



# *The Silver Lining*

*The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the Word of our God shall stand forever.*

July 2001

## “WE HAVE TO HUMBLE OURSELVES”

Sermon by Bro. Steve Sauder, Tremont, IL  
John 12:27-50

The setting here is right before the crucifixion. Perhaps you read this just a few weeks ago, but isn't it always appropriate? Even if we would read of the last hours of Christ's life and read it daily, it would be appropriate because as His time drew short, He spoke of very important things.

He said, "Father, save me from this hour:" John 12:27. We feel He was human, and wouldn't we if we knew we were heading to the cross? If we knew that this was our end, wouldn't we plead with the Father to save us? Yet, He realized that this is why He came. He said, "I came on this earth to save sinners." Then He gives us an example back to the Old Testament. It is always amazing how the two tied together and how Christ so often referred to the Old Testament. We can think about this a little bit because in case there are doubts in our minds or in case it is hard for us to believe.

We are given a wonderful mind. We have been created that way and we can think very quickly. At times it is just hard to accept that we are sinners because we are told in school and we are continually told that we are intelligent. We are reminded of the wonderful things that man can do and we start to forget as a people in general. As for the population, we start to forget. Really, we were just created sinners. That is our natural state, and that our natural state is not good. So we forget that we have a need and even when we get into trouble. Even if we get in trouble with the law or in trouble in marriage or in trouble of all kinds of

personal problems, it is still very difficult to admit that our problem is sin and we are in need of a Saviour.

The people in Old Testament times had that same problem but we can look back in the old books that were written thousands and thousands of years ago by different authors, completely different authors. We should ask ourselves, "What did the old writers say? What did the old Scripture say? Did they say that man needed a Saviour?" Let's look. It talks about how Christ said, "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out." John 12:31. First of all, we know who that was. That was the devil, the evil one, the deceiver, the murderer, the liar, this is Satan and he wants our doom. That is his goal. All of his energy is put forth to that purpose that we would be doomed.

But Christ said, "Now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:31-32. What is He referring to? I believe He is referring back into Numbers. Let me read a few verses where it talks of this same thing and we can see proof therefore that the Word is one. For untold generations and thousands from the millennium, thousands of years before, it was written that there is coming One who will be lifted up and He will be a Saviour.

The setting is back in Numbers when the children of Israel were walking through the desert, and they were like we are today. They started mumbling and murmur-

ing because they did not have water. They didn't have food and they didn't like their bread and they couldn't figure out why they were out there. They thought that God had left them.

God was so displeased with their murmuring that He sent serpents among them, little fiery snakes, and they crawled in

*Sermon continued on page 45*

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

## Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

July 2001

### Delayed Blessings

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness..." (II Pet. 3:9). The scripture contains many promises that God has made to His people. To a child of God, these promises are comforting. However, to the unconverted many of God's promises are distressing. Although some of the promises have come to pass and are understandable, others are somewhat mysterious and have not yet been fulfilled. Nevertheless, one thing is certain: all of God's promises will be fulfilled in His good time.

We are living in a time when patience and a willingness to wait are not among our strengths. Many, if not nearly all, people in America have reached the point where they expect instant service. We have fast food restaurants, fast credit banks, automatic teller service to get money from our bank accounts, almost instant entertainment, instant information through the internet and a variety of other services instantly available.

We do not want to wait on anything. Even the short wait at a traffic light causes some to express impatience. But the Lord still operates on His time table, requiring us to approach Him in a manner that may be different from what we are accustomed to doing.

Many places in the scripture we are encouraged to slow down and to learn patience. Interestingly, we are instructed by the Apostle Paul as he lists the fruits of the Spirit, that there is no law against long-suffering.

When God pronounced a curse upon the serpent, He made a promise to Adam and Eve, and hence to each of us, that He would "...put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Gen. 3:15). As evidence of God's patience, His promise of a Saviour was not fulfilled until approximately 4000 years later. To mankind, it seemed like a long time in coming. To God, the Saviour came at just the right time.

There are numerous promises given to those who wait patiently. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as

eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Is. 40:31). The rewards of waiting are made clear in another of Isaiah's writings "...Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation" (Is. 25:9).

David also teaches us a lesson on patience. "I waited patiently for the Lord, and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry" (Ps. 40:1), and "My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning..." (Ps. 130:6).

Although David understood the value of waiting on the Lord, at times his patience also was tried. "How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?" (Ps. 13:1). "I am weary of my crying: my throat is dried: mine eyes fail while I wait for my God" (Ps. 69:3).

Occasionally, Jesus required those who followed Him to learn the value of waiting for God's time to act. Perhaps one of the more trying times of waiting was the time of Lazarus' death when Christ could have easily gone to Judea earlier and cured him. Because Jesus chose to wait until Lazarus died before He went, both Mary and Martha were heartbroken, and said exactly the same words to Him after He arrived. "...Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died" (Jn. 11:21 & 32). The events that occurred during the period of waiting (Lazarus' death and burial) were not only difficult for Mary and Martha, but they were also difficult for Jesus. It would have been easier for Him to have gone earlier and spared His friends of their grief.

It was not in the long term best interest for Jesus to have gone earlier because there was much to learn by waiting. Jesus told His disciples "And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe;..." (Jn. 11:15). If Jesus would have healed Lazarus before his death, the impact of the miracle would undoubtedly have been lessened. Raising him from the dead was a much more profound miracle, and therefore, the delayed blessings that Mary and Martha received have been a powerful lesson for generations to follow.

The delayed blessings received from waiting are not always immediately evident. Shortly before Christ's trial and death, He took Peter, James and John to a separate place where He could pray for strength to fulfill His mission. Three times He left these three disciples to wait while He went and prayed. All three times they fell asleep. Christ said unto them "...What, could you not watch with me one hour?" (Mt. 26:40). Undoubtedly, this experience was a very humbling one for those disciples and it helped them to realize that of their own strength they could do nothing, not even stay awake. They would need this lesson of relying on strength from God many times later as they spread the gospel.

In the early Christian church, the Apostles were promised that they would be baptized with the Holy Ghost and were instructed to go to Jerusalem to wait for the promise to be fulfilled. They were in one accord, waiting patiently for the promise to be kept. As they waited "...suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind ... and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost..." (Acts 2:2&4). What would have happened to the Apostles if they would have become too impatient to wait upon the Lord? They may have missed the opportunity to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Many more examples could be cited from the scriptures that would show us the benefits of being willing to wait for the Lord to send His blessings when He was ready.

We face many pressures in our daily walk of life that tend to make us grow impatient when we are required to wait. Although we may find that there are some material benefits to the rapid pace we face in society, to gain the spiritual benefits we need, the scripture encourages us to "Be still, and know that I am God..." (Ps. 46:10). As Elijah was seeking assurance that God was still available to help His people, it was necessary for him to wait quietly until the strong wind passed, the earthquake ended and the fire burned and then he heard the Lord in "...a still small voice" (I Ki. 19:12). God's blessings are never late, but sometimes we must be willing to wait for them.

An editorial committee of elder brothers is preparing articles for this section of the Silver Lining to address some of the special needs of our times. Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to: Silver Lining Editorials, RR 2 Box 50, Roanoke, IL 61561.





## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

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

### Brethren Attend Two Dedications in Europe

In May, 2001 three Elder Brothers and their wives from the USA traveled to Europe on a Mission Committee trip. They were Peter and Marian Petrovic from San Diego, Gene and Mary Marti from Kansas City, and Roy and Dona Grimm from Taylor. The purpose of the trip was to attend two church dedications, and meet with brethren from the various countries which receive assistance from the World Relief Committee as well as the Mission Committee.

They arrived in Budapest on Friday morning, May 18. They were met at the airport by Hungarian brethren, and taken to the Budapest church where they stayed overnight.

### Saturday, May 19

After breakfast, they left in two vans for a short visit to Slovakia. The brethren reached the Slovakian border in about two hours, and crossed with only minor delays. They reached the church at Bernolakovo about 11:00 AM. They had a worship service conducted by Bro. Roy in English and translated into the local language.

Following a noon meal, the group met with Elder Jan Zibritovski and discussed their needs. Only eight young people have jobs, and the remainder are older persons. They have very few converts. They are faced with higher utility costs as we are here in the States. Much of their pension is used just to cover these expenses. We do send them some assistance and intend to increase this as it is needed.

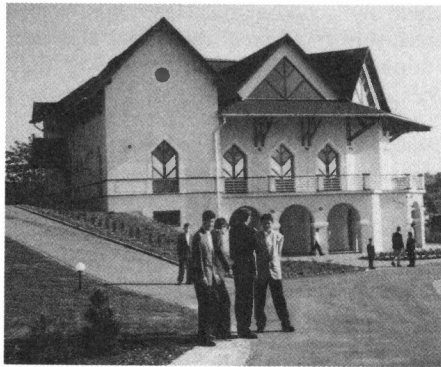
About 3:15 PM the group began their return trip to Budapest. There was a singing in the church in the evening, but they were able to get to bed by 9:45. It had been a very productive day.

### Sunday, May 20

The group departed for Szentantalfa at 5:45 AM. This was dedication day for a new church that was made possible by the generous gifts and contributions of our US brethren.

It was a beautiful morning for travel, and they arrived at the church about 8:00 AM. Breakfast was waiting for the visitors, who came from many different congregations.

Services began about 9:00 AM with Elders Janos Papp and Ferenc Kovacs delivering the message of dedication. This is always the first service held in a new building.



Church in Szentantalfa, Hungary  
Made possible by your gifts and support

Following the worship service there was a report on the history of the congregation plus a financial report. The town mayor was present and made some very nice remarks.

Building costs were reported at about \$331,000, of which our American brethren and friends contributed \$180,000. These funds come from the European Church Building Fund, administered by the Mission Committee in conjunction with the European Board.

There was a tour of the building, and after a singing, lunch was served. Following lunch, our brethren met with the Hungarians to discuss some

matters in which we work together.

There was more beautiful singing and the afternoon service started at 4:00 PM. In accordance with an agreement made some years ago, the Hungarians had the scripture reading, prayer, and a brief meditation. All three of the Americans were then asked to speak with Hungarian brother Zoltan Szabo serving as translator. There was a closing prayer and hymns, followed by other remarks, greetings, and announcements.

There was a short recess and then singing at 6:00 PM, followed by an evening meditation and more singing. This was beautiful and very impressive.

The group finally left Szentantalfa and arrived back in their rooms in Budapest at 11:50 PM. It was quite a long day, and they were tired but very inspired. The weather was just about perfect. It was 1:00 AM before they got to bed, but they knew they did not need to start early in the morning.

### Monday, May 21

The weary travelers could sleep in this morning, since breakfast was at 9:30 AM in the apartment of Peter and Erika Gal which is across the courtyard from the church building.

Following breakfast the Hungarians took our group to view a site where they may possibly build a rest home sometime in the future. They stopped at a home of one of the brethren for lunch, and then toured the city of Budapest. This is an interesting city with a long history.

Supper was served in the church, and then there was a meeting with the local brethren concerning the ongoing work in Hungary. Some of our brethren took a night tour of Budapest. This is a beautiful sight. The others were glad to just rest because there was a full schedule for the next day.

(TO BE CONTINUED)





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

## Opportunity to Serve Others



### Tornado Disaster Recovery in Pontotoc, Mississippi

On Saturday, February 24, 2001 a tornado packing winds of more than 140 miles/hour cut a 1 mile wide and 24 mile long path of destruction across Pontotoc County. The tornado killed six people, injured dozens more, destroyed 93 houses and damaged over 200 other homes and buildings in Pontotoc, the county seat. One person described the area as looking "like an atomic bomb hit it."

### Your help is needed

Emergency relief organizations responded immediately. Months later, this small devastated community is now faced with tremendous recovery efforts.



The World Relief Disaster Committee is planning to build three homes for families that had their houses completely destroyed. Construction started in June 2001.

One of the families selected for a new house lost their only child, a 10 year old son, to the storm. This work project is a wonderful opportunity to communicate the love of Christ to three families in need... and build lasting friendships with those that you work with.

### What type of work will you do?

We need all different levels of volunteer help, from first timers to experienced carpenters. Several different activities are available: Foundations, concrete, framing, roofing, siding, hanging drywall, stripping, mudding, painting, wallpaper, carpet, trimwork, hanging doors and helping with electrical, HVAC, and plumbing subcontractors.

We are not required to have state licensed craftsmen. This enables us to use our own volunteers in any craft when needed.

### Where will you stay?

We have use of a gymnasium for housing volunteers at no cost. There are separate rooms and showers for men and women. Volunteers should bring their own linens & towels.

For those who prefer not to stay in the gymnasium, arrangements have been made for volunteers at the Pontotoc Inn. A special room rate of \$40.66 (including tax) per night for rooms with two double beds was negotiated. This price does not include breakfast. There are a number of good restaurants and fast food businesses close by.

### Suggested items to bring

1. Plenty of work clothes.
2. Tools
  - a. Hammer
  - b. Leather apron
  - c. Measuring tape
  - d. Utility knife
3. Clothes for after work to go out to eat.
4. Money for meals or anything extra.
5. Song books, Bible.
6. Linens & towels if staying in the gymnasium.

## Who to Contact

### Volunteer Coordinator

Harold Steiner  
312 N. Creek Ct.  
Princeville, IL 61559  
(309) 385-2122 Phone  
(309) 385-1656 Fax  
hsteiner@hotmail.com

### On-Site Coordinator

Ron Hodel  
334 Hwy 15 South, Apt. 12  
Pontotoc, MS 38863  
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(662) 488-9201 Fax  
(662) 488-6782 Mobile  
rhhodel@attglobal.net

### Pontotoc Inn

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Pontotoc, MS 38863  
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(662) 489-8418 Fax

### World Relief Disaster Work Project Contacts

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Jerome Witzig  
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foxrun@mtco.com



## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

*Colossians 3:15*

What is the peace of God? Does it have to be calm and quiet for there to be peace?

As we observe the residents in our facilities, at times it seems anything but calm and quiet. At the same time we recognize that many of the residents have an inner peace and a simple trust.

How thankful are we?

Our level of thankfulness is determined by our expectation of what we deserve from others. When we are thankful to God, we show Him that we know we do not deserve the love and forgiveness He gives us but we accept it and appreciate it. We are thankful for all of the volunteers who have given of themselves for the sake of those who live at the Home. We know we do not deserve it, but we accept it, appreciate it and we are sincerely thankful. May the Lord reward you for your labors of love.

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;"

*1 Thess. 1:2*

We had a volunteer dinner on June 1 as a token of our thanks to those who have given time and talent over the last two years. We enjoyed the fellowship with those who could make it, and missed those who could not attend.

Activities for the month included a Six Flags trip, a piano recital, Bible studies, bowling, Special Olympics, swimming, going to parks, etc.

AUGUST birthdays at Timber Ridge at 2124 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Eric Ringwald (4), Susie Landis (5), Martha Clymer (6), Nancy Eschmann (12), Shirley Pfeifer (23), Barbara Perkins (30) and Christopher Loughe (31).

At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Dan McDonough (2).

At 1001 E. Idlewood, Morton, IL 61550: Wayne Leman (12).

At 208 S. Indiana, Morton, IL 61550: Steven Holmes (18).

## GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

**Laura Siegle**

School is out and the summer is here! There are a lot of changes that summer brings to us here at Gateway Woods, especially as I look at my own life. After spending a little over a year as an Assistant Houseparent, I have felt God leading me to teach at the Gateway Woods School. We appreciate Sis. Judy Gehring's willingness to transfer from the Plattner House to the Meister House as Assistant Houseparent. The Lord has also led Bro. Erik and Sis. Carrie Wiegand from Goodfield, IL, to be our new Alternate Houseparents. For this we give thanks to God. We are also very thankful for Sis. Chelby Kaeb from Bloomington, IL, who will be the Assistant Houseparent for the Plattner House. We welcome all of our new staff with thanksgiving!

Our on-grounds school is also going through a lot of change. Sis. Melissa Bussel, Sis. Janice Anliker, Sis. Jodie Schlipf, and Sis. Erica Schambach are leaving — we appreciate the time God has given us with them and wish them His blessings as they move on to what He has planned for them. We are excited about the hiring of Sis. Deb

Graf as the Teacher's Aide for this fall; however, we still have a need for two more teachers. Please join us in prayer as we wait for God to bring the people He wants here in His perfect time. He is always faithful!

On May 18, we had our annual Gateway Woods Recognition Dinner hosted at the Leo church this year. We thank Bro. Bill (Sis. Joan) Schick from Washington, IL, and Bro. Dan (Sis. Shirley) Steiner from Tremont, IL, for their labors of love as they ended their 5-year term as Board Members. New board members are Bro. Steve (Sis. Bonnie) Kaeb from Cissna Park, IL, and Bro. Keith (Sis. Ruth) Herrmann from Princeville, IL. We appreciate their willingness to serve and pray God will bless them for giving of themselves.

We welcome Randy Fessenden from Chicago who will be teaching at the Gateway Woods School this summer. We are thankful for Bro. Doug Brewer from Peoria who will also be with us this summer as our Summer Volunteer Coordinator. We have been blessed this month with the following volunteers: Bro. David Sceggel (Peoria), Bro. Brian Knudstrup (Alto), Bro. Clint Fiechter (Bluffton), Bro. Jon Stoller (Latty), Sis. Elise Maller, Sis. Faith Clough, Sis. Kristen Fiechter (Bluffton) and Bro. Ryan and Sis. Joy Hoerr (Peoria). We appreciate their willingness to give of their time.

We have had several residents leave us this past month. We said good-bye to Debra H. from the Meister House, Tracy M. from the Plattner House, and Jason W., Leah G., Larissa E., and Jessica C. from the Lehman House. We wish all of them God's blessings and hope and pray they will remember the Truth they have been taught while here. We also welcome Keith C. to the Meister House. Bro. Andy

and Sis. Jill Lehman and big brother Trevor welcome God's precious gift of Haley Rae to their family. Haley was born May 26.

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

It is summer time here in Athens and we are in our summer mode. This is a time that lets us catch up on some of the much needed things that never seem to get done during the regular school year. Thanks to many volunteers that have already been here, and to more that are scheduled to come, these things are getting done. God is so good to us, the blessings can't be numbered. Along with the work getting done, it gives our staff the opportunity to renew old friendships and to make new ones with those that are coming for the first time. We send a hearty welcome to one and all that may be thinking of coming to see what we do here at the Preschool.

The summer months have fewer children than during the regular school year. Some of the parents are able to stay at home with their children, others have older siblings and they can stay with them. The ones that do come enjoy hearing and learning about Jesus and singing the little songs that we love to hear them sing. The classes are less structured and teachers can spend more time on helping those that have special needs. During the heat of the day, we let them go into wading pools to cool off; this is the highlight of their day.

The staff wants all that have been here thus far to know that each one of you was appreciated and again, thank you! Please remember us in your prayers, we are so dependent upon God to show us the right way to go with these little

ones. May it be that the thoughts planted into these little hearts and minds today bring forth lives of commitment to God as these little ones grow to be adults. We welcome any inquiries or comments concerning the Preschool. Please feel free to call us at (256) 233-0591 or (256) 232-0037. Our e-mail address is apostolicpreschool@juno.com.

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**ALABAMA, ATHENS**  
**Joan Reinhard**  
**Louise Hall**

We had a wonderful weekend during the Memorial Day Weekend. We had an attendance of about 350 people and had around 33 different churches represented. We had a beneficiary auction on Saturday, and then a supper and singing Saturday evening. Then Sunday, we gathered for church in Athens and Nashville, and then met back at the Tennessee Fellowship Area for supper and an afternoon and evening of singing and service to praise and worship God. The weather was beautiful and the blessings of the Lord seemed very evident as we enjoyed a weekend of fellowship, praise, and worship of Him. We appreciate the willingness of Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), and Bros. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) as they shared the services during the weekend. Our topic of unity was well presented and we hope to put into practice what we heard. We wish to thank each one who made the effort to come and be with us, and a special thanks to the Peoria group for being in charge and serving the meals. The Athens sisters commented over and over, how enjoyable it was to be able to sit and relax during the weekend. If you weren't

able to come this year, maybe you can make plans to be with us next year. We'd love to have you.

We had some other visitors this month from Bloomington, IL, and Bluffton North, IN, and we are always thankful for those who come and worship with us.

During Adult Sunday School this month, we have been talking and studying about the topic of forgiveness. How thankful we are that God, because of Jesus, can and will forgive us. How much more should we be willing to forgive others. "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Matt. 6:14-15)

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**ARIZONA, PHOENIX**  
**Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

*John 14:6*

The theme for our Vacation Bible School was "Are You Endeavoring To Find The Way?" Bros. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Tom Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) brought us interesting messages on how to keep from straying from the way, including more Bible reading, living closer to God, memorizing Scripture.

Our Sunday School children shared their happy learning time in a program on Sunday after church. May God bless all the teachers and workers who labored to teach our children the way.

When Sis. Clara Banwart (Bro. Floyd) recently celebrated her 90th birthday, many of their Phoenix church friends, of years, trav-



eled to Tucson to rejoice with Sis. Clara and her family. She expressed her thanks for your visits, cards, gifts, money and prayers. Our ties with our Lord truly keep us a close knit family. God bless you now and forever.

Our sympathy to Bro. Jacob and Sis. Wanda Hoerr and family on the death of her mother, Sis. Millie Huber, on June 16. They arrived at Francesville in time for a last farewell. We extend condolences to other relatives here also.

Sis. Johanna Knochel, Sis. Cathy Labudde, Bro. John Kaufman and Bro. Ron Hoerr have all needed an extra portion of God's loving care.

Let's all try to recapture God's love that is missing.

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### ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

#### Jane Hodges

Bro. Henry Volz remains in the VA extended care facility in Prescott and has been unable to assemble with us. He is hoping to move to another care center soon.

Our annual corn-on-the-cob picnic is planned for Saturday, August 18. The Granite Creek Park ramada area has been reserved for us from 3-10 p.m. Anyone visiting in AZ at the time is welcome to come and fellowship with us. Contact one of the Prescott brethren for more details.

In the last report, I inadvertently missed mentioning Bros. Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN) and Jim Koehl (San Diego, CA) who ministered to our congregation on the same Sunday the end of April. Our ministering brothers the last month included Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Bros. Ken Lawson, James Emch and Herb Knochel Jr., all from Phoenix. We appreciate so much their willingness to serve us and the Lord.

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### ARIZONA, TUCSON

#### Lisa Knapp

Bro. Bob and Sis. Carole Haas welcomed a granddaughter on May 23. Greta Lorene Haas was born to thankful parents, Tedd and Kay Haas. We ask God's blessing on Tedd and Kay as they seek to raise their precious little girl.

Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich spent Sunday, June 3, with us ministering to us and also attending the 90th birthday celebration for Sis. Clara Banwart that was held that afternoon. Many thanks to Bro. Jon for his efforts and many happy returns to Sis. Clara. We pray God will bless them both abundantly!

We are enjoying spending time with Bro. Norm and Sis. Jan Rechkemmer (Roanoke, IL) who normally spend their winters with us but decided to see what our June weather was like. They are welcome anytime!

We look forward to Vacation Bible School starting June 26. We are having a "vacation" from Fellowship Suppers and Sunday School during the months of June and July. Both will resume in August.

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### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

#### Jim Klotzle

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him."

*Psalm 28:7*

Because we put our heart's trust in the Lord and His strength, we are continually helped by Him. Thus our joy in Him should be continual as He continually helps us.

Ministering Bro. Loren

Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and his family visited us this month. We thank him for serving us on the pulpit. Their daughter, Sis. Rachel, plans to further her education in southern California and we look forward to her worshipping with us.

We were doubly blessed with two visiting ministers at mid-week services on June 20. Bros. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) and Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) shared God's Word and inspirations with us. It was a blessed evening and we thank them for visiting us. We surely enjoy visitors and encourage all who travel this way to come and worship with us.

On June 3, we had a picnic in a mountain campground following afternoon services. Our thanks to all who attended and those who provided food and transportation.

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### CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

#### Peggy Jevremov

Our summer has finally arrived and with that comes the blessings of summer visitors once again. We were thankful to have ministering Bro. Jim Meiss (Sis. Cindy) and their family among our visitors this past month. We pray the Lord will bless Bro. Jim for his willingness to share God's Word with us.

Our Elder Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian returned safely from their trip with the Mission Committee to Eastern Europe. They visited the countries of Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Croatia. While there, they attended the dedication services of two churches that were built with the assistance of American mission and world relief funds. This past Sunday evening they shared with us their slides from their trip. It certainly made us more aware of the living conditions of our brethren.

ren over there. Let us not fail to remember them in our prayers.

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### KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

#### Nathan Reutter

Greetings, brethren, in the name of the Lord Jesus. We have had a relatively quiet month.

We had four visiting ministers this month. They were as follows: Bros. Dave Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron, OH), Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT), Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI) and Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA). The Lord has heard our prayers for faithful ministers to come and help our Bro. Mike Ursu. (Matthew 9:37-38)

We also sang at two nursing homes this month. It is always a joy to sing and visit with those who cannot go in and out as we can. We are trying to fulfill the part of Scripture which tells us to comfort the feeble minded.

We also appreciated the efforts of Bro. Vinny and Sis. Justine Piticaru as they hosted the church for a singing this month. It is always a blessing to sing precious hymns with brethren, whether in a nursing home or in the home of brethren.

Thus ends our news. Yet we pray for God's blessings upon you and a rich measure of God's grace upon you as you strive to overcome this evil world.

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### COLORADO, DENVER

#### Mike and Heather Katanic

This past month we held a picnic in Winter Park honoring our graduating 8th graders: Whitney Steffen, Joel Leman, Benjamin Martin and LeAnn Henry.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Verne and Sis. Leona Lehman as

her brother, Norbert Brown (Lafayette, IN), passed away. Our sympathy also goes to our Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) whose father, Bro. Ed, passed away.

We welcome Bro. Norm and Sis. Eleanor Geyer back for the summer months.

We will miss Bro. Doug Mangers as his work project here is finished and he is planning on moving to New Hampshire and will be worshipping with the Rockville, CT, church.

Visiting and ministering to us this month were Bros. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL). We appreciate their service.

*Just a reminder:* on the second Saturday of each month we have a singing at the church at 7:00. All are encouraged to join us in singing praises to God.

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### CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE

#### Cherie Galat

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

*Genesis 2:18*

Believing it is the Lord's will, the engagement of Bro. Andrew Luginbuhl (Bro. Ken and Sis. Kay) and Sis. Colleen Ryan (Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl) was made known unto us. May He guide them as they plan in the days ahead.

John Sawka and Janelle Luginbuhl were joined as husband and wife on June 9. Parents are Michael and Barbara Sawka and Bro. Chet and Sis. Pam Luginbuhl. As they walk this pathway together, may they seek the guidance of our

Father for future direction in their lives.

Two dear families have been blessed with bundles of joy. On June 8, Elsa Elizabeth was born to Bro. John and Sis. Erin Hoffman. Samantha now has a precious sister to love. Grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella Hoffman and John and Gail Doyle. Also on June 8, Katrina Rose was born to Bro. Kent and Sis. Karen Zahner. Grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally Zahner and Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Lou Goric. May God instill in the hearts of our parents the importance of teaching God's loving ways to these tender children.

We are thankful for the service of Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) in ministering the Word.

May we never forget to bow our heads in prayer and ask God to be with these dear brethren so that the truth will continue to be preached upon the pulpits of our beloved churches.

Our prayers are with our dear Sis. Esther Gruenig who was recently hospitalized. May God be with her and strengthen her.

It is that time of year again when loved ones graduate from high school: Heidi Ballasy (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jane), Joshua Ballasy (Keith and Suzanne), Erin Dombek (Robert, Sr. and Sis. Lorraine), Melissa Fellows (Gene and Marilyn), Daniel Gerber (Bro. Loren and Sis. Anne), Andrew Goric (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lynette), Keith Luginbuhl, Jr. (Bro. Keith and Sis. Linda), Kevin Luginbuhl (Bro. Richard and Sis. Susan), Frank Moser (Chris and Sis. Sue), Rosanna Schneider (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Tina) and Everett Skinner, Jr. (Everett and Sis. Sherry). Whether they continue to higher

schools of learning or seek a position in the workplace, may God lead them in the many decisions that face each one.

*Note of Thanks:*

In response to my 85th birthday, it was overwhelming. I received over 100 birthday cards, e-mail messages and well wishes. May God richly bless all efforts and prayers and words of encouragement offered me. Thanking all from the bottom of my heart. May the peace of God reign in our hearts.

*In Christian Love,*

*Bro. Wilbur Kloter (Sis. Florence)*

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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON  
Henrietta Meyer**

We are truly blessed to live in a country with so many freedoms. Our congregation is also blessed to be near our nation's capital with many opportunities for it's citizens to learn about our heritage. We have had many visitors already this tourist season and are looking forward to many more. Our visiting ministers the past month were Bros. Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Herb Knochel (Phoenix, AZ), Tom Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH) and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA). Other visitors this month were from Morton, Congerville, Eureka, Goodfield and Washington, IL. We are always glad for visitors.

This month we welcome Bro. Adam Hermann (Morton, IL) who will be working in this area this summer.

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. There are a few Sundays the next few months when we will be unable to meet at the hotel; please call one of the brothers listed below to find out the location of services.

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.

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**FLORIDA  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
Nancy Rocke**

Sis. Julie Heinold (LaCrosse, IN) is in Jacksonville, FL, doing an internship this summer. We are thankful to have her assemble with us. May we continue to remember Sis. Elsie Bolliger and Sis. Elena Zurz who spent some time in the hospital.

"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*

Tara Hohulin (Bro. Mike and Sis. Faye) graduated from 8th grade. We wish her God's blessings as she has reached this milestone in her life and pray that she will seek the Lord's direction in her life.

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves:

for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

*Hebrews 13:17*

May we pray fervently for our Elder brothers as they plan to meet in August, that God's will be done.

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**FLORIDA  
NORTH FORT MYERS  
Dorothy Beer**

Even though our church group is small, we are blessed with the promise in Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

With many of our church folks going on vacation, we are especially happy to have visitors, which we have almost every Sunday, to worship with us.

Our sympathy goes to Curt and Sis. Jane Huette, of our congregation, in the going home of his dear father, Bro. Art Huette, of Forrest, IL.

We were thankful to have Bro. Bill Gudeman (Sis. Evelyn, Elgin, IL) with us on May 27.

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**FLORIDA, SARASOTA  
Carol Koehl**

Our dear Sis. Julianna Kittl, age 92, laid down her armor on June 18 and went Home. She is survived by her husband, Bernard. Sis. Julianna's favorite hymn "Longing for the Homeland" was sung for her one more time at her funeral service. Our love and prayers are certainly with Bernie, as we know he will miss his helpmate of 62 years.

Many from Sarasota took the bus trip to Alabama over Memorial Day Weekend. Everyone had a



blessed time, and we hope this may become an annual tradition.

We wish to thank our visiting ministers for June: Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Bros. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL).

Sis. Lorene Maibach (Bro. Ben) had eye surgery this past month.

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## ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Sheila McCoy  
Doreen Moser**

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it..."

*Psalms 127:1*

We are a grateful congregation. We were able to assemble for our first service in our new church on May 27. We were reminded of this verse by our visiting minister, Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL).

Our other visiting ministers have been Bros. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL). Thanks for blessing us with your teachings.

Completing their formal years of education are Jonathan McCoy (David and Sis. Sheila), Shayna Mueller (Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene), Kenda Schifferer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Lana), and Jordan Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol). We pray they will remember the wisdom in Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

We are thankful Bro. Clint Heinold was willing to return to Belvidere to present a topical Bible Study on "Christian Leadership".

Belvidere and Goodfield Bible

Classes and several adult leaders were able to experience the blessings of a Jamaica work team. "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble." (Psalm 41:1)

Open house and dedication for our new church is scheduled for July 7-8.

When we celebrate July 4, let us be thankful for the religious freedom that is the first right guaranteed by our Constitution over 200 years ago. Even today, this is a rare privilege in many countries around the world. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion..." (Amendment 1 to the Constitution)

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6). Our new Sunday School teachers are Sis. Karen Wettstein - preschool; and Sis. Heidi Schock - 3rd-5th grades. Bro. Brent Knobloch will be a church trustee. May they feel God's blessings in their new duties for the Lord.

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## ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

**Dana Knapp  
Shawn Masters**

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

*Matthew 5:16*

The preceding verse was our theme verse for Vacation Bible School this year. We know the children as well as the entire congregation were greatly blessed by the week. We thank all those who did their part in making the week possible. A special thanks to our visiting ministers, Bros. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), Randy

Mogler (Washington, IL), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and John Stoller (Leo, IN).

On May 19, we were so very blessed to have Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) with us for the reading of the Memorandum. Special thanks to him and our entire Elder body for their words of exhortation.

We'd also like to thank all those who were able to worship with us this month. A special thanks to Elder Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and ministering Bros. David Marquart (Taylor, MO) and Victor Beer (North Fort Myers, FL).

The weekend of May 29 we were blessed by the testimonies and baptisms of four souls. They were Sis. Robin Cornejo (Bro. Ron and Sis. Donna Hodel), Bro. Bob Hany (Sis. Marilyn) and Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Jeanne Hofmann.

On June 14, Harrison Martin welcomed his new little sister, Davis Jo, into his family. Thankful parents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Kara Martin. Excited grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Jay Martin and Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon Menold (Princeville, IL).

May 19 was the wedding day for Stephanie Virgil (Bro. Steve and Sis. Bev) and Josh Heller. We wish them God's nearness in their new life together.

We'd like to extend our sympathy to Bro. Randy and Sis. Ann Anderson and their family at the death of Sis. Ann's father. May they feel the love of the true Comforter.

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## ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Chad and LauraLee Plattner

Our congregation had the privilege this month of witnessing the

baptism of three souls. We find it such an encouragement to have times like these. We pray that God will continue to bless the lives of Bro. Adam Endress (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky), Sis. Tonya and Bro. Lucas Gudeman (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa).

Visiting brothers which have been with us recently are Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Bros. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA) and Don Manz (Junction, OH). We know that God will be their Rewarder.

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

“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”

*Jeremiah 33:3*

Calling upon the Lord God in prayer was the overall theme of this year's Vacation Bible School which was entitled "Let Us Have A Little Talk With Jesus". Bro. Matt and Sis. Christine Ginzel coordinated the week's activities with each evening focusing on a different part of prayer: praise, thanksgiving, praying for others, and requests for our own personal needs. Scriptural examples such as David's Prayer (Psalm 51) and the Lord's Prayer were used. Crafts were coordinated by Sis. Wendy Waibel and also carried the prayer theme. The older students decorated bread boards with "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread" while the younger children decorated pillow cases with "Now I Lay Me

Down To Sleep". They also made World Relief kits of crayons, school supplies, hair needs, and small toys. Soap making was another popular activity, with some soap going home with the children and the rest going to local shelters. The students were kept very busy, as were their college-aged teachers and the supervising coordinators and parent volunteers. The Friday evening program of songs was held at a nursing home just down the street from our church. Residents there enjoyed the children's message of song. Many thanks to those who organized and presented the VBS week. Our children enjoyed learning about prayer, being together, doing for others, and having fun making crafts.

Bro. Melvin Walder recently spent a few days in the hospital. After undergoing some tests, he returned home where he is doing well. We are thankful that his health is intact.

Bro. Ken Weerts of Cissna Park was with us for a Sunday service. We appreciate his willingness to minister to us.

Just a couple of reminders: Champaign church does not have mid-week services or Sunday School in the month of August, and the New Student Welcome Sunday is scheduled for August 26. Students who plan to begin college here in the fall will receive information in the mail. Anyone having questions may contact one of the ministers.

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**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO  
Jill Rager**

In one of the sermons this past Sunday, the ministering brother related to us the idea that in our day - to - day lives, we are often focused on the "small picture" of life. Usually our jobs are geared toward

completing the next step or goal in a process. On the other hand, when we come to church, we are encouraged to focus on the "big picture". We see others and think less about our own issues as well as meditate on eternal matters. This really made sense to me and has encouraged me to think about how the little things fit into the "big picture".

Sunday, June 10, we recognized our high school graduates at our annual Sunday School picnic and program. We congratulate Bethany Rassi (Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla), Marcus Leman (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jackie) and Jodi Lau (Bro. Steve and Sis. Marlene) on the completion of their high school education and pray God's blessings on their futures.

We also recognized and thanked Bros. Scott Wegman (Sunday School Superintendent) and Dale Steiner who have completed their terms as teachers. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) was also with us on that day, and we want to thank him for allowing the Holy Spirit to teach us through him.

We welcome four newcomers. Bro. Alex Neukomm (Lexington, KY) has returned to Chicago for employment. Bro. Sam Nenadov (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Rod Steffen (Milford, IN) have also taken employment in our area. Bro. Doug Stoller (Princeville, IL) will be attending medical school in Chicago. We look forward to fellowshiping with these four brothers.

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**ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK  
Cheryl Eisenmann  
Denise Walder**

The week of June 4-8 we had our Vacation Bible School. What a joy it is to share God's love and plan of salvation during the week. We thank Bros. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL)

for sharing with the Bible Class in the evenings. We had a program on Friday evening which the children had the opportunity to tell us some of what they learned.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Rosie Martin and her family on the death of her mother, Sis. Mabel Hoerr, of Peoria.

We are thankful Sis. Kate Young is at home and feeling better after having surgery. Also, Sis. Sylvia Knapp was hospitalized this month.

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

*Luke 15:7*

We were happy to hear that Jacob Johnson, a foster child of Bro. Curt and Sis. Bev Knapp, realized his need of a Saviour. We pray God will be with him as he seeks the Lord in repentance.

Congratulations to Urban and Sis. Judy Edelman on the birth of another grandson, Nathan, born to Jason and Madonna Edelman.

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## ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

### Glenna Rinkenberger

"My Lord, an offering do I bring; My heart I give to thee." (Zion's Harp #163). Hallie Schieber has offered her heart and life to the Lord. Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary are rejoicing with our church. May God give her the strength to truly give her heart and her all.

Our high school graduates are Kayla Steffen (Kent and Sis. Beth), Sis. Rachel Knapp (Bro. Denny and Sis. Gay), Bro. Brad Wiegand (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue), converts Alex Rinkenberger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna), Hallie Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary), Jonathan Virkler (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gayle), and Rebekah Zobrist (Bro.

Clarence and Sis. LuAnn). May each one be blessed with God's divine guidance in their future.

Memorial Day weekend we were blessed with Young Groups from Lester, Forrest/Fairbury, Silverton and Kitchener. The singing was beautiful on Sunday night when the church was included in the evening of singing praises to God.

Vacation Bible School was held the first week of June. Our thanks go to Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) who came to teach our Bible Class. We also appreciate all the parents and regular teachers who helped. The children always look forward to each night of learning about the love of God.

Bro. Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL) and Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) also spent a Sunday with us. May God continue to bless these brothers as they travel and minister the Word. How thankful we are that we can hear the same Truth spoken in our churches.

Sarah Hoerr (Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne) and Tim Beyer became engaged on May 27. His parents are Aaron and Karen Beyer from Roanoke. Our prayer would be that God would be foremost in their planning as they have set November 17 as their wedding date.

We are thankful that our new church is progressing rapidly after several rainy days. It is so amazing to see how quickly the walls and trusses take shape. Even as we try to build our spiritual house, we pray that Christ will be the foundation in this earthly endeavor also.

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## ILLINOIS, ELGIN

### Amy Gasser

### Kay Kellenberger

This past month we were thankful for the following visiting minis-

ters: Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Gene Metzger (Lester, IA), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) and Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Ron Messner (Washington, IL).

Sis. Nina (Bro. Morris) Willaert had cataract surgery recently. Hospital patients this month were Bro. Frank (Sis. Lois) Schock and little Grace Vanagas (granddaughter of Bro. Norm and Sis. Ginny Schock).

Several new babies arrived in the last month. Abbey Leigh was born to first-time parents, Jim and Kim Bloomer, on April 29. Kim is the daughter of Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy Schambach. On May 26, Bro. Dan and Sis. Stephanie Cargill welcomed a son, Trevor Alan. Happy grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay Cargill and Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma Schambach. Twin boys were born to Bro. Eric and Sis. Nancy Schieler. Though they are identical, they were born on different days. Kyle Nolan was born on May 28, and Quinn Nathaniel arrived on May 29, a few moments later. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Paul (the late Sis. Joyce) Weiss and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice Schieler. Andy and Lori Tobler welcomed their first child, Zachary Michael, on June 9. His grandparents are Michael Battuello and Pam Brown and Sis. Madelyn Tobler and Merle Tobler.

On May 19, our Bible Class students hosted a dinner at the Fellowship Center to raise money for a work trip to Juarez, Mexico, scheduled for later this year.

Bro. Darren Schambach and Sis. Krystin Kellenberger joined their hands and hearts in marriage on June 10. Their parents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma Schambach and Bro. Tim and Sis. Marcia Kellenberger. We wish them God's



blessings in their new life together.

O perfect Love, all human  
thought transcending,  
Lowly we kneel in prayer before  
Thy throne,  
That theirs may be the love that  
has no ending,  
Whom Thou forevermore dost  
join in one.

O perfect Life, be Thou their full  
assurance  
Of tender charity and steadfast  
faith,  
With childlike trust that fears no  
pain nor death.

Grant them the joy which bright-  
ens earthly sorrow;  
Grant them the peace which  
calms all earthly strife,  
And to life's day the glorious, un-  
known morrow  
That dawns upon eternal love  
and life.

*Worship and Service*  
*Hymnal #524*

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**ILLINOIS, EUREKA**  
**Janet Zimmerman**

"I will lift mine eyes unto the  
hills, from whence cometh my  
help. My help cometh from the  
Lord, which made heaven and  
earth."

*Psalm 121:1-2*

Our hearts were encouraged as  
we heard the testimonies and wit-  
nessed the baptisms of Alissa  
Wiegand (Bro. Don and Sis. Jane),  
Jonathan Sanders (Bro. Bill and  
Sis. Sue) and Phil Wettstein (Bro.  
Jake and Sis. Mary) the weekend of  
June 3. May they continue to seek  
God's grace and direction all of  
their lives. We were also thankful  
to have with us Elder Bro. Wes

Knapp, Bro. Bruce Hohulin, Bro.  
Wayne Wiegand and Bro. Jeff  
Grimm (all of Goodfield), Bro.  
Kenny Dietz (Bradford) and Bro.  
Ed Knecht (Silverton).

Ellen Wiegand (Bro. Greg and  
Sis. Lynn) was hospitalized re-  
cently. We are thankful she is  
home and doing much better.

Vacation Bible School was held  
June 4-11. May all who attended  
receive a special blessing and also  
for the teachers who gave of their  
time.

Vacation Bible School for our  
Bible Class students was held the  
week of June 11. We were glad to  
have Washington Bible Class join  
us. Many thanks to all of the visit-  
ing ministers who came and spoke.

Sis. Madelyn Rothgeb is thank-  
ful for her first grandchild, Mason  
Charles, born May 27. His parents  
are Carl and Jill Rothgeb of Deer  
Creek, IL.

We had three engagements this  
past month. We pray God will con-  
tinue to lead these dear couples as  
they plan their weddings. Bro.  
Brian Leman of Lamar, formerly of  
Eureka (Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirl),  
is engaged to Sis. Kristen Braker  
(Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller) of  
Lamar. Their engagement was an-  
nounced June 3; and also that day  
the engagement of Sis. Sandy Getz  
(Bro. Allan and Sis. Nathalia) and  
Bro. Mark Stork of Elgin, IA, was  
announced. His parents are Elmer  
and Darlene of Forrest. On June 17  
the engagement of Sis. Lisa Stoller  
(Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry) and  
Bro. Tony Metzger (Bro. Harlan  
and Sis. Shirley) of West Bend was  
announced. Bro. Tony is formerly  
of West Bend but has been coming  
to Eureka for some time.

Wednesday evening, June 20,  
we witnessed the marriage vows of  
Sis. Ann Leman and Bro. Sid  
Leman of Forrest. We wish them  
the Lord's nearness and blessings

as they walk together as one. We  
were also thankful that Elder Bros.  
Wayne Anliker (Forrest) and Dale  
Eisenmann (Chicago) were able to  
share with us in His teachings on  
this evening.

We are thankful to have Tim  
and Sandy Jones and their son,  
Cody, assembling with us. They  
have recently moved here from  
Silverton, OR. May they soon feel  
"at home" in our congregation.

We were grateful that Doug  
Bradle has heeded the Lord's call  
and has turned his back to the  
world and sought the Lord in re-  
pentance. We wish him the Lord's  
grace and blessings.

We appreciated the ministering  
visits of Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman  
(Roanoke), Bros. Tim Hohulin  
(Roanoke), Randy Mogler (Wash-  
ington), Craig Martin (Princeville)  
and Kent Getz (Elgin, IA).

*Notes of Thanks:*

I would like to thank everyone  
who remembered me with cards,  
flowers and food while I was in the  
hospital.

*Wilma McCanless*

Thanks to all who sent us cards  
and gifts and for phone calls for our  
60th anniversary. It was a hum-  
bling experience. We pray God's  
blessings on each and every one.

Humbly,

*Bro. Vernon and Sis. Viola  
Leman*

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**ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY**  
**Sally Fehr**  
**Joann Zehr**

"But the Word of the Lord  
endureth for ever. And this is the  
Word which by the gospel is  
preached unto you."

I Peter 1:25

We were blessed to have visiting brothers preach the enduring Word of God to us. Bros. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) and Paul Zimmerman, Gary Brown and Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) were willing to be used in the Lord's service. We thank you all.

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

*Acts 3:19*

We rejoice to hear that three souls have found grace to turn to the Lord in repentance. Our prayers are with Tiffany Edelman (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Laurie), Derek Rassi (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane) and Carrie Steffen (Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay). May they experience the joy and peace of conversion and of having their sins blotted out.

Bro. Michael and Sis. Marie Stork welcomed a new little daughter on June 14. Michaela Kuenzi Stork has a big brother, Kyler. Grandparents are Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi (Silverton, OR) and Bro. John and Sis. Eunice Stork.

Elsa Moser (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kara), Wendell Moser (Bro. Doug and Sis. Julia) and Sis. Anna Steffen were hospitalized recently. May the Lord grant His healing power to all.

"And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection."

*Luke 8:14*

Recently while reading this passage of Scripture (about the sower and the seeds), a thought impressed me. Regarding those who

were likened unto seed among thorns, the Scripture does not say they were unfruitful (bearing no fruit at all), but that they could not bring the fruit to perfection. Apparently, being choked with cares, riches and pleasures of life, we can still be bringing some fruit, but not to the standard of perfection which God requires. May God grant us all the grace, humility and wisdom to see ourselves as we are, and may we continually allow Him to perfect our hearts. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." (II Chronicles 16:9)

I would like to thank everyone for their patience with me and their encouraging support throughout my term as Silver Lining reporter.

*Sis. Sally Fehr*

## ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp  
Linda Anliker**

Early Sunday morning, the chimes on our clock struck the hour and a thought flashed through my mind of church bells ringing calling people to come worship and the freedom of religion we so enjoy. As this country celebrates yet another year of freedom, may we be thankful we are able to worship our God unhindered by the government and without persecution for our faith's sake.

We welcome into the fold our new brothers and sister in faith, Bro. Stacey (Tonda) Mueller and Bro. J.T. and Sis. Jolene Mueller, as they have testified of the freedom from sin and condemnation they have found through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

As our students, Adam Bolliger

and Jessica Clore (Bro. Mark and Sis. Ruby), Devin Davis (Jay and Kay), Sis. Heidi Dotterer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy), Andrew Gerber (Bro. Alan and Sis. Marcia), Wes Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley), Travis Johnson (Bro. Harry and Sis. Til), Brian Knapp (Dale and Barb), Sis. Jodi Leman (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol), Keith Mueller (Bob and Sis. Elaine), Bro. Lucas Nussbaum (Bro. Terry and Sis. Debbie), Mark Schneider (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra), Rachel Schlatter (Sis. Sherri), Sis. Laura Steidinger (Bro. James and Sis. Marlene), Sis. Raya Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly), Jared Stork (Bro. Paul and Sis. Dawn) and Ben Wenger (Marvin and Rita), graduate from high school, we pray they seek God's direction and will in their lives.

Teaching us from the Word of Life, we thank Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA) for visiting us. Also during Vacation Bible School, Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Duane Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) and Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) taught our Bible Class students and we thank them for their willingness to share. May God bless these brothers.

We rejoice with Gene and Sis. Velma Schladenhauffen who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on May 26.

Enduring the hardships of infirmities of the flesh and to a greater extent in the last days of his life, our Bro. Art Huetten was laid to rest on June 9. May his wife, Sis. Velda, and children, Curt (Sis. Jane) of Cape Coral, FL, Kay (Jay) Davis of Forrest, Vicki (John) Bellis of Ra-

cine, WI, Kevin (Toni) of Bloomington, IL, and Julie (Mark) Shambrook of Roberts, find comfort in God above. Other survivors include his sister, Sis. Betty (Bro. Les) Schweigert of Tremont, and three brothers, Bro. Marvin of Bloomington, Herb of Monticello and John (Yolanda) of Marietta, CA.

We also extend sympathy to the Friedman family with the accident and sudden death of 10 year old Weston Friedman. May God provide comfort to his parents, Curt (Jane) Friedman and Debbie (Mark) Duncan; his sister, Derica; his stepsister and brothers, Ashley Meiss, Marcus and Matthew Duncan; and grandparents, Henry and Sis. Marge Friedman.

Spending time in the hospital were Sis. Janny (Bro. Duane) Schneider, Gene (Sis. Velma) Schladenhauffen, and Sis. Hazel Karcher. May God provide healing.

*Notes of Thanks:*

I would like to thank everyone from far and near for the cards and gifts of love on my 90th birthday. May God bless you richly for your deeds of kindness.

*Sis. Nettie Kyburz*

We humbly thank all our loved ones for the prayers, cards and gifts of love extended to us at the time of Earl's surgery and recuperation. May God bless each one.

*Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther Gerber*

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**ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**

**Heather Hohulin**

Our prayers go out to Sis. Carolyn Ott (Bro. Don) and her family in the loss of her dear mother, Sis. Gertrude Alsene.

We also think of Bro. Mark Farney (Sis. Debbie) and his family in the loss of his father, Bro. Ira

Farney. We hope each of these families can feel the comforting hand of God.

We were so uplifted this last month at our annual Bible School. As well as school age children's Bible school, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, the adults were privileged to have Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Sis. Gloria, Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) speak to us on "The Spiritual Heart", "Choose Carefully the Path You Walk" and "Counting the Cost of Discipleship". We also enjoyed the singing that followed each night.

How thankful we were to hear that Larisa Wiegand (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lori) and Doug and Lynn Wiegand have found peace with God. We pray they can feel the love and support of our church as they await testimony and baptism.

Our prayers are with Sis. Verla Wiegand (Bro. Dan) and Sis. Brenda Hinrichsen (Bro. Charlie) as they recover from surgery.

*Note of Thanks:*

The family of Sis. Gertrude Alsene wish to thank everyone for their labors of love, the prayers, cards, food and help. A very special thank you to the staff at the Apostolic Home in Eureka for all they did for her and the family. May God bless you richly.

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**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY**

**Perry A. Klopfenstein**

We were privileged during the week of June 11-15 to have our annual Vacation Bible School, both for the school age children and for adults. We are thankful for the guest speakers who came to proclaim God's Word for the edification of the church: Bros. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH), Tim

Funk (Peoria, IL), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL) and Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL).

The times are perilous, yet we could rejoice that God's Spirit prompted beloved brothers to issue words of comfort and warning.

A contingent of high school age students (both members and friends, along with their teachers and spouses) arrived back from a work project in Jamaica. May God bless their efforts. We thank Him for their safe return.

On Monday evening, June 18, we held our annual church and fellowship hall cleaning. Many hands make a job easier and as brethren join together in a common cause, much can be accomplished.

Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) was a visiting minister on Sunday, June 10. We appreciate his efforts and labors on our behalf.

Our business meeting was held on Wednesday evening, June 20. Bros. Curt Meiss, Joel Gramm, Daren Metz, Steve Ringger and Sisters Krista Steffen and Sarah Hock were selected as Sunday School teachers.

Sis. Laura Martin has moved into the Meadows Mennonite Home.

Those recovering from surgery are Sisters Lucille Stoller, Norma Witzig and Ruth Gramm. Sis. Mildred Schlipf has been diagnosed with a very serious illness, and we are certainly praying for her well being. May God be with her.

On June 23, Melissa Krug was married to Billy Cloudt of Lexington, IL. Her parents are Sis. Linda Krug (Gridley) and Duane Krug (El Paso). He is the son of Darrell and Pam Brickman of Lexington.

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**ILLINOIS, MORTON**

**Phyllis Farney  
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Bro. Chris Baer Jr. died on May 21 at the Apostolic Christian Restmor. May the Lord comfort and bless his family; his wife, Sis. Emma Dale; his two sons, Steven (Marcia) and Doug (Dawn); his daughters, Sis. Pam Baer and Sis. Christine (Greg) Kaiser; his brother, Bro. Elmer Baer; his sisters, Sis. Minnie Glueck, Sis. Anna Hartter, Sis. Rose Vierling and Martha Vance; his seven grandchildren and one great - grandchild. Bro. Chris was active in the Special Ministries for many years where he recorded church services and helped in their distribution and archiving.

Sis. Ida Belsley passed away on May 31 at the Eureka Apostolic Nursing Home where she was a resident. Her surviving siblings are Sis. Verna Rother, Bro. Louis (Vilas) Belsley and Alvin (Diane) Belsley. She also had many loving nieces and nephews. May the Lord uphold them all and draw them close to Him.

As we see faithful pillars of the church pass on to their reward, we are thankful that the Lord sees fit to send us new little bundles of hope. Jacie Rae was born on June 12 to Bro. Brett and Sis. Lena Grimm. She is their first child. Her grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Becky Grimm and Bro. Dave and Sis. Rita Sauder (Peoria, IL). Bro. Randy and Sis. Lisa Schrock, along with their daughters, Rachel and Olivia, welcome Joel Jeffrey into their lives. He was born on June 15. His grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Lorna Schrock and Joyce and Steve Quinn and Jim Peterson. Bro. Keith and Janice Schick were also blessed with a son, Kraig Samuel, born on June 18. He has two big sisters, Kelly

and Jacey, and one big brother, Justin. His grandparents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Mary Staker and Bro. Randy and Sis. Jane Schick, all of Morton. We pray that all of these parents and grandparents will seek the Lord's wisdom in nurturing these precious children.

On June 10, Sis. Julie Schick and Bro. Joey Hoerr (Peoria, IL) were united in marriage in the Lord. Sis. Julie's parents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Jane and Bro. Joey's parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. JoAnne (Peoria, IL). We wish them the Lord's richest blessings and direction as they establish a Christian home and go forward to serve Christ together.

Vacation Bible School was held June 4-8 and was enjoyed by the entire church, from the two year olds through adults. The adult's theme was "The Time is at Hand" from Revelation 1:3 and covered the topics of God's Sovereignty, Christ's Return, God's Faithful People, Judgement and Hope. The visiting ministers that participated were Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Tim Funk (Peoria, IL), Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL) and Jeff Thames (Washington, IL). The High School Bible Class had a visiting minister one evening, Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) We wish to thank all of the ministers that were willing to serve us. A thank you, also, to the teachers and parents who helped all to have a week focused on the Lord.

Other visiting ministers for the month were Bros. Todd Feller (La-Crosse, IN), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), and Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL). We thank them for being with us.

*Notes of Thanks:*

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, gifts, food and flowers received for my 95th birthday.

May God bless you for your love and kindness.

*Sis. Marie Pflederer*

Thank you for the deeds of kindness and sympathy expressed to our family. The love and support you have shown has been a great comfort to us. May God bless you.

*The Chris Baer Family*

We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone for the love, prayers, and many deeds of kindness extended to Ida during her illness and now to us since the passing of our dear sister. May God bless each one of you.

*The Family of Ida Belsley*

**ILLINOIS, PEORIA**

**Peter and Mabel Weber**

The power shortage on the West Coast is severe, but when it comes to God's energy, we are unable to drain it and can tap into it whenever we wish. The centurion saw something in Jesus he wanted (Luke 7) and the power which Jesus carries, we need. Mark and Bonnie Buehrer, Brooke Esslinger and Joanna Kummer availed themselves of God's power and promises, gave their testimonies of repentance and faith on May 20 and were baptized and added to the fold on May 21. May they rejoice in the connectedness to the Lord and God's people. Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) assisted with this event and we thank him and Sis. Mildred for their visit and his ministry.

VBS 2001 (June 4-8), "Challenges for today's Youth" was well attended and we thank parents, teachers and Bros. Jeff Thames, Dennis Kaufmann, Clark Stoller and Kent Heimer for bringing this topic to the attention of our students. Special thanks to Bro. Doyle

and Sis. Jane Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) for their visit and on Bro. Doyle's meditation "Warning ... Danger ahead" for our family night service on June 6. "Take heed that no man deceive you" (Matt. 24:4). The world does not have a biblical perspective and a global rebellion against God has been going on. In Noah's time, the ark became just part of the landscape ... a dangerous condition. "Let us watch and be sober" (I Thess. 5:6) and "watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong" (I Cor. 16:13). What is prophesied will come to pass. The disciples were impressed with the temple, but it was destroyed totally in 70 AD and today not even the foundations can be found. "Shall" appears 59 times in Matthew 24. Pray all the time, not just when you are in trouble. There is only one way: Jesus and His shed blood.

Eleven graduating seniors were honored at a breakfast attended by parents and ministers; we wish them God's guidance in their future endeavors. We also congratulate Sis. Jolyne Scholl on getting her BS degree in Biology from Bradley University.

Bro. Dave Obergfel correlated the parables of Luke 15 of the lost sheep, coin and prodigal son as pointing to a common theme. How are sheep lost? Probably by getting out of the pen, moving away bit by bit and step by step until they don't see the shepherd any more. The prodigal son left with a full purse, now has nothing and faces his father, who still loves him. Many prayers were said for him and the father was not willing to cease being his father. The way may be narrow and without fun, but leads to the Father's house. God says you must be adopted into my family. He keeps calling us home and needs only one thing: you and me

(6/10).

Congratulations and best wishes to Tammy Hoerr (Bro. Bob and Sis. Myrna) and Kyle Eaton, who were married on June 2. They live in Germantown Hills and Kyle is employed by P.J. Hoerr Inc. Bro. Joey Hoerr and Sis. Julie Schick were married on June 10 in Morton and we wish them God's richest blessings as they establish their home in Peoria; it was Elder Bro. Ted Witzig's first marriage ceremony. He was assisted by Bros. Ken Hoerr and Tim Funk, and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO). Bro. Joe and Sis. JoAnne Hoerr and Bro. Randy and Sis. Jane Schick of Morton are their parents.

Nehemiah and Romans 6 tell us there are walls in our hearts, which need to be rebuilt by Jesus, like the damaged walls of Jerusalem had to be repaired at the time of Nehemiah, when even foxes could break them down (Neh. 4:3). Let us survey our crumbling walls to see what the problem is and trust God that He will prosper us. When our walls are rebuilt, we are to walk in newness of life, in the likeness of His resurrection, and if we can stay focused and the walls are strong, we can keep Satan on the outside (Bro. Tim Roecker 6/13).

"On Christ the solid rock I stand" (Hymns of Zion #99) ... and now the Lord has led our Bro. Walter Hess (93) to his Heavenly Home. He had lived at the Skylines since 1992, where he passed away on May 25. His life of faith is an example to us and says: "stay the course!" We express our sincere sympathy to his son, Gene, and daughters, Sisters Katherine Hoerr and Bernetta Binkele, and their families.

Sis. Mabel Hoerr (87) graduated from this life to eternity also on May 25 at the Skylines. The wish of each of us is to be near to the heart

of God, and what a blessing it is for someone who has served the Lord for many years to now go to that place of rest. We wish her daughters, Shirley Gerber and Sisters Louise Triplett and Roselyn Martin, the comfort of the Lord.

Sis. Viola Messner was a patient at Proctor Hospital for a knee replacement and we wish her a good recovery and result.

It's official: Bro. Dale Hunziker has become a (young) great-grandfather on June 4 through the birth of Madeline Mae to Bro. Steve and Sis. Heidi LaFont. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Chris Schmidgall and Mr. and Mrs. Robert LaFont. We congratulate the entire family as she brings joy and blessings into their circle. On June 12, Jacie Rae was born to Bro. Brett and Sis. Lena Grimm and we wish them the Lord's blessings as they begin raising their Christian family. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Rita Sauder and Bro. Mark and Sis. Becky Grimm of Morton.

The Tennessee Sing over Memorial Day was a blessing to over 350 (70 from Peoria) from many congregations. Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore, who went to be with the Lord on April 19, had again organized this event, as for the past several years, and was sadly missed.

#### *Notes of Thanks:*

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your prayers, memorials and other expressions of love and support at our mom's death. May God bless you.

*The Lena Schafer family*

I want to let everyone know how much their prayers meant to me during recent surgery! Also for the cards, love and gifts received. May God be your Rewarder.

*Sis. Carolee Unsicker*

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**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**

**Mary Ehnle  
Crystal Streitmatter**

*A Graduate's Prayer*

Father, I have knowledge, so will  
You show me now  
How to use it wisely and to find a  
way somehow  
To make the world I live in a lit-  
tle better place,  
And make life with its problems a  
bit easier to face?  
Grant me faith and courage and  
put purpose in my days,  
Show me how to serve Thee in  
the most effective ways.  
So all my education, my knowl-  
edge and my skill,  
May find their true fulfillment as  
I learn to do Thy will.  
And may I ever be aware in ev-  
erything I do  
That knowledge comes from  
learning — and wisdom comes  
from You.

—*Helen Steiner Rice*

We pray God's guidance and di-  
rection upon those who recently  
graduated. College graduates are  
Bro. Erik Givens, Bro. Joel Gehrig,  
Bro. Kirk Plattner, Bro. Bill Stahl,  
Bro. Doug Stoller, Sis. Cyrena  
Baer, Sis. Lacey Harwood and  
Kara Martin. High School gradu-  
ates are Bro. Brett Endress, Bro.  
Todd Stoller, Sis. Gwenn Ehnle,  
and Kristen Regier.

We bid farewell to Bro. Brad and  
Sis. Karen Metz and their little  
family as they have recently moved  
to the Bloomington - Normal area.  
We will miss their presence in our  
congregation. Bro. Kyle and Sis.  
Jane Scholl, Quintin and Chasity  
have recently moved back to our  
area after living in North Carolina  
for Kyle's employment the past 2

years. We welcome them back to  
the area! Additionally, Bro.  
Rodney Menold (Bern, KS) has re-  
cently acquired employment in our  
area. We welcome him into our  
congregation and hope that he will  
feel at home here.

We extend our sympathy to Sis.  
Eleanor Asal in the loss of her  
brother, Earl Asal, of Princeville.  
May God's comfort be upon her in  
this loss.

Bro. David Ehnle (Sis. Beulah)  
was hospitalized for hip surgery.  
We are thankful that he is doing  
well, and our prayers continue  
with him.

We appreciate visitors in our  
midst, and are especially thankful  
for those who have ministered to  
us from other congregations. They  
are Bros. Dewayne Dill and Kent  
Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Tom  
Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Fred Witzig  
(Indianapolis, IN), Allen Stoller  
(Bluffton, IN), Jeff Streitmatter  
(Sarasota, FL) and Greg Lehman  
(Wolcott, IN). We thank them for  
the Word of Life that was brought  
to us. We were reminded by one of  
them to read in I Kings 5 and 6  
about the building of the temple,  
and to think how that it was assem-  
bled without the sound of a ham-  
mer. God gave them the ability to  
build the temple without all of our  
modern tools and technology; it is  
humbling to think upon this.

We rejoice in that three precious  
baby girls were recently born in  
our congregation. Bro. Greg and  
Sis. Heather Rumbold welcomed  
Sadie Marian into their lives and  
home on May 25. Deryk and  
Dayton are happy to have a little  
sister! Grandparents are Bro.  
Elwin and Sis. Loretta Rumbold  
(Bradford, IL) and Bro. John and  
Sis. Elizabeth Wieland. JoElle  
Moriah was born on June 1 into the  
home of Bro. Jay and Sis. Deanne  
Knobloch. JayLyn, JaNae and

Joselyn are glad for another sister!  
Grandparents are Bro. Richard  
and Sis. Jeanette Graham and Bro.  
Ed and Sis. Frances Knobloch. On  
June 8, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Renee  
Herrmann welcomed Destiny Joy  
into their hearts and home. Her  
siblings are Dallas, Victoria and  
Daniel. Destiny's grandparents  
are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan  
Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Bro. Harry  
and Bertha Jean Herrmann.

Beth Bowdoin (Hank and  
Benola) recently announced her  
engagement to Dave Tyre of West  
Peoria. They are planning a Sep-  
tember wedding; may God bless  
them and guide them during this  
time!

"The Sunday School is our de-  
light, we love it more and more."  
(Hymns of Zion #73). Sis. Janice  
Martin (Bro. Alan) and Bros. Roger  
Herrmann (Sis. Darlene) and  
Dean Herrmann (Sis. Dawn) have  
completed their terms as Sunday  
School teachers. May God reward  
them for their labors of love! Our  
new teachers replacing them are  
Sisters Mary Ehnle and Kathy  
Stoller (Bro. Bill), and Bros.  
Marvin Herrmann (Sis. Lavonne)  
and Greg Rumbold (Sis. Heather).  
May God's grace and blessings be  
upon all.

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**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**

**Linda Hodel  
Jenell Hodel**

"Lasting happiness doesn't  
come from sunny days but from the  
Son of God." We all look forward to  
summer with school out and the  
sunny, warm days. How much  
more we look forward to eternity  
with Jesus and the blessings He so  
richly bestows upon us.

Our church has been blessed to  
have with us several from Haiti  
who have come for surgery. We bid  
farewell to Enne Egalite who



stayed with Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen Leman and now welcome Daniel Descareds who is staying in their home. Adonis Augustanette is staying with Bro. Rich and Sis. Janet Knepp, Nanelson Richard is staying with Bro. Bruce and Sis. Debbie Fischer, Marie Claude and Evaline are staying with Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy Kaeb, and Rhoemikea JeanLouis is staying with Bro. Tim and Sis. Linda Martin. Our prayers continue with each one and their host families as they prepare for their surgeries.

We want to thank Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) for sharing God's Word with us. May he feel our love and God's blessings.

We have had several in the hospital: Sis. Anna Bradle, Sis. Emma Legal and Sis. Thelma Hodel. May God be near unto them.

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven to have another soul begin his repentance. Caleb Lindberg (Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie) has made this decision to walk hand in hand with Jesus and we pray he may feel God's ever presence and guidance.

The week of June 11 was our Vacation Bible School. Our children are so excited to be able to spend this week at church and learn more about Jesus. We thank our visiting ministers who gave of themselves to speak with our Bible Class and the congregation. Bro. Marvin Steffen (North Ft. Myers, FL) spoke on the "Theory of Evolution vs. Facts of Creation". The topic of Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) was "God Has Not Changed - Neither Has Satan - Nor Has Man". Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) explained the "History of the Apostolic Christian Church". Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria, IL) talked about the "Challenges Facing the Individual and the Church Before Christ's coming". Elder Bro. Earl Ringger

(Gridley, IL) spoke to us of the "Wonders of Heaven - The Horrors of Hell". May God grant the increase to the word spoken that we all may be drawn closer to Him.

Our sympathy and prayers go to the family of Bro. Ira Farney who passed away on June 16. We will all surely miss this faithful brother. Our thoughts are with his dear wife, Sis. Doris, and their children, Bro. Mark (Sis. Debbie), Wayne (Michelle), Sis. Barb (John) Gastman, Sis. Kathy (Bro. Ken) Hodel, and Sis. Mary (Bro. John) Wiegand. Our prayers are also with his siblings, Bro. Earl (Sis. Irene) Farney of Morton and Bro. Alvin (Sis. Mary) Farney, Sis. Edna (Bro. Harold) Roth and Sis. Helen (Don) Brown, all of Roanoke.

#### ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Heather Rassi**

**LaVonne Wagenbach**

Our Tremont congregation was blessed with the following ministers: Bros. Craig Martin (Princeville, IL), John Stoller (Leo, IN) and Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL). We are thankful for brothers who are willing to visit us and preach God's true Word.

We rejoice with new parents, Kurt and Kristine Wagenbach. Zakary David was born on June 11. Dustin and Britney welcome him home. Grandparents are Riann Threlkeld and Simon and Sis. LaVonne Wagenbach, all of Tremont.

Our dear Sis. Bernice Joos spent time in the hospital. May we all remember her in our prayers along with Bro. Walter Aberle (Sis. Vera) who is in the hospital again. May God be with them as they recuperate.

We are thankful to see the sunshine after a period of rain. It is so nice to watch the plants grow. God

has richly blessed us!

#### ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Sue Ruppert**

**Denise Romersberger**

"Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children..."

*Genesis 37:3*

Of his 12 sons, Joseph was Jacob's favorite. Every parent has a favorite child. The favorite child is the one who was too sick to enjoy his own birthday party or who broke her collarbone and had to wear a brace along with angel wings in the Christmas play. The favorite child is the one with the fever in the middle of the night or the asthma attack. It's the child in your arms at the emergency room. All parents have their favorite child. It is not always the same one but it's the one who needs them right then. Children need parents for many different reasons — to hold on to, to shout at, to hug, to praise, to pay the insurance, to unload on — but mostly just to be there.

God is always there for His children. He adopted us at our baptism, where He placed His family name on us. We are each His favorite child when we come to Him with our needs of the moment. Because of His only begotten Son, who sacrificed His life for our sins, we never need to worry about coming to Him. We may come to Him with our needs, but most of all, we're thankful He comes to us — with His forgiveness and love. Heavenly Father, thank Thee for treating each of us as Thy favorite child in Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

This month we were privileged to have the following guest ministers in our midst to proclaim the Gospel of Christ in it's truth and

purity. They are Bros. Marshall Heinold (Ixtilan, Mexico), Darrin Plattner (Champaign, IL) and Tim Roecker (Peoria, IL) for our Bible Study. Thank you, brothers, and your wives for all your efforts.

We would like to congratulate Nate Schick and Lynette Fritz on their recent marriage. We pray that God will be with them in their new life together. Parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol Schick and Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally Fritz, all of Washington.

We wish to extend our sympathy to our Sis. Sharon Martin in the death of her brother, Mark Meiss, of Danville. May the Lord be with you in your time of mourning.

Our church was greatly saddened in the sudden loss of a dear sister in Christ, Millie Drete. She went to be with the Lord and we already miss her loving and giving nature. Our deepest thoughts of sympathy go out to her husband, Bro. Rich, and the rest of the family. It is always hard to accept our loss, but we know the Lord knows best. May God be with the family as you adjust to your loss.

The children and young people had Vacation Bible School this month. This was such an opportunity for them to learn more about our wonderful God and Saviour! Thanks to all who participated and lent their talents in this endeavor.

We also thank all those who participated in our Central Illinois Work team project. "Many hands make light work" and certainly many blessings came to those who gave of their time and efforts, as well as those who received assistance from this project. God bless everyone!

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

"He saith unto them, come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with them that day."

*John 1:39*

Our theme this year for Bible School was "Come and See". Four hundred twenty-seven children came and saw Christ's goodness which was demonstrated the night of June 15 in the Bible School program. What a blessed two weeks.

We are so blessed to have a new convert. Adam McAfee (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Linda) gave his heart to our Lord this month.

On May 26-27 we enjoyed the testimonies and baptisms of Kyle Schwartz (Bro. Scott and Sis. Patti), Jonathon Longenberger (Bro. Terri and Sis. Twila), Jeremy Reinhard (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gale) and Cory Aschliman (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Beth).

Bro. Andy Bertsch (Bro. James and Sis. Christy) has been announced to be wed to Sis. Jami Imel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon). We are so happy for this soon to be one in Christ couple.

Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda Fiechter are enjoying their new precious bundle, William Jacob, born June 3. Vince, April, Troy, Darin, Benjamin and Megan are his brothers and sisters. Blessed grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary Fiechter and Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet Meyer.

We are saddened by the death of Bro. Ken Dubach's father, Al Dubach. Bro. Daniel, Sis. Kristen, and Justin were Al's grandchildren. We will continue to pray for this family in their time of loss.

Brandon Troxel (Bro. Brad and Sis. Dahlys), Sis. Marge Ringger, Bro. Harold Isch, Bro. Herb Frauhiger (Sis. Lucile), Lena Kaehr (Bro. Keith and Sis.

LouAnn), Sis. Amelia Heyerly, and Bro. Bob Sutter (Sis. Jan) all spent time in the hospital this month. Our prayers will be with them as they recover.

Bro. Simon and Sis. Delores Heyerly celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We are thankful for their loving example.

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn, Junction, OH) for sharing God's Word with us this month.

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**INDIANA**  
**BLUFFTON NORTH**  
**Ann Meyer**  
**Rhonda Maller**

"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spoke the word of God with boldness."

*Acts 4:31*

We give praise to our Heavenly Father for the freedom to assemble together in worship and prayer. With thankful hearts we listen and learn as our ministering brothers speak the Word of God with boldness. We pray that the Lord will bless them and their families for their faithful service and when "the shepherd shall appear, they shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." (I Peter 5:4)

Three souls have come to the cross in repentance and accepted the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. We uplift Joe and Michelle Barger (daughter and son-in-law of Bro. Roger and Sis. Carol Lane) in prayer as they

begin their new life in Christ. May God bless them with wisdom as they seek to walk in His ways and to raise their daughters in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord." We also give thanks for Ryan Steffen (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay). A year ago, God blessed Ryan with continued life here on earth following a tragic accident. Today, Ryan has the promise of eternal life in Heaven.

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**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE**  
**Jessica Murray**

"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 pray for strength and wisdom to be with our graduates as they enter into the world after high school. Our graduates include: Trevor Benakovich (Ron and Karen), Joshua Cook (Sis. Debbie), Sis. Betsy Gutwein (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda), Dustin Gutwein (Rod and Donna), Freddy Gutwein (Freddy and Darlene), Bro. Alex Leman (Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret), Trenton Metzger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene), Brad Wesley Wuethrich (Bro. Brad and Sis. Nancy), Clint Wuethrich (Bro. David and Sis. Mim), and Sis. Kayla Wuethrich (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy). You are always welcome to come and continue to learn more at your hometown church in Francesville. May God guide you and bless you.

We rejoiced as two souls committed their way unto the Lord in baptism on June 10. Jon Eide (Karen), and Grant Gudeman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Peg) reminded us of all the work God does in our lives as

we put our trust and faith in Him. A special thanks to Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) who was with us for testimonies and baptisms. We pray our new brothers in faith will continue to grow and flourish as they take their place in the body of Christ.

Our prayers are with Bro. Leon Wuethrich as he is recovering from his surgery and hospital stay. May he continue to gain strength as we look forward to his return.

May God provide comfort to the families of our dear Sis. Millie Huber (Bro. Eugene) who went to be with the Lord on June 16.

As the Lord knows when the time comes, we should all be ready as was our dear Sis. Elsie Yaggie as she went to rest in Heaven on June 17. May the families feel the healing comfort of the Lord at this time.

*Note of Thanks:*

In all humility and thankfulness, I wish to thank my family, relatives, secret pals, and all my dear friends for the cards, gifts, and kind deeds shown me for my birthday, for which I feel very unworthy. In sincere appreciation, I pray for God to bless you all.

*Humbly,*

*Sis. Minerva Wuethrich*

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**INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS**  
**Sue Levy**

**Gail Bradford**

We rejoice with Stan and Andrea Gutwein because of the birth of their precious son, Ethan, on May 29. Clayton will be happy to have a brother to love. Baby Ethan's grandparents are Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny Zeller and Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Gramm. Bro. Jim and Sis. Kim Bucher also welcomed the birth of a daughter, Grace Elizabeth, on May 18. A.J. will find happiness as he shares his

childhood with a special sister. Grandparents of baby Grace are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Martha Braker and Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois Bucher. We were also blessed with the arrival of Emily Anne at the home of Bro. Greg and Sis. Lisa Steiglitz. Emmy was welcomed home by brothers, Graham and Luke. Grandparents of Emily are Lee and Marianna Hege and Bro. Oliver and Sis. Em Steiglitz.

We also had two high school graduations within our congregation. Matthew Freed and Sis. Sarah Bollier are looking forward to serving the Lord in new areas in the future. Matthew Freed and Benjamin Pearson were also announced for peace and are looking forward to the time of being full members.

In our recent elections for Sunday School, Bro. Phil Schlatter was put in as assistant superintendent. New teachers include Bro. Joshua Martinez, Sis. Amanda Meister, Bro. Rustin Meister and Sis. Sara Frauhiger. We are thankful for the many hours that teachers devote to our children.

On June 24 we will have a farewell dinner for Sis. Dawn and Bro. Wayne Anliker. We are sorry to be losing them as they move to Kansas, but we know they will be good lights for the Lord wherever they are placed. Bro. Ryan and Sis. Hollie Meister will also be moving to Lafayette and will be greatly missed.

We were blessed to have Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL) as a visiting minister on Father's Day teaching us of our Heavenly Father's love in the parable of the prodigal son.

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**INDIANA, LACROSSE**  
**Jeremy and Natalie Freed**  
Independence Day is a time to



reflect on our freedom, fought for victoriously over two centuries ago. We praise God for the peace He has allowed in this land, and pray that peace will continue.

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

*1 Tim. 2:1-2*

We rejoice with Bro. Luke Frank and Sis. Crystal Ramsier as they were united in Holy Matrimony. Their parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Dottie Ramsier (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Jo Frank. Marriage is beautiful when each partner is serving Christ and the other in love. May your home be blessed.

We would also remember our loved ones who spent time in the hospital this month as we lift them up in prayer. These were Sis. Lizzie Pfladderer, Sis. Carolyn Levy, Dan Nuest (Sis. Cathy), Sis. Ruth Heinold, and Fern Antrim. We also want to remember Bro. Doyne and Sis. Dorothy Stewart, as their great - granddaughter was diagnosed with cancer.

We were thankful for the opportunity to have Vacation Bible School here at LaCrosse. Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) spoke with us about Bible prophecy, Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) reminded us of what it means to be a Christian, and Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) helped us to understand the fear of God. We are thankful to these brothers for their time and effort and to God for giving them the wisdom to preach on these topics.

Finally, it is with real joy that we announce that our dear friends,

Heidi Nuest (Bro. Don and Sis. Deb), Brad Frank (Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla) and Rudy Troxel (Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn), have felt a peace with God and man. As a congregation and family, we extend our prayers of encouragement and our sincerest joy to these loved ones and their families as they complete the transition into a new life of freedom from sin through the blood of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. There are yet many more converts here who are continuing to strive against this world. We hope that this will encourage them and refresh them in their spiritual battle, as well as provoke more hearts to repentance. Lord willing, a date for testimony and baptism is tentatively set for the weekend of August 25.

### INDIANA, LEO

#### Ethelyn Schlatter

Our Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz read the Memorandum to those who gathered on the evening of May 19. It was a time of encouragement and reminder of the bond of fellowship with our other churches. He said we need to grow in understanding as we honestly seek the truth. We are thankful for the insight of our Elders, their research and knowledge of the scripture and concern for the church.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Jill Lehman welcomed a baby girl on May 26. Haley Rae has a brother, Travor, and her grandparents are Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne Lehman (Denver, CO) and Bro. Ray and Sis. Marcia Bauer (Bloomington, IL). Our congratulations to all.

Bro. Steve Baner and Sis. Donnalou (Gridley, IL) were with our congregation the evening of May 23. Bro. Steve presented the topic of "Moderation" for our monthly topical Bible study. The

English word, moderation, is found only once in the whole Bible, Philippians 4:5. But the Greek word translated as moderation here, is found in I Timothy 3:3 as patient, Titus 3:2, I Peter 2:18, James 3:17 as gentle. A good definition for moderation is "sweet reasonableness". A good example of sweet reasonableness is found in Acts 16:22-32 where Paul and Silas as prisoners praised God and when released brought salvation to the jailer and his household. John 3:17 states that God saves, we should be in the same business, as we are being observed. Moderation is a question of attitude toward others. It is not automatic, but a daily application of meekness, purity and being peaceable, easy to be entreated. When our attitude is right, every other aspect of our example will also be right. "Beloved,...ye should earnestly contend for the faith" (Jude 3). Moderation is acquired by the Spirit of God alone. The second part of Philippians 4:5, "The Lord is at hand" means, He is available, He is aware (of our attitude), He is returning soon and coming in judgment. These words were very enlightening and convicting. We are thankful to Bro. Steve for his effort on our behalf.

We extend sincere sympathy to Sis. Carol Broquard, Sis. Heidi Schrock and Sis. Janel Ramseyer at the passing of their father and grandfather, Frank Bragiel. His wife, Sis. Irma (Bay City, MI), survives and has our sympathy.

Bro. David Pfister and Tracy Moore were our graduates this year. Bro. David graduated from Leo High School on June 8. Tracy Moore graduated in her own personal ceremony June 7 at Gateway Woods, witnessed by family and friends. Congratulations to both for an accomplishment well done.

Tonight, June 18, starts one

week of Vacation Bible School for the children. Our prayers are for good seed to find fertile soil, and God's blessings.

Prayer: God of the living, who provides daily sustenance along our pathway, be forever near. Enter into our every thought, word, and deed, and provide strength for each day. Amen. God is with us each day, His help is always available one day at a time, with its failures and fears, with its hurts and mistakes, with its weakness and its tears. With its portion of pain, and its burdens of care; one day at a time we must bear, BUT ... as the day, so the grace and strength, He giveth His own.

I found this on a scrap of paper among mother's stuff. July 3 will be seven years since He called her Home. She doesn't need this any more, but it's good for me and maybe you too.

"Then said Jesus...Peace be unto you; as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."

*John 20:21*

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## INDIANA, MILFORD

**Pam Beer  
Stacey Feller**

We congratulate our recent college graduates, Sis. Kari Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) and Bro. Neal Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb), as well as our high school graduates, Seth Beer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie) and D.J. Vice (grandson of Jeanette Vice). We wish each one God's direction and nearness as they pursue their future plans.

Bro. Vince and Sis. Tessa Schlatter were blessed with their firstborn, Parker Vincent, on May 27. Vince and Tessa are relatively new to our Milford church, and we are excited to have another family here. Grandparents are Bro. Gus

and Sis. LeAnn Schlatter (Latty, OH) and Bro. Lee and Sis. Carolyn Schambach (Bay City, MI).

Bro. Ken Wuethrich presented a topical Bible study to us on a recent Wednesday evening. We appreciated his efforts in coming and his encouragement to us to keep our perspective and priorities focused as we journey toward the kingdom.

Sis. Eleanor Beer (Bro. Howard) had back surgery in effort to relieve some of the pain she has been struggling with in recent months. She continues to be in our prayers as she goes through this valley of recovery.

Mike and Christy Haab's little son, Trevor (grandson of Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Haab), has been quite a strong little guy as he has struggled to maintain his health since the time of his premature birth last fall. He is at home now, but has been in and out of the hospital several times, enduring various surgeries and procedures. May God continually grant this family His strength and peace.

Our community bids a sad farewell to Bro. Bob and Sis. Marguerite Hoerr as they have relocated to New Buffalo, MI, to be near their children. They are pillars in our church, and we are so happy they are willing to make the drive back to worship with us. We wish them bountiful blessings in their new home and community, and many happy family times.

June Clauss passed from this life in early June. She was the loving wife of our dear departed Bro. Noah.

Our church was filled to the brim on June 17 to witness the marriage vows of our Sis. Holly Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) and Bro. Micah Zeltwanger of Morris, MN (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel). We rejoice with this new couple and

wish them a strong, beautiful marriage in the Lord. We thank the visiting ministers who shared the Word with us: Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN).

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## INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler  
Rochelle Ward**

"And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down and when thou risest up."

*Deut. 11:19*

We are happy to congratulate Ben and Stephanie Standish as they welcomed into their home Aubrey LeAnn born on May 21. Grandparents, Joe and Sis. Cheri Frantz and Mike and Kathy Standish, rejoice at the birth of their new granddaughter. We also wish Ben and Steph God's blessing as they make their home in Courtland, IL, where Ben has begun a new job. Their new address is: PO Box 1078, Courtland, IL, 60112.

On June 8, Sis. Jill and Bro. Chris Hartter also welcomed home a little bundle of joy. Siblings, Ethan and Emily, were excited to meet their little brother, Eric Christopher. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Marie Wagenbach (Washington, IL) and paternal grandparents are Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn Hartter (Bern, KS).

As always, we are thankful for visiting ministers who come and share in God's Word. Bros. Gary Brown and Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and their wives spent a blessed Sunday with us on May 27.

Also, a thank you to Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) for having our topical Bible Study.

We enjoyed a wonderful and inspiring week of VBS. Thanks to all those at Wolcott who worked hard to put on a great week! Thanks also to the ministering brethren who took part to bring us God's message.

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**INDIANA, SOUTH BEND**  
**Lavilla Langhofer**  
**DeAnn Schlatter**

What will you do with Jesus?  
 Neutral you cannot be;  
 Some day your heart will be asking,  
 What will He do with me?

*Anon.*

Our thanks go out to the Milford congregation for allowing us to be a part of their Vacation Bible School. The theme, "What will you do with Jesus?" was expounded on by the visiting ministers in a challenging and uplifting way.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Carolyn are pleased to announce the birth of a precious granddaughter. Remi Annae was born to Kirk and Celise Beckham of Indianapolis. Her other grandparents are Jim and Sheryl Beckham of Plymouth, IN. Remi's sister, Mia, welcomes her home.

We are always blessed by the visit of our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer as we were this past month. Thank you for your support of our congregation, Bro. Jesse.

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**INDIANA, VALPARAISO**  
**Darel and Janet Walker**

The sun warms the earth and another season's crop is developing in the field. Like a farmer nourishes his crops, we care for our

children, knowing someday that they will be ready to go out on their own. We celebrate the high school graduation of Daniel Molchan and Shawn Ames. Daniel is the son of Dawn Gaddis. Shawn's parents are Bro. Tim and Joyce Ames. May the Lord walk with them and lead them as they go on to college this fall at Ball State and Purdue. May they develop a relationship with God like the one David describes in the 23rd Psalm:

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

May God's goodness and grace follow them while they are away at college.

A high percentage of men being incarcerated grew up without a father in the home. How important it is and way too rare today that children grow up in a home with two loving parents. We celebrated fatherhood with a father - son cookout on June 15 hosted by Bro. Lance and Sis. Hope Bucher. Fathers and sons enjoyed a good time together. May we all take a father's first responsibility seriously: that is, to raise our children to fear the Lord and love him with all of our heart.

**INDIANA**  
**WEST LAFAYETTE**

**Geoff and Angie Ginzel**

Last month we reported a West Lafayette Church open house on August 19 and a Dedication on September 9. Due to a scheduling conflict, the Dedication has been moved to September 16. Everyone is invited to join us for these two special weekends.

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: Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy Steffen (Alto, MI), Bro. Neal and Sis. Chris Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Elder Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella Gudeman and Bro. Chris and Sis. Sharon Huber (all from Francesville, IN), Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), and Bro. John and Sis. Patricia Stoller (Leo, 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.

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**INDIANA, WOLCOTT**  
**Mary Beth Lehman**  
**Erica Wagenbach**

Congratulations to Lindsey and Wesley Mailloux (Scott and Diane) who graduated from high school. May they feel God's direction and guidance at this milestone in their lives.

We thank each brother who

came and shared God's Word to the Bible Class and congregation during our week of Vacation Bible School. Speaking on the topic of "The Seed and the Harvest" were Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN), and Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN).

May God also richly bless Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN) who willingly shared the Word with us.

Don Bahler (Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler) and Jill Nagel (Mike and Rose Nagel, Brook, IN) were married June 16. May they feel God's nearness as they begin to walk life's pathway together. Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla also welcome a new granddaughter, Mary Hartter (Bro. James and Sis. Sandy, Sabetha, KS), into their family circle.

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### IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Karla Gerst  
Brenda Schulz**

"And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the Lord hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it. And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed."

*Deut. 31:7-8*

As the responsibility of leading the Israelites was passed on to Joshua, so has the shepherding of our Burlington flock been handed to our new Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall. We pray that God will

strengthen and guide him, and that we may always be supportive.

We thank our now retired Elder Bro. Ed Lanz for his many years of dedication and service as our Elder. May he and his wife, Sis. Joan, continue to feel the love of God in their lives.

This month we have had several visiting ministers. They were Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA). We thank all these brothers for letting the Word flow freely through them. May God bless their efforts.

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### IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

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

*Genesis 2:18*

Seeking and trusting in God's direction, Bro. Mark Stork (Elmer and Darlene, Chatsworth, IL) and Sis. Sandy Getz (Bro. Allan and Sis. Nathalia, Eureka, IL) have made their engagement known. We rejoice with them and trust they will continue to seek God's direction in all things, as they walk the narrow path together.

June 16 was the wedding day for Angie Schneider (Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue) and Kenny Taylor (Junior and Sharon). May God bless their home and life together.

A wedding reception was held on June 17 for Milton and Jo Schneider who were married on June 9 in Woodinville, WA, where they will be making their home. Milton is the son of Laverne and the late Lavelia Schneider.

Bro. Bert Butikofer (Sis. Beulah) spent a short time in the hospital and is now recuperating well at home. We thank God for His healing hand.

Having recently celebrated our nation's freedom, may we, as Christians, remember that the cross is our statue of liberty. It is there that our soul was set free.

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### IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Willa Clark

Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and his family visited us on a Wednesday evening. Bro. Doug shared thoughts on the prayer of Habbakuk. When all things seemed to go wrong, Habbakuk still relied on his faith in God.

We also appreciate Sunday visits by Elder Bros. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) and Doug Schock and Bro. Robert Stoller (Lamar, MO).

The home of Duane and Sara Lester is blessed with a new treasure. Anna Camille Lester was born on May 24. Loving grandparents are Paul and Karen Lester of Tarkio, MO, Don Clark and Sis. Willa Clark.

In this time of summer vacations and travels, we enjoy visitors passing through Iowa on their way across the country. If you haven't visited out Garden Grove church before, stop in. If you have already visited, come again. We wish everyone a true re-creation of spirit and soul as you search for recreation in God's great outdoors.

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### IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We were blessed with many visitors this month, including ministering Bros. Glen Braker (Princeville,



IL), Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) and Bill Gerst (Alto, MI). We appreciate them and their families traveling to serve our congregation. May God bless them for their willingness to give up self to be used by God.

Our new Sunday School teachers will be Sis. Sharon Gerst, Bro. Ben Weyrick and Bro. Brad Eland. We pray God will bless them for their willing service and will bless the seed sown in the hearts of the children so that it will some day bring forth fruit unto salvation.

Several sermons lately have encouraged us to make a complete break from the world. Not only is this critical during our conversion, but also to be overcomers and receive our Heavenly reward. One example was when the Lord commanded the Israelites to completely cleanse the land in order to serve Him. A song also encourages us not to backtrack and take up things we once felt Spirit - prompted to give up.

Don't turn around to the things  
you left behind.  
All those bridges you've burned,  
don't try to find.  
Cast your face like a flint and  
march on to the Promised  
Land,  
Don't turn around to the things  
you left behind.

May God grant us the desire to keep ourselves unspotted from the world, and the humility to obtain the grace necessary to do this.

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**IOWA, LESTER**  
**Dawn Knobloch**  
**Dawn Metzger**

"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me

with all your heart."

*Jeremiah 29:13*

Rachel Messner (Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene) is seeking her soul's salvation. We rejoice with her and her family as she begins her repentance.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held on June 7. We appreciate the efforts of all who helped to make this event a success. A special thank you to the teachers who have completed their teaching term.

Youth Fellowship Weekend was hosted in Lester on June 9-10. The theme for the weekend was "Free Waters". Our guest speaker was Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI). Bro. Bill encouraged each young soul to seek the call of God while it is to be found. Also with us for the weekend were Elder Bros. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN), Art Nohl (Morris, MN), and Bros. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN) and Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA). Thanks to each of you for making the effort to come and be with us.

"Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house; thy children like olive plants round about thy table."

*Psalms 107:41*

We are thankful for the safe arrival of four babies this month. Jarrett David was born on May 25 to first-time parents, Sid and Tana Meyer. Bro. George Meyer is Jarrett's grandpa and Sis. Emma Meyer is his great-grandma. John and Sis. Karmin Popkes were blessed with a son, Carson John, on June 6. Shayna and Trevor are his siblings. Sis. Eleanor Popkes and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter (Silverton, OR) are Carson's grandparents. Sis. Donna Metzger is his great-grandma. Reagen, Madeline, Micah, Bro. Brad and

Sis. Trinda Meyer are excited to bring Ethan Andrew into their home. Ethan spent a few extra days in the hospital but is now at home. Grandparents are Bro. Pat and Sis. Twyla Meyer and Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). Great-grandma is Sis. Emma Meyer. Haley Jo DeSmet's birthday was June 14. She is welcomed home by her parents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley, Kristin, Stacey, Chad, Grant, Shannon and Lorna. Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva Knobloch are her happy grandparents.

Nicholas DeHaan (Bro. Tim and Lois) and Morris Metzger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce) suffered broken bones. May they both have a complete recovery.

Last month I failed to report that Julie Moser (Keith) received her college degree. We extend our congratulations and best wishes to her.

*Note of Thanks:*

The Ernie Metzger family would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, gifts, and support during the time of his illness and death. May God bless each of you.

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

We are so thankful for the safe arrival of the newest little blessing in our congregation. Elise Aimee Wagenbach was born on May 27 to Matt and Sis. Aimee Wagenbach and has one big sister, Lydia. Bro. Gerald and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach, Sr., Craig and Ruth Shafer (Mediapolis) and Jeff and Becky Wrage (Gladbrook), as well as great-grandpa and grandma, Bro. Clem and Sis. Kate Heinger, are happy to have a new addition to their family circle.

After 26 years of dedication to our congregations in Oakville, Burlington and Iowa City, our dear Elder Bro. Ed Lanz has laid aside his duties as Elder. Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie) has unselfishly and willingly accepted the calling of God to His service and was ordained as Elder the first weekend in June. May God be with Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan and Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie as they and each of us "hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering..." (Hebrews 10:23). We would like to thank Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) for being in our midst and lending themselves in the Lord's service.

Our annual Sunday School election was held on June 10. Sisters Linda Gerst and Monica Wagenbach will replace Sisters Diane Eberhardt and Kim Massner. Bros. Paul Hay, Dave Stoller and Colin Wagenbach will replace Bros. Ken Lanz, Aaron Schmidgall and Jeff Wagenbach. Bro. Walt Gerst has been selected to be our Sunday School Superintendent. We pray that God will give insight and Godly wisdom to each who are given this responsibility. We appreciate the efforts of our retiring teachers and pray that God will bless them richly for their service in His name.

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### **IOWA, PULASKI** **Katrina Knobloch**

We are grateful to our ministering brethren who faithfully bring forth God's Word from Sunday to Sunday. We were blessed to have Bro. Roy Koehl (Sis. Jenell, Morris, MN) and Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) with us this month. Several groups of single

brothers and sisters have come to assemble with us recently. We appreciate their efforts to come fellowship with us and the good examples they set for us.

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### **IOWA, WEST BEND** **Berniece Banwart** **Lori Skoglund**

Sunday morning, May 20, we appreciated that visiting minister, Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lynn, Indianapolis, IN), proclaimed God's Word, including a special message for the graduating seniors assembled with us.

Two families have been blessed with a new baby. Randal and Dawn Metzger are first time parents of Tesla Dawn, born on May 17. Grandparents, Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy Metzger, share their joy. Jamie and Carmen Moser welcomed Colton James on May 30. Big sister Laura now has a playmate, and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Helen Anliker, another grandchild to enjoy.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Carole Fehr's son, Mitch, and Kristy Rasmussen of Watertown, SD, were married on May 12. They are making their home in Ft. Madison, IA. We wish them much happiness as they walk life's journey together.

We want to extend our sympathy to Sis. Helen (Bro. Leonard) Anliker and their family on the death of her father, Bro. Ernst Metzger (Lester, IA), on May 16.

Robert Thomann passed away on May 27 after living many years in the nursing home. He is survived by two brothers, Bro. Melbert Thomann and Earle (Shirley) Thomann, Rochester, MN; a sister, Lydia Gordon, Redding, CA; a brother - in - law, Bro. Nathan Mogler, and many nieces and nephews, who although they will miss him, are no doubt thankful he

could be relieved of his bodily afflictions.

Tuesday, June 12, Agnes Anliker was called from this life, leaving behind her loved ones, Carol (John) Hjelmeland, Algona, IA; Arlene (George) Cooperider, Omaha, NE; Mary (Micheal) Melick, Burt, IA; and Doris Anliker of Omaha, NE. She was preceded in death by her husband, Elmer, several years ago.

May God comfort all of these families in their loss.

We are thankful that several who were in hospitals have again returned to their homes. Garrett Schmidt (Joel and Wendy) was a surgical patient, and Archie Banwart continues to improve following medical treatment for a stroke. Henry (Emma) Fehr was hospitalized and now is in the care center at Friendship Haven in Ft. Dodge where his wife has been for some time.

As we look forward to July 4th, our country's Independence Day, may we take this opportunity to reflect on our greatest freedom of all.

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

*Galatians 5:1*

Likewise, may we ever be thankful for the great price that was paid by our forebearers to attain the freedoms we enjoy in this great land of America.

### *Our Heritage*

This is the land they came to  
When they came across the sea,  
Brave men and strong men  
And men of brawn and might;  
This is the land they conquered  
And left for you and me  
To cherish as our homeland...

Our heritage by right.

This is the land they left us...  
 A land to hold in trust  
 For generations yet to come  
 That they, too, may be blest.  
 A continent, far reaching  
 To the North, South, East and  
 West,  
 A land of light and freedom...  
 O men, today we must

Cherish the gift they gave us,  
 Must keep its bright flag high,  
 Must hold our independence  
 As sacred, thanking God  
 For our land as we go forward,  
 Our faces toward the sky,  
 Or as we kneel for guidance  
 On the same soil they once trod.

—Grace Noll Crowell

### JAPAN, TOKYO Jana Klaus

Greetings of love from Tokyo, in the middle of the rainy season. Some of you may have noticed that I did not write last month. Please forgive me, but it slipped my mind. It could be that I am getting older, but I think it was mostly because our family was going through a very busy and emotional time as we said good bye to Dad and Mom or Grandpa and Grandma Klaus to us, to others, Bro. Andrew's parents or John and Betty Klaus. After 40 years of service to the Lord in Japan, they have packed up and moved to Washington, IL, to join their two oldest daughters, Sisters Faith and Melody Klaus. At least we can find blessings in the fact that we have ways to keep us close that they didn't have with their parents 40 years ago — cheap phone prices and e-mail! We trust that the Lord will continue to guide them in service for Him there, and may we all be willing servants of

the Lord's no matter what age we are or on which side of the globe we are living.

We had several guests who were able to worship and have fellowship with our congregation recently. Sisters Faith and Melody Klaus (Washington, IL) were here to visit Japan one last time before their parents left and to help out with emptying out the house. They were with us in Tokyo Church for two Sundays in May. Then, on the first Sunday of June, Bro. Dave Schumacher (Washington, IL) was with us as he was on a business trip with CAT. We appreciated his willingness in sharing with us during afternoon Bible Study. We could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit among us and working through Bro. Dave. It is always a special blessing to have guests!

Every year in May, Japan has several national holidays in a row, so thus the term "Golden Week" came about. Most people take off several days from work and the roads are very crowded with travelers. We, as a church, try to do something together during that time and this year on May 5, the holiday called "Children's Day," a group of us spent the day at the Tokyo Tama Zoo. It is a large, beautiful zoo, located in a nature park with many hills and greenery. Even though around 60,000 other people decided to go to the zoo that day too, we still had a blessed time together enjoying the exercise and the many, many different shaped and colored animals that our great artistic Lord created. Oh, that people around the world would come to believe that things like animals and their colors, shapes, characteristics and instincts are not just "by chance". It is good to be reminded at times like this how amazing our living Creator God is.

On May 13, our Elder Bro. Akito

Inoue attended the bone burial service for our dear deceased Sis. Horiuchi-san. It is a custom in Japan to wait some time before having the burial service, and this family very fittingly chose Mother's Day. The family had requested copies of some hymns because her children and grandchildren wanted to practice and sing at the service. We were just thrilled to hear this. Bro. Akito reported later that it was a very peaceful and blessed service with the family being very respectful, the weather beautiful and the cemetery large and green, set in the hills of Hachioji. A group of us visited her grave a couple weeks later and we all feel very grateful, once again, to her family for honoring their mother and giving her a Christian funeral and burial. Please still continue to lift up her family in prayer to our living God that the faith of their mother would not die, but be passed on.

Recently, Sis. Utsuki or Utsuki Okaasan, the oldest member of our church, took a turn for the worse in her health and the family has requested prayers and are wondering if she may not linger much longer. She is around 93 years of age and has been up and down in her health for many years and unable to attend church. It is our prayer that they all would feel the Lord's nearness, strength and peace at this time.

Sis. Urushino's daughter, Sachiko, returned safely from a year home stay in Canada. She had a wonderful experience and apparently wants to go back! Sis. Urushino's young grandson has had quite a time in his first few months of life, being hospitalized for pneumonia and whooping cough while awaiting his first surgery for cleft lip and pallet. Your prayers would be appreciated for

this family, especially the first time parents. Most of us cannot relate with what they are going through, but maybe some of you have been through such an experience and can specifically pray with understanding.

May our Lord Jesus Christ bless each of you with His peace that passes all earthly understanding.

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

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”

*Colossians 3:15*

We rejoice with our converts, Elwin and Mary Strahm, who have found peace and are awaiting baptism.

Grandparents, Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn Hartter, are rejoicing over a newborn grandson, Eric Christopher Hartter. Thankful parents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Jill Hartter (Remington, IN) and siblings are Ethan and Emily to welcome him home.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Nancy (Bro. Leonard) Baumgartner and Shayna Strahm (Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane). May we be prayerful for each one that God's healing touch will be upon them.

Jesus knows thy sorrow,  
Knows thine every care;  
Knows thy deep contrition,  
Hears thy feeblest prayers;  
Do not fear to trust Him,  
Tell Him all thy grief.  
Cast on Him thy burden,  
He will bring relief.

*Hymns of Zion #74*

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. Edward Lehman who passed away June 1. May we be prayerful for his wife, Sis. Leola, children, grandchildren and all who were near and dear to Bro. Edward. Surviving children are Rudolph (Linda) Lehman, Kathleen (Dennis) Osterhaus, Kenneth Lehman, all of Sabetha, Sis. Janice Lehman (Olathe, KS), Elder Bro. John (Sis. Connie) Lehman and Mary (Elwin) Strahm. We were especially thankful to have ministering Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL) here for a portion of Bro. Edward's funeral service.

“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 bid farewell to two souls in our congregation. Bro. Rodney Menold has sought employment in the central Illinois area and will be assembling with the Princeville, IL, congregation. Sis. Kim Kaeb has been transferred to Kansas City for employment and will assemble with the Kansas City, MO, congregation. We will miss both of them and wish them each God's blessings in their new endeavors.

The last day of Sunday School for this year's term will be July 29. May we be prayerful for our dear brothers and sisters who are willing to teach our youth. Classes will resume September 9.

The Sunday School is our delight,  
We love it more and more;  
'Tis here we learn to do the right  
And live forevermore.  
We hear the truth so pure and  
clear,

Of Jesus' love so sweet and dear;  
There we are taught to lift our  
eyes  
to Him who lives on high.  
Sing ye all in one accord;  
Sound forth the praises of the  
Lord,  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna to  
the Lamb of God.

*Hymns of Zion #73*

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**KANSAS, FORT SCOTT**  
**Joleen Sinn**

We had our annual Vacation Bible School with 28 children attending. We finished the week with a program and picnic at Gunn Park.

We want to thank our visiting ministers and their wives for ministering God's Word to us this past month. They were Elder Bro. Dennis Warner and Sis. Esther (Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Don Braker, Sis. Eileen and their daughter, Sherry (Kansas City, MO), and Bro. Bob Pflederer and Sis. Eleanor (Morton, IL). Visitors are such a blessing to our small congregation. What a joy it is to meet and greet others of our faith. Thanks to all of you who have visited us; we appreciate you more than you will probably ever know.

Our prayers continue to be with our former Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart as he is recovering from a fall. He has an appointment on July 3 to have his halo removed and then he will be wearing a stiff collar. We are thankful he can come to church and also for his faith and joyful countenance through his trial.

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**KANSAS, KIOWA**  
**Jenny Stewart**  
**Laura Wagenbach**

Congratulations to our graduate this year. Chelsie Bahr (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice) graduated



from the 8th grade. May the Lord guide her through her high school years.

We were thankful to have with us Elder Bro. John Lehman for the reading of the Conference Memorandum. We also had the privilege of partaking of Holy Communion.

"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*

Our hospital patient this month was Sis. Florence Guthrie (Bro. Richard). Sis. Florence had to undergo surgery and had a few complications; however, she is home now. We pray God will continue to grant her strength and healing. Sis. Clara Miller was hospitalized after having a major stroke and is in a coma-like state. May the Lord grant the family sufficient strength to help them through this time.

On June 2, we held our annual Bible School. The students enjoyed crafts, pizza, and Bible lessons at the park. We also had lots of games and singing. It was a beautiful day to share God's love and His precious Word with our dear children.

The engagement of Sis. Komari Neal to Bro. Rick Aberle (Sabetha, KS) was announced recently. Parents are Sam Neal and the late Sis. Diane Stuckey and Bro. Roger and Sis. LaVonne Aberle (Sabetha, KS). May God be with them as they make their wedding plans. We pray they will always seek His guidance.

As harvest time is upon us, we pray for God's hand of protection over us, and thank Him for such a bountiful harvest. Let us always have a prayer on our hearts for the Lord's Golden Harvest.

Seeds of goodness we are sowing

In the hearts of man today.  
Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper,  
And bear fruit for harvest day.

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

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

*Hymns of Zion #46*

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**KANSAS  
LAMONT-GRIDLEY  
Sarah Somerhalder**

We want to thank ministering Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy, Philadelphia, PA) for being with us this month and proclaiming God's Holy Word to us.

Our prayers are with Sis. Jill Luthi who was hospitalized for tests this month. Also, our prayers continue to be with Bro. Samuel Anliker (Sis. Clara) who has been in the hospital for several weeks and is now in Madison Manor recuperating.

Our sincere sympathy is expressed to Bro. Lloyd Luthi (Joann) and family in the passing of his brother, Ray Luthi (Vivian).

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

We wish to congratulate our graduates. May they each seek God's direction as they enter schools of higher learning or pursue an occupation. Our high school graduates include: Brett Edelman (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Joleen),

Gwen Grimm (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl), Megan Kellenberger (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa) and Miranda Young (Roger and Janice). David Wysong (Bro. Ben and Sis. Janice) graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering degree from the University of Kansas.

On May 27, Sis. Carrie Aberle (Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia) was united in marriage to Bro. Kyle Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen). We pray God will bless their lives together. Bro. Keith Beyer (Sis. Alisa, Detroit, MI) assisted in the services.

We were thankful to have other visiting ministers in our midst. We appreciate the labors of Bro. Edwin Strahm (Sis. Ramona) and Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS).

We want to express our prayers of sympathy to Bro. Andy and Sis. Irene Lehman and their family upon hearing of the death of Andy's brother, Bro. Ed Lehman (Sis. Leola). He passed from this life on June 1.

Hospitalized were Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger (Bro. Jay) for back surgery, Sis. Phyllis Strahm (Bro. Elmer) for foot surgery, Sis. Leona Grimm, and Kortney Plattner (infant daughter of Bro. Brian and Sis. Jeanelle Plattner). Our prayers are with each one for God's healing powers and strength.

Mary Norine Hartter was warmly welcomed into the home of Bro. James and Sis. Sandy Hartter and her brothers, Jesse, Elijah and Andrew, on June 9. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter and Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler (Wolcott, IN).

We were happy to hear the engagement announcement of Bro. Rick Aberle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Lavonne) and Sis. Komari Neal

(Kansas City, MO), granddaughter of Sis. Mildred Farney of Kiowa, KS. May they look to God for guidance throughout their engagement and married life together.

The entire church was invited to the annual Sunday School picnic on June 10. It is always a special opportunity for fellowship with each one. Sunday School will recess July 29 for a short vacation period until after Labor Day. New Sunday School teachers will be Bro. Gordon Huber (Sis. Sharlyn), Bro. David Hartter (Sis. Beth), and Sis. Christy Meeks (Jerry). Substituting will be Bro. Tim Hartter (Sis. Charleen), Bro. Brian Plattner (Sis. Jeanelle), Sis. Sharlyn Huber (Bro. Gordon) and Sis. Brenda Grimm.

We rejoice with Troy Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon) who was announced as having peace. We look forward to his testimony in the near future.

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### KANSAS, WICHITA

#### Emma Miller

The Lord provides! We can sense that our two home ministers willingly give of their time to shepherd our congregation in spite of the burden it creates for their personal life. This month they had the opportunity to be hearers of the Word rather than proclaimers. They were assisted in the ministry on June 3 when Bro. Ben Wysong and his wife, Sis. Janice (Sabetha, KS), came to Wichita. As with all our visiting ministers, Bro. Ben proclaimed the same gospel message that we hear from Bro. Max and Bro. Glen.

Then on the weekend of June 9-10, we had another blessing. Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and Sis. Jane (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Carroll Gerber and Sis. Louise (Bluffton North, IN) were with us.

On Saturday night, our special friend, Shawnda Reimschisel, gave her testimony of faith and was baptized the following day. She is now our special sister in faith. We appreciate her loving attitude. Shawnda's parents are Bro. Max and Sis. Judy.

The church held a recognition tea for our high school graduates after church services on June 3. In addition to the two girls I mentioned last month, Candace Long and Lora Greiner, we recognized Josh Huffman's achievement. Josh is the great-grandson of our late sister in faith, Gussie Wullleger.

August is collection month for the Wichita congregation. Please confirm with me whether or not you want to continue receiving the publication and give your checks to the treasurer, Bro. John Schrader.

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### MEXICO, IXTLAN

#### Claudia Gonzalez

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

*1 Peter 2:9*

Every day we are thankful to God that He loves us and we know that He has chosen us to send forth His praises. Even though the weather is hot here now in Ixtlan and sometimes rainy, it is wonderful because we can see God's power.

In this month the Lord has blessed our brother and sister Jose and Aurora Magana giving them two beautiful grandchildren.

Meet Sister Maria de Jesus Casillas:

Most of the people call me "Chuya". I first knew about the Lord when I was 69 years old. I'm a married woman and have two children. One of them is Sister Hermila. I live with my daughter, Hermila, and granddaughter, Mayeli.

I began to attend church when my daughter invited me. In the beginning, I refused to go to church but when I did begin to attend, I liked it a lot. Through reading the Bible, I noticed that God loves me and that He has a plan of salvation for everyone who repents of his sins. I saw the base things in my life and I also saw the example of the believers. This encouraged me to pray more for God's help. After a period of time, I felt the need to repent of my sins and with God's help, I was able to do that. I was baptized on November 20, 1999.

Now I am thankful to God because He provides for me and takes care of me at all times. Although I am an old woman, I want to serve the Lord in every way and I know that He gives me grace every day to continue in this life. The Lord helps me to take care of my granddaughter while her mom is working. Now I have a special hope ... eternal life. My prayer is that some day my son and his family can know about the Lord and that they surrender their lives to the one Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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### MICHIGAN, ALTO

#### Sandy Schutte Kristen Plattner

"My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother."

*Proverbs 1:8*

June is the time for the annual father-son campout. It is a time of

fellowship and "male - bonding" for fathers and sons, and a small break for the mothers left behind. This leads into Father's Day weekend making the meaning of the holiday more meaningful.

Summer is here and everyone's schedule changes a little. Children are out of school, farmers are busy in the fields, vacations are being planned and gardens need to be tended. Everything is alive and blooming and life tends to be a bit busier. Are we taking time to give glory and praise to our Lord? Do we stop and see God's handiwork in the season? Are we tending to the relationship we have with our Father?

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power, for thou hast created all things and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

*Rev. 4:11*

Prayers of healing go out this month to Sisters Margaret Wingeier and Donna Oesch as both were hospitalized. Sis. Margaret had pneumonia and Sis. Donna had ankle surgery. Cameron Steffen was hospitalized for over night observation to rule out possible internal injuries.

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart..."

*Psalm 27:14*

Sis. Sara Jacobs has relocated because of her job and she will be missed. We would like to wish her God's blessings in her new endeavors.

Vacation Bible School will begin the week of June 25. Our prayers for guidance and blessings go to the teachers and children that God will be present and touch these small

hearts leaving a lasting impression.

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

*Isaiah 54:13*

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### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Rhonda Knochel**

**Peggy Jackson**

We rejoiced with the angels in Heaven this month as another soul committed his life to the Lord. Nathan Knochel answered God's call on his life. And we pray that as he begins walking close to God that he will feel God's tender leading and loving hand. We share our joy with Nathan's parents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Rhonda Knochel. It is our most treasured desire that many more will also turn to the Lord in repentance.

We were thankful to have Bro. Hartzell Kaisner and his wife, Sis. Mary, with us from Detroit. Bro. Hartzell is always very encouraging and it is a real blessing to have him visit us on occasion. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless his ministry.

There is nothing quite like the arrival of a new baby and so we joined Bro. Vince and Sis. Tessa Schlatter (Milford, IN) as they welcomed home Parker Vincent. Excited grandparents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Carolyn Schamback and Bro. Gus and Sis. LeAnn Schlatter (Latty, OH). We pray that little Parker will grow up to someday be a Godly man.

We were pleased to hear the engagement of Bro. Steve Wieland (Detroit, MI) to Sis. Tiffany Gasser (Rittman, OH). We rejoice with their parents, Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn Wieland and Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Gasser. We pray that as they plan their wedding that their

eyes will be on the marriage ahead and that they will feel God's nearness and direction.

We had two people in our congregation spend time in the hospital this month. They are: Sis. Connie Pashak (Bro. Dean) and Bro. Winsor Mosher (Sis. Loretta). We pray that as they recover that God will be their encourager and gentle healer.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Irma Bragiel and her family in the loss of their husband, father, grandfather and great - grandfather, Frank. It is our hope that each one will feel God's peace in this time of grieving and loss. "...For I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them and make them rejoice from their sorrow." (Jeremiah 31:13).

May God be with you in the month ahead!

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### MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Sarah Beard**

**Holly Barton**

We rejoice with Bro. Lucas Frank (Bro. Bill and Sis. Jo, LaCrosse, IN) and Sis. Crystal Ramsier (Bro. Dave and Sis. Dottie, Smithville, OH) as they were joined in marriage on May 20. Elder Bros. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Bros. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) and Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) were here to share the weekend with them. We thank these brothers for lending themselves. We also heard the engagement of Bro. Steve Wieland (Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn, Bay City, MI) and Sis. Tiffany Gasser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary, Rittman, OH). May God bless both couples.

We thank Bro. Bill Waibel for serving us at Woodhaven this month.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Mark Ramseyer and his family in the passing of his grandfather, Frank Bragiel; and Sis. Kristine Krieger (Bro. Kevin) in the passing of her grandmother, Sis. Millie Huber.

Jeff and Mary Haines welcomed Aaron Matthew into their home on April 29. Grandparents, Leland and Katie, welcome him, too.

We are thankful that Michelle Bahr has found peace with God and man and we look forward to her baptism in the future.

Our prayers are with Sis. Ruth Knochel and Sis. Jeanie Allen (Bro. Pat) who both had surgery. We are thankful that they are both assembling with us again.

Our hearts are saddened to see Bro. Jason and Sis. Gayla Stoecker and family move to Washington, IL. We look forward to their return visits. We are thankful to welcome Sis. Mandi Bates to our congregation.

Sis. Carrie Rauhe (Bro. Jason) graduated from St. Ambrose University with a master's degree in Occupational Therapy. Our High School graduates are: Jeff Kajowa (Bro. Bill and Sis. Darlene) and Amber Bahr (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev). God be with them as they go forward in life.

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**MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS  
Diane Stewart**

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Bro. Alpai Moser (Morris, MN) as he has gained his eternal rest. Bro. Alpai often ministered to our congregation with sincere Christian encouragement.

Visiting ministers this month have been Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Paul Butikofer (Sis. Millie, Elgin, IA).

Bro. Paul exhorted us at whatever age and stage we find ourselves serving Christ, there are always endless opportunities.

*Note of Thanks:*

A thank you to everyone for prayers, gifts, cards, telephone calls and meals during Sis. Bernadine's hospitalization and recovery period at home. It was greatly appreciated!

*God bless each of you.*

*Sis. Bernadine and Bro. Don Miller*

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**MINNESOTA, MORRIS  
Dianne Kellenberger  
Cheryl Messner**

We truly appreciate the visiting ministers who have shared God's Word with us. They include Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), and Bros. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Brandon Emch (Kansas City, KS), Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Jim Koehl (San Diego, CA).

Three couples have announced their engagements. Paula Lesmeister (Paul and Sis. Barb) is betrothed to Matthew Larson (Richard and Carol). Paul and Sis. Barb's other daughter, Joan, is to wed John Geleneau (Larry and Char). Shari Schmidgall and Rod Olson are planning a summer wedding. Parents are Bro. Jerel and Sis. Linda Schmidgall and Gerald and Bernita Olson. Our prayer is that these loved ones will seek God's guidance as they establish their homes.

Bro. Jon and Sis. Sally Nohl became first-time parents on May 24 when the Lord blessed them with a precious son, Devin Jon. May God grant them Heavenly wisdom as they raise their child. Grandpar-

ents are Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice Nohl and Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice Fehr (West Bend, IA).

Bro. Jerry Wulf has recently undergone hip surgery. We pray for a rapid and complete recovery. Others who have spent time in the hospital are Bros. Leroy Fehr, Noah Nohl, Tim Schaefer, Sis. Christy Zeltwanger, and young Preston Moser. We must be grateful for good health, a gift from God, and ever be mindful of those with afflictions.

Bro. Micah Zeltwanger and Sis. Holly Beer (Milford, IN) were united in the Lord on June 17. We welcome Sis. Holly into our congregation. May God's love and grace ever abide in their hearts and home. Parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel Zeltwanger and Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer.

*Note of Thanks:*

We are so thankful for all the love shown to us during Alpai's illness and passing. Each one was truly a blessing. Thanks for your visits, your prayers and all the food. It helped us so much. Your love will never be forgotten.

*The Alpai Moser family*

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

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

*Eccles. 12:13-14*

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



*Proverbs 22:6*

Our Sunday School voting was held with Bro. Ed Stoll and Sis. Lindsay Schmidt chosen to be our new teachers. We pray God will direct their teaching.

Picnics were enjoyed this past month with the Minneapolis congregation and the end of our Sunday School season picnic in the park.

We thank the Lester church for hosting the annual five church fellowship gathering held for our Bible Class students.

Welcome to new arrivals, Levi Kendal Messner, son of Kendal and Lori and grandson of Bro. Marlyn and Sis. Lois Messner; and Alicia Rose Carlson, daughter of Scott and Paula and granddaughter of Bro. Ernest and Sis. Marcelle Dapper. We wish these families God's blessings.

Hospital patients this past month were Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner, Bro. Harold Messner and Bro. Leo Messner. We pray for God's healing touch in their lives.

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**MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**  
**Komari Neal**

The end of May is an exciting time of year for students as they finish up the school term for another year. In Kansas City this year, we have several graduates. Bro. Jonathan Wales (Don and Sis. Carol), Bro. Neal Kellenberger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Amber Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen) graduated from high school and Sis. Lori Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) graduated from the KU Nursing Program. Sis. Lori's graduation enabled Elder Bro. John Lehman to minister to us on May 20 and we thank him for his labors on that weekend. Our

prayer is that these young people will continue to follow the leading of the Lord as their lives change and mature.

With our children out of school for the summer, we were able to have Vacation Bible School during the week of June 4-8. We had about 20 students participating in Vacation Bible School and many faithful brothers, sisters and friends who helped make the week successful. Our theme was "Let Your Light Shine" and each evening was filled with Bible lessons, songs, crafts, and snacks. Our week was completed on Saturday evening with a topical Bible study presented by ministering Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS). Bro. Roger instructed us on letting our light shine by walking with Jesus.

During the last few weeks, our prayers have been with Sis. Anna Lou Aberle who has been hospitalized and now continues to recover at home in Kansas City.

On June 10, our congregation received the engagement announcement of Bro. Rick Aberle (Bro. Roger and Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) to myself, Sis. Komari Neal. Bro. Rick and I believe we are following God's leading will, and we request and cherish your prayers during this special time in our lives.

Also, this writing will be my last for the Kansas City congregation as I will be living with my grandmother, Sis. Mildred Farney, in Kiowa, KS, for the next few months. Please give prayerful support to Bro. Garry and Sis. Marty Rokey as they assume these duties.

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**MISSOURI, LAMAR**  
**Kristen Braker**  
**Kristi Huber**

Visiting ministers with us this

past month were Bros. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Jim Koehl (San Diego, CA), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA). We appreciate the brethren that labor on our behalf and trust the Lord will bless them.

On June 3, the betrothal of Bro. Brian Leman (Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirley, Eureka, IL) and Sis. Kristen Braker (Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller) was announced. They are planning a July 29 wedding.

Jason Banwart (Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda) and Elizabeth Sprouls (Doug and Pam) exchanged marriage vows on June 9. May each of these couples look to God for guidance as they walk down life's path together.

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**MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**  
**Rachel Schrock**

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven ... A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to cast away."

*Eccles. 3:1,6*

This past month has been a time of change here in St. Louis. We have welcomed our Bro. Doug Mangers back from Denver for a couple months before he will move on to his next job assignment in New Hampshire this fall. He was missed during his assignment out in Denver, and we are thankful to have him in our midst once again.

We have enjoyed having Jeff Martin (Bro. Dale and Sis. Theresa Martin, Princeville, IL) in our midst for the past ten years as he has gone to pharmaceutical school and worked. Congratulations on your graduation, Jeff. You will be missed, too, as you move to Peoria

to put to practice what you have learned. May God be with you and help you in this new phase of your life.

We have also enjoyed the presence of many visitors this past month. Our sincere appreciation is extended to our visiting ministering Bros. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN), Vernon Wettstein (Sis. Judy, Congerville, IL) and Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN). May God bless each of them and their families for spending their time and energy on our behalf.

Our prayers are with our Sis. Wendi Mathis and her family as they have spent much time and energy with her grandfather, Robert Allen (Mooresville, IN), in the past few months as he battled cancer. May God bless you with His comforting peace during your time of loss, Sis. Wendi.

May God also bless each one of you as you plan your vacation for this year. We encourage you to come and visit us if your travel plans bring you through Saint Louis. You are welcome to join us for Sunday services or for our Wednesday night gatherings. We have church services on the second Wednesday night of each month, and the other Wednesdays we gather in our homes for a Bible study. Please feel free to contact Bro. Loren Schrenk for the schedule of where we will be if you are in the area on a Wednesday night. We also appreciate knowing in advance who our Sunday visitors may be so we can appropriately plan lunch. The fellowship that our visitors bring is a great encouragement to us.

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**MISSOURI, TAYLOR**  
**Peg Haerr**

Congratulations to our recent

college graduates: Bro. Ben Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny), Jan Stratton (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl), Josh Redd (Dean and Gaye) and Jaime Sublette (Dale and Marcia Elston).

Our Vacation Bible School was held June 11-14. Thanks to all who helped!

Many enjoyed the annual Father/Son Campout which was held June 15-16.

The first child of Todd and Lisa Bryant (Brimfield, IL) was born May 26. Her name is Alexis Elaine and her grandparents are Bro. Donnie and Sis. Elaine Hoerr and Donnie and Nina Bryant (Havana, IL). Great - grandmother is Sis. Loida Hodel from Taylor.

June 2-3 was a special weekend for Amber Heimer (Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan) as she gave her testimony of what Christ has done in her life and was baptized the following day! We thank Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) for assisting in the ministry that weekend. Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS). We thank each one for their services.

Our Elder Bro. Roy Grimm and Sis. Dona want to express their thanks for all the prayers while on their trip to the churches in Eastern Europe the last two weeks in May. They, along with Elder Bros. Gene Marti and Peter Petrovic and their wives, and Bros. Andy and George Hunyady were representing the Mission Committee at the dedication of a church in Hungary and another in Romania, which were built with funds donated by our brethren to the Eastern European building fund. They also visited a number of churches in Croatia, Hungary, Romania and

Slovakia and met with Elders from Yugoslavia to determine their humanitarian and church building needs.

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**NEW YORK**  
**CROGHAN-NAUMBURG**  
**Anna Mellnitz**

"And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat, this is my body, And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many."

*Mark 14:22-24*

On Saturday, June 2, we had a potluck supper and singing. On Sunday, we had Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) assisted our Elder Bro. Duane Farney. It is a blessing to be able to partake of Holy Communion. We had brothers and sisters from Rockville, CT, with us on this blessed day.

On June 16 we had a potluck supper and a singing. Ministering Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) was with us and also brothers and sisters from Latty, OH, West Bend, IA, and Congerville, IL.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Louis Beck Sr. who passed away on May 25. He leaves his wife, Janet (Purvines); three children; three grandchildren; his mother, Harriet Beck Lasher; five sisters and one brother; and in-laws, Bro. Larry and Sis. Louise Purvines.

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**OHIO, AKRON**  
**Joyce Gasser**

We welcome Bro. Eric and Sis.

Stephany (Keever) Maibach and their daughter, Karissa Layne, to our Akron congregation. We wish them the Lord's blessings and are thankful to have them assemble with us.

We were blessed to have the following visiting ministers: Bros. Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise, Bluffton North, IN), Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN), Bill Gerst (Sis. Judy, Alto, MI) and Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH).

George Hunyadi has been hospitalized, and we wish for him a speedy recovery and that he can be assembling with us again.

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### OHIO, COLUMBUS Nancy Banks

"A wise son heareth his father's instruction..."

*Proverbs 13:1*

May we remember our fathers this Father's Day with prayers of thanksgiving for the wisdom, guidance, love and support they provided throughout our lifetime.

We appreciate so much the visiting ministers who traveled the many miles to be with us this month. It was good to see Bro. Wally and Sis. Helen Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) at a mid-week service and Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce Wenninger and family members joined us for Memorial Day weekend.

It is with mixed emotions that we congratulate Bro. Jeff Stoller and Bro. Tony Stoller on their approaching graduations from Ohio State. We are happy for them that their numerous hours of toil and study are over, but we are sad that we will have to say good-bye as they begin this new phase of their life. May God richly bless them and

guide them is our prayer.

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### OHIO, JUNCTION Cindy Schlatter

May 19-20 was a very blessed weekend as we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of our new Sisters in the Lord: Sis. Cindy Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen), Sis. Janice Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen), and Sis. Patricia Manz (Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera). We trust God will richly bless Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) who came to assist during the weekend, and also ministering Bros. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN).

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

*Zion's Harp #79*

Sis. Henrietta Gerber and Bro. Adam Bauman (Mansfield, OH) were recently announced to be married. May God continue to be with this couple as they look for His guidance in making their future plans together.

Travis Schlatter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Laurie) is starting the summer out with a broken leg. We hope for a quick and speedy recovery for you, Travis, so you can enjoy your carefree summer days.

Our high school graduates for this year are Sis. Amy Dietrich (Bro. Gus and Sis. Dorothy), Benji Manz (Debra Densmore), Brad Gasser (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue),

Briana Manz (John and Elaine), Kurt Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy), Willie Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen), Sis. Cheryl Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie), Tim Manz (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra) and Gary Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily). Whatever your future plans may be, we pray you will remember to ask your Heavenly Father for His direction because He alone knows what each day of the future will hold.

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### OHIO, LATTY Heidi Hackenjoes Kathy Sinn

In the month of June, Latty held it's annual Vacation Bible School. What a blessing for our children and Bible Class to spend a week learning about Jesus. On Friday the children put on a heartfelt program for the congregation. Our thanks go out to all of the teachers and volunteers who helped make Vacation Bible School a success.

Visiting on our pulpit this past month were Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Greg Steiglitz (Indianapolis, IN). We want to thank these brothers for sharing the Word with us.

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

*Zion's Harp #79*

Two couples in Latty have reached their 50th wedding anniversary: Sis. Marge and Bro. Jim Gerber and Bro. Oliver and Sis. Emma Jean Steiglitz. This is a beautiful example of how a mar-

riage can last if God is part of the three - fold cord.

Our high school graduates this year are Brent Schlatter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky), Ryan Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam), Alex Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Tam), Melissa Laukhuf (Bro. John and Sis. Marcia), Natalie Stoller (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori), Joy Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth), Carmen Eisenmann (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol) and Kallie Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. Joanne).

Our prayers are with those who have been sick or hospitalized recently: Sis. Lola Laukhuf, Sis. Jody Stoller (Bro. Dale), and Sis. Dorothy Stoller (Bro. Wayne). May the Lord be with each one and heal according to His will.

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**OHIO, MANSFIELD**  
**John and Marci Pfeiffer**

Thy living Word is sent  
Our souls to feed and nourish.  
Thou wilt that in our hearts  
Thy love and praise we cherish.  
Thou sheddest light and pow'r  
Upon our pilgrim way,  
And lead'st us by Thy hand  
To heaven day by day.  
*Zion's Harp #13*

We thank Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) for sharing God's living Word with us on a Wednesday evening.

We were happy to hear of two engagements this month! Sis. Henrietta (Manz) Gerber (Junction, OH) and Bro. Adam Baumann have announced their engagement. Sis. Jessica Keever (Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev) and Bro. Steven Gasser (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois, Rittman, OH) are also engaged to be married. We wish both couples much happiness and God's nearness as they plan for their

weddings.

We remember in prayer those who have been hospitalized, including our friends, John Them and Ella Erhart. John Them is currently residing at the Woodlawn Nursing Home.

Our annual Vacation Bible School was held June 11-15. It was a blessed week for both Sunday School students and adults. On Monday, Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH) spoke of "Moses". Bro. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH) discussed "Ruth" on Tuesday. We had regular church services on Wednesday night. Bro. Walter Rager (Toledo, OH) ministered unto us. On Thursday, Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH) chose to speak of "David". Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) had the subject of "Daniel" on Friday evening. May God richly bless each one who took part in Vacation Bible School.

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**OHIO, RITTMAN**  
**Beth Beery**  
**Cheryl Hartzler**

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on  
thy side;  
bear patiently the cross of grief  
or pain;  
leave to thy God to order and  
provide;  
In every change He faithful will  
remain.  
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy  
heavenly Friend,  
Thro' thorny ways leads to a joy-  
ful end.

*Hymns of Zion #191*

As each one of us takes our daily path of life, we find ourselves in many different situations, yet what a blessing it is that whatever our lot may be, we all have the same God to which we can turn to

put our trust. When there is sorrow and fear or a special need we can feel His peace and know that He is by our side.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Ed Marty (Sis. Elaine, Smithville, OH) and Ginny Hilty (Frank) in the loss of their mother, Sally Marty. We also think of the family of Fred Maibach; his sisters, Sis. Mary Ellen Walker, Sis. Margaret Caleme (Bro. John), and his brothers, Bro. Arthur Maibach (Sis. Janet), Dale Maibach (Dixie), Robert Maibach and Joe Maibach (Donna).

We pray for our ministering Brothers and are thankful for their faithfulness. Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle visited us on May 27 and Dave Graf (Akron, OH) on June 17. We know that they depend upon our prayers and have need of God's nearness as they carry out this work.

Be still, my soul; thy God doth  
undertake,  
to guide the future as He has the  
past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let  
nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be  
bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and  
winds still know.  
His voice who ruled them while  
He dwelt below.

*Hymns of Zion #191*

Many times we have important decisions to make in our lives. What a blessing it is to know that our God can truly help us in all the choices we make, if only we put our trust in Him.

One of those important times of decisions is at graduation. Our graduates this year are Stacy Bauman (Sis. Nancy), Adrian Beery (Bro. Stan and Sis. Karen),



Hannah Beery (Bro. Walt and Sis. Lynda), Mollie Beery (Bro. Earl and Sis. Susie), Erica Calame (Jim and Donna), Ashley Curran (John and Chris), Evan Gasser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary), Kenneth Gasser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ellen), Kristin Gasser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane), Kyle Gasser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ellen), Sis. Trudie Hartzler (Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane), Joy Ingold (Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie), Amos Maibach (Bro. Alpha and Sis. Denise), Kelly Miller (Merv and Dawn), Marlin Miller (Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene), Tara Morris (Tim and Tami), Sis. Jessica Musser (Bro. Mike and Sis. LuAnn), Rebecca Raifsnider (Doug and Sis. Diana), Dustin Rigggenbach (Joe and Sis. Karen), Benjamin Rufener (Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen), Sis. Megan Rupp (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol), David Smithberger (Barry and Jean), Aaron Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail), Suzanne Steiner (Bro. Carl and Sis. Carol), and Sis. Anne Widmer (Bro. Darrell and Sis. Alice). May God bless these graduates as they complete an important chapter in their lives, and may each one look to Him to guide them in their decisions for the future.

Another step for God's guidance is that of marriage. We pray for three dear couples as

their engagements have been made known to our church. Bro. Steven Gasser (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois) to Sis. Jessica Keever (Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev, Mansfield, OH); Bro. Luke Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail) to Sis. Pam Maletich (Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie, Smithville, OH); and Bro. Steve Wieland, Detroit, MI (Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn, Bay City, MI) to Sis. Tiffany Gasser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary). May God be the center of their plans for their future together.

The most important choice in our life is that of repentance. We rejoice to know that souls are still being called today and there are those that are willing to answer. Marlin Miller (Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene) and Joe and Ann Gerber have answered God's call and made a decision to follow Him. May the grace of our Heavenly Father be with these converts as they work out their soul's salvation.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on,  
when we shall be forever with the Lord,  
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.

Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

*Hymns of Zion #191*

Just as we can look to the Lord in time of sorrow, heartache and times of decisions, we can also trust Him for times of joy and blessing.

We rejoice with Bro. Tim and Sis. Sharon Hartzler in the birth of their son, Jacob Timothy, on May 24. Amos and Megan are anxious to help care for their baby brother. Grandparents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler (Smithville, OH). Tania and Kevin Hanshaw also added a bundle of blessing to their family circle. Autumn welcomed her little sister, Alyssa Faith, on June 9. Grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Karen Hartzler. We wish wisdom and God's blessings to these two couples as they raise their children.

Most importantly, we can thank God for all that He has given to us,

and be thankful for His guidance and direction while we are on this earth, and then have a promise of a safe and blessed rest.

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## OHIO, SARDIS

**Alice Ramsier**

Our congregation enjoyed a breakfast together at the fellowship hall. The occasion was to celebrate the completion of high school for Sis. Stephanie Alruz (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet Indermuhle). Sis. Stephanie was presented with a Bible, and we pray for God's continued guidance in her future endeavors.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO) and Ronald Steiner (Rittman, OH). We thank them for coming and sharing God's Word with us.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

*Psalm 27:1*

We read this Psalm during our Sunday service on Father's Day. What an appropriate Psalm it was to meditate upon. We were reminded of some of the wondrous qualities of our Heavenly Father.

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## OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Edith Miller**

**Ruth Gasser**

"Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going...And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray."

*Mark 6:31,46*

Our Lord recognized our need

for rest and reprieve from daily duties, even if we only retreat to our private place of prayer. Summer-time seems to be a favorite time for vacations and often we can be refreshed by fellowship of believers in our churches across the land.

We're happy to report that Diane Maletich (Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie) is seeking her salvation through repentance. We wish her God's grace to exchange the pleasures of sin for the "rare treasure that makes every true pleasure live."

The engagement and forthcoming marriage of Bro. Luke Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail, Rittman, OH) and Sis. Pam Maletich (Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie) was made known to the congregation on June 10. May God's Spirit direct them throughout their engagement and lead their hearts and minds together into a godly union.

Sis. Pam Zollinger (Bro. Marvin) has spent time in the hospital following surgery, and we are thankful for the recovery that followed. We are sorry for the mishap which confined Kelly Luginbuhl (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose) and wish her good healing and relief from pain.

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice and weep with them that weep."

*Romans 12:15*

Our hearts go out to those in our congregation who have experienced sorrow over loss of loved ones. Sis. Bonnie Maibach (Bro. Dean) has lost her grandfather in Rockville, CT. Also, Bro. Ed Marty (Sis. Elaine) is grieving the loss of his mother, Sally (Dale). May they be comforted by God's Holy Spirit and may they feel our love and support.

### OHIO, TOLEDO Rebecca Beard Edie Fetter

"Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."

*II Cor. 1:4*

We are thankful that Sis. Colette Harmon (Bro. Howard) has improved enough to be able to return home. She is gaining strength, but she and her family are still in need of our prayers. Sis. Herma Whittaker has also been hospitalized. We hope she will soon be able to return home.

Among the guests for our Sunday School picnic were Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman (Smithville, OH). We appreciated his service in the ministry, along with the fellowship of all who came to be with us.

Michael Beard and Lindsay Glassner have announced their engagement. Michael's parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Geri Beard. May God bless them as they plan for their future.

### OREGON, PORTLAND Louisa Gallup

On Sunday, June 17, a farewell potluck was held for the Martin family. It wasn't easy to say good-bye to this dear family. They have been part of our small Portland congregation for a good number of years and we have many memories together. Bro. Denny and Sis. Lori and their children, Jeremy, Jamie and Jennifer, will be relocating to the Boston area. They are planning to attend the Rockville, CT, congregation. We

sincerely wish them God's blessings and guidance as they move to their new home. We will miss them very much and hope our paths will cross again some day.

We thank all visitors who came our way this past month. It was a blessing to have you with us. Special thanks to ministering brethren, Bros. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) and Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele) from Silverton, OR. We do appreciate your efforts and support.

### OREGON, SILVERTON RosaLee Kuenzi

A farewell potluck supper was held on May 20 for Tim, Sandy and Cody Jones who have moved to Goodfield, IL. We will miss them, but sincerely wish them God's blessings in this big step in their lives. Sandy's parents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie Knecht, and sister, Sis. Teresa Knecht, were able to travel across the country with them and the moving van to help them get moved into their new home.

Congratulations and prayers for their future were extended to our six high school seniors at a supper - singing - reception the first Sunday in June. This year's graduates are: Sis. Kim Kuenzi (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marilyn), Tennielle Kuenzi (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda), Sis. Rosanna Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda), Travis Dettwyler (Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene), Mark Dietrich (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan) and Justin Klopfenstein (Walter and Karen).

June 15 was the date God chose to bring sweet little Colton Lee Luthi into the family circle of Bro. Bill and Sis. Kris Luthi. He is welcomed at home also by Aaron, Brooke, Zayne, Weston, Quintin, Wade and Sterling.

Grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Violet Luthi (Lamar, MO) and

Bro. Rich and Sis. RosaLee Kuenzi of Silverton.

The engagement of Sis. Kristy Dietrich (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan) and Bro. Jeremy Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann) was recently announced. A July 29 wedding is planned. We rejoice with them and their families and pray for our Lord's nearness and guidance.

Visiting ministers this past month have been Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. David Marquart (Taylor, MO). We do appreciate our faithful brothers that are still willing to bring forth the Gospel message with it's pure and simple Truth.

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### PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

#### Nathan and MaryElizabeth Gasser

We have a wonderful cause for joy this month as another dear soul has found the grace to give her life to the Lord. Lauren Wiegand (Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle) has begun upon the path of life and we rejoice with her and her family, and our prayers are with her as she begins this wonderful new walk with the Lord.

This month we gathered for a Sunday School Picnic in a park near our church and enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship and games with our young children. We are so thankful for each of the children who join us each Sunday for worship, and for the teachers who give their time and love to our Sunday School.

We were blessed to have many visitors this month, including Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler and his wife, Sis. Bonnie, from Rittman, OH. We always appreciate those who visit our congregation and join us in fellowship and worship of our Lord.

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### TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

We are so thankful for the Word of God, and for the ministering brothers who have so willingly brought it to us in the past month. God has wonderfully provided for us through the ministry of Bros. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL), Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN), Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL) and Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL). We have also been blessed with the fellowship of brethren and friends from Champaign, Eureka, Fairbury and Forrest, IL; Francesville and LaCrosse, IN; West Bend, IA; Akron, Mansfield, Rittman and Smithville, OH; and Szekszard, Hungary.

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: Rittman, OH (7/22); Forrest, IL (7/29); Morton, IL (8/5); Taylor, MO (8/12); Mansfield, OH (8/19); and Indianapolis, IN (8/26). 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.

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### TEXAS, CENTRAL

#### Dale and Amy Ringger

"What is going on here?" inquired Mom as she walked around the kitchen corner and saw two boys standing, facing each other with the older boy pushing his

thumb up behind his brother's front teeth.

The older boy tried to defend his actions, "He wants to have a loose tooth like I do, so I am trying to get it loose."

Mom recommended that they wait on the tooth to get loose on its own or there could be a variety of problems if the tooth came out before its time. She then gave them some examples of complications.

Later, we thought of various things that we have been "wanting". Could it be that there would be troubles if we pushed ahead of God's timing?

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:"

*Eccles. 3:1*

While some of the family read a biography together of Jean Felix Piccard: Boy Balloonist, the topic of patience surfaced again. This is a brief excerpt of what we read:

"Will you get that book on sign language down for us now, Papa?" Jean asked.

"Not now," said Professor Piccard. "I object on principle to any course of action which does not foster patience. I will get it down for you after supper."

Jean and Auguste gave a little sigh together. Learning to be patient never seemed to be a pleasant thing!

Now, we thought the professor may be a bit extreme to foster patience, for no other stated reason than for patience sake, but he did deem patience as an extremely important character quality for his children to acquire. So also it seems that our God views patience as desirable for us. "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him:" (Psalm 37:7)

Our congregation seeks the

Lord's will in searching for a location for a permanent church building. We pray several families will relocate to the area and support the church fellowship. Growing a church from the outside will be much easier, once a core group is established.

We appreciate having Bro. Todd Klopfenstein (Phoenix, AZ) assembling with us for a few months on a work assignment.

Brethren who have preached the Word of God in past Sundays include Bros. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH), Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA), Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL), and Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield, IL). We also had visitors from Fairbury, IL; and Bern and Sabetha, KS.

We were blessed this spring with Communion services and the time of preparation for that experience. We thank our Ordained Deacon Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) for being with us for that occasion.

One Sunday morning at the breakfast table, we asked the children what they liked about going to church. One child stated she liked hearing the sermons and meeting the minister and his wife. The other children all agreed with her, and one of the shy ones added that they liked it even more when the visitors came to our house.

We feel the blessing of our precious tradition of fellowshiping in each other's homes. It makes it possible to share a bit more of our lives sometimes over a meal together, or by singing hymns, which binds us in our spirits. Our family enjoyed this on the receiving end not long ago while visiting another congregation.

One minister recently shared in

a sermon that he has come to the conclusion that the "pulpit to the pew" is not enough for us in our lives. We need to spend time together sharing our concerns and trials that we can more effectively pray and care for one another.

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.

August's schedule of ministers for Central Texas services are these: August 5 (Morris, MN); August 12 (Washington, IL); August 19 (Peoria, IL); and August 26 (Roanoke, IL).

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.

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### TEXAS, ZAPATA Joyce Nohl

Each day I'll do a golden deed,  
By helping those who are in  
need;  
My life on earth is but a span,  
And so I'll do the best I can.

I'll help some one in time of  
need,

And journey on with rapid speed;  
I'll help the sick and poor and  
weak,  
And words of kindness to them  
speak.

While going down life's weary  
road,  
I'll try to lift some travelers load;  
I'll try to turn the night to day,  
Make flowers bloom along the  
way.

*Hymns of Zion #139*

On June 17, the Zapata congregation traveled to Rio Bravo, Mexico, to assemble with those that came to work at the school for the deaf. Bro. Leland Plattner shared God's Holy Word with us. We had Sunday School for the children that visited us from the nearby neighborhood. A few mothers came also to worship with us. The children sang a couple songs to the congregation before they went home. We didn't have the accustomed luxuries that most of us are used to such as air conditioning, but we could feel God's presence among us as we sang songs of praise to God and listened to the Word given to us.

After services we were served a Mexican lunch prepared by the local ladies who cook for the work teams.

It was an uplifting experience to see those who come from various congregations come so far to help those in need. What a heartwarming feeling I received when I saw so many young people give of their time and talent. May God bless each one for their labor of love.

Each time I go to Mexico, I am moved by the poverty and the severe living conditions that exist so close to the United States. And yet, they seem satisfied with the little they have and the children wear big smiles and seem full of energy.



May God give them a desire in their hearts to learn about Jesus and His love.

Those of you who know and love Erika will be happy to hear that she is progressing rapidly and can now sit up unassisted. When I took her to the putmonologist on Monday,

he could not believe the improvement. He took her little hand in his and said "I am going to pray a special prayer of thanks to God today for this." That was very special to me. We put our trust in God and believe He will continue to be with Erika through every step of her life

however short or long it will be. We ask that you will continue to keep her in your prayers and thank each one of you for your love and support.



## 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 a Saviour.

*Sermon continued from page 2*

amongst their tents and bit many of the people, and the people started dying. They realized then, why they were dying. They realized it was because they were murmuring and they cried out to Moses, and said, "Save us." Moses asked God, and I will just read here, "Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole." Now does this make us think of anything?

He said make a brazen serpent and put it up on a pole. That should make us think of something. "...and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived." Numbers 21:7-9.

Wasn't that quite a thing? Can you imagine? Let's just put ourselves back a couple thousand years now and be wandering in the wilderness. We murmur and we grumble and we probably even tell our neighbor that Moses isn't a good leader. We murmur against the leadership and we grumble and then we are bitten. Then our children are bitten. Then we get down on our knees and realize that we maybe only have seconds or hours until our death.

Then someone comes and tells us. Maybe Grandma or maybe one of our daughters comes in and says, "Do you know what? Moses

said that if we would go out and look upon this snake that is up on the pole, that we would live." So what do we do in our need? Wouldn't we crawl out of our tent door if at all possible and look upon that snake that is hung upon the pole? Then we would live, even though we had suffered a fatal bite. A miracle! How could it be?

But even though we don't understand how it could be, what would we do? We could say, "Well, I am intelligent to know that that brazen serpent hanging up there on that pole has no life. That can't help me. I am either going to die or I am going to live, one or the other."

Yet, in our need and because we had observed that some of our neighbors have lived when they looked upon the pole, I think I would look upon the pole. Once I was healed, I believe that I would start to tell others that if they were bitten and the snakes came into their tent, that they should look upon the pole. Don't we see the analogy?

It is becoming very plain when we read of Christ in John twelve when He said, "And I," He is speaking of Himself, "if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32. What happened that day, dear ones? There is a reason Christ was crucified. There is a reason that He was not stoned, or that He was not beheaded. He was crucified because in that manner, He was lifted up so all men could see Him, just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness.

"The prince of this world will be cast out," Christ said. Then that day, the prince of this world was cast out. Christ took sin upon him-

self and that day the devil lost. He was beaten and he was cast out. The devil did not want that sacrifice to be made. I think this is one case where the devil did not fully understand. He thought he was winning that day, and he inspired men to put the Son of God to death, the Holy Seed to death. All down through the ages, Satan has always been working against the Holy Seed of God and trying to kill it. He did it with the babies and he did it in Moses' time. He did it in Christ's time and he tried to kill Christ when He was a baby. They tried to kill Christ during His life and push Him off a cliff, but it never worked.

Finally, Satan thought he was winning victory and he thought, "I will put Him on a cross and kill Him." Satan didn't realize what was really happening. Christ became cursed for us as He hung on that tree.

Now, we have already spoken of the Israelites and the tents and how hard it maybe would be to go look upon the pole. Yet, when we would see our neighbors being healed and our children perhaps being healed, wouldn't we, too, want to be healed and look upon the pole?

This is the way it is with Christ. It is so hard to humble ourselves, the natural hearts of man in many cases, but not in every case. In many cases, it is so proud and hard that it does not want to acknowledge that it will take a miracle to save us. We do not want to say that or to admit that. So we in our unconverted state, especially if we are of some age, and if we have rejected the Lord for some time, we really don't even want to look upon the pole. We don't really

want to look upon Christ on the cross. We will maybe turn in that direction, but we will kind of look down because we don't really want to speak to Him. We know that He will ask us a question if we look into His eyes. We know there is power there but we don't want to admit it.

Dear ones, we have to humble ourselves. The way of salvation begins with a humble feeling and an acknowledgment of need and an acknowledgment of sin and of a pleading. It can be in various words and various phrases. That is why we don't write it out. We don't write out exactly what the sinner's prayer should be. I have seen where they tell you what the sinner's prayer is. If you are of a humble mind and of a seeking mind and know your needs, you can pray in your own words and Christ will hear it, whatever those words are. "Lord, help me." It doesn't have to be any fancier than that.

Look upon that pole. Talk to the Saviour who died and took all sin upon Himself when He hung upon that pole for us. He will draw all men unto Himself. Isn't it amazing that One Man several thousand years ago died for all? There have been many men executed, many men and women have been executed throughout history, untold millions, but only One can draw all men to Him. That is correct. Then there were the questions and if we were there in that day, we would have asked many of these same questions. They wondered and couldn't understand how the Son of Man, how their Messiah, how God manifested in the flesh, they didn't know why He should be crucified. They just

couldn't understand that. It wasn't revealed to them yet.

But we do not have the excuses that they had. The people in this time, even the people that lived with Christ in that same era, they did have some excuse, maybe not much, because they could see the wonderful works. They surely couldn't deny the miracles and they couldn't deny His love. A man that never did wrong, how could they deny Him?

But, still, it was not fully revealed until after the resurrection. Only then could they understand the Old Testament prophecies that Christ was going to come twice — once to suffer and once to reign. So they did have, could we say, a small excuse if they rejected Christ if they lived when He lived. But what about us? Do we have any excuse when these Scriptures are so plain and when it has all been fulfilled? Not all prophecies have been fulfilled, but all the prophecies of Christ's first advent have been fulfilled. It is now plain as to the method of salvation.

"Yet a little while is the light with you." John 12:35. Do we notice as we read through Scripture, Christ is always compared to light; the devil is always compared to darkness. "Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you." John 12:35. There is always a great contrast. Dear ones, how are we walking today? That is a question that we should ask ourselves whether we are a believer or not. Even if we are a believer and if we have been in the light, do we wander into the dark areas? There are dangerous dark areas, even if we have been in the light. Let us stay in the light.

Dear friends, if you could freely

admit that your deeds are evil and you are still hiding deeds and you still love darkness, Christ is the Light. He is the answer.

"...for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth." John 12:35. This is our condition while we are yet unconverted. We really don't know where we are going. If someone asks us ever, "Where are you headed? What do you plan to do in the future?" we should never respond, "I don't know where I am going. I don't know what I am doing." Because as a child of God, we know what we are doing. We are following God's will and we are trying to do His will and we are heading to heaven.

"While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light." John 12:36. It is a miracle, I can't explain it. It is more of a miracle than looking on a brazen serpent on a pole and being healed. But if we believe in the light, we will be children of the light. We won't just be a relative of the light. We are not just an acquaintance of the light or a friend of the light, we are children of the light. We can be children of the Living God.

"But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him." John 12:37. This was a problem then and it is a problem today. Now we have to ask ourselves, is it a problem with me? Because the whole reason we read Scripture together and the only reason we have gathered today, is that God can speak to our heart and then we need to do self-inspection.

"He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that

*Sermon continued on next page...*

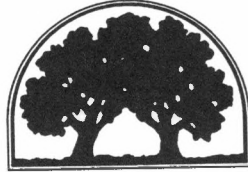
*Sermon continued from page 45*

they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them." John 12:40. That is an interesting Scripture. We can understand the scene with

our eyes. I don't know why they couldn't see the miracles that He did. But then it says, "...nor understand with their heart." Usually we think we understand with our mind and our heart is just an emo-

tional center of our being, but evidently, the heart is more. When the Bible speaks of the heart, this is the center of all spiritual activity and spiritual thought. So we

*Sermon continued on page 47*



### **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](mailto:thitzhome@juno.com). For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-925-2409 or E-mail [ksss@dpc.net](mailto:ksss@dpc.net).

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	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

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have to understand with our heart. Medically that is maybe not possible, but spiritually, it is very important that we have to understand with our heart. We really can't separate our heart and our mind, can we?

We see that the chief rulers had a problem. This, too, can have application today. Often it seems like not many of the Pharisees believed, but evidently they did. Evidently much of the leadership there at that time among the Jews did believe, but they did not confess Him. In other words, they did not publicly confess Him. This can be a problem today. It is tempting since there is a cost to following the Lord and since there is some

reproach to being a believer and since sacrifices ask once we repent. It is very tempting to believe privately and personally but to not tell anyone. Then we think that we will have some of the benefits but none of the sacrifice. This is not what Scripture teaches.

I don't know the final end of these chief rulers who believed but did not confess publicly because they valued the praise of men more than the praise of God. I don't know their end. Hopefully, they still had time and after Christ's resurrection. Hopefully then they publicly confessed, but think what they missed out on. Think of some of the other rulers

*Sermon continued on page 49*

### NOTICE - BOOKSTORE HOURS

The Apostolic Christian Bookstore will be open on Friday evening, August 10, 2001, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. This is the day of the General Brotherhood Conference.

If you would have an order, please place it early so the bookstore can have it prepared for pickup.

We now have large print, spiral bound Hymns of Zions available. The cost is \$14.50 per book.

### MEXICO WORKTEAMS 2001

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

Bryan Stoller  
817 S. Locust  
Pontiac, IL 61764

### **Gateway Woods Auction**

Saturday, August 18, 2001

### **Call To Subscribe**

Please call the Gateway Woods' Office at 888/443-4283 to receive The Gate Post, a free newsletter about Gateway Woods published three times yearly.



### **SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

Gateway Woods offers three \$2,000.00 scholarships to students enrolled in undergraduate or postgraduate work leading to a degree in a social services field. The scholarships are available to any member of the Apostolic Christian Church or friend who attends on a regular basis. A description of the scholarship and application are available by writing or calling 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: [bibledist@parlorcity.com](mailto:bibledist@parlorcity.com)

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that did and I am thinking of the two that came to the tomb. The man who furnished the tomb and took Jesus down from the cross and begged His body. He was willing to openly confess and acknowledge and to place his lot with the Lord. He openly did this.

Now some years later, maybe twenty years later (I don't know how long he lived) if we would have met him, and if we would have asked how was it taking Jesus down from the cross and how was it preparing Him for burial, was it worth it? What do you think that man would have responded? How would he have responded? I am sure he would have said it was worth it.

Dear ones, we miss out if we think we are going to have a private salvation or if we become misled and think that it is really only between us and God. In some ways it is, it is personal and it is only between us and God, but there is still a need for public confession and public acknowledgment. Then and only then can we receive the full blessings.

"Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me." John 12:44. We can see that no man cometh unto the Father but by Me. There is only one way to the Father's heart and that is through

the Son. We cannot separate the two. We cannot be a part of any religion that acknowledges God but does not acknowledge the Son. That is false, dear ones.

"I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness." John 12:46. Again we see this great contrast. I don't know if there is any darkness in any of us today, but Christ is the answer and Christ can eliminate all the dark corners of our life.

Here as we get to these last verses, we have quite a sobering reminder. A lot of the Word is just a reminder, isn't it? We don't have it new. When we come to church, we don't usually hope to hear something new or something fantastic, but most of it is reminders of things we have already heard. It is because we are forgetful people. Most of what we hear are reminders of things we have already heard.

What I am reminded of this morning is that this Word is going to judge me, not Christ, but the Word. In other words, the things that we have read and been taught and know and heard, that is what is going to judge us. Something that cannot change and has not changed through all the transcribing of Scripture down through the thousands of years and then the

printing of Scripture. A lot of it was hand transcribed and hand-copied and in all of that, there is no conflict. It was perfectly preserved until now for us, and this is what is going to judge us in the last day. It is this Word, dear ones, and how well do we know it.

If our reading and our study is somewhat lackadaisical, or if it is intermittent, is it that way because we are just afraid of what we will find out if we read here? We are always going to be motivated. We are always going to be pricked when we read this good Word. As we continue to do it and if we allow the Word to prick us, then God through His Spirit, (and we can't explain this) gives us a desire for more.

It isn't always prickly. It isn't always all conviction because interspersed among that will be so many wonderful comforts and so many wonderful promises that will give us a hope for the next life.

"And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak." John 12:50. We have heard words from the Saviour as many of these are written in red, dear ones, let us heed.





*The renewal of true spiritual life continues in Switzerland and other portions of Europe.*

### Persecution in Switzerland

You may, perhaps, not know the reason for the persecution. There were these reasons: First, it was forbidden to preach in houses, so the one who preached, the one who gave the house, and the ones who attended these meetings were all guilty. Once a brother was preaching. He had a beard. The police came and tore his beard out. The whole cheek was bleeding, and that is the way he was taken to jail for ten miles. You have no idea what they suffered, just because they had meetings and meetings were forbidden.

There was another reason for persecution. There was not compulsory military service, but one question was capital and that was the question of marriage. No one had the right to marry people except in the state church, the Catholic, and the Jews. So if you were not Catholic, Jewish or state church, you could not get married; you had to remain single or join one of these churches. They married anyway, and Brother Froehlich married, too, but the authorities would not recognize this marriage. His wife was punished and fined for each baby she had. They did not have the right to live in the same house, not even in the same village. He had to live separated from his family for seven years.

Once he received news that one of his boys was dying. He wanted by all means to go to sit at the bedside of his dying son, but he expected to be put to jail any moment. But God had mercy on him and on that night a terrible fire broke out and the police were kept busy at the fire, and they left this man sit at the bed of his dying boy. However, he was not permitted to go to the funeral.

Another reason for persecution was that since the church was considered as the State Church, everything the church requested was obligatory. The baptism of newborn children was compulsory. I know of a believing father who was put in jail so that the police were free to bring the newborn child to the official church where it was baptized. The father was compelled to pay the fees and expenses incidental to this.

### Endurance

Attendance at training lessons for confirmation and the confirmation itself were compulsory. I know of two girls who died as faithful sisters, who were put to jail on Saturday night and then brought by the police the next morning to Sunday School. At the confirmation ceremony each pupil received a Bible verse as a dedication. These girls received the quotation: "Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire." Another girl whom I knew well when she was a grandmother had spent time in jail at the age of 13 because she had visited our Sunday School.

Even funeral services for our people were considered an offense. At one funeral, the police had been instructed to arrest Samuel Froehlich as soon as he would appear. When he did not come (because he had been warned), the police beat the brother who held the services.

### Froehlich Leaves Switzerland

The time came that Samuel Froehlich could not live in that wonderful country which people call "Paradise" and in 1844 he was told once more to leave the country. But he did not know where to go. Here comes a wonderful story, the story why I am here. It was always so; the persecution in Jerusalem brought the Gospel to Arabia, to India, and to Europe. The persecution at that time brought the Gospel to other countries, and Samuel Froehlich received the call to come to France.

### France

They started small. When they had the Lord's supper for the first time at the end of one year, they were twelve; one year afterwards they were thirty-five, then sixty-five, and they were growing from time to time.

How poor they were and how modest their means can be illustrated by the following story: Every week they had a brother meeting on Friday to evening to speak about questions that came up during the week. Once they had a discussion on the following matter: "What should we do on Sunday when we have guests and have nothing to eat?" The brothers decided that the families should fast in order to have enough to receive guests on Sunday. Such was the spirit at that time.

### Germany

The Gospel went joyfully through all of Alsace from one town to the next. But do you know why? Brother Froehlich had a rule,

"Never more than two preaching brothers in one room on a Sunday, and the others go on the road." Where to? God knows — the Gospel had to be preached — the Spirit of God will guide them. My grandfather Diebold was ambitious; he was young; he was 19 or 20. He was one of the youngest and he went to work. He was always on the road, and on Sunday evenings, for a rest, he was in jail. Just an example of how they were working: He heard that on a farm seven hours away was a man seeking God. He went there and this man said, "Oh, no," and as he wanted to get rid of him he said, "I know a man who is more interested than I; go and visit him." This man was two hours away.

He went to this man; that totaled nine hours walking. When he came to this farm — it was a beautiful farm — the windows were all open and he heard a loud noise. When he looked, there was a large number of guests in the house. The people called out, "This is a new house and a new barn, and he has invited the whole village because the whole village helped him to build, so now the whole village is here." What would you do in such a case? He had wanted to speak in secret to this man and now he found the whole village; is that not wonderful?

So he came to the house hungry — after walking for nine hours he must have been hungry! The owner was full of joy for this beautiful farm, and he said, "Come in, have a meal with us." My grandfather went in and enjoyed the meal with them. When he was through and satisfied, this ambitious man said, "Now friends, we had a wonderful meal and we all enjoyed it," and he started to speak of the meal, and of the invitation to the feast at the marriage of the Lamb. While he was preaching, the wife of this man ran out and fell on her knees and prayed the Lord that this terrible sectarian would be chased out of the house. But he was not chased, and this wife was a very dear sister afterwards. This beautiful farm was just built for a church, and it became a church and is still a church now.

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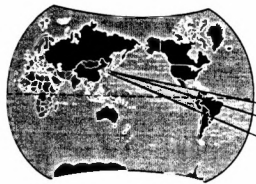
*Next Issue: The work accelerates. The Word travels from village to village, and multitudes were added to the Faith.*



# The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

## 希望の光



### "It Works"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

An Afro-American teacher of education at Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS, once told his class, "Every kid (child) is different. Do whatever works with that kid." I assume he was talking about motivating the child to learn. It does raise the issue about what works and what doesn't work.

Do the teachings of the New Testament work? By faith we believe that the atonement Christ made for us, as recorded in the New Testament, works, that if we repent, believe and obey, we are forgiven, sanctified, and will surely go to Heaven. We have not yet gone to Heaven, so this is based on faith, not on empirical truth or knowledge.

What about Christ's statement in Luke 10:30, "He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." I understand this to mean that finding your life is to live selfishly, and to lose your life is to live very unselfishly, to

forget self, to be dead to self. The former way of living seems to be very attractive; you do what you want to do and get what you want to get. However, you are never satisfied. There is always something more, or better, that you want. In the latter way of living, you start with nothing and you are dead with Christ, so you have nothing to lose, and every little thing God gives you seems like an enormous blessing.

In Luke 18:29-30 we read, "And he (Christ) said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake. Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come, life everlasting." Jesus is not teaching us to leave our wives and children; they need us, but He is teaching us that whatever we give up for Him and God's kingdom will be recompensed to us in an abundant manner already in

this life. Does it work? I believe it does and this is not just a matter of faith. It is a matter of observation. It really works that way. You have probably experienced it.

If you operate on this premise that you are dead to self and willing to do anything for the Lord, you do need to be careful that others do not take advantage of you. To make it really work, all the believers in a church should operate on that same premise. I had someone in the States say to me, someone who knew of my convictions on the matter, "Ehnle, it doesn't work. The more you are willing to do anything and everything for the Lord, in the church, the more others sit back and let you do it." This concerns menial tasks, not preaching the Word. If others tend to take advantage of you, you need to say, "I'm willing to do it, but I think everyone should do his share. There is a blessing in doing it."

## 希望の光



*The little bee gathereth food in the summer into his burrow for the winter.  
What is his significance on Earth? God's purposes are far above man's thoughts.*

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