Bro. Henry Volz spent over a month in the V.A. Hospital in Prescott in the extended care department. He has improved and hopefully will be released by the time of this printing.

Our annual business meeting was held in May and Bro. Jim Furrer was reelected as a trustee and also appointed as the chairman.

We are thankful to our Lord for providing us again so many blessings, instructions and admonitions from the pulpit. Our ministering brethren included Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Jim Meiss (Phoenix, AZ).

ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

Having realized that I didn't send in a column for the month of April, this column will bring you up - to - date for April and May.

We enjoyed a visit from ministering Bro. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN) who gave Bro. Curt some welcome relief on the pulpit. We

thank him for stopping in Tucson and spending a Sunday with us. May God add His blessing.

We were also visited by our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich, once to serve us Holy Communion and again to read the Memorandum. Bro. Jon was assisted in serving Communion by Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and by Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) in reading the Memorandum. We wish to ask God's blessings on these Elder brethren for meeting the needs of the Tucson church.

Congratulations go out to Sis. Mindy Bauer (Bro. Brad and Sis. Sandy) who is graduating from high school on May 23. Sis. Mindy plans to attend the University of Arizona in August. We pray God will guide her as she starts this exciting and challenging chapter in her life!

At our annual business meeting, Bro. Steve Bauer was elected to a 3-year term as Trustee replacing Bro. Don Bauer; Sis. Lucy Knapp was elected to a 2 - year term as Kitchen Chairman replacing Sis. Gloria Bauer; and Sis. Maria Bauer was elected to a 2 - year term in Sunday School replacing Sis. Sandy Bauer. Many, many thanks to Bro. Don, Sis. Glo and Sis. Sandy for all their hard work the past few years.

It was decided that Vacation Bible School will be held June 26-29 with our theme being "Service to Others".

Summer may not be here according to the calendar, but it has officially arrived in Tucson. We recorded our first official 100 degree temperature last week (mid - May).

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA James Klotzle

Greetings from Altadena!

In our monthly Bible Study, we have been reading through the

book of Revelation. In this book, God's mighty power is revealed. It is so easy to get wrapped up in the current issues, and often the hope of His return and triumph is clouded. What a comfort to know, that the worst things men can do will not change God's Plan. What an awesome and terrible time it will be when Christ returns in victory to take the throne and judge all mankind. With our hope and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, we believers can look forward to this.

"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Phil. 2:10-11

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA).

The duties of unordained deacon were assigned to Bro. Tom Klotzle this month. We continue to pray for God's blessings upon the leadership of the church.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Peggy Jevremov

As always, we enjoyed our visitors again this month. They have come from various places. Among them are Ervin Sarok's parents, Elder Bro. Janos Sarok and his wife, who are visiting here for a month. They are from Budapest, Hungary. Ministering Bro. Janos Kovac and his wife from Seged, Hungary, also are visiting here. Bro. Kovac is Sis. Joy Fulop's uncle. We pray the Lord will bless these brothers for assisting in bringing God's Word to us. Bro.

Denes Fulop interpreted for us.

We also were blessed to have Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) minister to us on a Wednesday evening. May the Lord richly reward him for his willingness to serve us.

As we begin to experience shortages of electricity and rising gas prices, it causes us to wonder what part this will play in God's plan in these last days. May these things not cause us to fear, but to draw nearer to our Lord and to have complete trust in Him.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

Nathan Reutter

Dear Brethren, Greetings in the name of our Saviour Jesus, the one Who died for us at Calvary. We have had a blessed month. We have seen the world around us come back to life and we are thankful God has seen it good to bring us Spring. It is nice to see all the greens, blues and yellows around us.

We have had several visiting ministers with us this past month. Our first minister was Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN). The next week we had two visiting Elders. They were Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) and Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT). And lastly, we had Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH). We appreciated their willingness and availability to come to minister. "The Lord gave us pastors according to his heart, which fed us with knowledge and understanding." (Jer. 3:15)

Elder Bro. Mark and Elder Bro. Kevin were here to share Communion with us. We greatly appreciated the opportunity to examine ourselves to see whether we were still in the faith. We also appreci-

ated the time of recommitment, and the remembrance of the necessity of Jesus' sacrifice and shed blood. Without this shed blood we would be utterly hopeless in this life. Without this hope we would be of all men most miserable.

We also sang at three nursing homes this past month. We try to sing at one every other week. It is always a blessing for us to do this, and we hope also for those that listen. We often see people singing with us, and this encourages us.

We also had a spring cleanup day at church. Both inside and outside of the building were cleaned. It was good to organize, clean and throw away unnecessary things.

We wish you God's blessings this coming month and pray that He will keep you in His care. (Jer. 17:7,8)

COLORADO, DENVER

Mike and Heather Katanic

We appreciate the efforts of Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) as he assisted our Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) with testimonies and our Communion service. We heard how God has worked in the lives of Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann Gonglach and Sis. Ruth Pfeiffer as we welcomed them into our congregation. The following day we were reminded of Jesus' suffering and death as we held our Communion service. We want to thank our ministering brothers for their service on such a special weekend.

As the summer vacation season begins, we invite anyone traveling west to come and visit our church.

CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE Cherie Galat

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created

he him; male and female created he them."

Genesis 1:27

We wish God's blessing upon Bro. Doug LaPlante (Bro. Leo and Sis. Sherri) and Sis. Heidi Carlson (Bro. Walter Jr. and Sis. Judy) upon the announcement of their engagement. As they plan for their upcoming wedding, may they continue to look to Him for guidance and direction in their lives.

We thank Bro. Brian Webb (Fort Lauderdale, FL) for his service upon the pulpit and ministering unto us out of God's Word. May God richly bless him as he continues to minister unto God's people.

Our Single Group was invited to spend a weekend with the Philadelphia, PA, brethren. We had a blessed weekend appreciating God's beauty and creation and fellowshiping with our brothers and sisters. May He reward them for their kindness and Christian love shown unto us.

We lift our dear ones up in prayer that have been ill, hospitalized or are anticipating surgery. May they be healed according to His will: Sis. Emma Herzig, Sis. Betty Luginbuhl and Kristine Alexander.

Our prayers and sympathy are with two family circles. May God comfort Marion Reutter upon the passing of her father, John Fecko. He also leaves grandchildren, Sis. Bonnie Maibach (Bro. Dean), of Smithville, OH, Bro. Dean Reutter (Sis. Miriam), Glenna Luginbuhl (Barry) and Ted Reutter (Shanon) and other family members. Our sympathy also extends to Donna Weiss (Morey) upon the passing of her father, Donald Perkins. He leaves his wife, Annabelle; granddaughters, Eva and Sheila, and other family members. May He console the hearts of these dear families.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you so much for the many cards, flowers, food, money and love that was given to us. What a blessed witness you have been to my wife, Donna, and her family in the loss of her father. May God bless you all.

The Morey Weiss Family

As Father's Day approaches, many fathers come to mind. Foremost, we thank our Heavenly Father who through great love for mankind willingly gave His son to die for each and every one. Many of our dear fathers of the physical man have reared us and taught us of God's ways. We can also think of spiritual fathers of faith who are not related to us but are closely bonded to us through wise counsel and Christian examples. What a blessing it is that no one is left out without a father for God provides what we need to help us in our everyday life. May God richly bless those individuals who have had a fatherly influence upon us.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

Our visiting ministers the past month were Bros. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), and Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT). Other visitors this month were from Rockville, CT; Rittman and Smithville, OH; and Champaign, IL. We are always glad for visitors. Hope many of you make the nation's capital and our church part of your vacation plans this summer.

We welcome Sis. Andria Gudeman (Francesville, IN) who will be working in this area this summer.

There is an opportunity for a

full-time, live-in nanny in this area starting in the fall. If anyone is interested, please contact either of the brothers listed below. There would also be other nanny positions available in the same area (applications from nanny agencies available) if more than one person would like to come.

Our church 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 (I495) on Route 7. Song service begins at 10:15 a.m., worship service at 10:30; afternoon service begins at 12:15 p.m.

If you are planning to visit Washington, DC for vacation or business, please call Bro. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749 or Bro. Barry Steffen (410) 569-3635 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. If you would like to get together on Saturday evening, please let us know that also. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

**FLORIDA
FORT LAUDERDALE
Nancy Rocke**

"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

I Peter 3:3-4

Mother's Day is passed and many of us are privileged to have believing mothers. As the scripture instructs us of what is of great price and pleasing to the Lord, may we by His grace seek to be obedient and

faithful.

Bro. Brace Wieland (Sis. Brenda, Leo, IN) spent a Sunday with us, and he ministered God's Word. May God be his Rewarder.

We have several from our congregation who haven't assembled with us for several weeks because of ailments of the body. May we remember Sis. Elsie Bolliger, Sis. Elena Zurz, and Sis. Delores Van Norman. May they feel the Lord's nearness.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Dorothy Beer**

We were thankful to have Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) with us as we partook of Holy Communion on April 22. It was a very blessed time for our congregation to spend together and ponder what all our Lord and Saviour endured for us.

Other visiting ministers for April were Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Sis. Marian, Peoria, IL) and Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL). We are very thankful for their willing service to us.

Bro. Roland and Sis. Viola Keller have been housebound all winter while they stayed with their children, Walley and Jackie Keller. We were blessed to have them with us in church for Communion and then for Mother's Day. Bro. Art and Dwayne showed their love to their parents in helping them to church.

"Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

Ephesians 6:2-3

FLORIDA, SARASOTA**Carol Koehl**

The angels in Heaven were rejoicing with us the weekend of May 19 as our dear convert, Jeremy Miller (Melissa), was able to share his testimony of faith with the church and then be baptized. We thank Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) who came to assist.

The sun was gloriously shining in Francesville, IN, as Sis. Tricia Gutwein (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice) and Bro. Mark Koehl (Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol) became husband and wife in the Lord on April 29. We are so thankful to be adding another young Christian family to our little church.

We appreciated Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) bringing us God's Word over the pulpit, as well as sharing with us a Marriage Seminar, while he and his family were here on vacation in May.

Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) was also here in May to help read the Memorandum.

Easter morning found us at Turtle Beach for Sunrise Services, reflecting on our Lord's resurrection. We enjoyed a continental breakfast together afterward.

We were privileged to partake of Holy Communion on March 24. Elder Bros. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) were able to join us for this sacred service.

We sincerely appreciate the efforts of all the above mentioned Elders and ministers who give of themselves serving us. Other visiting ministers who we also wish to thank are Bros. Scott Schafer (South Bend, IN), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI).

Bros. Gene Bruellman and Erv Martin were both hospital patients recently.

We were very happy to be able to celebrate Sis. Hermine Miller's (Gridley, IL) 90th birthday at our May potluck.

Sarasota is really going to miss Bro. Erv and Sis. Lorane Martin. Due to health concerns, they have moved back to Illinois (Peoria). We love you, Bro. Erv and Sis. Lorane, and we want to thank you for your smiling faces and many years of faithful support here in Sarasota.

Lord willing, Bro. Brent Bigger (Morton, IL), son of Don and Sis. Millie Bigger, will be joining us here in August. Bro. Brent will be attending Stetson University Law School in St. Pete.

Note of Thanks:

My sincere thanks to all who remembered me with prayers, cards, flowers, phone calls, and visits during my hip surgery and recovery. May God bless you all.

Sis. Millie Bigger

GEORGIA, ATLANTA**John Brewer**

The ultimate purpose of the church is to bring those that are lost to the saving salvation of Christ. Even though it is God that brings forth that work, we the church are His tool to help accomplish that purpose. As those that repent of their sins, make restitution and finds that peace of God that passes all understanding, the ultimate symbol of this path and oath is to be baptized. The dying of the old sinful man and the resurrection of the new man with our sins forgiven and covered by the blood of Christ.

We rejoice as on May 20, Erica Stoller (Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda) has found that peace, given her testimony of faith and was baptized. Being the first baptism in our congregation enhanced the uniqueness of the day. We thank Elder

Bros. Wendell Gudeman and Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) for giving of their love and time to the baptismal service. We are thankful that Sis. Erica is part of our small flock here and that others may also take that only step that leads to peace, contentment and being made right with God.

We also want to thank the other visiting ministers and their wives that have come the past month. Those that took the time to bring forth the Word were Bros. Vic Beer (N. Ft. Myers, FL), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO) and John Kaeb (Bern, KS).

As summer approaches, we extend a warm welcome to those that may be vacationing in the Southeast this summer. The congregation enjoys visitors who stop in to partake of fellowship. Our services start at 10:15 for song service. The church is located off I-85, southwest of Atlanta in Fairburn, GA. Get off exit 64 (Jonesboro Rd) and go west exactly four miles. The church will be on the right. You may contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554, Bro. Keith Kaufman (770) 304-8335 or Bro. John Brewer (770) 463-0701 if you have any questions.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE**Doreen Moser****Shelia McCoy**

Greetings to our faithful brethren,

Heart and voice we do employ;
Wishing them the Father's nearness,

Tho' their lot be woe or joy.
There's a blessing in the greeting,

Given in the Saviour's name.

Greetings of love from our precious brotherhood in Belvidere!

How shall it be when we at last
returning,
From weary wand'rings and from
toil and strife
Shall reach the home for which
our heart is yearning
and enter into everlasting life?
When from our feet the dust of
earth has vanished,
The last sweat from our brow is
wiped away,
Our eyes behold what oft earth's
care has banished
And gave to us new courage on
our way.

Zion's Harp #146

Gary and Sis. Doreen Moser have laid to rest a dear Dad and Grandfather, Bro. Alphai Moser, from Morris, MN. He fought a long battle with never a complaint. He was always more concerned with the burden he was placing on his children and dear wife. As the last sweat was wiped from his brow, the Lord took him Home. We will miss him here on earth but we know that his suffering is over and hope to see him some day. As the choir sang at the funeral, it was a comfort to hear the voices of his grandchildren singing along. Although their hearts were sad, their grandfather had shared his love of music, his love of the Heavenly Father and has left them with many memories and a wonderful example to follow. Thanks to everyone who remembered our family at this time of sorrow and please keep us in your prayers in the days ahead.

We extend our sympathy to Jerry and Sis. Sandy Darlington and their family in the loss of Sandy's grandfather, Bro. Ernie Metzger, from Lester, IA. Grandfathers are so precious and their wisdom and patience will be missed. Our sympathy also goes to Melissa Waibel in the death of her aunt.

Now it is accomplished! I'm no
longer mine;
Lord, I will forever and always be
Thine,
For Thou hast created and pur-
chased me too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou
makest me new.

Zion's Harp #209

May 19-20 was a blessed week-end in our Belvidere congregation. Jason Moser gave his testimony and was baptized. Although there are many high points in a person's life, there is nothing that compares to giving one's life to the Lord and living a life to glorify our Father in Heaven. We were blessed to have Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) present to assist in the Lord's work. Our humble thanks goes to our Elders, visiting ministers and their precious families for spending the weekend with us. Thanks to all who came; we were blessed with your presence.

Our other visiting minister this month was Bro. Garth Steffen (Portland, OR) for a Wednesday evening service.

Each step I take my Saviour goes
before me,
And with His loving hand He
leads the way,
And with each breath I whisper:
"I adore Thee;"
Oh, what joy to walk with Him
each day.

I trust in God, no matter come
what may,
For life eternal is in His hand,
He holds the key that opens up
the way,
That will lead me to the Prom-
ised Land.

Gospel Hymns #364

The Lord has been with our congregation as each step was taken to build our new church. We are planning on having our first service on May 27, Lord willing. Many helping hands have made the burden lighter. May God bless all who lent their talents and time. Our Dedication is planned for July 8.

The address of our new church is: 8675 Town Hall Road, Belvidere, IL 61008.

Directions from the East:

I 90 to Genoa Road exit

North on Genoa Road to State Street (about 5 miles)

(Genoa Road becomes Business Rt 20, which circles the North boundary of Belvidere, State St. is the 5th traffic light)

Turn West on State Street to Town Hall Road (1 mile)

Turn North on Town Hall Road (500 feet)

From the South or North:

I 39 to I 90

I 90 to Rockford State Street (Clock Tower exit)

Turn east on State Street to Town Hall Road (4.2 miles)

Turn North on Town Hall Road (500 feet)

We look forward to meeting and greeting anyone who gets a chance to visit us in Belvidere.

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

"And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament

in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

I Cor. 11:24-25

Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) joined us for Holy Communion on April 28. It is beyond comprehension the love God has for each one of us. We truly serve an awesome God!

We were also blessed to have Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) speak at our Family Night. His topic was "Measuring Your Spiritual Heart". God bless you for your time and effort.

Our church family is rejoicing over our new converts: Ashley Frank (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sheri), Rebecca Maurer (Bro. John and Sis. Emily) and Sandra Smith. We pray you feel God's grace and wisdom as you begin your new walk with Him.

Two families were blessed with precious bundles from Heaven. Bro. Andy and Sis. Marie Kaufmann welcomed Joseph Jude on April 24. His grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie Kaufmann and Bro. Phil and Sis. Carol Gutwein (Francesville, IN). Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary Leman are the thankful grandparents of Cosette Isabella. She is the daughter of Jeff and Janet. Cameron is her big brother.

We want to congratulate our graduates! Bro. Sam Steffen (Sis. Shelley) graduated from the University of Illinois medical school. He is going to be doing his residency at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana. We are excited that they will continue worshipping with us. Sis. Brooke Basham, Summer Daily, Sis. Alexis Hany, Kaylee Harrell, Brad Horner, Bro. Jaron Huber, Jason Knapp, Sis. Lisa Mariani, Aaron Maurer and Tiffany Virgil are graduating from high school. May God watch over you and be the guide of your future.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Lydia Koehl and family are now worshipping with us. We are thankful to have our church family grow.

Bro. Mike Bates and Sis. Kari Meister (Peoria, IL) were joined as husband and wife on May 13. We wish you God's richest blessings as you are now one in Christ.

Sis. Jenny Leman, Sis. Catherine Brame, and Bro. Marvin Huette all experienced health problems. We pray God will heal each one according to His plan.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Chad and LauraLee Plattner

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven over one soul who repents. Our prayers are with Matthew Elsasser (Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon) as he begins to seek first the Kingdom of God.

We were blessed to have visiting minister, Bro. Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL), with us on a Wednesday night this month. May God be his Rewarder.

ILLINOIS

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Samuel and Pamela Furrer

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

Psalm 32:8

Commencement. A rite of passage for students of all ages, we had several thousand students graduating from the University of Illinois, Parkland College, and area high schools in the past few weeks. Now those young people, some no longer carrying the title of "student" with them, are setting forth on new paths. Our Champaign church has one high school graduate. Joshua Plattner (Bro. Paul and Sis. Susan) is graduating from high

school in Danville and plans to continue his education at Danville Community College. We also have Thomas Fehr graduating from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Thomas is the son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb of Philadelphia (formerly of CU) and he will now be moving to Kansas City for work as an engineer. Our Bro. Ryan Robb completed his U of I education as a teacher of agriculture and will be teaching in Morton in the fall. Gridley's Bro. Jon Baner skipped the actual graduation ceremony to attend his own wedding to Sis. Ashley Romersberger. In addition to beginning his new job as a husband, he will also be applying his food science degree to his job at Ringger Feeds in Gridley. Sean Schick of Morton has graduated from U of I in computer science and will be staying in Champaign - Urbana to work for Source Gear, a tech consulting firm. We are very glad to have at least one of our grads staying in the area. Sisters Bridget Metzger and Emily Endress of Morton have graduated from U of I as nurses and will be starting jobs in Indianapolis and Peoria respectively. Sis. Carrie Gerst of Oakville, IA, has her degree in horticulture and will be seeking employment after she completes a summer internship experience with the Chicago Park District. Princeville had a pair of grads with the same major at U of I. Brothers Joel Gehrig and Kirk Plattner will be putting their credentials as ag teachers to good use as they take jobs in central Illinois. Bro. Mark Knepp of Roanoke is not a graduate yet, but he has completed his first year of medical school and is now leaving us to continue his education at U of I's Peoria medical campus. Sis. Rachel Schrenk of St. Louis competed her degree in human development and family studies and will be moving

to California to pursue graduate studies in Biblical counseling. (I attempt to get a complete list each spring, but that is not always accomplished. In advance, I apologize for any errors or omissions.)

Looking over this list, I noticed that the majority of our college graduates are going into the fields of social service, medicine, or education. Each graduate will surely be an example to each person they deal with regardless of their employment position, but those in these "helping professions" have a special opportunity to serve as lights to those they encounter. As a church, the Champaign - Urbana congregation wishes all of our graduates the very best as they commence on a new phase of life's ever-changing journey.

Our annual church business meeting was held late in April. Among other things, we heard reports on the local World Relief projects our church is involved with and we elected Sis. Wendy Waibel to serve as a Sunday School teacher, Bro. Keith Hanson as a trustee, and Bro. Greg Kaeb as an usher. Our thanks go Sis. Margie Heintz and Bros. Dennie Mangers and David Bauer whose terms of service have ended. Following our annual meeting, we had the exhortation for Holy Communion.

On May 9, Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago IL) was with us to serve the Lord's Supper. Other visitors were Elder Bro. Thomas Hoffman (Roanoke IL) for the reading of the Memorandum and ministering Bros. Frank Sauder (Roanoke IL), Al Schambach (Remington IN), and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis MO). We appreciate each of these ministers for the part they took in bringing the Word to us.

In other news, Mallory Blunier, young daughter of Bro. Darin and Sis. Keri, had her adenoids re-

moved and had to take it easy for a few days. She is doing well now and looking forward to a fun summer.

Sam and Dawn Finch are the parents of a new son they have named Dawson Samuel. He was born May 9. He has a big sister, Kirsten. The Finch family lives at 424 N. Dorchester in Mahomet. Kirsten and Dawson have a young cousin, Kaylie Ann Travis, living nearby. Kaylie is the daughter of Kim and Andy Travis of 208 Timberview in Mahomet. Grandparents of the Finch and Travis children are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Darlene Steidinger of Fairbury. We are glad to have these families with us in Champaign.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

This spring I have been learning along with my children the miracle of spring: how God so beautifully causes spring blossoms to open, attracting insects for pollination, allowing seeds to develop and fruits to grow. It has caused me to get in the habit of taking a closer look at the things around me that I've always "known" or taken for granted. The more I look, the more His faithfulness overwhelms me!

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness
O God, My Father.
There is no shadow
of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not
Thy compassions they fail not.
As Thou hast been
Thou forever wilt be.
Summer and winter
and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon and stars
in their courses above
Join with all nature
in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness

Mercy and love.

Pardon for sin
And a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence
To cheer and to guide,
Strength for today
And bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings are mine
With ten thousand beside.

Chorus:

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning
new mercies I see.
All I have needed
Thy hand hath provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness
Lord unto me.

—Thomas O. Chisholm

Bro. Al Montgomery and Sis. Katrina Cordero (Aridio) have experienced God's faithfulness as they have allowed the seed of His Word to grow in their hearts and bring forth fruit. These two dear souls shared their testimonies and were baptized April 21-22. We pray that they can also experience the "peace that endureth".

Blessings were ours as God provided many visiting ministers that weekend. Assisting in this sacred work were Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL). Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Dennis Rassi, John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) were also here.

Our own Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann presented a topical Bible study on "Following Jesus" on April 25. Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) was also with us this month. We deeply appreciate the service of both of these brothers.

"Thy compassions they fail not." We pray for God's compassionate healing for Mabelle Welk

who was hospitalized this month.

"Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide." We said farewell to Joseph Stefan who attended our church faithfully for many years. We also join with the families of Bro. Boyd (Sis. Lois) and Bro. Virgil (Sis. Mary) Metzger as they bid farewell to their father, Bro. Ernst Metzger (Lester, IA).

"Great is Thy faithfulness!" We shared Holy Communion on April 27 commemorating the most faithful act done for us.

Lastly, we want to express our gratitude to the St. Louis, MO, congregation for their gracious hospitality as nearly 40 people from Chicago loaded a bus and paid a visit to the St. Louis church.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Denise Walder
Cheryl Eisenmann**

The angels in Heaven rejoice over every sinner that repents. We are grateful that Zachary Anderson (Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee) has decided to seek the Lord in repentance.

Visiting us on the pulpit this month were Bros. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN). May God bless all our ministers for their labors of love.

The last weekend in April we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of an older brother and a younger sister from our congregation. They are Bro. Vernon Clauss (Joanne) and Sis. Joanna Kaeb (Bro. Max and Sis. Beth). It is nice to see how God can work in the lives of the young and the old alike.

Our graduating seniors from high school this year are Dan Rudin (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Joan), John

Eisenmann (Merle and Elsie), Chalise Steffen (Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth) and Ashley Stock (Ed and Dawn). We hope and pray that God will protect them and guide them each step of the way.

Surgical patients this month are Bro. Melvin Stock and Sis. Joan Rudin. We pray for God's nearness and healing to each.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Glenna Rinkenberger

April 14 was the day our Bro. Richard Hasty was laid to rest after many years of illness. We are thankful he was ready to leave this earth. Our prayers of comfort and sympathy go out to his wife, Sis. Kathe, and their children. Bro. Tom Lemman (Denver, CO) assisted with the service.

May 10 our Bro. Orville Zimmerman was laid in the bosom of the earth. Again, our prayers go out to his wife, Sis. Lulu, and their children, Annette (Steve) Weiss, Bro. Fred (Sis. Maryellen, Congerville), Bro. Tom (Sis. Janet, Eureka), Bro. Ben (Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Chuck (Sis. Ginny), both of Congerville, Bro. Tim (Sis. Barb, Lamont - Gridley, KS) and Andy (Leann); one sister, Sis. Alma (Bro. Frank) Wackerle of Goodfield, and 21 grandchildren. May God help those left behind to cope with their loss and strive to meet their loved ones in Heaven some day.

In sorrow and pain
Thy trust do retain
In Jesus the merciful Saviour.
When burdened with care,
When thou wouldst despair,
Then call on thy loving Redeemer.
He'll lighten the load,
And level the road,
And bear thee on hands of compassion.

Zion's Harp #46

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, love, visits, cards, gifts, food and concerns for me before and after my surgery and during my long recuperation. I am very thankful for our church family. It is certainly a blessing and you are very much appreciated. May God bless each of you. Thanks again.

*A least one,
Bro. Allen Schrock*

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Amy Gasser Kay Kellenberger

Thy word, O Lord, forever is
The mirror where we see
Our faults and duties as they are,
Our likeness unto Thee.

His word obey and warning take;
His wisdom will prevail,
For if we know, and heed it not,
It is of no avail.

Zion's Harp #142

The Elgin congregation gathered together to hear the conclusions of the Elders' Conference. As stated in the verse above, we must obey and take warning to God's Word. It is through His Almighty Word that if we heed to His teachings we will feel God's glorious peace in our lives. Yet if we follow our own selfish will, our walk in Christ is of no avail. We pray God's blessings upon Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) for his faithful service as he expressed the concerns of our undershepherds. May we each take to heart the precious teachings of our cherished faith. We also ask God's blessings upon Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) as he brought forth the Word through God's leading.

May our prayers be with Bro. Matt Kinsinger as he has undergone foot surgery. May we pray for his speedy recovery.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Lois Steffen (Bro. Gary) in the tragic loss of her mother, Sis. Alice Metzger (Bro. Arnold, West Bend, IA). Our love and prayers are extended to the family of Sis. Ella Banwart as she passed away on April 24, and to Sis. Ida Kellenberger (Bro. Keith) in the loss of her father, Bro. Ernest Metzger (Lester, IA). May we continually lift up our loved ones in prayer.

With friends on earth we meet in gladness,
While swift the moments fly,
Yet ever comes the tho't of sadness,
That we must say, "Good-bye".

How joyful is the hope that lingers,
When loved ones cross death's sea,
That we, when all earth's toils are ended,
With them shall ever be!

No parting words shall e'er be spoken
In yonder home so fair,
But songs of joy, and peace, and gladness,
We'll sing forever there.

We'll never say good-bye in Heav'n,
We'll never say good-bye,
For in that land of joy and song
We'll never say good-bye.
Hymns of Zion #122

**ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Janet Zimmerman**

Reaching a special milestone in

life are these graduating seniors: Sis. Katie Anliker (Bro. Art and Sis. Carol), Heather Bauman (Glen and Sis. Becky), Michael Blunier (Bro. Myron and Sis. Elaine), Ross Blunier (Bro. Ted and Sis. Donna), Tim Bradle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila), Jenna Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane), Toby and Bro. Todd Fehr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy), Brent Hoerr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Carolyn), Sis. Brenda Huber (Bro. Gary Huber and Karen Huber), Tyler Knapp (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori), Sis. Lisa Stoller (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry), Sis. Christy Wettstein (Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna), Rachel Wiegand (Dale and Sis. Freidora), Sis. Lisa Kupferschmid (Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth), Brad Martin (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Sheri), and Wade Wettstein (Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary).

May each of these graduates seek God's guidance in the decisions they will be making.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Tom Zimmerman (Sis. Janet) on the death of his father, Bro. Orville, of Congerville. He died Monday, May 7.

Sis. Lula Fehr was called from her earthly toils and cares unto her Heavenly Home Tuesday, May 8. She leaves behind four daughters, Sis. Doris, Marge Goodwin (Steve), Sis. Janet Zimmerman (Bro. Tom) of Eureka, Deb Lockhart (Bob) of Sparland; and two sons, Sam (Earlene) of Washburn and Dwane (Tami) of Eureka. Three sisters, Leona Feucht of Portland, OR, Gladys Thomas of Oroville, CA, Sis. Evie Bruellman of Bradenton, FL; two brothers, Daniel Eggli of West Jordan, UT, and Fred Eggli of Tremonton, UT, also survive.

We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Paul Tanner on the death of his sister, Sis. Martha Tanner, of Peoria, who died Wednesday, May 9; and to Sis. Freda Knepp on the death of her sister, Sis. Eunice

Schlipf, of Gridley, who died April 30. May our Heavenly Father comfort those who sorrow and grant them sweet memories of their departed loved ones.

We are thankful that three converts have peace. They are Alissa Wiegand (Bro. Don and Sis. Jane), Jonathan Sanders (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue) and Phil Wettstein (Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary). We continue to pray for them and we look forward to their testimonies and baptisms June 2-3.

Two dear couples recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They are Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen Belsley and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Viola Leman. May God be with them and bless them as they continue together on their journey toward Heaven.

We recently said farewell to Bro. Sam Nenadov (Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn) as he has moved to Chicago, IL. May God be with him always.

May 6 we heard the engagement announcement of Sis. Ann Leman to Bro. Sid Leman of Forrest, IL. May God's blessings be with them.

Bro. Christopher Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Kary) and Sis. Elizabeth Hohulin (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene) of Goodfield, IL, were united in Holy Matrimony April 29. May God richly bless their future together as He has their past. We welcome Sis. Elizabeth to our congregation.

Those who required surgery or hospitalization this past month were Sis. Marie Meyer, Sis. Fannie Bradle, Bro. Roy Hangartner (Sis. Norma) and Sis. Freda Knepp. Sis. Julie Kupferschmid (Bro. Ed and Sis. Donna) continues to take chemotherapy treatments and Jeremy Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Janet) also is taking chemotherapy treatments at St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, TN. Our thoughts and prayers are with

those who suffer and also with their families. May God grant healing as He sees best.

We are always thankful to have visiting ministering brothers among us. We thank Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO) for being with us. We also thank Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) for ministering to us while here visiting his mother, Sis. Marie Meyer. May God's richest blessings abide with each one.

We will soon be commemorating Father's Day. May we always appreciate our earthly fathers for they are a blessing from God and may we be thankful for their Godly wisdom.

When thoughts go back across
the years,

It seems as if each memory is
special, because of you,
Because of your unselfish ways,
your kindness and good cheer,
Because you were — Dad, so
very, very dear!

—author unknown

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for your prayers, cards and visits during my hospital stay for hip surgery. May God bless each of you.

Bro. Willis Stoller

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr
Joann Zehr

It is always humbling to gather together and partake of Holy communion which we did on Wednesday evening, April 25. We will never be able to thank our Lord enough for His suffering and shedding of blood for our sins. Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest) helped our Elder Bro. Art Bahler.

After this sacred rite, Bro. Art asked that we each seek God's help and guidance for a ministering brother. This responsibility has been laid on Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen). May God bless and help Bro. Paul and Sis. Carmen and sons, Justin and Trent. Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest) spent that evening with us also and we thank him.

Several in our congregation have lost loved ones and we extend our sympathy to them: Sis. Jane Meiss (Bro. Carlos) in the death of her mother, Sis. Alice Metzger; Sis. Edna Fellers in the death of her sister, Sis. Eunice Schlipf; and Sis. Kathryn Kaisner in the death of her sister, Mariann Zimmerman. Mariann was living out east but was buried in Fairbury and we had the graveside services.

Prayers were answered for Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne Steidinger and their daughter, Becky Biggerstaff (Perry), who submitted to brain surgery at Mayos. We are thankful that so far Becky is progressing well. Bro. Walt Edelman (Sis. Rosie) was in the hospital and Shelly Huber (Keith) had surgery. May God's healing be extended to all of them.

Two homes were blessed with new baby girls. Tiffani Janae was born April 13 to Troy and Terri Rieger. Tristin is the big sister and John and Teresa Franey, Chatsworth, and Steve and Sandra Rieger, Des Moines, IA, are happy grandparents.

Elsa Kay was born May 2 to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kara Moser. Brothers and sisters are Damaris, Silas, Leighton, Gideon, and Reena. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser and the late Myrna Moser, Robert and Cherie Kaisner, and Colleen Loschen.

Tim Huber (Bro. Rich and Sis. Dawn) and Dawn Fehr (Ralph and

Martha Fehr) are planning a September wedding.

Two other couples were recently married. Scott Stoller (Richard and Karen) and Aimee Buhrow (Craig and Margie, West Brooklyn, IL) were married on April 21. Jason Huber (Bro. Rich and Sis. Dawn) and Jill Shumaker (Jeff and Janie Shumaker of Lewistown) were married on April 28. May God bless all three couples.

A special thanks to Bro. Richard Plattner (Peoria) who spent a Sunday with us and brought us God's Holy Word.

The school year has come to a close and our graduating Seniors are Sis. Shannon Fehr (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda); Sis. Jennifer Kaisner (Bro. Don and Sis. Leona); Chad Fehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley); Daniel Herr (Gary and Sis. Cindy Herr); Trent Kieser (Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky); and Bro. Chad Welborn (Bro. Don and Sis. Phyllis). May they seek God's guidance as they plan for their future.

Notes of Thanks:

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, phone calls, visits and gifts of love during my recent surgery and recovery. We surely can't appreciate our loving Brotherhood enough. May God richly bless each and every one.

Bro. Bud Kelson

We stood as a family
Our heads bowed in prayer,
With a concern on our hearts
Trusting God would be there

To hold, then to guide,
And to steady the hand,
Of the earthly physician
To do, as he planned.

Soon we felt a peace
Flow into our mind.
You too, were praying,

To our Saviour, so kind.

All of your prayers,
We know He has heard.
Then answered as promised
in His life - giving Word.

We wish to thank all of you, our loved ones, for your many prayers and deeds of kindness we received during the surgery and recovery of our daughter and sister, while at Mayo's Clinic. May God bless each one, as is His promise.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne Steidinger and family

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp
Linda Anliker**

Faith of our fathers! holy faith
We will be true to thee till death!
Hymns of Zion #85

As the young boy trots along, his little hand nestled inside the big strong hand of his father, he looks up and says, "When I grow up, I want to be just like you, Daddy." What does he see? Will he grow up with a love for his Heavenly Father, desiring to be a rock and pillar in the faith or will he bend and collapse as the heat and storms of life press upon him. May the fathers of today have the mind set of our forefathers of old and take courage to lead their families aright as we wish them special blessings on Father's Day.

On May 6, we had the privilege of hosting a special group of loved ones from the Morton Home for the Handicapped for church services and a meal at the fellowship hall before going home.

As God did provide Eve as help meet for Adam, likewise He does continue to provide today as Bro. Ben Zimmerman (Bro. Paul and

Sis. Loretta) and Sis. Melissa Rinkenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally) exchanged wedding vows on April 22. May they always seek His guidance as they walk the path of life together.

Also seeking the Lord's direction, Sis. Ann Lemman (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Sid Lemman made known their engagement. May the Lord continue to provide.

We thank ministering Bros. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN), Tom Stock, Sid Kaufmann, Kenneth Weerts, Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) for visiting us.

As Sis. Kathy Dotterer has been given the responsibility of Sunday School teacher, may she continually seek grace and wisdom from God above.

On April 28, we laid to rest our dear Sis. Martha Huber. She had been a resident at the Apostolic Christian Skyline Home in Peoria in her latter years. We extend our sympathy to her nieces and nephews.

May God grant healing and restoration to Bro. Earl (Sis. Esther) Gerber, Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Perry) Zimmerman, Sis. Shawna Adams (Sis. Sharon), and Sis. Pauline Wiegand as they have spent time in the hospital.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Heather Hohulin

We were so blessed this last month to be able to welcome in seven new brothers and sisters into our family. Sisters Marti and Holly Hinrichsen (Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri), Angie Kuntz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Pat), Sarah Lemman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Dorothy), and Meika Monfre (Bro. Tony and Sis. Deonne) and Bros. Ryan Sides

(Jerry and Penny), and Jordan Tanner (Joe Tanner and Jan Rogers). We are so thankful for them and we welcome them as brothers and sisters with open arms. Elder Bros. Ron Messner and Chuck Hemmer came to assist in this work and we want to thank them for sacrificing their time on our behalf.

Bro. Chris Schmidgall and Sis. Liz Hohulin were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene Hohulin and Bro. Mike and Sis. Kary Schmidgall (Eureka, IL). We pray that God would bless their lives together as husband and wife in the Lord.

Also united in marriage were Bro. Gary Musselman and Sis. Judy Zimmerman. Parents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Zimmerman (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Norm and Sis. Eileen Musselman. May God also be with them as they start their lives together.

We wish to extend a loving welcome to Bro. Roger and Sis. Becky Roberts and their children. May they feel at home in our congregation.

Sis. Mary (Bro. Simon) Wiegand was hospitalized this month. We pray she is doing better and feeling the healing hand of the Comforter.

Sis. Marci Schieler (Bro. Bob) wishes to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and cards during her hospital stay. We hope she is feeling better also.

We are so thankful for another healthy baby. Bro. Kurt and Sis. Joan Plattner welcomed home their first child, Reggie Randall.

Our high school graduates this year are as follows: Alexia Blunier, Travis Blunier, Trent Blunier, Troy Blunier, Erin Davis, Brock Gerber, Megan Knapp, Amy Knobloch, Kara Schieler, Brent Schmidgall, Matthew Steffen, Holly Tanner, Bethany Wiegand, Larisa Wiegand and Benjamin

Wyss. We hope and pray that God will be with them as they plan for their futures.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Bill Hodel (Sis. Betty), Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda), Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy) and Walter Herrmann (Sis. Betty). We thank them for their service to the Lord and to us.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

On Sunday, April 29, Sis. Judy Zimmerman was married to Bro. Gary L. Musselman (Goodfield, IL). She is the daughter of Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Zimmerman and he is the son of Bro. Norm and Sis. Eileen Musselman of Goodfield.

Sis. Becky Ringger and Bro. Phillip Romersberger were married on May 6. Her parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Donna Ringger. He is the son of Bro. Larry and Sis. Ardean Stoller and the late Bro. Rob Romersberger

Sis. Ashely Romersberger became the bride of Bro. Jon Baner on May 13. She is the daughter of Bro. Ronald and Sis. Gail Romersberger. Bro. Jon's parents are ministering Bro. Steve and Sis. Donna Lou Baner.

The union of hearts for a lifelong promise of fidelity remains as one of the most sacred rites of the church. To these three dear couples we offer our heartfelt wishes. It's a wonderful thing when God draws souls together. As they stay close to Him, they will stay close to one another.

Sis. Eunice Schlipf, 90, died on April 30. She had been living at the Eureka Home. She is survived by three sisters, Sis. Edna Feller (Fairbury), Sis. Freda Knepp (Eureka) and Sis. Lucille Herman (Peoria) and 17 nieces and nephews.

Sis. Eunice came to Gridley in

1950 when she married Silas Schlipf. He died in 1960.

She attended church regularly, and a little over a year ago she began repenting, found peace and was baptized. In this, we all rejoiced. She had a pleasant smile and a kind response when people talked to her.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held at the Gridley park and community hall on Sunday, May 20. Bro. Harvey Kaeb is the retiring superintendent and we wish to thank him and Sis. Judy for their efforts during the past year.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) on April 29; and Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) and Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) on May 13.

I saw a sign that read, "Forget yourself and others will never forget you."

Note of Thanks:

A warm and sincere thank you to everyone who remembered Bro. Don and I with cards, phone calls, flowers, food and encouragement. We appreciate the many prayers for us during my two hospital stays in Ft. Myers, FL, first with a stroke and then Guillane - Barre' Syndrome.

Sis. Vyra Stoller

ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

On April 28 we held Communion service and were reminded of Christ's sacrifice and love for us. It was a time to examine ourselves and to renew our dedication to our Lord.

Sunday, April 29, an appreciation dinner was held for retiring Elder Bro. Joe Braker and Sis.

Shirley. The Morton Church family attended. It was one of those times when precious memories were reviewed and new memories were made. Once again, we thank Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley for all the years they have served this church family. We pray God's richest blessings and continued guidance as they begin this new phase of their lives.

May 2 the graduating high school seniors were honored. A special message to them, that applied to all of us, was given at our monthly Family Worship Service. The graduating seniors are: Sis. Nicole Knobloch, Andy Kaiser, Bro. Aaron Kupferschmid, Bob Mayo, Adam Sauder and Sis. Diane Tanner. We pray they will keep focused on Christ as they encounter new experiences.

We are so thankful for the ministers that visited Morton this month. Thank you to Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) who was with us for Communion, Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) who was with us for Family Worship Service, and Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) who was with us on Mother's Day.

Notes of Thanks:

We want to thank all who remembered our 50th anniversary with cards, gifts and your prayers. We have been blessed with many good friends and family. May God bless you for your kindness.

Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alice Schafer

We would like to express our deep gratitude to all who remembered us with deeds of love and prayers as we bid farewell to our beloved mother and grandmother, Sis. Lucille Hohulin. We were comforted and encouraged by all the support given to us at the time of her death.

The family of Lucille Hohulin

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

We thank Bros. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) for their visits and ministries on April 22. We should allow the time for the Word of God to filter into our hearts, have our eyes fixed upon the cross and launch out in the deep of the Word, trusting the Master's instructions. Sometimes our thorn will not be removed and we need to have faith and grace to live with it (Luke 5). Today, as during Paul's time, some believe, some don't. What is important is our service to God and obeying that still, small voice "come and follow me." There will be giants out there but, by the grace of God, we can do it. When Paul made it through the shipwreck and the bite of a viper, they recognized the power of God, and came to be healed of their physical ailments. But the next step is needed to get the kingdom of God into our hearts so He can welcome us into His Heavenly Kingdom (Acts 28).

Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) spoke to us May 2 on "Dare to be a Daniel" for our family night services. Dare means to have the courage required for something. Daniel was a captive in Babylon, Satan's kingdom. Bro. Frank structured his study around four segments: (1) Dare to have a purpose firm, dare to make it known! His captors changed Daniel's name to Belteshazzar and he was educated in the Babylonian ways, but drew his line and let his faith be made known at the very beginning (Daniel 1:8). (2) Dare to deny self, dare to give God the glory. Satan cannot comprehend a true heart and could not get into Daniel's life. God often uses a believer in an unbeliever's life. The magicians could not interpret the dream because they were

the princes of darkness. (3) Dare to forgive and love the offender. When someone wrongs us, we struggle with forgiveness; do not overcome evil with evil, but with good. Daniel had respect for Nebuchadnezzar and forgave him for destroying his country, city, family. Can we dare to forgive, and have faith to love, in an impossible situation? (4) Dare to stand alone. Daniel in the lions' den: the princes and Satan wanted him out of the way and tricked the king into his decree. But a man of God, in the will of God, is immortal until his work on earth is done. Daniel prayed three times a day towards Solomon's temple, did not compromise and trusted God. We thank Bro. Frank for bringing the many aspects of the Book of Daniel to our attention and into focus.

Mother's Day brought us the fellowship of Bro. Mark and Sis. Sara Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) and many visitors. His meditation was based on Esther 4 and II Tim. 3: We live in careless times, when the natural affection of mothers is often missing; Esther was willing to sacrifice herself to raise her child. Thanks be to all mothers who teach our children godly principles of Jesus and to have His saving faith. Bro. Mike Rieker mentioned WWMS (what would mother say?) ... take advantage of talking to your mother.

May 13 was also the wedding of Bro. Mike Bates (Bloomington, IL) and Sis. Kari Meister. Psalm 37:3-7 is the foundation to build your home with trust in, and commitment to, the Lord and rest in Him, and Malachai 3:10 points to the completeness of commitment. We thank Bro. Mark for his visit and ministry and wish the new couple the rich blessings of the Lord.

We rejoice with Bro. Jim Carlson that "whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing" (Prov. 18:22). His engagement to Sis. Faith

Herrmann was announced April 29 and we wish them God's blessings to this undertaking.

How rapidly we can go from life to death! After a very brief illness, Sis. Martha Tanner (78) passed away at the Skylines on May 11. Our deepest sympathy to Sis. Emily Tanner and her family. On May 9, Sis. Lena Schafer (97) went to be with the Lord at Mountain Home, AR, where she was visiting her daughter. The memory of the just is blessed. We express our sincere condolences to her family. Sis. Clara Metz (97) went from time to eternity on May 12 at the Skylines and we express our sympathy to her relatives. The good news is there will be a reunion where... "eternally I will rejoice!"

Congratulations to Bro. Wes and Sis. Brianne Hoerr for Grant Daniel who was born April 30, the first great-grandchild of Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Hoerr, the third for Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel, and the first grandchild of Bro. Jack and Sis. Jody Hoerr. "Let your children tell their children, and their children another generation" (Joel 1:3).

We welcome Bro. Jason and Sis. Courtney Strahm into our fellowship; they were transferred recently and will be making their home here. They are missing the love shown them at Taylor, MO.

The importance of understanding (and following) instructions was mentioned several times this month: make them sit down / gather up the fragments / be not afraid / believe on Him / have faith (John 6). On the lighter side, an anecdote may fit this subject: a doctor told his patient to walk 10 miles each day for the next 20 days and then call him. When he called the doctor, he asked: "how is your wife taking it?" to which the patient replied, "How should I know, I am 200 miles from home."

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank everyone for their cards, gifts, love and especially their prayers during my recent surgery. It was surely appreciated.

Sis. Gladys Binkele

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Mary Ehle
Crystal Streitmatter

A Father's Prayer

Dear God, my little boy of three
 Has said his nightly prayer to

Thee;

Before his eyes were closed in
 sleep,

He asked that Thou his soul
 would keep.

And I, still kneeling at his bed,
 My hand upon his tousled head,
 Do ask, with deep humility,
 That Thou, dear Lord, remember
 me.

Make me, kind Lord, a worthy
 dad,

That I may lead this little lad
 In pathways ever fair and bright,
 That I may keep his steps aright.
 O God, his trust must never be
 Destroyed or even marred by me.
 So, for the simple things he
 prayed

With childish voice so unafraid,
 I trembling, ask the same from
 Thee,

Dear Lord, kind Lord, remember
 me.

—author unknown

May we, during this time of year,
 remember all that our earthly fathers
 do or have done for us. More
 importantly, we thank our Heavenly
 Father for the salvation He
 has given us and protecting, loving
 hand that hovers around us keep-
 ing us safe from harm and evil.

We were refreshed by the
 provings and baptisms of two dear
 converts, Rachael Stoller (Bro.
 Bruce and Sis. Mary) and Laura
 Streitmatter (Bro. Alan and Sis.
 Janet), on May 5-6. Elder Bro.
 Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL)
 and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL)
 and Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor,
 MO) assisted in bringing forth
 God's Word in this special week-
 end. We were also blessed to have
 Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL)
 among our congregation this
 month. We were reminded that
 where we feel God's true Holy
 Spirit is where we feel at home.

We are thankful for the safe ar-
 rival of a new baby girl born to Bro.
 Ron and Sis. Lori Streitmatter.
 The new baby, Tasha Jane, was
 born on April 26 and was welcomed
 home by two big brothers, Brock
 and Brendan. Paternal grandpar-
 ents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane
 Streitmatter and maternal grand-
 parents are late Bro. Loris and late
 Sis. Martha Kieser. What a miracle
 a newborn baby is!

Our prayers were with Bro.
 Duane (Sis. Doreen) Elsasser as he
 has been a recent hospital patient
 and hope he can feel God's healing
 touch. We are thankful that he is
 able to assemble with us again.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Jenell Hodel
Linda Hodel

O teach me, Lord, instead of
 grieving,

And wishing all my burdens
 moved,

To bear them patiently, perceiv-
 ing

How Thou has suffered, borne
 and loved.

Teach me the art of keeping si-
 lent,

that calm, contented I remain;

Cross - bearer, Thee, I would re-
 semble,

O change to love my bitterest
 pain!

Lord, in Thy presence naught is
 lacking,

No wish denied, but all is right;
 Transformed to love is all my
 burden,

The yoke is eased, the load seems
 light.

For in Thy stillness nothing
 threatens

The soul amidst earth's woe and
 pain.

To me Thy grace shall be suffi-
 cient,

The cross shall be my greatest
 gain.

Zion's Harp #66, vs. 1,6

We can get such a powerful vi-
 sual from this hymn writer's de-
 scription of a true "cross bearer".
 We thank our visiting minister,
 Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield,
 IL), and all our ministers who, as
 instruments of our Heavenly Fa-
 ther, instruct us in the way of the
 cross, our greatest gain.

A potluck supper and singing
 was held at the fellowship hall on
 April 22. Also the Mother - Daugh-
 ter banquet was held there on May
 12. We are thankful for the extra
 space from the new addition to the
 hall, and also thank those who la-
 bored for these two events.

We are thankful to see Enne
 Egalite, a sweet Haitian young
 lady, staying with Bro. Dennis and
 Sis. Karen Leman, improving from
 her recent surgeries and nearing
 the time to go back to Haiti. May
 she feel our love and prayers go
 with her. Also, Rhodemika Jean
 Louis from Haiti is staying with
 Bro. Tim and Sis. Linda Martin's
 family again and will be scheduled
 for surgery in the near future.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Judy Knepp's
 daughter, Cisne, plans to marry

Pete Schaffer; and Isaac Fehr (Bro. Ben and Sis. Kathy) is engaged to Emmie Brooks. May they look to the Lord, from whom all blessings flow, as they take the second most important step in their lives.

May blessings go before you, troubles pass around you, true friends stand beside you, and those you love surround you.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Heather Rassi
LaVonne Wagenbach

"But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

1 Peter 1:25

Truly, we are a blessed people to be able to gather each Sunday to hear the Word of God. This month we heard the message from several visiting ministers, including Bros. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL), Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton Country, IN).

This month, we were blessed by hosting the brethren who helped with the World Relief work team project last summer in Camilla, GA. Without the willingness of many hands and hearts, this effort could not have been accomplished to God's glory. May each one be richly rewarded.

Three of our brothers have spent some time in the hospital lately. Our trust is that they are in God's care. May Bro. Les (Sis. Betty) Schweigert, Bro. Emil (Sis. Wilma) Aberle, and Bro. Walt (Sis. Vera) Aberle feel God's presence and experience His healing.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Denise Romersberger
Sue Ruppert

It is one thing to say we trust in God, and quite another to live out our faith in our daily lives. The truth contained in Psalm 37, especially verses 3-9, gives us specific tools that we can use to actively increase our faith.

"Trust in the Lord..."

Trust that He can use the talents He gives us and that He wants to and will. Trust that He will open doors. Trust in His skills, not our own.

"...and do good..."

Do what we can to develop the skills He has given. *Take lessons, read books, practice our skills, talk to people who share the same interests, etc.*

"...Delight thyself in the Lord, and he shall give thee the desires of thy heart."

If we delight in God, and in doing His will, our deepest feelings won't betray us. God has put desires in our hearts for a purpose. Listen to the Spirit inside you.

"Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in him: and he shall bring it to pass."

Let God be your agent. Be willing, and say yes when doors open. If doors don't open, it is okay, because the Lord is in charge.

"And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light..."

If we willingly offer up the talents God has given us, He will use them to bless others, and to bless us through the giving of ourselves.

"Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him...but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth."

Let Him do great things through us!

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own

understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes; fear the Lord, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

Proverbs 3:5-10

Shannon Felicia Rocke is the newest addition to the Bro. Kevin and Sis. Janine Rocke family. Grandparents are Harold and Loretta Wettstein and Bro. Norman and Sis. Doris Rocke (Eureka, IL). May God bless and keep this little one in His hands all the days of her life.

Our sympathy goes out to Sisters Lydian Wyss and Pearline Streitmatter on the loss of their brother, Bro. Ernst Metzger, of Lester, IA. God is always present when our hearts are hurting.

We have several graduates this spring from various levels of education. May they look to our Lord for wisdom as they enter new phases in their lives.

Our guest minister this month was Bro. Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL). Thank you for being willing to be used by our Heavenly Father in the spreading of His Word.

We are also anticipating the upcoming June wedding of Nate Schick and Lynette Fritz. Nate is the son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol Schick, and Lynette is the daughter of Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally Fritz, all of Washington. We pray for God's hand to be with this couple as they start a new life together. (We apologize for omitting this announcement within the last few months.)

INDIANA, BLUFFTON**Beth Aschliman****Tonia Isch**

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord...”

Psalm 127:3

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Brittany Isch were blessed with Janon Rose born on April 10. Big brothers, Braden and Dustin, and grandparents, Bro. Stan and Sis. Jenny Isch and Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda Maller, also rejoice with them. Trent and Michelle Tonner with Spencer and grandparents, Bro. William and Sis. Diana Tonner, welcomed Jacob Ryan into this world on April 22. Whitney Rose was born on May 10 to Bro. Brent and Sis. Allison Kaehr. Big brother, Brandon, and grandparents, Bro. Lyle and Sis. Connie Kaehr and Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl, feel very blessed for this new little bundle. Jimmy and Rhonda Vandentop and big sister, Hannah, are excited for their new baby girl, Andrea Nicole, born April 23. Children truly are a gift from God.

Spending time in the hospital this month were Bro. Earl Gerber (Sis. Pat) and Sis. Berniece Maller (Bro. Melvin). We will continue to pray for them.

Bro. Mike Barger lost his father this month. We are saddened by his loss.

We rejoice with our new convert, Lolly Harter, as she follows our Lord. We pray that she will be greatly blessed in her new walk with Jesus.

Reaching noteworthy milestones in their married lives this month are two dear couples. Bro. Kenny and Sis. Marie Gillion celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and Bro. LaVerne and Sis. Rose Ringger celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. We congratulate both couples and thank them

for their loving example.

Sharing God's Word with us this month was Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL) Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH). We appreciate their acts of love in sharing with us.

Sis. Lavon Gerber (Bro. Rex) is in our prayers as she undergoes more treatments. We love this dear family and will continue to be prayerful on their behalf.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH**

Rhonda Maller**Ann Meyer**

“Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.”

Psalm 71:18

The role of the father and grandfather continues, just as important as it was when this psalm was written. We are very thankful for all our godly fathers that live to pass on our precious faith to the generations that follow. Thank you, dads, husbands and grandpas for your examples, prayers and daily devotions!

We are thankful that Jenna Francesi (Bro. Len and Sis. Mary) has heeded the call to repentance and started a new life in Christ. May she grow in her walk with the Lord each day.

Bluffton North hosted College Weekend on April 21-22 with a theme of “Our Reverence Toward God”. It was a blessing to see the church filled with young believers all seeking to know the Lord better and how we can demonstrate reverence by obedience. We would like to

thank the ministers that took part: Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN), Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton), and Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH) and Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN). We sure appreciated their labors.

“Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep His commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.”

Deut. 13:4

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner, with the help of Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz, read the Memorandum to our congregation on May 7. It's usually a time when our hearts are pricked with a need to make some changes. Thank you, Elders, for looking out for your flocks.

On Mother's Day each year, our Singles Group honors all the mothers by giving the noon lunch. They do an excellent job and we enjoy watching them in the kitchen.

Our best wishes go to Shawn Yergler and Mindy VanCamp as they were united in marriage on April 14. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg Yergler welcomed Mindy into their family.

Wedding bells will be ringing for two more couples. Andy Rupel (Bro. Fred and Sis. Rhonda) is engaged to wed Veronica Saldivar. Also, Joe Honegger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary) is planning to marry Jessica Mayfield of San Antonio, TX, next March. He is currently in Guatemala on mission work. May the Lord guide these couples as they prepare for their new lives together.

Our prayers are with Sis. Ann Gerber (Bro. Brent) and their daughter, Stephanie, as they are experiencing a difficult time with health problems. May they feel

God's love and strength to carry them through these troubled times.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Pam Huber

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

Psalm 37:5

How the Lord can bless us when we commit our ways to Him and trust Him for the results! Sis. Tricia Gutwein (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice) married Bro. Mark Koehl (Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol) of Sarasota, FL, on April 29. We pray you continue to seek the Lord's will in your new life together and that love and peace will always fill your home. Amanda Gutwein (Bro. Harvey) was also married April 28 to Gayton Liter (Mel and Cherry) of Indianapolis. "The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace." (Numbers 6:24-26)

Bro. James and Sis. Tanessa Washburn received a very special blessing May 9 in their new little girl, Larissa Ann. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret Leman and James and Deborah Washburn. "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young." (Isaiah 40:11)

We appreciated Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) joining us for a Wednesday night Bible study on Psalm 1 and the blessed man. Thank you for taking the time to be with us and lending yourself to the use of the Lord. Also with us this past month was Bro. Garth Steffen (Portland, OR). It was a special

blessing to have you here for the first time.

Sis. Esther Gray (Bro. Joe) was in the hospital this past month along with Bro. Elmer Anliker (Sis. Emilie). We thank God for His healing hand on you both and pray for God's protection over Bro. Michael Anliker (Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karel) as he will undergo surgery at the end of May.

Note of Thanks:

A special thank you to my dear family and brothers and sisters in faith who remembered me so kindly on my 80th birthday. God bless you all.

Bro. Morrie Eshleman

INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS

Sue Levy
Gail Bradford

Two high school seniors, Sis. Sarah Bollier and Matt Freed, will graduate in May. They were recently honored at a senior breakfast, where parents, teachers, and friends encouraged them to stay close to the Lord during this special time in their lives.

We are thankful for our eleven converts. Jesus exhorts us to pray for them and to not be an obstacle in their walk. In many testimonies, we hear that a believer's sincere witness has sparked lifelong changes in converts' lives. An old adage says, "If you were brought to trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?"

We sang a farewell song for Bro. Eric and Sis. Jodi Strassheim who are moving to the San Francisco area. The words of Hymn #167 from Hymns of Zion remind us, "It is sweet to know, as we onward go, that the way of the cross leads home."

Bro. Greg and Sis. Lisa Stieglitz

and sons, Graham and Luke, welcomed little Emily Ann to their home. What a joy she already is to them!

Our "theme" for vacation Bible school in early June is "Heaven in my heart". Many of us have precious memories of "VBS" and the excitement we felt reading the familiar Bible stories. May the wonder of them never cease!

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"

I Peter 2:2

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Natalie and Jeremy Freed

A Careful Man

A careful man I must be
A little fellow follows me.
I do not dare to go astray
For fear he'd go the selfsame way.

Whatever he sees me do he tries
Not one thing escapes his eyes.
Like me he says he's going to be
This li'l chap that follows me.
I must remember as I go
Thru summer sun and winter woe
I'm molding for the years to be
That little chap that follows me.

Fathers and grandfathers hold a special place in our hearts as we reflect on their love, provision, and guidance for the family. Likewise, our Heavenly Father loves, cares for and guides His children. May we be yielded to the Word and thankful for God's numberless blessings.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Ruth Heinold who has undergone extensive surgery and is recovering.

"I will cry unto God most high;
unto God that performeth all

things for me.”

Psalm 57:2

**INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter**

Teach me to feel that Thou art
always nigh;
Teach me the struggles of the
soul to bear —
to check the rising doubt, the rebel
sigh,
teach me the patience of unan-
swered prayer.

—*vs. 3 from hymn by George
Croly*

Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein was hospitalized after a fall in her home, and is receiving therapy and treatment for an infection at St. Ann's nursing home. Bro. Gene Stoller is receiving therapy following surgery on his knee. Bro. Jack Bollier has made a good recovery and received relief for the cough that has annoyed him in recent years. Sis. Andria Moushon had surgery and is on bed rest at home for about a week. Sis. Marie Bertsch is able to attend church services again. They are all in our prayers that God would strengthen and heal.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Carolyn Bollier, wife of Steve, and Bro. Jack's daughter-in-law. The Saviour called her Home on May 3, at the age of 52. She suffered a great deal for several years, but made the comment that it brought her closer to her Lord. She is survived, in addition to Steve, by two daughters, Jennifer Hammon of Hartford City, Katie Kauzlick of Fishers; two sons, Andrew of Fort Wayne and Adam of Leo-Cedarville; her parents and three grandchildren. Memorial services were held May 12 at Grace Point Church of the Nazarene.

Our Ladies Spring Banquet was May 12. The program, following a delicious brunch, was on "Using God's Gifts for His Glory." Based on Eph. 4:7,12 "...unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ...for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

I Cor. 14:12 "...seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church."

Rom. 12:5 "So we being many, are one body in Christ..."

Our goal — to serve for the glory of God.

We were truly motivated by our sisters who planned the program. Thank you, Sisters.

A Rainbow Thought
When rain has showered the
earth and light breaks through
again —

Somewhere over the rainbow a
pot of gold lies hidden...
The gold of love, of understand-
ing, and the joy of giving.
The gold of acceptance without
any question.
Our gold to have, and to hold, or
to give others with love, be-
cause we care.

—*author unknown*

**INDIANA, MILFORD
Stacey Feller
Pam Beer**

Now it is accomplished! I'm no
longer mine;
Lord, I will forever and always be
Thine,
For Thou hast created and pur-
chased me too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou
makest me new.

Zion's Harp #209

The weekend of May 19-20 was a special weekend for Neal Beer and

Julie Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) and Kristi Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy) as we heard their testimonies on Saturday night and witnessed their baptisms on Sunday. May God's blessings, peace and grace be with these three special people as they go out and are lights in their school and work places.

This past month brought seven visiting ministers to our congregation. We thank them all for traveling to Milford and worshipping with us. They were: Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Bros. Garth Steffen (Portland, OR), Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN).

**INDIANA, REMINGTON
Beth Virkler
Rochelle Ward**

On May 6, Charity Isabell (Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane) became the wife of Dave Pratt. Their new address is: 202 E. Rutsen Street, Rensselaer, IN 57978; and telephone is (219) 866-8653. We wish them God's blessings in this new beginning.

High school graduates this spring are: Sis. Abby Clauss (Bro. Rex and Sis. Tammy), Bro. Eric Frantz (Joe and Sis. Cheri), John Hillenberg (Sis. Peggy), Trent Kilgus (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna), Jessica Pierce (Randy and Sonia), Krystal Tyler (Dale and Marcella), Gretchen Vaughan (Joe and Betty) and Bro. Joel Virkler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth).

College graduates are: Ben and Stephanie Standish (Joe and Sis. Cheri Frantz), Sis. Amanda Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb), Bro. Justin Clark (Bro. Ron and Sis. Brenda), and Bro. John Ward (Sis. Rochelle).

*For All Fathers -
The Hand You Hold*

When a boy or girl in your home thrusts his small hand in yours, it may be smeared with chocolate ice cream or grimy from petting a dog. And there may be a wart under the right thumb and a bandage around the little finger. But the important thing about hands is that they are the hands of the future. These are the hands that may someday hold a Bible, or a colt revolver; play the church piano, or spin a gambling wheel; gently dress a leper's wound, or tremble wretchedly uncontrolled by an alcoholic mind. Right now the hand is in yours; it asks for help and guidance. It represents a full-fledged personality in miniature, to be respected as a separate individual, whose day - to - day growth into Biblical adulthood is your responsibility.

—Mrs. A. H. Richards

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Deann Schlatter
Lavilla Langhofer**

What a blessing to spend a service dwelling on what Christ did for us looking forward to His return. "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." (I Cor. 11:26). We thank God for Elder Bros. Jesse Beer and Curt Frank and their wives for coming to serve and share Communion with us.

May we be inspired by the godly example of those who have gone on before us. This month the Schafer family have said good-bye to their grandmother and great - grandmother, Sis. Lena Schafer.

Appreciation is felt for all our ministers, home and visiting, that nobly encourage us to be in the Word. A special thanks to Bro. Lynn Fiechter and family from Bluffton for visiting us this month and sharing God's Word with us.

We extend congratulations to our graduates, both high school and college. Nahum 1:7 says: "The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him." Our prayer for our graduates is that they will trust and look to the Lord for direction as they move on in their lives that they may bring glory to Him.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Darel and Janet Walker

Our annual Communion service was held on April 28 with Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) conducting the holy sacrament of Communion. When we have the mind of Christ, we can fully appreciate the gift God has given us all when He sacrificed His only Son so we could win the victory. Thanks to our visiting Elder brothers for sharing this special service with us.

Our annual Mother/Daughter banquet was held on May 12. What a special bond it is between mothers and daughters that we celebrate each year.

We have a poet at the Valparaiso church. We have enjoyed his special gift of poetry over the years at several harvest suppers and Easter programs and just wanted to share one of his latest creations with the readers of The Silver Lining.

Life With Jesus

What will you do with Jesus?
This question comes to us all,
Will you reject or accept Him
When He tenderly gives you a
call?

To try to live here without Him
Is a taste of hell while on earth,
For when we do Satan's ill bidding,
We miss out on joyous mirth.

When Jesus walked up to Calvary
To pay for our sins on the cross,
He shed His blood and gave His
life

That we need not suffer loss.

When He walks this life beside
us,
The hills don't seem quite so
high.

Nor do the valleys seem so low
For with Him we fear not to die.

So why not today consider
Your soul's eternal estate?
Please choose Him to be your
Saviour

Before it's forever too late.

So what will you do with Jesus?
Receive, may your answer be.
Then you won't need to be asking
What will He do with me?

—Bro. Merle G. Bucher

If your summer travels bring you to the Chicago area, please worship with us. Our services are at 10:15 and 12:15 p.m. Our church is located on Highway 49 two miles south of Valparaiso, IN.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE**

Geoff and Angie Ginzel

It has been determined that we will hold an open house on August 19. We will also hold a Dedication on September 9, with our first local Communion the evening before on September 8. Everyone is invited to join us for these two special weekends.

Thanks to the Remington church, we have replaced our folding chairs with church pews. Our first Sunday for the new pews was May 20. These pews now allow us to kneel for prayer during our church

services.

We would like to thank the following ministering brothers and their wives for visiting us and allowing God to use them to bring forth His message: Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank, Bro. Todd and Sis. Karen Feller and Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Gudeman, all from La-Crosse, IN; Elder Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frances Bahler, Bro. Neal and Sis. Chris Widmer, all from Wolcott, IN; Elder Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella Gudeman, Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda Gutwein, and Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla Wuethrich, all from Francesville, IN; and Bro. Bob Jr. and Sis. Ann Meyer from Bluffton North, IN.

A rotation has been established so we look forward to our visitors and thank God for them.

If you are in the area, please join us at 10:00 a.m. for services. For local correspondence, contact our trustees: Bro. Dick Meister (765) 567-4704; Bro. Duane Schieler (765) 567-2922; or Bro. Neil Widmer (765) 497-4709. Our counseling Elders are Bros. Curt Frank and Wendell Gudeman.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Erica Wagenbach

Mary Beth Lehman

"To every thing there is a season..." (Eccles. 3:1). After a brief hospitalization, Sis. Jean Ravellette went to be with the Lord. We offer our sympathy and prayers to her husband, Bro. Ralph, and children, Curtis, Gary, Charles, Linda Boerma and Mary Pistle, 15 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Sis. Jean also has three sisters of the Wolcott congregation, Sis. Josephine Kyburz, Sis. Edna Kyburz and Sis. Vi Kyburz, and one brother, Levi Klopfenstein, who also have our prayers. May God provide His nearness in this time of adjustment

for Bro. Ralph.

We appreciate the visiting ministers who willingly shared God's Word with us. Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Bros. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Dan Beer (Milford, IN) served us.

As the school year draws to a close, we congratulate our high school graduates. They are: Austin Harris (Nancy Bryant), Alex Schieler (Bro. Dave and Sis. Merri), Sis. Brandy Schwab (Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy), Sis. Theresa Schwab (Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel) and Brad Widmer (Bro. Neal and Sis. Kris). May you each look to God for His perfect plan in your future, and may He keep you in His tender care.

Many will be traveling with summer time upon us. We wish each a safe and blessed journey.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Brenda Schulz

Karla Gerst

As school lets out once again at the close of another year, we think of the souls in our congregation that have just graduated from high school. Sis. Brenda Schulz (Bro. Gary and the late Sis. Karen) and Kyle Knapp (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna) both graduated this year. May they seek God's guidance for the next steps that they follow in life.

We have also had several visitors this past month. Among them were ministering Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL). May the Lord reward them according to their work in His service.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

Heidi Butikofer

"Blessed be the nation whose

God is the Lord..."

Psalm 33:12

As our nation prepares for its 225th birthday, may we give God our thanks and praise for the many freedoms we enjoy in our land of bounty. Surely God has blessed us richly. May He always be able to see in us a people willing to love and serve Him. Remember our motto: "In God we trust." We are thankful that Bro. Elmer Butikofer can again return to the nursing home after being hospitalized for a few days.

We rejoice with Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach as they welcome a new grandson, Trystian Gregory, born to Bro. Greg and Sis. Gwen Schupbach (West Bend, IA).

How thankful we are to see the beginning of the end of the labor on our new church structure. Again, our thanks to all volunteers who have made this possible. Each task, small or great, is necessary to make completion possible. A special thanks to our building committee for the many hours of planning and decision making. May God bless each of you.

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love..."

Hebrews 6:10

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Willa Clark

After Saul's conversion and preaching at Damascus, when he escaped from the walled city in a basket, someone had to hold the ropes to lower him safely. We never hear the names of those men, or give them any praise, but their duties were of extreme importance. We were reminded that, like the men who held the ropes, we all have duties in God's family that may never bring us glory. Perhaps no one will even be aware of what we

have done. Our job may be as unnoticed as a silent prayer that God's wisdom would be bestowed on the ministering brothers, but it is still important to do it with heartfelt sincerity. We need to be ready to serve where God wants us, rather than desire the positions in the limelight.

We appreciate the visits of ministering Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) who have visited us this month. Also, Elder Bros. Ed Lanz and Doug Schock spent a Sunday with us, then shared the Memorandum.

Our college graduates are Hanneli Webber (Phil and Jan) and Jessica Smith (Gene and Rachel).

Believing it is God's will to be together, Hanneli Webber (Phil and Jan) and Mike Hudock (Susan and the late Michael Hudock, Gordon, PA) were married on May 14. We wish them the richest blessings in their life together.

IOWA, LESTER
Dawn Metzger
Dawn Knobloch

On May 5, Talia Mae was born to Bro. Dudley and Sis. Sara Knobloch. Rejoicing with them are grandparents, Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch and Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb Metzger, and great-grandmother, Sis. Esty Metzger.

Bro. Mark Schmidgall and Sis. Sally Heyer were united in marriage on April 22. We wish God's blessings upon them as they begin their life together. We will miss Sis. Sally, but we trust she will feel welcomed into the Oakville, IA, congregation. Parents of this couple are Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean Heyer.

We always want to remember our loved ones who have been in need of medical care. Hospital pa-

tients this past month have been Bro. Lance Knobloch (Sis. Kristy) and Sis. Marlys Doorneweerd (Bro. Butch). Ross Mogler (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Lois) had the misfortune of breaking his arm.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Martha Feucht on the death of her brother, Bro. Alphai Moser (Morris, MN).

Bro. Ernie Metzger was called to his eternal rest on May 16. We extend our prayers and support on behalf of this dear family as it was just six months ago Bro. Ernie's wife, Sis. Ella, was called Home. Surviving him are his children, Bro. Boyd and Sis. Lois Metzger, Sis. Shirley and Bro. Joel Wuthrich, Bro. Don and MaryJane Metzger, Sis. Della Luthi, Ella and John Martin, Sis. Helen and Bro. Leonard Anliker, Alvin and Marilyn Metzger, Bro. Arthur and Sis. Kristy Metzger, Bro. Virgil and Sis. Mary Metzger, Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce Metzger, Sis. Arlene and Bro. Rodney Grimm, Bro. Harvey and Sis. Mary Metzger, Bro. Rodney and Sis. Polly Metzger, Sis. Ida and Bro. Keith Kellenberger, and Harold and Patricia Metzger. Ernie is also survived by three brothers, Bro. Elmer, Bro. Eli and Roy Metzger, and five sisters, Sis. Emma Meyer, Sis. Frieda Mogler, Sis. Karoline Wuthrich, Sis. Lydiann Wyss and Sis. Pearlina Streitmatter. We also think of the many grandchildren and great-grandchildren who are mourning over this loss.

We would like to thank Bros. Brad Funk (Garden Grove, IA), Jon Schmidgall and John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Roy Koehl (Morris, MN) for ministering God's Word unto us this past month.

Our prayers are with Sis. Iola Knobloch as she has made a change in residence. She is now residing at Premier Estates in Rock Rapids, IA.

May is graduation time so we want to remember our graduates. High school graduates are Rachel DeHaan (Bro. Tim and Lois), Brock Knobloch (Bro. Dietrich and Sis. Lexia), Charles Knobloch (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Coralee), Kristy Popkes (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori), Sis. Marcy Van Wyhe (Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan), Kristin DeSmet (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley), Andy Knobloch (Bro. Terry and Sis. Elaine), Morris Metzger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce), Joel TeSlaa (Gary TeSlaa and Rhonda Thielen) and Monica Wulf (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Myra). Those that are completing college degrees are Curtis Doorneweerd (Bro. Butch and Sis. Marlys), Bro. Tim Feuchtenberger (Sis. Beth), Jana Meyer (Bro. Ray and Sis. Twyla) and Carrie Knobloch (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Coralee).

Note of Thanks:

A special thank you to friends, neighbors and relatives for the cards, gifts, calls and flowers I received for my 80th birthday. Also to my children for making my day very memorable.

Sis. Martha Feucht (Gus)

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

Our prayers and best wishes are extended to Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie) and Sis. Sally Heyer (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean, Lester) as they have recently been joined in Holy Matrimony. May the Lord bless them richly as they now walk together as one with Him. We welcome Sis. Sally and pray she can feel at home here in our congregation.

We recently welcomed five dear souls into our precious brotherhood. They include Bro. Dan Frank (Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina) and his

wife, Sis. Amanda (Steve and Barb Mark) as well as Sisters Marie Schmidgall (Bro. Don and Sis. Carol, Burlington), Amy and Nichole Massner (Bro. Ron and Sis. Donna). May the Lord be near and direct these dear little lambs. May we ever strive to continue to be good examples to them.

We are thankful for the safe arrival of another precious bundle from Heaven. This time into the hearts and home of Bro. Walt and Sis. Nola Gerst. Their firstborn (a son) they have named Benjamin Jacob. Also rejoicing in his safe arrival are his grandparents, Bro. Jacob and Sis. Alice Wulf (Lester, IA) and Bro. Paul and Sis. Elva Gerst. May the Lord continue to bless these dear ones as they strive to raise little Benjamin in His will and way.

Our congratulations go out to our high school graduates this year. They include Mitchell Schulz (Bro. Roger and Sis. June), Carolyn and Cheryl Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Patty), Brenna Wagenbach (Bro. Craig and Sis. Michelle), Carmen White (Jeff and Sis. Lori White), Sis. Lanae Frank (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Sarah Kuntz (Bro. Bob and Sis. Edra). May they look to the Lord for help and strength as they make plans for their future.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Bros. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Fred Eberhardt (Burlington) and Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH) for ministering to us and allowing the Spirit to speak on our behalf. May the Lord continue to bless them and their families for their labors.

IOWA, PULASKI Katrina Knobloch

We want to thank our visiting ministers, Bros. Kenny Knapp (Sis. Phyllis, Taylor, MO) and Brad

Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA), for allowing the Spirit to work through them as they shared God's Word with us.

This year there are 8 young adults graduating from high school. May the teachings of their childhood stay with them. Our graduates are Brook Esslinger (Bro. Lee and Sis. Patsy), Bro. Andrew Musselman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy), Brian Schaer (Don and Sue Ann), Nathan Schock (Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara), Sara Teubel (Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte), Katie Townsend (Danny and Sis. Lynn), Jacki Wettstein (Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita) and Brent Wuthrich (Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn). May God go with each one and guide them each step of the way.

A father, grandfather and brother will be missed as Bro. Ernie Metzger (Lester, IA) went to his heavenly reward. Our prayers are with his daughter, Sis. Shirley Wuthrich (Bro. Joel), and her family, and his sister and brother, Sis. Karoline Wuthrich (Bro. Russell) and Roy Metzger (Sis. Evelyn).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock and their family as she is undergoing treatment for lymphoma.

IOWA, WEST BEND Lori Skoglund Berniece Banwart

Among the many visitors who have traveled to worship with us have been several ministers and their wives. Bros. Andy Virkler (Sis. Becky, Croghan - Naumburg, NY), Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA) and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) were willing to bring us the Word of Life, for which we are grateful.

On April 28 - 29, Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City,

MO) was with us to assist our brothers in the testimony and baptism of Autumn Fehr (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy). We welcome Sis. Autumn into our precious brotherhood and wish her a life of peace and contentment as she goes onward in serving the Lord.

Bro. Gregory and Sis. Gwen Schupbach welcomed their first child, Trystian Gregory, into their hearts and home. His grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Yvonne Bruellman and Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach (Elgin, IA). Children are a blessing from God and may he grow up and realize how blessed he is to have parents and many other relatives who will watch him grow and give him love.

"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."

Matthew 24:42

It was unexpected when our dear Sis. Alice (Bro. Arnold) Metzger was called from this life on April 18 following a car accident. May the many precious memories linger on and be a comfort to Bro. Arnold and her children: Bro. Duane (Sis. Ruth), Sis. Karen (Bro. Eldon) Banwart, Bro. Galen (Sis. Mary Joe) of Mediapolis, IA, Sis. Jane (Bro. Carlos) Meiss of Fairbury, IL, Bro. Harlan (Sis. Shirley), Bro. Merlyn (Sis. Judy), Ione (Linden) Venhuizen, Sis. Ellen (Bro. Ken) Dahlhauser, Sis. Sharolyn (Bro. Doug) Hohulin of Denver, CO, Sis. Wanda (Bro. Dean) Messner of Gaylord, MN, and Sis. Lois (Bro. Gary) Steffen of Elgin, IL; and her three sisters, Sis. Salome Knobloch, Sis. Viola Kellenberger, and Sis. Elgeva (Bro. Art) Knobloch, all of Lester, IA, one brother, Ernest (Sis. Edith) Kellenberger, and 37 grandchildren and 18 great - grandchildren. Sis. Alice will be greatly missed and

may God richly reward her for the many acts of love she bestowed on her family, church and community.

“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh.”

Matthew 24:44

Hospital surgical patients were Eva Banwart and Bro. Ben Skoglund. At this writing, Bro. Ben is in the hospital. Our thoughts are with him and we pray he will soon be released.

In the month of June, we are reminded in one of the commandments to “Honor thy father and thy mother.” (Ex. 20:12).

Father's Love

You can't define a father's love:
It's faith and hope and power
It's wisdom and unselfishness,
Protection hour by hour.

You can't define a father's love:
It's prayers, true and sincere,
It's tenderness and sympathy,
A smile, a dream, a special moment shared.

Father's love is changeless,
And never does he tire,
For each day he's fulfilling
All that our needs require.

You can't define a father's love:
It's faith that never grows dim.
And through a father's love is found
The path that leads to Him.

—anon.

JAPAN, SHIODA **Akihiro Ito**

It is becoming hot and leaves are turning green step by step. Summer is approaching surely.

“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.”

Psalms 23:1-2

We are happy when we find the change of the seasons because God gives us wonderful nature. And at that time I always bring back my memory to the above verses.

We usually have two activities in this month, going on a picnic and Mother's Day. Japan has special holidays which are called Golden Week, at the beginning of this month. Most companies and schools have a whole week holiday. We went on a picnic to the Tama Zoo on the 5th with members of our Tokyo Church. It was very crowded but we had a good time. On Mother's Day we went to the Ichinomiya Hotspring Hospital for encouraging women patients and mothers. We sang special songs for them. Nobody was born without the effort of their mother. We should not forget this fact and thank our mothers for bearing us.

We have a singing once a month and it is getting better, little by little. We look forward to going to the hospital to sing, and some patients are waiting for us. We pray our songs will live in their hearts forever and that they will repent and receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

KANSAS, BERN **Sally Strahm** **Lori Baumgartner**

“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land, which the Lord thy God giveth thee.”

Exodus 20:12

We appreciate that our nation has set aside a day in May in honor of mothers and a day in June in

honor of fathers. It causes us to pause and reflect on how thankful we are for our godly parents. We remember young fathers and mothers, who in the heat of the battle, often fall on their knees at night pleading for wisdom in the many decisions they must make in raising their young families. We remember fathers and mothers whose families are raised but are still so needed as they offer advice and support to grown children and grandchildren. Finally, we remember fathers and mothers who are no longer with us. Many times we draw strength and encouragement from a memory of their past words or deeds. We realize that a great responsibility has been laid on the shoulders of mothers and fathers. Only by relying daily and often hourly on our Heavenly Father's direction can that responsibility be totally fulfilled.

A parent's utmost desire for each of their children is that they will repent and seek their soul's salvation. We are so thankful that Brian Edelman has made a beginning in repentance. Brian's parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman have received another special blessing in the past month. Their first granddaughter, Kortney Leann, was born on April 17. Kortney's parents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Jeanelle Plattner (Sabetha, KS).

Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue Rokey are thankful for a new daughter, Cheyan Louise, born on May 11. Cheyan is welcomed home by her sister, Amy, and brother, Blaine. Cheyan's grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Lila Rokey and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Charlotte Fehr (West Bend, IA).

We had one visiting minister this past month, Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS). We appreciated his willingness to share God's word

with us on Sunday, April 29.

Our prayers are with Sis. Nancy Baumgartner (Bro. Leonard) who recently underwent surgery. May she feel God's nearness in the days ahead.

On May 13 the engagement of Sis. Marla Stoller (Bro. Arden and Sis. Darlene) and Bro. Korbin Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen, Sabetha, KS) was made known to us. Sis. Marla is currently attending the Morris, MN, church and Bro. Korbin attends the Kansas City, MO, church. We rejoice with them and wish them God's blessings.

The end of May brings on new beginnings for many of our graduating young people. We pray for God's direction in each of their lives. Graduating from high school this year are Brett Edelman (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Jolene, Sabetha), Kristin Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda), Ariana Esslinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty), Clint Meyer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Kaye), Sis. Belinda Stoller (Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria), and Bro. Brent Strahm (Bro. Richard and the late Sis. Kathy).

Graduating from college this semester are Rachel McLin (Michael), Sis. Lori Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie), Sis. Jamie Menold (Bro. James and Sis. Louise), Bro. Rodney Menold (Bro. James and Sis. Louise), Bro. Brett Plattner (Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen, Alto MI), Steve Stoller (Bro. Arden and Sis. Darlene), and Sis. Martha Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona).

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT **Joleen Sinn**

Our congregation was saddened by the passing of Sis. Marie Zaugg. We will truly miss her and all her deeds of kindness but we are thankful that her pain and suffering are

ended.

Congratulations to our college graduates this year: Sis. Kristi Banwart (Bro. Trent) and Adina Gilbert graduated from Fort Scott Community College. Graduating from Kansas University was Jerod Martin, and graduating from Pittsburg State with her masters degree was Heather Persinger. May they feel God's guidance as they enter a new phase in their lives.

We will miss Heather as she moves on to Kansas City for employment.

KANSAS **LAMONT-GRIDLEY** **Sarah Somerhalder**

We were glad to be able to host the National World Relief Committee meeting on April 21. We gathered on the evening of April 20 to have a meal and a World Relief slide presentation. We appreciated the many brethren who came for the weekend. It was a special blessing to have the following ministering brothers on Sunday: Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL), and Bros. Roger Sauder (Sis. Judy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) and Arnold Gerst (Sis. Marjorie, Taylor, MO).

We want to thank visiting ministering Bros. Michael Baumann (Sis. Florina, Mansfield, OH), Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) and Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) who were also with us this month. May the Lord bless each one of these brothers for their labors of love.

Congratulations and best wishes to David Wernli and Rebecca Burnham in their recent marriage on April 21. David is the son of Dwight and Dana Wernli (Eldorado, KS) and Rebecca is the daughter of Bro. Max Burnham.

Their address is 913 W. 1st, Eldorado, KS 67042 (phone 620-321-3909).

We extend our sympathy to our ministering Bro. Timothy Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara) on the death of his father, Bro. Orville Zimmerman (Sis. Lula, Congerville, IL).

Our prayers are with retired Elder Bro. Samuel Anliker who was hospitalized this month.

Congratulations and best wishes to Crystal Burdick (Bro. Rick and Sis. Mary Anliker) as she graduated from Fort Scott Community College as a registered nurse. She is employed at Mercy Hospital in Ft. Scott.

We were happy to have Sis. Hannah Grimm and Sis. Ada Beyer (Bro. Ivan) assemble with us again after not being able to do so for many weeks.

As we celebrate Father's Day, let us take time to appreciate our earthly fathers, but especially our Heavenly Father.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to those who sent cards and remembered us in prayer at the passing of our loved one. May God bless each of you for your thoughtfulness.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Barbara Zimmerman and family

Note: Our area code has been changed from 316 to 620.

KANSAS, SABETHA **Brenda Grimm** **Mary Kay Wenger**

Bro. Brian and Sis. Jeanelle Plattner welcomed home Kortney LeAnn on April 17. Also thankful for her arrival is her brother, Blake, and grandparents, Bro. Don and Sis. Ada Plattner and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman

(Bern, KS).

May 16 was the arrival date of little Gabe Eli, born to Bro. Richard and Sis. Joni Meyer. Cameron, Taylor and Haylie are excited for a new brother. Grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois Meyer and Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Lemman (Bradford, IL). We wish the Lord's blessings on these two families as they teach their children the ways of the Lord.

"And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Matthew 26:27-28

Saturday evening, April 28, our congregation met to partake of Holy Communion. We want to thank Elder Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) for being with us and assisting with the service.

We would like to congratulate Bro. Velmer and Sis. Vila Meyer on their 60th wedding anniversary April 27. What a testimony of their commitment to each other and of walking in God's love for many years!

Our thanks is extended to the Fort Scott congregation for hosting the Junior Bible class on April 21-22. May we walk faithfully in God's Word so that we are shining lights to our young people in this dark and sinful world.

We are always thankful for visiting ministers that stand before us and bring forth the Word of Life. With us this month was Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI).

Graduating from college this year are Bro. Kaleb Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen) and Lana Grimm (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene Grimm). May they feel God's blessings as they begin em-

ployment.

Bro. Korbin Beyer (Kansas City, MO) followed the Lord's leading in asking Sis. Marla Stoller (Morris, MN) to be his wife. We rejoice with them and pray they will feel the Lord's nearness as they plan for their wedding. Bro. Korbin is the son of Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen Beyer and Sis. Marla is the daughter of Bro. Arden and Sis. Darlene Stoller from Bern, KS.

At Home `Tis Well

At Home, `tis well!
There shall the pilgrim tarry,
When tired and worn by sorrow,
grief, and strife;
In heav'n when the hard race of
earthly life
Is run, the long-borne load no
more he'll carry.

The Lord has once again reached down and taken Home one of His children. Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Arlene Grimm (Bro. Rodney) on the death of her father, Bro. Ernst Metzger, from Lester, IA.

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

Elder Bro. Roy Grimm and his wife, Sis. Dona, were kind enough to come to Wichita after the World Relief meeting at Lamont - Gridley in April. We certainly thank them for taking the time to spend Sunday with us and for Bro. Roy's ministry. May they feel a blessing for their efforts in our behalf.

Bro. Max Reimschisel conducted the annual business meeting on May 6. The congregation is appreciative of the efforts that the elected brothers and sisters put forth to maintain the operation of the church. We are blessed that they accept the responsibility placed on them.

Thankfully, I can report that Bro. Charlie Grimm is recovering at home and that he has been able to come to church for one service starting May 6. We give thanks for the power of prayer and for the skilled physicians, nurses and other caregivers.

We also were prayerful for our dear Sis. Nellie Lambert. She is making a nice recovery from some painful minor surgery. Also, Bro. Godfrey Miller was hospitalized for several days for new complications. Again, praise God for the provisions He makes for our physical as well as our spiritual needs.

We have two graduating seniors this year. Candace Long (Bro. Jonathon and Sis. Ruth) and Lora Greiner (Frank and Anna) both are making plans to further their education after their graduation from high school. I had the pleasure of having these girls in my Sunday School class when I was teaching the intermediate class. It has been a privilege to watch them mature. Also, two other of my former Sunday School students are graduating from four years of college. Bro. Brett Plattner graduated from Kansas State and Kyle Holland (grandson of Bro. Charlie and Sis. Gail Grimm) graduated from Kansas University. May these young people find their place in the adult world with much grace from above.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Glenda Neukomm

As Father's Day approaches, the book of Proverbs counsels us, "Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old. The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him." (Proverbs 23:22,24)

Above all else that you can do

To make your father proud of
you,
Be diligent, be kind, be wise —
Such traits are priceless in His
eyes.

—*Fasick*

Ministering Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) was here May 20. We appreciated very much him and his wife, Sis. Barb, coming to share the day. We pray the Lord will richly bless them.

We always appreciate visitors and extend a welcome to anyone. Please contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541 or Bro. Jan Neukomm (859) 273-8574.

MEXICO, IXTLAN
Claudia Gonzalez

“But I am the Lord thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The Lord of hosts is his name.”

Isaiah 51:15

We are thankful to the Lord because He is our God and He has given to us the greatest gift, His son, Jesus Christ.

In this month we began going to Morelia to have church service there every other Sunday right after our church service. By doing this, we hope that more people can attend since they don't have to work on Sunday.

Meet Sis. Paula Angelito

My name is Paula and I am 29 years old. I grew up in a Catholic home and I'm one of a family of 13 children. Our parents died and left us orphaned when I was fourteen.

The first time that I had communication with a Christian person was at my sister Fernanda's wedding, which was in Morelia. We are from Acapulco. Two years later, I went back to Morelia to visit my sis-

ter, Fernanda, and her husband, Rogelio. Rogelio's sister was also visiting at that time and since she was already a Christian, I could see that she was different from me and that she was a good example to me. She told me about the church in Ixtlan, so I decided to go visit the church. I began to hear God's Word and I noticed that everyone in the church was different than I was.

The first time that there was a Bible study in Morelia, I attended and the minister asked all of us there a question. He asked us if we wanted to have Jesus Christ in our heart and I said “yes”, but I wasn't sincere because my answer wasn't from my heart. I didn't want to let go of the things of this world, but the more I listened to God's Word, the more He worked in my life. He kept doing that until my heart was softened and I felt the need to have Jesus Christ in my heart, and this time I was sincere.

One night in May of 1999, I was sad because I was thinking of my past life. That night I decided to surrender my life to Christ and have a new life but Satan was in opposition and I began a spiritual struggle. I had to choose between the world and Christ and I chose Christ. On May 30, 1999, I began my repentance and I was baptized on November 20, 1999.

I thank God that He has given me this opportunity to have a new family and now I have the hope of eternal life. I pray that my siblings and all who do not know Christ can come to know Him so that I can share with them my happiness and the hope of eternal life.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Kristen Plattner
Sandy Schutte

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose

under the heaven:”

Eccles. 3:1

With this in mind, our mothers had their annual spring banquet, using the theme “Patterns for Life”, that like the seasons, our life has seasons also. From youth to adult, from adult to senior, days full of sunshine and some of darkness, woven together in God's great plan, creating a life of victorious living. The banquet was held at Bowne Center Township Hall and a good time was had by all.

“Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait I say, on the Lord.”

Psalms 27:14

This month prayers of healing and songs of praise go out for Denny Koehl and Bro. Joe Oesch, both at home recovering from major surgery.

Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen presented the Memorandum to the brotherhood at Alto this month with the help of Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN). The theme this year was “To Fear the Lord, to be reverent and respectful to a Holy God”. We would like to thank Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frances for making the trip.

We again are at the time of the year of high school graduations. This year we have five who will end their high school careers and go on to other endeavors: Veronica Oesch (Jeff and Brenda), Matt Oesch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle), Gina Blough (Bro. Martin and Sis. Michelle), Josh Erismann (Bro. Ron and Sis. Penny) and Bobbie Jean Meyer (Sally and Don). We pray for their safety this graduation season and that the Lord will direct them in any future path they choose. “It is better to trust in the Lord than to

put confidence in man." (Psalm 118:8)

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Rhonda Knochel

Peggy Jackson

We rejoice this month with another soul who has sought the Lord in repentance. Our prayers are with Lisa Kraatz (Pat) as she begins her new life. We share in the joy her parents, Bro. Jack and Sis. Debbie, must also be feeling at this time. It is our sincere hope that Lisa will feel God's loving hand upon her life as she continues to trust Him to complete the good work that He has begun in her life.

We are also thrilled with the arrival of a new baby, Shae Noel, to the home of Kent and Jodi Andrzejewski. Excited grandparents are Norm and Sis. Linda Andrzejewski and Bro. Lee and Sis. Carolyn Schamback. We pray that little Shae will continue to bring happiness to those around her and experience the blessings of God upon her life.

We had several spend time in the hospital this month. They are: Sis. Alvina Wackerle (Bro. Wally), Sis. Loretta Mosher (Bro. Winsor) and Bro. Jerry Wieland (Sis. Lois). As we continue to uphold each one before the Lord, we hope that they will feel His healing touch and precious nearness as they continue to recover.

We trust that each of you are seeing the creative and loving hand of our Father with the coming of spring. We hope that with the renewed life of nature that you, too, are experiencing renewed joy in your walk with the Lord.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Sarah Beard

Holly Barton

Sis. Maria Sabados was hospi-

talized for several days. We pray that she and others who may be hurting or suffering will feel God's comfort and healing hand.

We were reminded this month of the unexpectedness of life as some in our congregation lost loved ones. We extend heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Katherine Losiewicz on the loss of her grandson and to Sis. Janelle Ringger (Bro. Von) and Sis. Gayla Stoecker (Bro. Jason) on the sudden passing of their grandmother, Sis. Alice Metzger.

We very much appreciated having Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) minister to the residents at Woodhaven this month. It is not always easy to drive a distance in the middle of the week!

Father's Day gives us a special opportunity to reflect on the role our earthly fathers have played in our lives and, if blessed to have a father still living, to express our appreciation and respect to them. They gave us life, and if godly men, no doubt played a role in showing us the way to eternal life. Fathers, be encouraged in your role — with grace on God's part and prayer and effort on yours, your work will have eternal dividends!

I passed a church the other day and glanced at the sign that announced the times services were held. I looked at it again, rather taken aback by what I thought said, "Gossip hour — 10:15." What it actually said was "Worship hour." Of course, I thought, how silly — no church has a gossip hour...at least, not intentionally. But if someone walked into your church or mine and listened to our conversations, would they think it was gossip hour? A challenging thought to all of us to keep our minds and conversations holy and glorifying to God.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Cheryl Messner

Dianne Kellenberger

We extend our appreciation to Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and also Bros. Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) for sharing God's Holy Word with us this past month.

At Home 'tis well!

There shall the pilgrim tarry

When tired and worn by sorrow,
grief and strife;

In heav'n when the hard race of
earthly life is run,

the long-borne load no more he'll
carry.

Zion's Harp #170

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Bro. Alpai Moser who has gone on to attain his heavenly reward. Bro. Alpai passed from this life on May 4. He is survived by his dear wife, Sis. Pearl; three daughters, Sis. Lois (Bro. Keith) Schmidgall, Sharilyn (Terry) Seter and Marilyn (Jerry) Halseth; three sons, Gary (Sis. Doreen) Moser, Myron (Marlene) Moser, and Bro. Doug (Sis. Dawn) Moser; many grandchildren; three brothers, Bro. Joe (Sis. Hazel) Moser, Bro. Chris (Sis. Marion) Moser and Bro. Bill (Sis. Joyce) Moser; three sisters, Sis. Emma (Bro. Noah) Gerber of West Bend, IA, Sis. Martha Feucht of Lester, IA, and Sis. Minnie Kussatz; brother-in-law, Emil Wulf of Lester, IA; three sisters-in-law, Florence Moser, Lyla Cin, Mildred Sandwick.

Bro. Floyd and Sis. Vi Schmidgall celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We wish them many more precious memories and God's blessings in years to

ome.

On May 16 we had the blessed privilege to partake of Holy Communion and to be reminded of God's great love for us. Let us continue to praise Him for our most precious gift of salvation.

May 12 was the wedding day for Eric Backman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Kathy) and Bridget Adams (Duane and Becki) who is from Leseuer, MN. May they look unto God for their source of help and guidance throughout their married life.

Bro. Andrew Messner and Sis. Kara Wulf exchanged wedding vows on May 13. Parents of the couple are Bro. Dave and Sis. Nancy Wulf and Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy Messner. We pray they will daily walk with God as husband and wife.

Trusting that God has led them together, the engagement of Sis. Marla Stoller to Bro. Korbin Beyer (Kansas City, MO) has been announced. Their parents are Bro. Arden and Sis. Darlene (Bern, KS) and Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen Beyer (Sabetha, KS). Sis. Marla has been living in our area for several months. We will miss her and we hope they will visit us often.

Our hospital patients were Sis. Christy Zeltwanger (Bro. Adam) and Bro. Paul Fehr Jr. (Sis. Pam). May our prayers ever be with our loved ones that are sick or in need.

We're so very thankful for our fathers and for the love, strength and spiritual guidance they so willingly share with their loved ones. We appreciate you very much! May God bless you each one.

Our special congratulations to our graduates! Those graduating from high school are: Christopher Esterling (Bro. Tim and Sis. Jeanne), Sis. Barbara Feuchtenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gwen), Sis. Ruth Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen), Brady Gramm (Bro. Ted and Sis. Wanda),

Sis. Savannah Gramm (Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen), Sis. Kari Koehl (Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn), Lucas Koehl (Bro. Roy and Sis. Jenell), Jonathan Minke (Sis. Bev), Susie Nohl (Bro. Dewayne and Sis. Janice), Tonia Schmidgall (Bro. Dave and Sis. June) and Myra Wulf (Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce). Those graduating from tech school or college are: Brian and Greg Reuter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn), Rustin and Sis. Rekeeta Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane), Marcy Wulf (Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce), Bro. Blaine Koehl (Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn), and Sis. Kayla Joos (Bro. Harv and Sis. Debra). God's blessings be upon you.

MINNESOTA WINTHROP

Carol Ann Messner Marilyn Messner

Elder Bro. Gerry Hertz (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) was here to assist Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner serve Communion to our congregation. We thank them for their labor of love and fellowship. God showed us His power and might by the remembrance of the Passover and Communion we hold today. They are both symbolic of the exile from Egypt and the death of Christ on the cross.

"But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out."

Numbers 32:23

The best gift to covet is life eternal which is through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Grandparents, Shirley and Lowell Demm, have a new granddaughter, Sarah Elizabeth, born April 27. Big brother, Samuel, and her parents, Jean and Randy Stresemann, welcome her home.

We wish the families God's blessings.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Wanda Messner (Bro. Dean) in the death of her mother, Sis. Alice Metzger, of West Bend, IA; and to Sis. Jan Messner in the death of her stepmother, Novella Daigger, of St. Louis, MO. Our prayers are with them.

The greatest gift I ever had came from God. I call him Dad! A special day is set aside in June to remember our earthly fathers. We are thankful for them.

Fathers are just wonderful in a million different ways,
And they merit loving compliments and accolades of praise,
For the only reason Dad aspires to fortune and success
Is to make the family proud of him and to bring them happiness...

And like our Heavenly Father,
He's a guardian and a guide,
Someone that we can count on to be always on our side.

—Helen Steiner Rice

Spring

When daffodils are blooming brightly
Under sunlit springtime skies
All my cares are worn more lightly;
Happiness in no disguise.

Violets blooming oh - so - shyly,
Looking neither left nor right,
Perfume lifting from the roses
Fill the nose with glad delight.

Even dandelions hold beauty...
Little suns of brightest gold
Adding to the joy of living...
How could any gard'ner scold?

New beginnings everywhere!
May new love within me spring

For the One Who gave all to us...
Our Creator, Lord and King!

—Margaret Peterson

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Komari Neal

This time of year always seems to be busy with summer quickly approaching and many of our dear brothers, sisters and friends preparing for graduations, weddings and summer travels. During this busy time, we can easily forget to trust in the Lord when making decisions about our lives and the future. May we remember that God's will is perfect and trust Him to guide 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

Even with busy schedules, many of our brothers and sisters in Kansas City found time for our spring cleaning of the church. On April 28, we had a nice group who worked on the interior and exterior of our church to keep it clean and tidy.

Mother's Day in Kansas City brought a nice crowd of visiting brothers, sisters, and friends to our congregation. We were especially thankful for the labors of ministering Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS). Also, on May 13, we were pleased to hear the engagement announcement of Bro. Korbin Beyer and Sis. Marla Stoller. We pray for God's guidance during this time in their lives.

Bro. Phil Nenadov has recently moved to the Kansas City area and we are thrilled to have him as part of our congregation. Bro. Phil is planning to make Kansas City his permanent home after many months of moving around the country with his employment.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Kristen Braker

Kristi Huber

We partook of Holy Communion the weekend of April 22. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) was here to assist with this holy sacrament.

We were privileged to have Bro. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) with us. It is always a blessing to fellowship with those of like mind and faith. Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) also visited us and ministered God's Word.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Willy and Sis. Hilda Stefan in the passing of his brother, Joe Stefan (Chicago, IL). We pray God will comfort and provide for them in their sorrow.

Laura Marie came to bless the home of Bro. Michael and Sis. Kristi Huber on April 27. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Vi Luthi, Bro. Gary Huber (Eureka, IL) and Karen Huber (Morton, IL).

Graduation time has come again. Sis. Rebecca Dotterer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon) graduated from high school. Those completing a college education are Sis. Carol and Sis. Sarah Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy). May God continue to guide and bless them in their new endeavors.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Rachel Schrock

A mother's role is the most influential in the nation. She enforces law and practices medicine. She teaches without degrees, certificates, or required training. She handles the nation's food, administers its drugs, and practices emergency first aid. She carries the responsibility of the spiritual, physical and mental ills of the

American family.

—author unknown

As a nation we honor our mothers and remember our veterans in May and honor our fathers in June. Here in St. Louis we also remember our spiritual duties and, most importantly, honor our Heavenly Father around this time as well. In April we had our Communion exhortation. Our sincere thanks go out to Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) for performing this duty for us. The last Saturday of April we spent working together to houseclean the church and its yard. This is a good physical reminder of what we should always be doing spiritually — keeping our inner and outer spiritual house in order.

The first weekend in May we continue remembering our spiritual duties as we conduct our annual business meeting on Saturday afternoon. Following this and a potluck supper, we enjoy partaking of the Lord's Communion together. What an uplifting evening this is! Then on Sunday afternoon, we are privileged to hear the reading of the Memorandum letter. We wish to thank our Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and his dear wife, Sis. Dona, for coming to be with us and for leading in these activities. We also thank Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and his wife, Sis. Nancy, for assisting Bro. Roy that weekend.

Our thanks are also extended to our other visiting ministers this past month. They include Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlene, Champaign, IL) and Bros. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL), and Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL). We especially wish to thank Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lynn Garber (Morton, IL) as they came to minister to us on Mother's Day. Our Bro. Loren and his family were there

able to attend college graduation of their daughter, Sis. Rachel, in Champaign that day. May God bless each one for your willingness to come and deliver God's Word to us.

We welcome Sis. Rachel Schrenk back to St. Louis for the summer.

In parting, we, as a congregation, would like to extend an invitation to anyone who may be contemplating relocating to seriously consider if it is the Lord's will for you to help out one of our small congregations. We would welcome you here to St. Louis and pray that you, too, would have a willingness to become part of our church family here.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Peg Haerr

After much prayer, the Taylor congregation has given support to Bro. Kim Sutter (Sis. Vonette) to become our new minister. May God give strength and abundant grace to this couple and their two young sons as they take on this new role.

May 15 was a special day for Madison Haerr as she became a big sister to Hattie Ellen (Bro. Shannon and Sis. Susan). Her grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Bro. Norm and Sis. Sally Haerr. Great-grandmother is Sis. Evelyn Wysong (Sabetha, KS).

Bro. Mike Stratton (Sis. Cheryl) and Bro. Lyle Pflum (Sis. Marian) were our hospital patients this month. We're thankful Sis. Kathy Haab (Bro. Paul) was spared serious injury in a recent car accident.

May God bless our visiting ministers: Bros. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN) and Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL) and Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Pulaski, IA) and Ed Lanz (Sis. Joan, Oakville, IA).

Our sympathy to the family of Winona Butikofer (Ed) who passed away recently. Sis. Clara Yackley's sister, Sis. Martha Tanner (Peoria, IL), also went on to her heavenly reward.

Our high school graduates are: Greg Gehring (Bro. Brad and Sis. Ellen), Sis. Jackie Heimer (Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan), Jacob Heimer (Bro. Rod and Sis. Barb), Seth Redd (Dean and Gaye), Robey Shuck (Leslie and Diana), Angie Sutter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Deb), and Brian Sutter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kris). May each graduate realize the wisdom of following in God's will!

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Anna Mellnitz

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

Acts 2:38

May 13 was Mother's Day when we should show our love for our mothers and God's blessings on all mothers.

Our convert, Gwen McGillvray, was baptized May 6. Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) assisted our Elder Bro. Duane Farney. We then had a meal and a singing in the evening. It truly was a blessed day. Other visitors were from Connecticut, Illinois, and Ohio.

John and Renata (Virkler) Dawson V had a son born April 22 named Easton Lee. He has a brother, John VI. His grandparents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Mae Virkler and John Dawson IV and Karen Dawson, and a great-grandmother, Sis. Loretta Graves. May God bless him and may they bring

him up in Godly love.

Betty Widrick (Gilbert) had knee surgery and is back home and recovering. May God's healing hand be with her.

We had World Relief work night where we oiled meat boards for a project in the Rittman - Smithville World Relief Center.

Sis. Elveria Martin fell and had some pretty bad bruises. We thank God that she is healing.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

Sis. Marie Speheger Ritzman, 95, passed away April 19. Her joy in life was serving others, especially her Lord. She married Bro. Forrest Ritzman and their children are: Walter, Robert, Paul, Gerald, Eric, Mary Ann Zollinger and Martha Zollinger. One son, Earl, preceded her in death. They have 23 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren. Her husband, who was a minister, passed away in 1966.

A little baby girl was born to Bro. Rudy and Sis. Katie Wiegand on May 5 making them a father and mother. They named their baby Carolyn Joy. Bro. Rudy's parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rosemary Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Sis. Katie's parents are Don and Barbara Williams of Wadsworth.

Communion services were held for our congregation at the Easter season. It is such a blessing to partake of this holy sacrament.

Bro. Joe Grossenbacher and Eugene Bako were hospitalized and we wish them a speedy recovery.

Our Sunday School children put together a nice lunch and served our congregation for the noon meal at church on Mother's Day.

We were blessed to have visiting Elders and their wives. They were Bros. Duane Farney (Croghan - Naumburg, NY), Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Ken Indermuhle

(Sardis, OH), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA). Also ministering Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) and his family visited us. We thank all these brothers for their efforts in serving us.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Anita Steiner

On April 29, Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) shared Holy Communion with us. What a solemn time as we remembered what Jesus sacrificed for us on the Cross.

On May 4, Lindsey Alayne was welcomed into the home of Bro. Jason and Sis. Lori Whitman. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Edie Laukhuf (Latty, OH) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Eileen Whitman (Latty, OH).

Visiting us on the pulpit this month was Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL). We give him our heartfelt thanks for ministering God's Word unto us and appreciate the time spent with Bro. Dale and his family.

Our prayers are with Bro. Andy Hunyady as he travels to Eastern Europe with a few of our church Elders to attend several church dedications.

OHIO, JUNCTION Cindy Schlatter

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

Hymns of Zion #64

Baby Heather Denise was born April 23 to bless the home of Bro. Tony and Sis. Denise Manz. May God continue to lead, guide and direct this Christian home as they bring up their little girl. We are thankful that Sis. Denise and Heather are both home and doing well. Grandparents looking forward to spend time with their new little granddaughter are Elder Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz.

OHIO, LATTY Kathy Sinn Heidi Hackenjos

Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen Whitman welcome two grandchildren into their family. A granddaughter, Lindsey Alayne, was born to Bro. Jason and Sis. Lori Whitman (Columbus, OH). A grandson, Evan Michael, was born to Brian and Becka Whitman. We look forward to visits from both of these little ones and their parents. As the physical needs of these precious children are given much attention, may their spiritual needs also be given much care.

Sis. Dorothy Stoller (Bro. Wayne) hasn't been able to assemble with us because of a cut in her hand. We keep her in our thoughts and prayers during this time of recovery.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Ruby Stoller (Bro. Justus) and her family at the passing of her sister, Mildred Stemen. Our prayer would be that the Holy Spirit would comfort this family during the coming months.

We enjoyed the visit of Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) on May 13. He stayed for the weekend after the Elder Agenda Committee met here in Latty. Words are not sufficient to thank these dear brothers for their many hours

of labor on our behalf. We just pray that our words and actions will be supportive; and most importantly that the Lord will bless them now and much more in eternity.

Dennis Wenninger (Bro. Dor and Sis. Josephine) and Beth Keller were united in marriage during the past month. We welcome Beth into our church family and treasure their attendance. May the Lord's presence have a vital role in their lives and always be a welcome Guest there.

We are delighted and thankful to write that Mindy Graf (Bro. Bob and Sis. Joan) has begun her repentance. We pray that she will rely on the Holy Spirit to lead, guide and direct her down this walk of life. Let us be the proper light and example for her and the others who are watching.

Our Apostolic Christian Country Villa is now being occupied. We are thankful for the safety during the building project. We pray for the Lord's blessing for our loved ones who reside there, especially during the months of adaptation.

As I write this, the school year is again coming to a close. Let's use the coming days to draw closer to the children that the Lord has entrusted unto us and not allow the "busyness" of summer to steal the time away.

As Father's Day approaches, we give thought to the great importance of the earthly father in the home. We think back to the lessons that have been taught during the years. Let us also recall the instructions given by our Heavenly Father. Are we following those instructions and teaching them to our children?

OHIO, MANSFIELD John and Marci Pfeiffer

We extend our sympathy to two families who lost loved ones re-

ently. Sis. Emilie Went bid farewell to her husband, Harold Went, and Sis. Lore Stuenzi (Bro. Art) to her brother, Kurt Haff (Germany). May God comfort them.

Congratulations to our Seniors who will be graduating from High school! They are Adrianna Boor (Laurence), Chris Dotterer (Bro. Taylord and Sis. Betty), Isaac Foss (Rick and Sis. Susan), Craig Rau (Mark and Lynette), Joshua Ruffener (Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay), Mason Sabo (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharon), Ben Sauder (Bro. Dave and Sis. Joy) and Nora Schuster (Carl and Lila). As our Seniors look forward to college or employment, we wish them God's richest blessings.

Bro. Bill Sabo (Sis. Sophie) was a hospital patient this month. We wish him a full recovery and will be glad when he can assemble with us once again.

What shall I do to be saved
From the sorrows that burden
my soul?
Like the waves in the storm
When the winds are at war,
Chilling floods of distress o'er me
roll.

What shall I do? What shall I do?
What shall I do to be saved?
O Lord look in mercy on me,
Come, O come and speak peace to
my soul:

Unto whom shall I flee,
Dearest Lord but to Thee,
Thou canst make my poor, broken
heart whole.

That will I do! That shall I do!
To Jesus I'll go and be saved!

Hymns of Zion #58

We rejoice and pray for the Lord to be merciful to Tonya Domka who has turned unto Him in repentance. Tonya is the daughter of Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie Domka.

OHIO, RITTMAN Cheryl Hartzler Beth Beery

"I Forgive You"

There was a woman brought to
Jesus,
Taken in a sin,
Cast down at His feet that day,
She was guilty and condemned.
The law said she should pay the
price
for mistakes that she had made,
But her shame became rejoicing,
when she heard the Saviour say:

I forgive you, I forgive you,
You are free to go your way and
sin no more.
Neither do I condemn you for the
life that you have lived,
The greatest words ever spoken,
I forgive.

I came to Jesus
like that woman long ago,
Weighted by the guilt of sin,
life's burdens lay me low.
But when I met the Master,
I confessed I had great need,
What He did for her, He'll do for
you,
Praise the Lord, He did for me.

I forgive you, I forgive you,
You are free to go your way and
sin no more.
Neither do I condemn you for the
life that you have lived,
The greatest words ever spoken,
I forgive.

—*Mountain Anthems*

Saturday evening, May 5, the testimonies were heard of five dear souls who have found forgiveness of the Lord. Sunday, these souls became brothers and sisters in the Lord and part of the family and body of Christ: Bro. Keith Stoller

(Bro. Joseph and Sis. Marian), Bro. Mark Dotterer (Bro. Richard and Sis. Dawn), Sisters Lisa and Lynn Ruffener (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jenee), and Sis. Megan Rupp (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Carol). Two visiting Elders and two visiting ministers joined the Rittman church in welcoming our new brothers and sisters. We thank Elder Bros. Robert Walder (Congerville, IL) and Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) in assisting Elder Bro. Merle in the testimonies and baptisms and ministering Bros. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH) and Victor Bauman (Smithville, OH) in giving of themselves to encourage us all in the Lord.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die;..."

Eccles. 3:1-2

We are thankful Devan Christopher arrived safely to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Darlene Lanz on May 7. Brothers, Nicholas and Noah, will have a new playmate. We pray that Bro. Jeff and Sis. Darlene be given much wisdom in teaching these three precious boys the way of the Lord, as we are "born to serve the Lord." Grandparents to rejoice are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Diane Lanz and Mr. and Mrs. James Reminder.

I failed to mention at the beginning of this year the death of Art Bauman (the late Donna), sister of our Sis. Marge Weber. Dora Smith passed from life into eternity. Her sisters and brother are Sisters Laura Oppliger (Smithville), Alma Curie (Rittman), Louise Spangler (Akron) and Bro. Alvin Riggenschach (Mansfield). May these precious souls left behind feel the Lord's comfort as well as the church's. My father passed away over nine years ago and a great comfort to me was the verse in III

John 1:4, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." The support of the brotherhood in word and deed was very meaningful.

Hospitalized this past month were Sisters Jane Klotzle (Bro. Irwin) and Julie Hartzler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Beverly), and Martha (Robert) Maag. The Lord loves us very much and may we all feel that love in sickness and in health, in prosperity and adversity and in joy or in sorrow until death do us part and we enter our eternal Home where we shall see our Lord face to face.

OHIO, SARDIS

Alice Ramsier

Our young sisters invited friends the weekend of April 28. We enjoyed having the extra young people with us on Sunday.

"And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer."

Luke 22:15

We were asked what the desire of Jesus must have been like. His desire to save us from our sins took Him to the cross. Our souls also desired to remember the common union we have because of our bond in Christ Jesus. On May 5, Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) came and exhorted us to remember as we shared in Communion. We wish to thank Bro. Mark for lending himself to us all weekend long.

We also wish to thank Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) for ministering to us on a Wednesday night.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Ruth Gasser
Edith Miller

Now it is accomplished! I'm no

longer mine;
Lord, I will forever and always be
Thine,
For Thou hast created and purchased me too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou
makest me new.

Zion's Harp #209

Three precious souls were welcomed into our brotherhood on May 13, as we witnessed their baptism, having heard their testimonies the previous evening. Our new brothers and sister are Jon Zollinger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky), Ron Marty (Tammy), and Shannon Bauman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Jennifer). May God continue to grant an abundance of grace as they go forth to meet the challenges of life.

We are always thankful when peace is granted to a seeking soul. Garth Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois) has received this peace and awaits baptism at the appointed time.

A new little boy has been welcomed into the family of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Millie Stoller. Rustin Nicholas was born on May 14, and is also welcomed by Lynn, Marcy, Neil, and Owen, as well as grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Eileen Stoller, and Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz (Junction, OH). We trust God will bless this home and grant wisdom to parents to train up their children in the fear of the Lord.

We appreciate God's healing when those who must face surgery can again recover and enjoy the blessing of health. Bro. Mark Maibach (Sis. Julie) submitted to surgery this past month.

Our thanks to those who have given of themselves in God's service. Visiting us were Elder Bros. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), and Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton

North, IN), Don Manz (Junction OH), and Paul Gasser (Akron OH). May God bless each one for their efforts.

We wish to extend our love and sympathy to those who have lost loved ones. Sis. Mary Ann Zollinger (Bro. David) laid her mother, Sis. Marie Ritzman (Akron, OH), to rest. Sis. Laura Oppliger's sister, Dora Smith passed away. Also, Paul Maibach who is a brother to Tug Maibach (Sis. Alma) left this earthly life. May God comfort and strengthen those who are left behind.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5,6

We hope and pray each of our high school graduates will allow the Lord to direct their path. We have a rather small group of graduates this year, but each one is precious in the eyes of the Lord. Those who have reached this milestone are Stephanie Hofacre (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jollene), Robert Lancaster (Boyd and Terry Nieman), Amber Marty (David and Michelle), Matthew Saurer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue), and Sis. Laura Zollinger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky).

Our prayers are with our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller, and the brethren who are traveling with him in Eastern Europe, as they evaluate the needs of our brethren there. We trust in the Lord's protection and direction in this mission.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter

It was our privilege to partake of Holy Communion in April. May we ever be mindful of the great price

that was paid for our salvation. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) was with us for this service.

Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) visited recently and taught us from God's Word. We are thankful that we can hear the truth, and pray that God will bless him for his service.

Sis. Colette Harmon (Bro. Howard) continues to experience health difficulties. We remember her and her family in our prayers.

We extend our congratulations to recent college graduates. Bros. Ted Gherian and Greg Manz (Junction, OH) and Sis. Jenny Bufener (Smithville, OH) have completed their degrees at the University of Toledo. May God lead them into the positions of service we would have for them.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Greetings everyone!

We are enjoying another beautiful spring with sunny days, as well as much needed rainfall after such a dry winter. We have had a good number of visitors joining us in worship and fellowship. This adds tremendous blessing to our small group here in Portland. Thank you for coming!

We wish to thank in particular the ministering brethren and their families who supported us this past month: Bros. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda) and Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), all from Silverton, OR. May the Lord bless you and your families for your efforts and kindness.

OREGON, SILVERTON

RosaLee Kuenzi

We rejoiced with Bro. Rick Metzger and Sis. Ruth Kuenzi on April 29 as they were joined together in Holy Matrimony. Parents of the young couple are Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris Metzger

(Lester, IA) and Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane Kuenzi. May God bless their marriage, as He surely did their beautiful wedding day.

Our thoughts and prayers were with Sis. Colette Snook (Bro. Jason) and Sis. Carol Wackerle (Bro. Greg) as both were hospitalized this past month with serious conditions. We are very thankful they are both doing well again.

Our thanks to Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) for his willingness to bring us the Holy Word. We do appreciate the humble ministers of the truth, and trust God will reward them accordingly.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger recently were privileged to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. Their children honored them by hosting a singing at the Central Howell School gym. It was a blessed evening of singing praises to our Lord, refreshments and fellowship.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Nathan and MaryElizabeth Gasser

We enjoyed a beautiful Saturday of spring cleaning at our little church this month. Windows, doors, shrubs, carpets — everything got a good scrubbing and washing and everything shines a little brighter. May each of us consider the cleaning needs of the temple in our hearts, and whether some scrubbing might make our light shine a little brighter in the world as well.

We were blessed this month to have Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan, NY), and Bros. Herb Knochel (Phoenix, AZ) and Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) minister God's Word to us this month. As our church is a little "out of the way", it is encouraging to us when dear brothers and their families

make the extra effort to visit us and labor on our behalf. May God continue to bless them for their service in His vineyard.

We rejoice as our dear friend, Bob Allen, has found grace to give his life to the Lord in repentance. Our prayers are with him as he makes this new beginning.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

God has blessed us richly in this past month as our visiting ministers have shared God's Living Word with us and helped us see God's guiding and protecting hand in our lives. We are so thankful for the love of God and the love of the Church, brought to us so clearly through the ministry of Bros. Darrel Stoller (Sis. Gloria, Bern, KS), Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL), Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, Francesville, IN), Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH) and our new Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN). Also, we have enjoyed the fellowship of brethren from Chicago, Cissna Park, and Gridley, IL; Bluffton North and Leo, IN; Bern and Sabetha, KS; and Mansfield, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. We now have a visiting minister scheduled for every Sunday. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Gridley, IL (6/24); Junction, OH (7/1); Leo, IN (7/8); Bay City, MI (7/15); Fairbury, IL (7/22); and Forrest, IL (7/29). We also meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service. If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933; and

Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946.

TEXAS, CENTRAL

Dale and Amy Ringger

One benefit of visiting among our various churches is hearing hymns sung that we may not sing very often. Recently, our family attended a singing at one of our churches and sang #14 in the Zion's Harp.

Lord Jesus, honor thanks and
praise
Be to Thy goodness all our days.
Thy people in Thy grace rejoice,
In comfort they lift up their
voice;
"Thou shalt remain in all eter-
nity!"
Thus we repose in blest security.

We appreciated being reminded of this hymn and have sung it at home and in church here since then.

Brethren who have preached the Word of God in past Sundays include Elder Bros. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO), Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), and Bros. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO) and Max Reimschisel (Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS). Those who came with the brothers to spend time and fellowship with our church here also blessed us.

July's schedule of ministers for Central Texas services are: July 1 (Wolcott, IN), July 8 (Phoenix, AZ), July 15 (Francesville, IN), July 22 (Champaign, IL), and July 29 (Elgin, IA).

We continue to meet for services at the Quality Inn in San Marcos, TX. San Marcos is located on IH-35 approximately 20 minutes south of Austin or about 50 minutes north of downtown San Antonio. Exit at

#206 and find the hotel on the southwest side access road.

We extend a welcome for anyone who may be in the area to worship with us. Also, let us know if you would be available for fellowship on Saturday or Sunday evening or during the week. 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 and Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy Ringger (512) 933-1380.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Joyce Nohl

"Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding."

Proverbs 4:1

As we set aside a special day for our fathers, let us be thankful for those fathers that have shown us the way of eternal life. It is such a blessing to have God-fearing fathers who have brought us "up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4)

Following is an article written by Sis. Jennifer Kellenberger about the work being done in Rio Bravo, Mexico to reach the deaf. She will continue to write articles about this project. It is exciting to have a project so close to us so we can observe "firsthand" the work being done and we appreciate those who give of their time and resources. May God bless this work and may each child who benefits from this work learn about our great God and His love.

Several years ago, the Apostolic Christian Church of America began sending work teams to Ja-

maica to work with Caribbean Christian Centers for the Deaf also known as CCCD. Presently there are three campuses in Jamaica along with a deaf village. In 1992, International Christian Centers for the Deaf (ICCD) was formed to reach the deaf in other parts of the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In February of 1997, the Mexican branch of ICCD was created and came to be known as Mexico Centros Cristianos para Sordomudos (MCCS). The school began with three deaf students in a borrowed classroom located in Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Rio Bravo is located across the border from McAllen, Texas, in the north eastern part of Mexico.

There are many deaf children in this area that need a school. Construction of a residential school has begun on 27 acres that God has graciously provided in Rio Bravo. The plans include fourteen different buildings, which include a classroom building, a children's dormitory, an administrative building that will also contain a gymnasium and a kitchen/cafeteria, a vocational training building, a medical clinic, staff quarters, etc. This campus will be able to house up to 150 students, some of whom may come from areas that are several hours away.

The construction of the campus was started in 1999 and is currently underway. Four of the buildings have been started which include the volunteer dorm (where the work teams stay), a work team kitchen/dining hall, the children's dormitory, and a temporary maintenance building, which will later become staff quarters. God has provided many willing servants that have come to help in the construction of the school and has also blessed the campus with some wonderful Mexican staff.

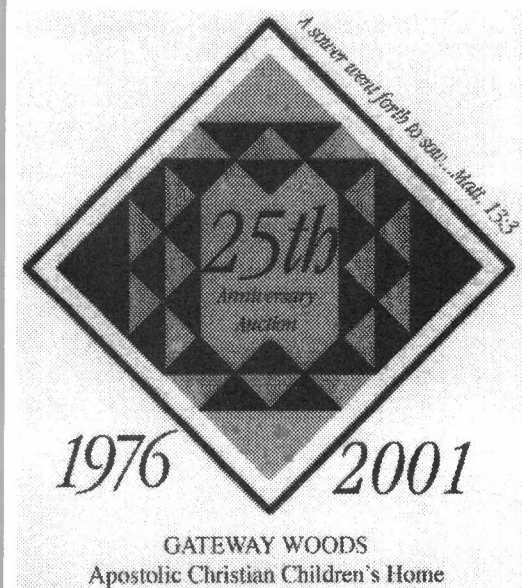
At present, the school consists of three Mexican teachers and 24 deaf students. They meet in the town of Rio Bravo in a small classroom lent to MCCS by the DIF of Rio Bravo. However, MCCS hopes to have the deaf students attending classes on the campus some time in the near future.

The deaf are unable to hear the Gospel. In most countries, they are not educated and are unable to read about Jesus Christ and His love for them. They have never heard the name of Jesus Christ even once. How do these deaf people hear the Good News? How is the communication gap bridged?

We thank the Lord that sign language is an effective way of communicating with the deaf. MCCS is in the process of building and will continue to build schools where deaf children can learn sign language. The primary purpose of the school is to present the Gospel to the children as soon as they have the adequate communication skills. With God's help, MCCS will prepare them for life by training them through word and deed in Godly character and Christian values. They will be accepted into the school at age four, and they will be trained academically and vocationally before they leave the school at

age eighteen. MCCS will ensure that each child will be loved, protected and cared for.

Mexico has thousands of deaf children who have never once heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Most of the parents in Mexico cannot afford to send their children to school. Others believe that their deaf child is incapable of achieving anything of worth. Therefore, there is no motivation for the parents to spend their scarce resources to train and prepare their deaf child for life. MCCS is committed to reaching the deaf with the message of the love and salvation of God.



Events August 18, 2001

Don't eat breakfast on your own!

- 7:30 a.m.** Hot breakfast begins
(breakfast sandwiches, fruit, rolls, coffee)
- 7:30 a.m.** Pre-priced Crafts begins
- 7:30 a.m.** Bake Sale begins
- 8:30 a.m.** Gateway Woods presentations
- 9:00 a.m.** Auctions begin
- 12:00 p.m.** Specialty Items Auction

What is the Gateway Woods Auction all about?

The Gateway Woods Auction is our largest fund-raiser, accounting for a significant percentage of our budget. It is an extremely important source of funds, and anyone donating or purchasing an item has richly blessed us! **However, it is about far more than just finances.**

Your attendance at the Gateway Woods Auction is a chance for you to see our campus, get a sense of what we do, and support your brothers and sisters who labor on behalf of troubled children and their families. For over 25 years, God has richly blessed us through your support; without it, Gateway Woods could not exist.

Our desire is not only to be blessed through you on Auction Day, but to make the Auction a blessing to you as well. The Auction is a time when the brotherhood comes together and rallies around children who have been abandoned and neglected by the world. Any support you can offer at the Auction or throughout the year reaches far beyond the boundaries of our campus in Leo and into the lives of young souls in need of Saviour.

Sermon continued from page 2

mon to me so I could hear myself say those words about not asking why, not asking the questions because I had questions, I had things on my mind, things on my heart, and things that I would have really liked to ask God.

That convicts me now again as I read Numbers eleven and I see this about the questions that they were asking and how the Lord was displeased. You know, we are His creation. We really are. He has a right to control our lives. He has a right to dictate our lives, but He loves us enough to give us an intellect mind that has a right to make decisions. He has a right to ask questions, but there is no question in my mind. If I would be where I am supposed to be spiritually and I would understand who God is in a better way than I understand Him, I would not ask the question, "Why?" But I know I am human.

As I look out over you as a gathering here, I have very few clues as to what is in your lives. I wish I did. Maybe there would be some small way that I could meet those little particular needs, but I don't have a clue. Back home in Bluffton, I have a greater idea and a better understanding, but here I don't have an idea. I don't have a clue. So what is it in your life? What do you have such an intense desire for? What is it that is flesh to you? What is it that you really want? What is it whenever you say, "Who shall give us flesh to eat?" "Bring me a husband." "Bring me a wife." "Make my life better." "Heal my child."

What is it in your life that you are really desiring, that you really want more than anything? Do we have the faith to believe that God will meet those needs? Do we have that faith? We are so weak, aren't we, as people? We are so weak. Again I don't know very many of you, but I just have a feeling that we are all just an awful lot alike. We are all very hu-

man. We carry flesh and blood. We have our struggles. We have our disappointments. We have our discouragements. We have our wants. We have our desires. But the Lord is saying, "I know what you need." Do we have a clue? A lot of times we think we know what we need in our life, and the Lord sometimes gives it to us. He lets us have it.

Verse thirty-three, "And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague." Sometimes we get what we want. Sometimes we get what we think we need. I have mentioned it before but I will mention it again.

There was a time in my life when I was way too materialistic and spent way too much time working all for wrong reasons. At the time, I didn't know it. One thing I wanted, I wanted a new house. I wanted acreage. I wanted a creek. I wanted a woods and I wanted a pond. I wanted it bad enough and I searched for it and we got it. But, you know, it wasn't long until all this yard needed mowing and the pond grew so many cattails that I spent so much time taking care of cattails and taking care of so many things.

The Lord gave me what I wanted, but it reminds me of that whenever I read this, "And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people," (Numbers 11:33). For me, it was different. The Lord took my wife and I to Haiti and He taught us some real hard lessons in Haiti back in 1985. We learned some things. I believe that is the way it is in life.

Are you like me? Maybe you don't desire a big house, a pond, a creek and the woods. Maybe you don't desire those things, but maybe there are other things in your life that you really desire—the flesh or whatever

it is. Put it into context. What does mean in your life? What is the flesh to you? Whatever it is, whatever we don't have, and we desire it and we want it and we complain about it, we probably ought to be a little careful because God is pretty good. Sometimes He has given us what we need to teach us a lesson. Those lessons are not fun.

This particular chapter deals a lot with Moses' perception of who he was as a leader. Verse twelve, "Have I conceived all this people? have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in thine bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers?" (Numbers 11:12). "Why have You given all this responsibility to me, Lord? Who am I? How can I handle this big of a load? Look at all these people—six hundred thousand of them. All these footmen plus women, plus children. Who am I to take care of them?" But we have a tendency to forget about this God that we are working for and working with. He has such an ability to take care of our needs, but so many times we just really fail to trust Him to meet those needs.

I think of a verse in Isaiah in chapter forty, verse eleven, and if you would turn with me to Isaiah chapter forty, verse eleven. I believe it is a verse that we as people need to sort of put into our mind and understand and to remember so that we don't get like Moses. We could be like Moses and we can share our heart. Maybe as an elder, we would say, "Lord, this congregation is too big. I can't take care of all these needs." Or maybe as a dad, you are saying, "My family is too large. These children have too many needs and I can't meet all these needs." Or maybe as a mother and you are getting worn out. It is only nine o'clock in the morning and already you got three little kids tugging at your

press in the kitchen and the cookies are burning in the oven.

We need to remember Isaiah chapter forty, verse eleven, "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young." Invariably when I have moms or dads come to me with struggles and problems in their life about their children, they already know about this verse. This verse is precious to them because they understand that the Lord is in charge, and that He is the Shepherd. He is the One who is going to feed His flock. He is the One who is going to gather the lambs with His arm. He is the One who is going to carry them in His bosom. He shall gently lead those that are with young.

"Can you imagine that picture? Can you see the Lord doing that? Can you see Him doing that? Can you see Him holding your little children, or your grown children, tenderly in His bosom, loving them and caring for them?"

We just had a new grand baby three weeks ago. The moment I picked up little Spencer, incidentally, he is the most beautiful little baby — better than any I have seen here. He is beautiful. I picked him up and I held him for the first time and I looked down at that precious little face and I just loved him. There was something there that just brought love and evoked love without him doing anything. He did not do a thing. That is just a wonderful feeling.

You know, as we start thinking about God, this is the tender Shepherd that we read about in Isaiah. This is the One that Moses forgot about in Numbers, chapter eleven. This tender Shepherd who is able to hold us tenderly and to love us and to care for us. Little Spencer had not done a thing, but I loved him with all my heart. That is the way it was

with my own children. That is the way it was with all my grandchildren. We just love them in spite of the fact that they don't do anything to deserve it.

You and I are in the same position with God. He loves us with that perfect love. He loves us with that tender heart, that compassionate heart, that heart that wants to pick up every child and hold them next to His bosom. That is what we have. That is the Father that loves us. Who is this Father God that you think about? Who is He? Is He someone that is waiting to strike us down when we fall, or is He the One that is willing to convict us, and then hold us tenderly?

I have one of the greatest memories of my dad. There are a couple of them that comes to my mind right now. He died three years ago and my last vision of him was in the hospital after he had a burst aneurysm behind a sinus cavity. My last vision of him alive was in the doctor's room and the doctor was working on him with blood on the doctors and all over my dad and all over the floor. He looked up at me and smiled. He put his fingers together like this. He couldn't talk but he let me know that everything was going to be okay. He died. He did not recover. But that was the last thing he showed me, that everything was going to be okay. That is one vision I have of my dad right now.

The other one is when I was probably about nine years old and I had done something. I don't even remember what it was. There was a long list of things that I had done, but that was one of the things that I got caught for. My dad said that we need to talk, so we went into the bathroom and I can still remember he sat down on the edge of the tub and said, "Come here." So I went over and he laid me over his knees, back side up, and I knew what was coming. I looked up at him and he

had a tear that welled up in the corner of his eye. The tear dripped down his cheek and he said, "This is going to hurt me a lot more than it hurts you." That was a father! That's my father-God. That is who I think about whenever I think about my father in heaven. That's what I think about when I think of Isaiah chapter forty, verse eleven. I think about this loving Shepherd who takes care of His flock and takes care of His sheep. The One who picks up the lambs and holds them next to His bosom and cares for them.

Moses forgot. "Have I conceived all those people, Lord? Who am I to take care of all these children of Yours? Have I begotten them? Are they my children, that thou shouldest say unto me, 'Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child?'" They are complaining, Lord, and I am getting tired of all their complaints. They are wishing they had this and wishing they had that." He got frustrated. He was hurting because he saw their needs and there wasn't anything that he could do for them.

Do we feel those kinds of times as dads and as moms? Maybe as ministers or maybe as Elders, we see needs and we recognize that there is no way that as moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, ministers and elders that we can meet the needs of each other.

That is the reason we have to come back to the Word and understand what the Lord is saying, "Moses, they are My children. I'll take care of them. If they need manna, I'll get them manna. If they need flesh, I'll bring them flesh. Let Me take care of them. I know what they need." Then Moses said, "Yes, You know what they need, but listen to what they want." The Lord said, "If they want all these things, I'll give it to them." He taught him a hard lesson.

Sermon continued on next page...

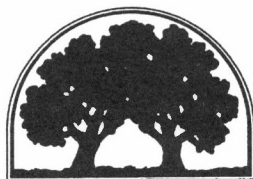
Sermon continued from page 45

Let's be careful that we don't make all of our desires, all of our wants, and let's be sure that we don't make them as demands before God. God is in control and He knows us. The Word tells us that He created us and made us from dust. He

knows our frame. He remembers that we are weak. He says, "I know what you need." Let's not get weary in this life. Let's not get fearful of what the future is going to be. Let's trust Him to take care of whatever our needs are, and let's pray that by

the grace of God our wishes, our wants, and our desires are right in line with what He knows our need to be.

I want to tell you a little something that happened probably about
Sermon continued on page 49



Gateway Woods Illinois Family Services Central Illinois Local Work Team Projects

Over the years, more and more of our people are getting involved in work projects in other countries such as Jamaica, Mexico, and Haiti. Brethren and friends, young and old, have received many blessings as a result of these work team experiences. At the same time, it has been observed that there are also many needs right here in our own communities.

Last year, Illinois Gateway Woods Family Services organized and successfully completed a Local Work Team Project of this type in an attempt to bring the work team experience closer to home without the need for traveling thousands of miles. Arrangements were made for the volunteers to stay together over night at a church family's home simulating the remote work - team experience. Other volunteers furnished the noon and evening meals. The workers had evening devotions with a minister present, just like is practiced in Haiti and Jamaica. The project involved reroofing an older woman's home that had recently adopted her two great grandchildren. The time spent working and fellowshiping was a blessing to all participants.

At the recent Elder Conference, the counseling Elders from both the Illinois Gateway Woods Family Services and World Relief met and approved a proposal for encouraging these local work projects, and the Illinois Gateway Woods Family Services program has been given permission to coordinate a local work project in any of the Central Illinois church communities. Letters have been sent to the Elders offering coordination of such projects, and Elders choosing to participate can initiate an invitation. The projects will follow the same guidelines established for the overseas work teams with regard to who can participate and the expectations for the workers.

We have already been given a van and a job trailer which we hope to fill with tools and travel around Central Illinois this summer using God's people, and our blessings to let our good works so shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father which is in Heaven. We look forward to seeing many of you this summer and thank you in advance for your participation in this exciting opportunity.



TEACHERS

Gateway Woods is excited to announce teacher openings at Gateway Woods School. Our school is an accredited education program, serving students who are having difficulty being successful in public school. We are accepting applications now for teacher openings beginning in the summer. Qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree in Education and work experience in the education field. Special Education Certification would be especially useful. If you hold these qualifications and have a heart for children, please ask the Lord if this is the position He has in mind for you. This is an excellent opportunity to do mission work in the U.S. For more information, please contact one of the brothers listed below.

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

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Road
New Haven, IN 46774
(219) 493-6711

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2001

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.

Country	Organization	Project Dates	Location	Coordinator	Project Type	Progress	Completion %
Jamaica	CCCD	Jun 9-16, '01	Montego Bay	(4) Belvidere/Goodfield B.C.	Deaf School	40/50	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jun 30-Jul 7	Kingston	(5) Bluffton B.C.	Deaf School	50/60	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jul 21-28, '01	Deaf Village	(1) Ak-Rit-Sville BC	Work Place	50/60	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jan 2-9, '02	Montego Bay	Mark Criss	Deaf School	50/60	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	(**) Mar 8-16	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	(**) Mar 8-16	Deaf Village	Kevin Sauder - TBA	Work Place	40	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	May 17-25, '02	Deaf Village	Kevin Sauder - TBA	Work Place	40	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	(*) May 17-25, '02	Kingston	(6) Roanoke Bible Class	Deaf School	50/60	80%
Jamaica	CCCD	(*) May 31-June 8, '02	Deaf Village	(7) Taylor/Princeville BC	Work Place	50/60	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	(*) July 6-13, '02	Knockpatrick	(8) Mansfield Bible Class	Deaf School	40	80%

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

(*) = Changes or additions since last issue

()** = Spring Break Timeframe

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
(6) Kevin Fisher	309-923-7684		
(7) Kent Heimer	573-393-2440	573-769-5516	janheimer@hotmail.com
Mark Criss	309-693-2532		redemed1@aol.com
(8) Pete Webel	419-756-2587		
(4) Clint Heinold	262-695-8108		heinold@prodigy.net
(2) Dennis Hodel	309-527-5447		dbhodel@juno.com
(3) Jay Maibach	330-939-5234		jimaibach@aircraftbraking.com
Terry Miller	309-747-2212 or 941-485-4302	309-747-2212 or 941-485-4302	tbmiller@mymailstation.com
(5) Jerry Rausch	219-824-2387	219-824-8580	brothers.keeper@juno.com
Kevin Sauder	309-925-2409	309-925-2409	ksss@dpc.net

Mexico Board Work Teams

*Orphanage
Casa De Elizabeth*

*Imuris, Sonora, Mexico
- 40 mi. south of Nogales*

**June 4-9
June 11-15**

Contact:

Bro. Dick Beery
(602) 266-1517 - evening
(602) 625-7244 - days (cell)

Bro. Jerry Tooley
(480) 460-4531 - evening
(602) 256-2664 - work

ATTENTION... All CAMP PICKET Veterans 20th Bi-annual Reunion

**June 30, 2001
Peoria, IL**

If you haven't received notification in the mail, or you know of someone who hasn't received notification, please contact:

**Wayne Wieland
11900 N Windcrest Ct
Dunlap, IL 61525
(309) 243-5802**

MEXICO WORKTEAMS 2001

CONSTRUCTION

RIO BRAVO - ICCD
*(International Christian Center
for the Deaf)*

June 16-23

Contact Bro. Joe Maller
219-565-3211

MEDICAL TEAMS 2001

**JUAREZ or
COPPER CANYON
August 29 - Sept. 5**

Contact Sis. Cheryl Herrmann
309-385-1082

- NOTICE -

Repair and Distribution of
Worn Bibles,
Bible Story Books,
Hymns of Zion,
Tabernacle or Gospel Hymn
Books

WE DO NOT ACCEPT ZION'S
HARP HYMNALS SINCE WE DO
NOT HAVE ANY PLACE TO DIS-
TRIBUTE THEM.

Please get your books to us or
the Goodfield World Relief Cen-
ter.

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

Apostolic Christian Counseling Services

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

877-370-9988 (toll free)

*Counseling for depression, anxi-
ety, relationship problems, etc...*

- Information about mental health issues and relationship problems
- Referrals to qualified mental health professionals in your area
- Telephone consultations with a counselor
- Staffed by professional counselors and registered nurses
- All calls are strictly confidential

USED EYEGLASSES ARE NEEDED FOR FREE IXTLAN CLINIC

A free eye clinic is being estab-
lished in Ixtlan, Mexico, by Bros.
Dr. Loren Schrenk and Dr.
Bryan Stoller. Used eyeglasses
are needed to support this effort.
Please send your used prescrip-
tion eyeglasses (with cases if
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 three
\$2,000.00 scholarships to stu-
dents enrolled in undergraduat
or postgraduate work leading to
degree in a social services field.
The scholarships are available to
any member of the Apostolic
Christian Church or friend who
attends on a regular basis. A de-
scription of the scholarship and
application are available by writ-
ing or calling Bill Eisenmann at
219-627-2159. Applications need
to be returned to Gateway Woods

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

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

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

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

To order, contact,
Apostolic Christian Church
Bible Distribution
PO Box 30
1254 S. Main Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
Phone and Fax 219/824-5587
E-mail: biblelist@parlorcity.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY IN CHILD SPONSORSHIP OFFICE

The World Relief Child Sponsorship program has an opportunity for a Brother or Sister to serve the Lord as a volunteer in the Morton, IL office. This program was started over three years ago and is in a continual state of growth, therefore volunteers are continually being added. Our goal is to never have to ask a volunteer to come more than once per week and usually never more than 4 or 5 hours at a time. All volunteers must be computer literate and have some knowledge of accounting. If this is something you feel you would be qualified at, and feel led by the Lord to offer your services in this way, please contact the Child Sponsorship office during normal business hours at (309) 266-6080.



Alternate Houseparents Needed

Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessing of being fully staffed with Houseparents. At this time, however, we are experiencing a staff opening. Bro. Chuck and Sis. Naomi Wiegand have recently returned to Colorado where they are expecting their fourth child. This offers an opportunity for a couple, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time ongoing ministry at Gateway Woods. This position offers 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.

Ed Graf
Child Care Supervisor
P.O. Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 627-2159
Ed.graf@gatewaywoods.org

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd
New Haven, IN 46774
(219) 493-6711
lynnstieg@lightdog.com

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two or three weeks ago. I was in town and waiting in line and there was a man there that I have known; very kind, gentle man from the town of Bluffton. I don't know that he has ever set foot into our church, but he is probably seventy years old. He knows people and he loves people and he watches people.

He said, "Ed, I want to tell you something. I have had the opportunity of spending a lot of time with people from your church. In fact, many times during the course of a week, I spend breakfast time with a lot of men from your church." He said, "In the course of all these years that I have spent with your people, I have never ever heard them say any-

thing out of the ordinary, no bad jokes, or no bad language. They are clean-cut, they are well mannered and they are Godly men. I think you need to know that."

He said, "Here in Bluffton you hear a lot of things about the Apostolic Christian Church.

I think you deserve to know what I think of your church. People can say what they want to say, but I will tell you this, you don't need to listen to them." He said, "The fact is if you want to listen to them, I just recommend you just all move out of Bluffton and let's just see how quick the town of Bluffton goes down hill."

Now this is a man who has given us a sales pitch and he is not even a

part of our church. He has never even been there, but he was telling me what he understood and what he thought. You know, it is true. We belong to something that is really, really precious. Why? For a lot of reasons. I can give you one hundred and you can think of five hundred. A lot of reasons. We are here for a reason. We are part of this body for a reason. It is where we need to be. It is where God has placed us here in the body.





Bro. Samuel Froehlich, in responding to God's call, has begun preaching, and encounters both joys and sorrows — but he continues on. Remarks by Henry Michel in 1947 follow:

Once he came to a beautiful green valley, the valley where the famous Swiss cheese is made, Emmental.

About five hundred came together at one time. He preached, and do you know how long? For three hours about John 16:7! After three hours, they had supper, and after supper he started again. The result was a movement, an extraordinary movement, and the church that was then founded is still existing. But the police came in that evening and gave him 24 hours to leave the country. The old man who had invited him to his place was named Gerber. There are many Gerbers here. He took him in his carriage to the border of the county. They took leave and he said, "I am sorry that you have to go."

On Samuel Froehlich's passport, which he had to have, they put in red ink the remark: "This man is a terrible sectarian, a very dangerous man. Every policeman who sees this man should put him in jail, or chase him out of the country." In one town — it was the town where I started to preach — the preacher said in church on the Sunday following Samuel's visit, "A terrible, terrible, thing happened to our town; the most terrible epidemic, sickness or plague could not be worse than what has happened. This sectarian family called Samuel Froehlich came to our town. Behave and be careful; he is a terrible man."

Three days later a big fire started on one end of the town, and the whole town except two houses disappeared. Included in the destruction was the

church. It was the biggest fire disaster that ever took place in Switzerland, and the church where it had been said that the most terrible catastrophe that could happen would be better than the coming of the sectarian, was gone.

So from one town to the other the Gospel came, and joy came. The papers were full of this. They spoke of this man as the most dangerous man, and he was chased from one place to the other. He could never travel in the day time, but at night so he would not be seen. But the more they tried to punish him and persecute him, the more they advertised the cause for which he was striving and everybody was speaking and everybody was wondering, "What is the reason of this persecution?" And the people who came to see generally came and found peace and joy.

Worship in Homes

Just to give you an example of what happened: Remember, it was forbidden to preach in houses. If somebody would preach in a house, the preacher would go to jail, and the proprietor of the house also. So it happened in one place that he had meetings for a few evenings. There was an old man who was put in jail and came before the judge. The judge said, "What is the idea? We have a church; why have church in your house? Don't you think it is better to go to church? What is the difference in the preaching in the church and in your house?"

This old man said, "Oh, certain differences; do you want to know?" "Surely I want to know!" "Oh, the same difference as between day and night, or between life and death." "Oh, you don't want to say there is such a difference?" "Surely." "Now

explain why." "Now you see, I am old man; see my hair? I went to church all my life and nothing stirred in my soul. I went in and went out and that wasn't much change. So I think that what I heard there was just chaff. Now we had a few meetings in my house and I heard the message of this man, and something is stirring, growing, working in my heart. My whole heart is drastically changed for I think that this man has been casting out good seed, and not chaff." That is what he said, and he was sent to jail because that was an offense to the church. So he went from house to house and village to village, and the number of the believers was growing.

Church Growth

Are you interested in knowing how many congregations existed after ten years of this missionary work? For ten congregations with a few hundred believers in six years, in spite of the most terrible persecutions!

Growth continues

Now in 1840 — that is 15 years after he started — there were 55 congregations; ten years later there were more, that makes 110. So in 35 years of missionary work, they have built with the help of God, 110 congregations. Is that not wonderful? Do you not think it is a wonderful result? They were so joyful although they were terribly persecuted.

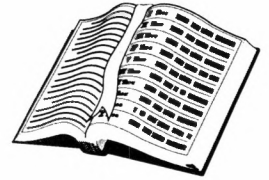
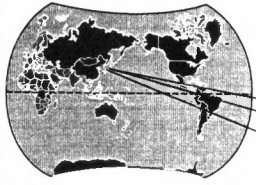
*By: Perry A. Klopfenstein
Gridley, IL*

Next Issue:

More preaching and more persecution. The work continues.

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



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“You Have An Anchor”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

On January 17, 2000, Dr. Watanabe walked into my hospital room and said to me in English, “I regret to inform you that you have cancer of the prostate.” I stopped eating my evening meal long enough to ask, “What’s my PSA?”, a reading which indicates the number of cancer cells in the blood stream. Now, my cancer is in remission and I hope to keep it there through nutrition and exercise.

I have three books on prostate cancer which were given to me. I was reading in one of them recently, a very voluminous book, and noticed that a great deal is written about the serious effect this type of cancer has on both the husband and the wife. There were many testimonies of depression and despair. I mentioned this to my wife, Lois, and she responded to the effect that if you are not a Christian, a child of God, it is much more difficult. Immediately, into my mind, popped the phrase, “You have an

anchor.”

The word “anchor” is found in two places in the King James Bible: in Hebrews 6:19, 20, and in Acts 27:30. In Hebrews we read, “Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul,” and in Acts we read, “Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day.” The former speaks of having hope in Jesus Christ which serves as an anchor, and the latter speaks of Paul’s shipwreck. It is interesting in the latter quotation that they cast out the anchors and wished for the day, spiritually speaking for us, they rested in Christ the best they could and waited for the dawning of a new day, in a better world.

It is true that faith in God, in Christ, and in the Holy Spirit, serves as an anchor in our lives, which is especially noticeable when we encounter a storm. This anchor helps to hold us steady, albeit, we may toss about a bit

from the strong winds.

We have a hymn entitled, “The Haven of Rest” which reads in part, “I’ve anchored my soul in the ‘Haven of Rest’, I’ll sail the wide seas no more.” This idea of having an anchor implies stability, steadfastness, and faithfulness. It reminds me of I Corinthians 15:58, “Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.”

I once saw a poster which showed a big ship anchored in a harbor and it read, “Ships are safe in the harbor but that’s not what ships are made for.” Ships are made for sailing the seas and we also, are called upon to be the salt of the earth. One good thing about the spiritual life is that we can stay anchored in Jesus while sailing on the stormy sea of life.

As we observe Father’s Day, let’s remember that we fathers, also, are to serve as an anchor for the rest of the family.

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*Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes;
cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgement;
relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.*

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