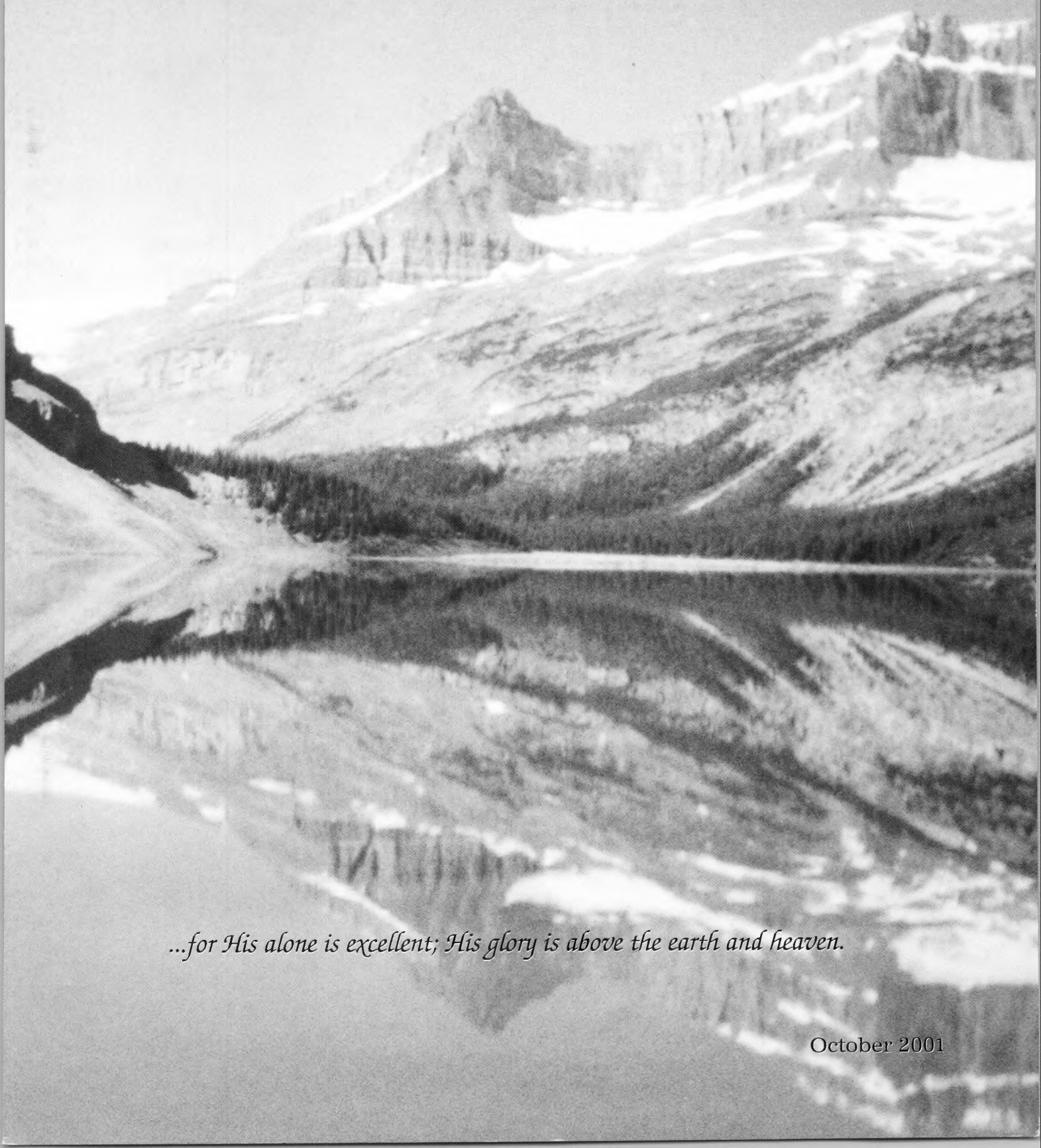


The Silver Lining



...for His alone is excellent; His glory is above the earth and heaven.

October 2001

“TREASURES OUT OF DARKNESS”

Sermon by Bro. Roy Koehl, Morris, MN
II Chronicles 22 and John 9

Where we started reading here, there was an account of Jesus right after He had experienced people calling and telling Him that He possessed a devil. They took up stones to kill Him. But at the end of that chapter, It says, "... (He) went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by." John 8:59. It was not His time to be killed, so God Himself kept Him from it because Jesus had yet more work to do upon the earth. It was the convincing of men. It was His mission to believe on God that by He Himself walking on earth to communicate with man, He could live a perfect life, and overcome sin and the devil by the power of God. Also, that the name of God could be magnified and men could be convinced to walk with God, and to come out of sin.

"And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" John 9:1-2. We can see that the nature of man is to take note of things and try to figure out when something happens and we would say, "It is not good or something that is a burden." We try to figure out whose fault it is and who is to blame. What caused this? And who started it?

We know as children sometimes we would get into a tangle and then we would be scolded and we would be quick to say, "He started it." We like to do that because that is our nature, to put the blame on someone else.

"Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." John 9:3-4. No matter how great a sinner is, we see that a small sinner and a large sinner are

both still sinners before God. They need not worry about whose fault it was, but rather to look for a way to escape it, that it can be dealt with and taken from our life. Then we don't need to be labeled with the sinners.

To do that we need to come to a place where we don't long for that life anymore, but we think of a life free from sin. There is only one way we know to overcome it and to come out of it and that is through repentance and conversion. Confession of sin. Sin can be dealt with as it is brought to light. Satan is a worker of darkness and he hates the light. When he is brought into the light, he will flee from us. The confession of sin does that just for us. We bring it out into the light and admit that we were the sinner. Then we ask, "Lord, what must I do to be saved?"

For all that to happen in our life, we need a measure of faith and it doesn't take a lot to get started, but we need to have a measure of faith that we can believe that God will do that for us. We know and understand that we of ourselves are not going to accomplish this thing. Though we would live a hundred years on earth, we will never come to a place where we will find peace within and to have sin removed from us and have the blessed hope of eternal life. We cannot accomplish that by ourselves.

We can try in many ways to clean up our life and even to come over out of our youth and quit doing some of the things that were so evil. Yet, we will still be a sinner before God and that will be written in the books and will not be removed until we come to the foot of the cross.

The way of the cross leads home and that is where we find our salvation. We go there and look up to the Lord and it is His shed blood that removes sin from us and that we can

have a pure conscience. Not just the removing of the filth but of the purging of our conscience that we can be pure and clean by having all that taken away from us. To just quit sinning will not do it, and it will not happen. We will still be a sinner though we would sin no more from this time to our death. We think that we sin no more.

Not to acknowledge that Christ was the Son of God, that is sin. So we would continue in sin, though we thought we were not sinning

Sermon continued on page 44

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

October 2001

Are You Ready for Christmas?

Often as we approach a religious holiday we are asked "Are you ready for Christmas (or whatever the holiday may be)?" The expected answer usually relates to our shopping, or baking, or some other secular aspect of the celebration.

How do we answer questions of that nature? Do we find ourselves focusing too much time and energy on the secular aspect of a holiday or do we prayerfully focus on the spiritual meaning of these special times?

How does a child of God prepare for a holiday? Do we get so caught up in the secular rush of the season that we sometimes forget what is important about that particular day? Have we spent so much time and energy on secular aspects of the holiday that when it arrives we are too exhausted to appreciate the spiritual significance of the day?

The purpose of this article is not to campaign against exchanging gifts or spending enjoyable time with family and friends. The purpose is to encourage each of us who is a child of God to reflect upon the meaning of these holidays and to encourage that they be holy days in our lives.

If someone who has absolutely no knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ would spend an extended period of time in our homes during a holiday season, what would they know about God after their visit? What would they know about the plan of salvation? Would they know who, or what you worship? Would they have any idea what God looks like or what is important to Him? If they would then search the scripture, would they find a close relationship between what they observed in our life and what they learned from the scripture?

For a child of God, preparing for a holiday may begin at the time of our conversion. During that period of time we should be learning of the significance of the various periods of Christ's life and what these mean to our salvation. We should also be establishing priorities in our life that make serving God more important than anything else in our life. The

time and energy we spend in preparing for a holiday should draw us closer to God rather than cause grief and heartache.

Spiritual preparation is certainly very different from secular preparation. Traditions of the world tell us how to prepare for secular celebrations. There are many scriptural passages that instruct us about the importance of, and the steps involved in, spiritual preparation for special occasions.

Since we do not know when the Saviour will return, it is important that we be ready at all times, lest we lose our opportunity to go with the Saviour, as did the foolish virgins. "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut" (Mt. 25:10). Those who were ready went in, the others were denied admission. The five foolish virgins did make preparation - but it was after the door was shut. The Lord did not know them.

To make a thorough preparation, we must be careful that we do not allow idols to remain in our lives. Samuel reminded the children of Israel that they should "...put away the strange gods ...and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve Him only:..." (1 Sam. 7:3).

Do we have idols in our lives that are part of our holiday observation? If we allow material items or secular images to blur the purpose of the holiday or to divert our attention from the significance of the day, we may need to carefully examine our priorities and be sure we have not allowed the influence of Satan and the world to contaminate a holy occasion.

In addition to removing idols from our lives, we must be certain that the temple of the Lord, our body, (1 Cor. 6:19) is cleansed. The prophets of old called for a cleansing of the temple. "And they gathered their brethren, and sanctified themselves, and came ...to cleanse the house of the Lord" (II Chr. 29:15). Jesus saw evil in the temple of God "...and drove them all out of the temple;" (Jn. 2:15). Although the prophets and Jesus wanted

the House of God to be physically cleaned, their real concern was spiritual cleanliness. We must be careful that the customs of the world do not pollute our household of faith.

Sin separates us from God and we know "...all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;..." (Ro. 3:23). Therefore, we need to consider the message the angel Gabriel delivered to Zacharias when he told him the work of John the Baptist would be to "...make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Lk. 1:17). As we prepare for a holiday, we must ready ourselves for serving the Lord.

We must "...purge (ourselves) from these (sins) ...(and) be a vessel to honor, sanctified and meet for the master's use, and prepared for every good work" (II Tim. 2:21). Thus, personal purification should be a major part of our plans as we get ready for special days that God has given to us. They are special opportunities for us to learn to know the Lord better.

Therefore, as we think about readying ourselves to observe a holiday, we should be sure we have abandoned all idols (sin), cleansed the temple of God (our bodies), returned to the Lord from whom we strayed when we became involved in sin, and purified ourselves, removing the contaminates that past sins have brought.

We may think that we have completed all the details necessary for a "perfect" holiday. We may have had the foresight to do our shopping early, to plan our menu well in advance, to clean every spot and corner of our house and to invite our guests in plenty of time to assure their attendance at our gathering. However, if we have not taken the time to prepare our hearts and our minds for God's service and to instruct our children of the importance of making the occasion an honor to God, we have missed the real purpose of the holiday, and have lost an opportunity to worship in truth and sincerity. Are you ready for Christmas?



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

Disaster Work Project Completed at Pontotoc, MS

Damage done by Tornado

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."

Help was needed

This small devastated community was faced with tremendous recovery efforts. The World Relief Disaster Committee planned to build three homes for families that had their houses completely destroyed. One of the families selected for a new house lost their only child, a 10 year old son, to the storm.

Dedication services

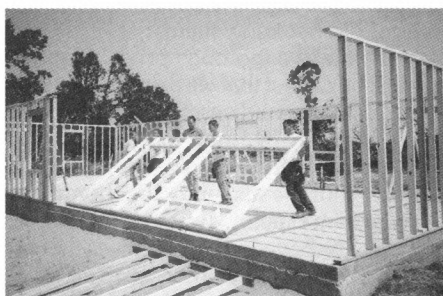
The dedication services on August 26 culminated the successful Disaster Work Project, which began on June 4, 2001. The dedication of the three houses, built by the Apostolic Christian volunteers, and one built by local Pontotoc volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, was held at the Pontotoc Community Center.

Local coordinators

The whole project was arranged and coordinated by the local disaster recovery organization, Faith Alliance. Each family was given a large family Bible and each child received a book of Bible stories. Before leaving the service, many of the local citizens thanked us for our help in the recovery

of their community, and expressed many positive comments, on the work ethic, the decorum, and the Christian examples, demonstrated by all who came. Following the dedication, vans were made available for interested parties to tour completed homes. Many of the local people took advantage of the offer.

Brother Ron Hodel, from our Bloomington, IL congregation, was the on-site coordinator for the USA Board. He was kept busy directing and allocating the jobs, and securing the building materials, as required, for the three job sites. Brother Ron's assignment was complicated by the communications and logistics required to service the sites, which were several miles apart. His God given talents were evident and appreciated.



Dedicated participants

When a project is planned and started, there is always an underlying concern that volunteers may not be forthcoming in numbers and skills required. This project was no exception. "Oh ye of little faith." The Lord again was faithful, stirring the hearts, of the Brethren and Friends, to come forward in a timely manner. Eighty-two volunteers, from twenty-two congregations, and six states, availed themselves of the opportunity for service and fellowship. The weather was often very warm and humid, but without the sand gnats experienced in Camilla, GA.

Simple construction plans

The house plans, selected for the three families, were more volunteer friendly, than those built in Camilla, GA last year. The straight rooflines and rectangular house plans called for trusses of simpler design and allowed for easier roofing and siding installation. The volunteers appreciated this, as it saved them much time and effort.

Craftsmen from the area

Faith Alliance was a source for information on local and area vendors and artisans. They also coordinated the financial arrangements for the new homeowners. The local area provided skilled craftsmen and trades, which were hired to fill skills needs that were not available through our Brotherhood, or when volunteers with required skills were not available. Nearly all of the building materials were purchased locally.

Materials donated

A donation of drywall was received from U.S. Gypsum Co., through the efforts of the American Red Cross. The quantity received was sufficient to complete all three houses. In-kind donations help lower the building material costs.

USA Board expresses thanks

The USA Board and the World Relief Committee want to express thanks and appreciation to Brother Ron and Sister Donna Hodel for their sacrifice of three months of effort during the time of the project, and to all the willing volunteers who communicated the love of God by their participation.

This work project was a wonderful opportunity to communicate the love of Christ. Our Heavenly Father is due all our praise and honor for His love and compassion unto mankind.



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 Visited Ukraine in May

On May 18, 2001, after a journey across Eastern Europe which began in Budapest, Hungary, a team of American and German brethren crossed the Ukrainian border to assess and further the ongoing work in this troubled land.

In late autumn of last year, the European Board and Mission Committee approved a trip into Eastern Europe. Brothers Marvin Leman, Andy Stoller, and Gene Lehman were authorized to represent our brethren in this endeavor, and plans were made over the ensuing winter.

Group assembled in Budapest

Bros. Marvin Leman and Andy Stoller flew directly into Budapest, arriving on Monday, May 14. They were met by Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna Lehman and Elder Ernst Pfister and his wife, Sis. Elisabeth, who had come via van from Germany. The group traveled together starting early on Tuesday, May 15, driving through Hungary and Romania. By prior arrangement they spent two nights in Arad, Romania, where they had services on Tuesday evening.

As reported in previous issues of this paper, another group of Americans had also traveled to Eastern Europe to visit various lands and attend two church dedications. The two groups met only briefly in Szeged, Hungary, after each group had spent some time carrying out their assignments.

From Arad to the border

Bro. Filip Augustinov from the Arad congregation acted as driver for this group, using a van that had been bought previously for the use of our Romanian brethren. Past experience

has shown that it is better to use a vehicle of Romanian registry as opposed to German registry, because it attracts less attention from the police and the people who observe along the way.

Because the group wanted to cross the Ukrainian border in daylight, they spent the night in a hotel in the mountains of Transylvania, a lovely area of Romania. This hotel was both lovely and comfortable, and by our standards quite inexpensive. They were able to get a good night of rest before crossing into the troubled land of Ukraine.

At the border

Crossing borders in Eastern Europe is interesting. One never knows what to expect. Our brethren have tried numerous tactics to facilitate this crossing, but in the past it has always required a lot of time, patience, and sometimes the payment of money. This time the members of the group, both German and American, had acquired visas for entry into Ukraine in advance from a travel bureau in the USA. Because they were staying for more than three days, it was necessary either to register with the police or stay in a hotel. In this case the group made hotel reservations in advance, and actually crossed the Ukrainian border with very little loss of time, and practically no expense.

Meeting with the brethren

When they crossed the border, our group of brethren was met by a group of Ukrainian brethren who had been there for several hours. Everyone traveled together to the home of Elder Peter Karcia in Korovia, where an evening meal was served. It was both delicious and nourishing, and appreciated after a day of travel.

Following this meal, the Americans and the Pfisters registered in the hotel where they spent the night. The Romanian driver, Bro. Filip, stayed in the home of one of the Ukrainians.

The work begins

Everyone was very grateful for the good facilities in the hotel. It had working plumbing, clean beds, and security. Both the night of rest and the breakfast that was included in the price of the room were satisfactory.

The Ukrainians came to the hotel about 9:00 AM, driving a van that our brethren had purchased for their use. It is a Mercedes, what we would call a "people mover", holding about 15 people. It is very plain, but adequate. The Mission and World Relief Committees share the costs of these vehicles, and have bought quite a few for the brethren throughout Eastern Europe.

The roads are not good at all, but our brethren are accustomed to them, and get around very well. These trips would not be possible without their assistance and participation.

It is very hard to explain how primitive this land is in comparison to western countries. The facilities we take for granted simply do not exist. However, the brethren share the best they have, and it is enough.

In order to learn living conditions, the group visited an open market to determine local prices. In the next issue, we plan to print a list of what consumer goods cost in Ukraine in terms of hours necessary to purchase the individual items.

It was obvious that everything a family or person needs is available, but it is evident that very few people have the money to buy the goods. This is why we feel we need to continue our efforts to help them. *(To be continued)*

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"In times like this we need a Saviour, In times like these we need an anchor...Be very sure your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!" (Gospel Hymns). It is reassuring in troubled times to have the Solid Rock, Jesus Christ. When even those things that we would assess as large and strong and stable can crumble into dust within moments, the ability to grip the Solid Rock gives comfort and courage. Through our tears in September, 2001, it was a comfort and a blessing to hold a prayer service open to all staff, as a day of prayer was proclaimed by our President.

We are also gripping the comfort and courage of our Solid Rock here as we say "Farewell" to Janet Giberson who passed away after living at Timber Ridge for many years.

Autumn brings the annual wiener roast which Karen Blunier's family hosts for many of us at the Blunier Barn. Also the Morton Pumpkin Festival, especially the parade, is a fall tradition that is greatly anticipated.

NOVEMBER birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2135 Veterans Rd. are: Susie McGinley (1), Kathy Knapp (5), Tom Manley (8), Kay Ellis (9), Amy Tucker (11), Sam Sigulas (13), Jennifer Cox (17), Janet Worner (17), Kristie Furrer (18). At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Rd.: Keith Weyeneth (4). At Linden Estate, 1000 Linden St.: Ken Clauss (2). At 1001 E. Idlewood: Alan Unsicker (15). At 652 Detroit: Jane Aberle (14); and at 241 Minnesota: Rhonda Pullen (4), Marian Funk (20).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Kent Kloter

As I sit at my computer, my mind

is racing because of what has happened this morning. Two hijacked airliners have crashed into the World Trade Center towers, causing them both to collapse. The Pentagon has been hit by another hijacked plane and is on fire. Another hijacked aircraft has crashed somewhere in Pennsylvania. I suppose thousands of people are dead and many more will die. The air traffic around the nation is being completely grounded. The government operations at the White House and the Pentagon are greatly disrupted. Our entire nation is stunned. We are beginning to understand how vulnerable we are.

The losses are impossible to assess; it's far too early. I do not think it premature to conclude that the magnitude of the losses at Pearl Harbor will pale in comparison to those of today's events. Pearl Harbor resulted in the deaths of 2,403 soldiers and sailors and 1,178 were wounded. It seems quite apparent that many, many more than this will have lost their lives today as a result of a very few hate-filled individuals.

As I ponder the destruction, devastation and death in those various places, my thoughts go to Isaiah chapter six. Isaiah writes about his visit to the throne room of Heaven, "In the year that king Uzziah died". Perhaps there was confusion, unrest and uncertainty at that time too — there was an empty throne in the kingdom, no leader, no certainty, no security. Yet when Isaiah saw "the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up," he no doubt was calmed by the face-to-face realization that God was not at all shook up by the events taking place on the earth. Isaiah not only saw God on the throne, his sight gave him insight to his own sin, and he cried out in repentance; "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." After Isaiah re-

pented and cried out to God, God sent an angel to cleanse him. After his cleansing, Isaiah was given an opportunity and a vision for ministry and God put him to work. Now is the time for the Church in general and the believer in particular to come before the Throne, see God, receive insight into our sins, seek His forgiveness and cleansing and receive a vision for ministry to a lost and hurting world.

At a traumatic time like this, the vision of God on the throne also gives me confidence and comfort, knowing that an all-knowing, sovereign God is in control. If God really is who we believe He is, now more than ever, is the time for the Church to "awake out of sleep" (Rom. 13:11). The world's media, its materialism and its thirst for money have affected the Church for many years. The opportunity is here, and it is time for the Church to really affect the world. Many of our neighbors and colleges will be asking real soul-searching questions about where we've come from, the meaning of life, about Good and Evil and about human destiny.

In these days when there are so many questions and so many needs, the Church has a great opportunity and responsibility to offer Jesus as the answer to those questions and the "meeter" of those needs. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19). Peter exhorts the believer to "sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (I Peter 3:15). This call to be able to give answers comes in the middle of a letter written about serving God in the face of suffering. The message of hope is most powerful when it is proclaimed in the midst of hardship and suffering. America is certainly in position to hear a message of hope. America

may be more ready to listen to God than it has been in our lifetime. There are precious few times that we get these opportunities. The Church should be ready to give the answers.

However, this message will not be received unless the Church actively reaches out to the community in which it finds itself. Nor will it be received if believers are not living lives that show that we truly believe what we say to be true. Our proclamation will not be credible if we are not demonstrating that we are able to overcome difficult situations in our own lives. If we are no more equipped to deal with the hardships of living in a fallen world than the unbeliever, we will give no reason for others to trust God's Word.

If Bill Gates had his children walking the streets, begging for food, clothing or shelter, he would be disgraced and embarrassed. By the same token, if God's children are living lives of discouragement, despair and defeat, what will draw the unbeliever to the One who said "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matt. 11:28)?

Living a life in the name of Jesus brings a responsibility and opportunity, not only to proclaim His goodness and power, but also to demonstrate this by our victorious living in the face of adversity. Prov. 11:30 reminds us that "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." Speaking of the power of Jesus and the power of the Word of God has little positive effect if we are not personifying what He has said. Our main call in life is to "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." (Psalm 29:2). To glorify God is to reflect His character, His attributes and His nature. If the Church is

not reaching out to the hurting world around us, if we are not "rubbing shoulders" with them, how will the unbeliever know that followers of Christ take Him seriously? Will they know what He is like if we don't show them? He said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." (Matt. 22:39). Where is the modern "Good Samaritan"? (Luke 10)

This is an opportune time to articulate the goodness of God, the beauty of Salvation and the power of God's Word to address the problems of living in a confused, hurting and frightened world. May we all sanctify the Lord God in our hearts and be ready to respond in meekness and fear.

This past summer, Gateway Woods Illinois Family Services was privileged to help organize ten work projects to reach out in various communities to demonstrate the love of Christ in a tangible way. There were many recipients that were touched by the generosity and efforts of nearly 500 volunteers. The projects included window replacements, painting, re-roofing, general clean up and repair.

The volunteers were blessed just as much or more than the recipients. There have been many positive comments about the effects of the program, therefore we are planning to resume again next May. Please contact us if you are interested in helping co-ordinate next summer's work projects. Two individuals are needed who are willing to give of their time and talents from April through August. Also, if you know of anyone that would be in need of some assistance, or if you would like to get involved in any way, please contact us at your convenience.

A very special thanks to Bros. Jeffrey Sauder (Tremont) and Kirk Plattner (Princeville) who did a fine job as our summer project coordinators. Also, thank you to all participants in this year's program. Your prayers, gifts, time and encourage-

ment have been a great blessing to many. May God bless you all.

We are now using our new shared office space with the Apostolic Christian Child Sponsorship Program in Morton on a part time basis at: 750 W. Jefferson. Our phone and fax are still (309) 266-0767.

We are thrilled to announce that the newest "resident" on campus in Leo is little Micheala Rose Slagel born to Alternate Houseparents Bro. Kurt and Sis. Kristen. She is their first child and arrived on September 7.

In early October our campus will again be filled as we host and celebrate our 25th anniversary reunion of current and former residents, staff and board.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Melinda Matuch

Autumn approaches and we find ourselves and the children settling into a routine. As a new teacher, I find that some days I learn much more from the children than they do from me. The two - year - olds are working on colors, shapes, counting, spelling their name out loud and coloring inside the lines. The older children are writing the letters of the alphabet and learning their sounds.

October is a busy month for us. We will be holding our Trike - a - thon soon. The children gather pledges from family and friends for the number of laps they can ride on a tricycle. The proceeds of the Trike - a - thon, which is a big day for the children, are used to supplement our budget. Activities like this, as well as the financial assistance of our donors and sponsors, help keep tuition affordable for the parents of our little ones.

Later this month we will travel to a farm where they have a pumpkin patch and cotton picking fields. We will use this opportunity to teach the children of God's bounty toward those who love and serve Him.

Well, nap time is over and so is my writing time. Please keep us in your prayers.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

**Joan Reinhard
Louise Hall**

We were thankful to Bro. John Stoller (Sis. Patsy, Leo, IN) for bringing us the Word of God on September 9. May God bless them for their efforts as they traveled down here while bringing a load of items for our World Relief building.

The weekend of September 15-16 was an especially enjoyable one for us here in Athens. A Zapata reunion was hosted at the Tennessee Fellowship Area with supper and singing both on Saturday night and Sunday night. We appreciated the fellowship of the weekend. Greetings were given in church from Rockville, CT; Lester, Oakville, and West Bend, IA; Bradford, Fairbury, Forrest, Peoria, and Tremont, IL; Bluffton North, Milford, and Remington, IN; Sabetha, KS; Bay City, MI; Winthrop, MN; Latty and Mansfield, OH; and Nashville, TN. A special thanks to Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) for ministering to us that Sunday. Because of the tragic events that had happened in our country, much of the weekend seemed to be centered around the idea of a wake-up call for America. Has God allowed this terrible thing to happen to draw us back to Him? Are we looking to Him and drawing closer day by day? Let us continue to pray for our nation and government that we can live a quiet and peaceable life.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"We know that all things work together for good to them that love

God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:28

"If God be for us, who can be against us?"

Romans 8:31

On September 11, 2001, when America was attacked, my beloved God Almighty wrapped me in His love and blessed assurance. The rewards to the frail keep us humble but mighty in Spirit. Dearly beloved, keep praying, be not afraid; may God be with us now and forevermore in the days ahead.

For some lengthy time, your Phoenix news has noted God is trying to get our attention: floods, drought, fire, much sickness, hunger; He has gotten it. Isn't the outpouring of love and prayer wonderful?!

We have been hearing the Conference tapes on Wednesday nights, though Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) preached August 22 and we thank him.

Prayers are always appreciated for surgery. Sis. Lucille Richardson had foot surgery on September 14. Little Nolan Blunier (Bro. Ray and Sis. Wendy) broke his arm but doctors had to rebreak it and do surgery. Richard Kraft is doing nicely after surgery. Sis. Eileen Maurer keeps smiling while a broken bone in her foot heals. Sis. Kathy Labudde broke her sternum.

Our sympathy to Bro. Jerry and Sis. June Tooley on the death of her brother, Marvin Huette.

Congratulations to Bro. Marshall and Sis. Stacia Witzig on the September 7 birth of Dylan Marshall. His sisters are Alyssa and Leah.

On September 9, we heard the engagement of Bro. Jeremy Ebert and Sis. Janelle Hohulin. Their parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Ebert and Bro. Sam and Sis. Cindy Hohulin, all of Phoenix.

Ann Keiser's new address is: Mountain Trail Outdoor School, P.O. Box 250, Hendersonville, NC 28793-0250.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

The wedding date of Sis. Bethany Furrer (Prescott) and Bro. Dan Dubach (Bluffton, IN) was changed to October 21 from the tentative date previously reported of December 2.

Our ministering brothers the last four weeks were Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Jim Meiss (Phoenix, AZ). One Sunday we listened to the service in Phoenix by phone via the assembly room sound system. We always appreciate and are thankful for the visiting ministering brothers who travel to serve us and for any visitors who come to worship with us.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We were thankful for the opportunity to fellowship with Elder Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie Ringger (Gridley, IL) who spent some time with us in September. We enjoyed getting to know them. Many thanks to Bro. Earl for his willingness to minister to us both on Sunday and also the following Wednesday evening. May God shower them both with His blessings. We hope they visit us again soon.

We have missed our Bro. Paul Knoblock, and it's good to have him worshipping with us again on a regular basis. Bro. Paul is feeling well enough to be gathering with us most of the time.

Our Bible Class traveled to San Diego, CA, over the Labor Day weekend. We wish to thank the San Diego congregation for the love and hospitality shown to our Bible Class

teachers and students. Many more precious memories were made which will never be forgotten. As always, we wish to thank the Phoenix congregation for letting us "catch a ride" on their charter bus. We truly appreciate it.

Bro. Loren and Sis. Joan Knapp have recently returned from a lengthy trip through Canada and the United States. We are thankful for their safe travel and return home to Tucson. Unfortunately they didn't stay away long enough to miss the hot weather. We are having temperatures in the upper 90's and our monsoons have pretty much bid us farewell. We look forward to welcoming October very soon!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Jim Klotzle

Greetings from Altadena!

"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."

Luke 10:2

A new laborer has been sent forth into the harvest as our dear Bro. Jeff Luthi has been appointed minister here in Altadena. We are thankful that God has brought forth healing to his body and we now pray for the continued presence of the Holy Spirit in his life and encouragement to speak the Word of Truth in its fullness. We pray for his wife, Sis. Shirley, and their family of five children to uphold their husband and father in this special calling.

Our visiting ministers this month were: Elder Bros. Art Metz (Silverton, OR), Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) and Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA). We thank them for their service to our congregation, and for sharing the Word with us.

Bro. Lazlo and Sis. Maria Cser have been unable to gather with us recently because of medical problems. We keep them in our prayers.

This month we welcomed Caleb Arthur Klotzle (Bro. David and Sis. Janelle) into the world! It is wonderful to watch a generation grow up to walk in its parents' footsteps.

As was the whole country, we have been saddened by the tragic events that have occurred so recently. To our knowledge, there were no mishaps amongst our church people or their loved ones. Loving care and concern are reflected even by those in foreign lands. Our Elder has received the following message from Dr. Parkhe in India: "Show me a token for good; that they which hate me may see it, and be ashamed: because thou, Lord, hast holpen me, and comforted me." (Psalm 86:17)

"Yesterday we came to know of the tragedy that took place in your great land. In this hour of national crisis, all the RGMMI staff, their families, the boarding boys, the congregation and churchgoers and all the beneficiaries of our Lord's providence through our Mission, offer sincere words of condolence and comfort. A great nation with such great people and your faith in our Lord Jesus Christ will help you to overcome this tragedy and crisis. Our prayers are specially for those who have lost their dear loved ones, to those who are suffering and those who are providing help and solace to these distressed souls."

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Peggy Jevremov

Labor Day weekend is our annual California/Arizona Bible Class get-together. This year it was our turn to host it. We had a blessed weekend and are thankful that all arrived home safely.

Our dear Bro. Joe Kaplar has

been hospitalized recently but is now home, and he has been able to assemble with us again for half days. We pray the Lord will continue to increase his strength that he may more fully recover.

We were all uplifted in the spirit the weekend of September 8-9 as our new Sis. Melinda Koehl (Bro. Jim and Sis. Hildy) shared her testimony with us, erected a covenant with the Lord, and was baptized. We pray the Lord will bless Elder Bros. John Klotzle (Sis. Lois, Altadena, CA) and Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN) for coming and assisting our Elder Bro. Peter with this wonderful work.

Also this month among our visitors were ministering Bros. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN), Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ), and James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ). We are so thankful that the Lord uses our brethren to bring us the Word of God in truth and clarity. May the Lord bless them for their willingness to be used of Him.

CANADA

KITCHENER, ONTARIO

Nathan Reutter

Dear brethren, the Lord God has blessed us this month. He has provided visiting ministers, a visiting young group, a visitor from Hungary, a baby boy, and the Conference tapes. We hope He has blessed you richly, too, wherever you have been this past month.

Our visiting ministers this month have been Bro. Michael Baumann (Sis. Florina, Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Floyd Graves, Jr. (Sis. Linda, Croghan-Naumburg, NY). We appreciate the willingness of ministers to come to support our small church in Kitchener. It is always a blessing to see the consistency of preaching coming from so many churches. May this unity con-

tinue and improve over time. (I Corinthians 1:10)

On Labor Day this year we were also blessed with many visitors from the Congerville, IL, young group. We thoroughly enjoyed being with them. We also felt a great spiritual unity with them. Let's all endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3). We enjoy having young groups come visit us. If any young group has an interest in coming up, give us a call. We would love to hear from you.

We had one other special visitor this month. Sis. Anita Nyari from Oroshaza, Hungary, was with us for a few days. She is on her way home after spending a year and a half in San Diego, CA. We were comforted by the fact that she had the same faith we did. We are thankful that God is not bound by languages but can reach the hearts of man everywhere.

Our newest addition to our church is a baby boy named Brian Lloyd Tomic. He is the son of Bro. Tim and Sis. Melanie Tomic. Paternal grandparents are Costa and Erna Tomic. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Luann Kaeb (Alto, MI). We are thankful to have another child in our midst. Our many children give us hope that our church will continue to grow. May we be a people that teaches Jesus' teachings to our children and grandchildren (Joel 1:3)

We have also appreciated listening to the Conference tapes. We rejoice that our under shepherds are trying to help us be a holier people (Proverbs 19:23). May we then listen and do what we have been reminded to do. We also thank our under shepherds for all their diligent effort in helping us to understand and apply Scripture.

We pray that God would be with us this next month and help us by His Spirit and Word to be the proper light and witness that we are called

to be. We wish this also for all brethren in Christ Jesus everywhere. Amen.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Cherie Galat**

Now it is accomplished!
I'm no longer mine;
Lord, I will forever and always be
Thine...

Zion's Harp #209

We welcome our new lambs into the household of faith: Sis. Elisabeth Ballasy (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jane), Sis. Sarah Gerber (Bro. Loren and Sis. Anne), Bro. Richard Hany Jr. (Bro. Richard and Sis. Betsy), Sis. Deborah Hoffman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella), Sis. Jennifer Hoffman (Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lynn) and Sis. Elisa Zahner (Bro. Warren and Sis. Bonnie). Elder Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) assisted our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan in the work. We are also thankful for Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN) who visited us recently and preached unto us.

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven over our new converts, Walter Limberger, Walter Spielman, Ron Tredor and Philip Wagenbach (Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary). May God be with each and every one as they seek to walk with Him.

"Therefore shall ye lay these my words in your heart and in your soul...And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house..."

Deut. 11:18-19

Two families have been blessed with precious babies. On August 28, Sophie Ruth was born to Neal and Jennifer Kupferschmid. Grandparents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Ellen Kupferschmid and Peter and Rejane

Denisky. Colin John was born to Bro. John and Sis. Rhonda Garrow on August 22. Grandparents are Bro. Bernie and Marie Garrow and Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally Zahner.

Our Rockville congregation has been listening to the tapes from the Brotherhood Conference in the past days. What a blessing and privilege we have to sit in heavenly places and listen to exhortation of how we can better serve our dear Heavenly Father who loved us so much that He gave His Son to die upon the cross for us. May we each take the opportunity given to listen and apply the teachings that our dear Elder brethren shared with us.

Our prayers are with our dear Bro. Gary Schamback (Karen) who has been hospitalized recently. God knows our every care and hears our prayers that we utter for one another. May He give strength and comfort according to His good and blessed will.

May God comfort Richard Eleiott (Sis. Joanne and family) in the passing of his mother, Vivian Eleiott Robertson. She also leaves a daughter, Janice Dallas. May each one be consoled at this time.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

School and Sunday School have started. This year we have five little ones for our Sunday School class. Often our class grows with visitors.

We are glad and thankful to have Roberta Belsley assembling with us again after having surgery.

This month we haven't had as many visitors, but that should pick up again with people coming to see the beautiful leaves this Fall. Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand and Bro. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA) and Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL). Other visitors this

month were from Rittman, OH, and Bluffton, IN.

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 (I-495) 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 this fall when we will be unable to meet at the hotel; please call the brother listed below to find out the location of services.

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

**FLORIDA
FORT LAUDERDALE
Nancy Rocke**

The Sunday School is our delight,
we love it more and more; tis
here we learn to do what's
right...

Hymns of Zion #73

Sunday School has resumed after a summer break and most families are back from vacation. The little ones seem to be so eager to go.

We want to extend a warm welcome to Bro. John and Sis. Holly Zimmerman from Morton, IL. He has accepted a job transfer to the Miami area.

The Lord again has given
His counsel and His will;
He came to live among us,
His promise to fulfill.
We never are forsaken

with Christ our Lord so near.
His faithfulness revealing,
We feel His presence here.

Zion's Harp #138

As we have experienced the uncertainty of what the future holds, may we trust in God and remember that He knows all things.

“And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.”

Matthew 24:6

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Dorothy Beer**

With sadness, our nation will always remember the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington on September 11. Our congregation prayed for our President, his cabinet, the rescue crews, and the victims' families, just as I am sure all churches did. We know God is in control and our prayer is that good will come out of this terrible tragedy.

On September 14 Tropical Storm Gabrielle caused considerable damage along the coastal area. The high wind and heavy rain caused beach erosion along the shore and flooding in many homes and in the low-lying areas.

Bro. Lester Meister is confined to his home with a foot infection. We are praying for his recovery.

Bro. Roland and Sis. Viola Keller need our prayers. They have been living with their son, Walley, and his wife, Jackie, who have been lovingly caring for them for over a year.

Our thanks to Elder Bro. Doug Sabo for ministering to us this month.

The three Florida churches plan to have their annual retreat the weekend of October 12.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Carol Koehl**

We are excited to have a new baby at Sarasota! Stefanie Christine was born to Todd and Kelly Hebert on September 18. She is welcomed home by big brother, Todd Jr., and grandparents, Bro. Glenn and Sis. Sandee Price.

Bro. Glenn and Sis. Sandee also gained another grandson with the arrival of Jonathon Paul Jr. Little Jonathon joined the family of Jon, Krista and Stacie Campbell (Pell City, AL) on September 5.

We all want to heartily welcome Bro. Elmer Bucher, who recently moved here from Francesville, IN.

In spite of a light rain, we enjoyed the Sunday School picnic at Pinecraft Park. Many thanks to the teachers for all their efforts, not just for the picnic, but for their devotion year round.

**GEORGIA, ATLANTA
John Brewer**

“Put not your trust in princes,
nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to the earth: in that very day his thoughts perish. Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose help is in the Lord his God.”

Psalms 146:3-5

This month has been trying for many with the recent attacks on New York and Washington. Our prayers as a body of believers have been many and frequent that have been affected by the attacks and continue to go out to those that need healing, not just emotionally, but spiritually as well. I am just thankful that we have a God that is able to listen and help. I am just as thankful that God, no matter what happens in the coming months, is in control of ALL.

Our congregation rejoices that our flock has increased by two. Bro. Kurt and Sis. Katie Reimschisel, with the leading of the Lord, has decided to move to the Atlanta area from the Wichita area. The few weeks that they have been here has been a blessing and encouragement for our tiny flock. Our prayer is that God blesses them as they set up their new home here.

We are also appreciative for the visiting ministers for the past month. They include Bros. Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN) and Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN). We want to thank them and their families for taking the time to bring forth the Word and to worship with us.

As always, we look forward to brethren and friends that come visit and worship with us. We start song service at 10:15. Our church is in Fairburn, GA, off I-85 southwest of Atlanta. We are 15 miles south of the airport on exit 64 (Jonesboro Rd.), 4 miles due west after you get off the exit. Please contact Bros. Tom Waldbeser (770) 463-4788, Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554 or Keith Kaufman (770) 304-8335 if you need further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Sheila McCoy
Doreen Moser**

“My soul thirsted after thee, as a thirsty land.”

Psalms 143:6

We had a long stretch without any rain. The grass turned brittle and brown. This verse reminded me I need to thirst diligently for God's Word to remain faithful, just as nature needs rain to keep its vigor.

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL). We thank them for letting us drink of God's Word and expounding to us on

the qualifications of being a minister as we pursue another minister in our congregation.

We thank Bro. Mark Wettstein who presented a Bible study on II Peter 1. “Add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.”

Our convert Melissa Waibel was a surgical patient. We hope her health will be restored.

We felt showers of blessings at our annual Sunday School picnic even as rain threatened. It was a day filled with delicious food, fun games for the children, fellowship and hymn singing.

We were recently traveling and I noticed how the trees were swaying merrily in the stiff breeze. A verse then came to me that I hadn't given much thought to or understood. “All the trees of the field shall clap their hands.” (Isaiah 55:12) It became clear that the trees were praising God. The trees are now changing into magnificent hues. They will continue to praise God and reflect His glory.

ILLINOIS

**BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Shawn Masters**

Ann Kellenberger

Our church family was blessed with many visiting ministers: Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Bros. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Dave Zehr (Gridley, IL), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), and David Obergefel (Peoria, IL).

September 2, Sis. Rebekah Inoue (Hisato and Sis. Kathie) and Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie) became one in Christ.

Matt Hany (Bro. Rick and Sis. Carol) gave his testimony and was baptized August 27. It is so spiritually refreshing to see a new babe in Christ.

Our church kept busy with many activities this month. August 19 was the ISU student welcome and pizza party. We had an all-church camp out at Comlara Park the weekend of August 24 and 25. Our family night Bible study was September 5.

Bro. Marvin Huette (late Sis. Virginia) was called Home on August 27. Bro. Ron Heiniger's (Sis. Kayleen) father passed away. May God continue to comfort your families.

Note of thanks:

We want to extend heartfelt thanks to each one of you for your many prayers and kind expressions of love and encouragement during my father's recent illness and death. Our family has greatly appreciated your support. May God bless each one.

Ron and Kayleen Heiniger

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Chad and LauraLee Plattner

We are grateful to have had the following visiting brothers minister to us recently: Bros. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL). May God bless them for their willingness in serving us.

Sis. Lucille Kieser was hospitalized recently. We pray God will give her a speedy recovery.

ILLINOIS

**CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
Samuel and Pamela Furrer**

Our college students are with us

again, raising our youth and enthusiasm quotient. Our new student welcome Sunday was on August 26, and we had a good turnout for the church service. The afternoon picnic brought even more families, and we had a beautiful afternoon in the park. This year, we have about 24 different congregations represented by our students. Our appreciation goes out to those student leaders who organized the welcome Sunday and to all who helped make it a memorable day. We extend a hearty welcome to all of the students' families to come back and visit at least once each semester. (Don't forget to bring some of those homemade treats for your hungry student and his/her roommates.)

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

1 John 4:10

We added a new sister in Christ to our fold. Rachel Flessner became acquainted with our church through friends at college, started coming to our church, and felt the need for conversion and baptism. Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington-Normal, IL) was with us for the weekend of Rachel's testimony and baptism. Sis. Rachel is a radiant addition to our church.

Our visiting ministers this past month have included Bros. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL). We thank them for giving us a blessing through their efforts for the Lord, and know that they will be blessed by Him.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

"That day is a day of wrath, day of trouble and distress, a day of wastefulness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers."

Zephaniah 1:15-16

At the Wednesday evening service on September 12, the day after the tragic terrorist attack on the United States, one of our home ministers read the above verses. He told us that on the morning of September 11, he and his wife read these verses on a verse calendar. The words seemed to prophetically describe the horrible pictures of the World Trade Center towers on that day. We were encouraged that evening to pray for our leaders, the many people who were grieving over lost loved ones and even for the individuals behind the attack. May God give us grace to be faithful in these areas of prayer.

I believe many Americans, myself included, have a greater appreciation of the freedoms we enjoy as a result of the recent events, and yet true freedom is only gained via submission to God. John Koehl has just recently experienced this true freedom as he has come to the Lord in humble repentance. We praise God for His faithfulness in calling John and will remember John in our prayers, especially as his health has prevented him from attending church.

Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn Wegman feel that God has led them to move near to the Taylor, MO, congregation. We know that the Taylor congregation is glad to welcome them, especially family members, but we will certainly miss Bro. Scott, Sis. Dawn and their children, Brett, Phillip and Kristen.

Conversely, we rejoice that God

has led Sis. Jolene Scholl (Peoria, IL) to our area to attend medical school.

Bro. Blake Stahl (Bro. Norman and Sis. Gloria) and Sis. Christine Hodel (Kent and Janet) have given the "freedom" of choosing a mate to God. Bro. Blake and Sis. Christine were joined in marriage on September 9 in Washington, IL, and we wish God's blessing on their union.

We are thankful for the freedom to travel and for visiting ministers who allow God to speak through them in order to bless us. Our visitors this month were Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL).

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Denise Walder

Cheryl Eisenmann

As you read this, our church has been listening to the Brotherhood Conference tapes. There are many concerns that are ever present and we trust that we will all continue to pray each day for the concerns that confront each of us.

Our Sunday School held their annual Senior Citizens Supper. The Seniors enjoyed the efforts put forth by the Sunday School teachers and students.

This past month we have been blessed with the following visiting ministers: Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). We truly thank each one for ministering to us.

Bro. Eldon Steffen had surgery this month. We trust God's healing will be on him.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**Glenna Rinkenberger**

It is not mine to question the
 judgments of my Lord,
 It is but mine to follow the lead-
 ings of His Word;
 But if to go or stay, or whether
 here or there,
 I'll be with my Saviour, Content
 anywhere!

Tabernacle Hymns #26, vs. 4

At a farewell singing the hymns
 we sing seem to take on a much
 deeper meaning. If the loved ones
 leaving belong to our immediate
 family, the tears flow freely. Even
 though God's will is being done, our
 earthly ties will be stretched. But we
 are so thankful to know we are still
 bound in the Spirit. Such was the
 case as our congregation bid farewell
 to Bro. Isaac and Sis. Melissa
 Rinkenberger and little Rebekah as
 they join the Lester, IA, brethren.

Visiting brothers who preached
 the Word were Bros. Gene Lehman
 (Wolcott, IN), Jim Vierling (Eureka,
 IL), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL) and
 Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL). We
 pray that all our ministers will
 preach the Truth by inspiration of
 the same Spirit no matter where
 they go.

Those who have endured health
 problems were Sis. Rachel (Bro.
 Grant) Rinkenberger, Bro. John
 (Sis. Jackie) Schrock and Sis. Arlene
 (Bro. Jerry) Banwart.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN**Amy Gasser
 Kay Kellenberger**

The God who ruleth nations
 With wise consideration,
 Whose very name is love.
 His love to us He proveth,
 To Him alone behooveth
 Good gifts to send us from above.

We are in child-like order;
 God has become our Father
 Thro' Jesus Christ, our Lord;
 He hears His children crying
 And ne'er was known denying
 The promise given in His Word.

If we in faith show weakness,
 Like doves we call in meekness;
 It soon attracts His eye;
 He never stands asunder,
 But in His love so tender
 He hears when children to Him
 cry.

I often say: My Father,
 Thy counsel I will gather;
 Where else should I resort?
 In ev'ry difficulty
 I will appear before Thee,
 For Thou my Loving Father art.

Be Thou my God forever.
 Nothing from Thee can sever;
 I beg: Protect Thou me!
 Confer on me Thy blessings,
 Thy help and love expressing;
 I plead: Oh, Father, help Thou
 me!

Zion's Harp #234

May we rest in His promises and
 continue to place all of our cares in
 the hands of the Great I Am.

Our hearts again are filled to
 overflowing as the precious Word
 has been brought forth. Our blessing
 and prayers of thankfulness are ex-
 tended to visiting minister, Bro.
 Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL).

The Elgin church and commu-
 nity were invited to our Senior Bible
 Class Annual Pancake Breakfast.
 There was wonderful fellowship and
 delicious food. Thanks to the Senior
 Bible Class for all their hard work in
 preparing and serving a wonderful
 breakfast. May each of us continue
 to keep our youth in our prayers.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA**Janet Zimmerman**

Bro. Dale and Sis. Lavonne
 Schumacher have been blessed with
 a baby boy, Lane Robert, born on
 September 7. He is welcomed home
 by his big brother, Seth, and sisters,
 Brooke and Larae. His grandparents
 are Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene
 Schumacher and Bro. Larry and Sis.
 Rebecca Endress (Bradford, IL). We
 wish them God's wisdom and bless-
 ings as they raise their children.

Thus united and in concord,
 let us walk the path of life;
 Hand in hand, may love bind us,
 for each other's welfare strive.

Zion's Harp #237

We witnessed the wedding vows
 of two dear couples recently. Sis.
 Sandy Getz was united in marriage
 to Bro. Mark Stork (Elgin, IA) on Au-
 gust 26. Their parents are Bro. Alan
 and Sis. Nathalia Getz and Elmer
 and Darlene Stork of Forrest, IL. We
 wish them God's richest blessings as
 they become one in Him. With us for
 this special day were Elder Bro.
 Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and
 Bros. John Grimm (Columbus, OH),
 Dale Moore and Kent Getz (Elgin,
 IA) and Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL).

September 16 we witnessed the
 marriage vows of Sis. Lisa Stoller
 (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry) and Bro.
 Tony Metzger (Bro. Harlan and Sis.
 Shirley, West Bend, IA). We wish
 them God's love and grace as they es-
 tablish their home together. We
 were thankful to have with us Elder
 Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and
 Bob Walder (Congerville, IL). Other
 visiting ministers were Bros. Wayne
 Grimm and Duane Metzger (West
 Bend, IA), Byron Stoller (Gridley,
 IL), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN),
 Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville,
 IL), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL),
 Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN),
 Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL), Dennis

Kaufman (Bloomington, IL) and Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO).

On September 16, Bro. Dennis Schumacher (Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene) became engaged to Sis. Jill Aeschleman (Bro. Gene and Sis. Dolores Metzger) of Lester, IA. We wish them God's blessings.

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

Luke 15:7

We are thankful for our loved ones who are seeking the Lord in repentance: Sarah Stoller (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie), Mark Sinn (Bro. Charlie and Sis. Karen), Jill Leman (Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirl), Amanda Hoerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Connie) and Greg Bradle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila). We wish them God's grace.

We are thankful for Jena and Julie Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane), Rachel Zimmerman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Sue) and Laurel Zimmerman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl) who were announced for baptism recently. May God continue to be with them and grant them grace and courage as they wait to give their testimony and be baptized.

Bro. Kent Getz was a visiting minister on September 23. May God bless him for his labors.

Sis. Ruth Schumacher, Sis. Eunice Martin, Bro. Leroy Huber, and Jeremy Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Janet) are hospitalized at this time. Our love and prayers are with them and may God provide for their needs according to His will.

Our love and prayers are with Darci DeSigne (Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy) who became engaged to Erik Gerdes (Dick and Mary) of Benson, IL. We wish them God's blessings as they plan for their wedding, May 4.

Note of Thanks:

A special thanks to our family,

friends and neighbors for remembering us on our 70th wedding anniversary and Ray's 96th birthday with many beautiful cards, gifts and prayers. May God bless each one for your love and kindness.

Bro. Ray and Sis. Louise Roche

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Tammy Hinrichsen

Joann Zehr

Several of our sisters have been in the hospital and we hope they can feel God's strength and healing. They are: Edna Feller, Vi Moser, and Pat Hartman (Bro. Vernon).

Our love and sympathy is extended to Sis. Ione Broquard (Bro. Donald) in the death of her father, retired Elder Bro. Sam Anliker. Bro. Sam visited our congregation over the years, when he would come to visit his family, and we have many good memories of his teachings to us.

The term of Sis. Sally Fehr as one of the Silver Lining correspondents, has ended and Sis. Tammy Hinrichsen (Bro. Keith) has taken her place. We want to thank Sis. Sally for her many efforts of love and also we welcome Sis. Tammy. May God bless each one.

We want to welcome Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana Knapp into our Fairbury congregation, along with their children, Lexi and Seth. We trust they will feel our love as we all strive to reach our Heavenly goal.

A special thanks to Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) who was willing to minister to us.

We are thankful that Rollin Nussbaum (son of Sis. Elna and the late Bro. Willis) has turned his heart in repentance and we wish him God's love and grace in the days ahead.

Certainly all of our hearts have been touched in the last week regarding the terrorist attacks that have hit our nation. We have been

playing the Conference tapes for our Wednesday evening services, but we had our regular church service this last week which was so beneficial. We can never be thankful enough that we have such a wonderful faith and such a great God and Saviour who will hear our prayers and help us through this sad time. May we ever pray for both the leaders of America and for our dear Elders who give so much of their time for our benefit.

Our love and sympathy is also extended to Sis. Louise Bach in the death of her husband, Bro. Reuben, 85, on August 16, as well as their children, Sis. Bonnie, Peoria, and Duane (Barbara) of Rockford. He had 2 grandchildren, Jennifer and Michael Bach. Bro. Reuben was a long-time member and will be greatly missed for his quiet and loving ways. His family gave me a poem that he wrote back in 1944 shortly before his marriage to Sis. Louise and it shows his love for God many years ago.

I Was Just Thinking

In this quiet evening hour
While my thoughts go far and wide,
I will try to make it known
What I cannot easily hide.

As we view the whole creation,
All the beauties to behold,
Oh, so weak we are to grasp them
God's great wonders, some left untold.

So we see we must be patient,
For we are but only man,
And we are so glad and thankful
To live in our Father's plan.

God's own Son, our Savior always,
Came upon this sinful earth
That we many find our salvation,
Also blessings, peace, and mirth.

Still another of His wonders
Was to create man and wife,
Also He can tie them closely,
With Him, they can travel
through life.

After all is placed in order,
In their hearts and in their
home,
They are willing then to labor
For the Lord but never to roam.

Now this home it may be modest
Yet have a welcome warm and
true
For all those who wish to enter,
May we gladly serve them, too.

When our lifetime here is over
Fearing, trusting, loving God,
Our souls will long for Heaven,
Leaving our bodies beneath the
sod.

—*Reuben J. Bach - 1944*

Notes of Thanks:

Many thanks for all the love and prayers for us during Reuben's illness and passing. The visits, singing, gifts, cards, and prayers meant so much to him and to us all. God bless you!

Sis. Louise Bach and family

The family of Bro. Ivan Stoller wishes to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all your prayers, love, and kind expressions of sympathy extended to us at the time of his death. May God Bless each of you.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Jean Knapp
Linda Anliker

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord:"

Psalms 127:3

Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna Edelman are thankful grandparents of two granddaughters. Bro. Kent, Sis. Bethany and Brandon Edelman's home is blessed with Cassidy Beth. Cassidy's other happy grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Lou Ida Steffen. Welcoming home Andrea Lou are first - time parents, Bro. Kraig and Sis. Carrie Edelman. Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly Steidinger are Andrea's other grandparents.

Reuben Glen was born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Stephanie Zimmerman. His brothers, Thadd, Philip and Luke, and his grandparents, Bro. Eldon and Sis. Marge Waibel and Bro. Glen and Sis. Mildred Zimmerman, are thankful for his arrival.

The precious gift of life was given to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise Kilgus with the birth of Damaris Laurene. Enjoying their new sister are Sis. Amber, Natalie, Kyrstin, Brooke, Stuart, Blake and Shea. Grandparents are Bro. Leland Zimmerman (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Jeannette Kilgus (Elgin, IL).

We are thankful that God's Word is so freely spoken by willing servants. Sharing God's Word with us this month were Bros. Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) and John Stoller (Leo, IN).

Our hearts go out to Clarissa Mueller and her parents, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sarah, as Clarissa was hospitalized due to an accident at their home resulting in serious hand and arm injuries. Our prayers will be with them as Clarissa faces more surgeries in the future.

Sis. Irene (Bro. Ben) Traub was in the hospital also in this past month.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Robin and Bro. Dean Kupfer-schmid and Vicki and Ron Schaffer and families in the death of their fa-

ther and grandfather, Robert Gee. Bro. Leland and Sis. Marge Kuntz are also in our prayers in the death of his brother, Tom Kuntz.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Heather Hohulin

How thrilled we were to hear the engagement announcements of two of our sisters. Sis. Jenni Grimm (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth) is engaged to Bro. Matt Sauder (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joann) from Tremont. Sis. Janelle Hohulin (Bro. Sam and Sis. Cindy) is engaged to Bro. Jeremy Ebert (Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane) from Phoenix, AZ. May God bless them as they plan their weddings, and more importantly, new lives together.

Our prayers are with our hospital patients this month. Sis. Marci Schieler (Bro. Bob) and Bro. Rick Knapp (Sis. Kathy) both spent time in the hospital. We pray that God's healing hand will be upon them.

We are so thankful that Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane) ministered to us this last month.

Sis. Marci Schieler wishes to thank all who remembered her with cards, flowers, visits and prayers during her hospital stay.

In this time of turmoil in our country, let us remember that God is in control. He sees our heartaches and our concerns. What a comfort that one thought has been to me. "The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him." (Nahum 1:7)

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

The events of the past several weeks surely indicate these are perilous times. Uncertainty abounds, yet, the true believer can find solace in knowing that God will care for His own. To that end, let us put our full

trust in Him.

In commenting on the bombings on September 11, Elder Bro. Earl Ringger referred to Isaiah 58, which was appropriate for the events of the times. Bro. Byron Stoller reminded us that multitudes of prayers, nationally and internationally, are ascending to Heaven, but all prayers should be in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

On Wednesday evening, September 12, Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) was a guest minister. On Sunday, September 23, Bro. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL) ministered to our congregation.

Several of our youth are in college. May God watch over them, both in body and soul. Students for 2001-2002 are:

Sis. Tara Gramm, Sis. Ashley Baner, Bro. Scott Wettstein, Sis. Erin Witzig, Bro. Matt Zehr, Bro. Andy Zimmerman (all at Heartland); Tricia Hodel and Sis. Katrina Stoller (both at ICC); Bro. Phil Romersberger, Sis. Becky Romersberger, Sis. Maria Klopfenstein, Sis. Candice Stoller, Bro. Doug Hodel, Bro. Ryan Prevo, Sis. Carissa Schlipf, Sis. Jamie Schlipf, Justin Steffen, Nicolas Stoller and Sis. Laura Vercler (all at ISU); and Sis. Janell Schlipf and Diana Vercler (both at U of I).

Lois Rees (Chicago), a sister of Bro. Art Kuerth and a woman who was raised by believing parents here in Gridley, passed away. She had begun a repentance. Her funeral was in the Gridley church. We offer our sympathies to Bro. Art and her other survivors.

Sis. Helen Schlipf was injured by falling off a bicycle, and required surgery on her shoulder area.

Sis. Vyra Stoller continues to suffer from prolonged illness and we pray that God will be with her and her husband, Bro. Don.

Sis. Mildred Schlipf continues to endure her illness and we pray God

will give her strength and healing according to His will.

Saylor Thayer Welch was born on August 22 to Heidi (Schlipf) and Hadley Welsch. The grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Vicki Schlipf and Harold and Marjorie Welsch of El Paso.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney

Cheryl Wuthrich

Our Bro. Arthur Heiniger passed away on August 25. May the Lord put His loving arms of comfort around his wife, Sis. Verena; his sons, Larry (Bonnie), Jim (Kathy), and Bro. Ron (Sis. Kayleen); his sisters, Alice Messner and Madalyn Hofferth; and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Bro. Art was the record keeper for the Morton church for many years and faithfully kept account of all births, deaths, baptisms, and weddings.

A special worship service was held September 11 to find comfort in God's Word and to pray regarding the tragedy of the destruction of the World Trade Center towers. Prayer was offered for our country, our leaders, those trapped in the wreckage, families that lost loved ones, and even those that perpetrated the act. It was strengthening to gather with brothers and sisters during this time.

The annual all-church wiener roast and singing was held September 21 in the picnic area behind Apostolic Christian Timber Ridge. It is another event where all ages come together for a time of fellowship.

We would like to thank the visiting ministers that served us this month. They were Bros. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN).

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

A gathering for Bro. Clarence Herman's 90th birthday on 8/18 at the Fellowship Hall provided an occasion to reminisce about his childhood at Harper, KS. The Harper Church was established in the 1880's, primarily by families from Central Illinois seeking better farming opportunities by homesteading. But in time, living, working and weather conditions proved detrimental and these settlers returned to their origins or went elsewhere. The church finally closed in 1959. The Joshua Herman family moved to the Peoria area in 1926, where Clarence found employment and raised his family. We wish him and Sis. Viola continued good health and the Lord's blessings for the coming years.

How do we get the mind of Christ? Bring Jesus into the embryo of our heart and have a transplant of the mind of Christ. If we are the least, we are the greatest. What is our response to the question: "Whom say the people that I am?" (Luke 9:18). Jesus is God, our Master, our brother, "The Christ of God" (20). Does my life say who Jesus is? (Bro. Tim Roecker 8/26)

Many times in life we are dealt a blow. When Naomi and her husband suffered from a draught at Bethlehem, they went to live in the hostile country of Moab. When things are hard, don't do anything contrary to God's will because when we are out of fellowship with God, we continue to make mistakes. Orpah went back to her heathen gods and was never heard from again. Ruth returned with Naomi to Bethlehem. "Call me Mara, for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me" (Ruth 1:20). But Ruth was a blessing to Naomi and the Israelite people. "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God." (Rom. 8:28). What Satan means for bad,

God turns into good. "For what son is he whom the Father chasteneth not?" (Heb. 12:7). Look up! Jesus is at the right hand of God for us. If we can just rededicate ourselves and look forward to that special place in Heaven (Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer 9/2).

Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) challenged our hearts with "Family Lessons from Father Abraham" at our family night service on 9/5. Abraham was a family man, believed God and left his country, "Not knowing whither he went" (Heb. 11:8), and "He counted it to him for righteousness" (Gen. 15:6). He welcomed the promises of God, was fully persuaded and saw them afar off. God calls us out and also gives us promises. He lived at Haran and confessed his faith. He believed God and turned his back on the world with no turning back, as he desired a heavenly country. Is anything drawing us back to old relationships to ensnare us? Abraham taught his family the way of the Lord. The commandments of God have to be in our hearts to teach them diligently. "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings" (Prov. 4:20). What are the gates (form of protection) in your house? Keep the good in, the bad out. Are we tempted to compromise in a tight spot? Faith, not logic! Abraham also had negative examples and to this day we suffer from some of them. Don't teach children by bad examples; confess your faults to your children. Have you embraced the Word of God? Every aspect of our life needs to reflect the teachings of God and we need to respond to our children's questions in our family circle. "Fear the Lord" (Prov. 4:7) that He might preserve us always — for eternity. We thank Bro. Jeff for his visit and ministry.

The theme of our anniversary evening on 9/8 at the Fellowship Hall was: "To God Be The Glory" ... for the 150 year history of the Peoria

church: from a one-family congregation in 1851 to the large assembly of today. Bro. Roy Sauder (minister 1946-1987, elder 1965-1987) had the opening prayer, after which Bro. Jim Huber presented the congregation development, building the Skylines Home in 1965, planning the Fellowship Hall in 1969 and adjacent cemetery in 1985 with narratives, tape recordings by various interviewees and slides in an interesting, artful way. It evoked vivid memories in the older generation and gave the young group a sketch of "how things used to be." Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer concluded with the reflection that the church has stood the test of time, God has been with us and protected the church so we can be fed spiritually today. Many thanks to Bros. Ken Hoerr and Jim Huber for providing a memorable evening of fellowship by reviewing God's provisions over the years.

We thank Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) for their visit on 9/9 and Bro. Jim's ministry on Luke 10. Are we Priests, Levites or Good Samaritans? What is mercy? Grace + Mercy = Peace. Let us purpose that we were put on earth to be a child of God with the opportunity to go to Heaven. There is a lot of religion, but God wants spirituality, and our hearts to be right. If we work for one another, we work for the Lord.

Also, Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathleen Sutter (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) spent the Sunday with us and we are grateful for Bro. Rich's meditation on II Cor. 5: Our challenge is to discern the temporal from the eternal. Works are not a means, but the end to salvation. Too much form, not enough substance and being overcritical can snuff out joy. The struggles we are in perfect us and we can't wait to put on our new body.

Funerals are opportunities to relate to our status with the Lord. The life of Bro. Reuben Bach (85) radi-

ated genuine kindness and the love of God. Before he went to be with the Lord on 8/16 at his home in Fairbury, he could say: "I am ready." We express our deepest sympathy to his wife, Sis. Louise; daughter, Sis. Bonnie; and son, Duane, and his family. After a serious operation, Sis. Lillian Ramseyer (78) passed away at Proctor Hospital on 8/31. She left a legacy of faith and exemplified the words of Proverbs 31: "A woman that feareth the Lord shall be praised." (vs. 30). Our sincere condolences to Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly, daughter Pam, their children and her brothers and sisters.

Sis. Verna Pueschel had a knee replacement at Methodist Hospital, has recovered very well and we trust will soon have full mobility. Each good day we have is one less bad one.

Hearty congratulations to Chip (II) and Kim Hemmer on the birth of Charles F. Hemmer III on 8/13, their third child; also to grandparents Elder Bro. Charles F. (I) and Sis. Marian Hemmer and Bud and Alice Grieves. Tyden was born 9/8 to Bro. Dave and Sis. Michelle Kellenberger, who have our prayers and best wishes. An initial respiratory condition is much improved and they wish to thank everyone for their prayers and concerns. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Kellenberger (Washington, IL) and Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth Herman.

Where are they now? Sis. Genanne Witzig has lived in Phoenix, AZ, for two years and just started a job as flight attendant with Southwest Airlines out of Phoenix.

Bro. Marshall Witzig (her brother) has been in Phoenix since 1991 and is employed by Target General as construction engineer. He married Sis. Stacia Schambach in 1997; their third child, Dillon Marshall, was born 9/7 and we send them our congratulations.

Are we looking for the return of the Lord? Things can change in a

moment. Our minds wondered on the morning of 9/11: "Is this it?" God said to trust in Him and He will provide for us. He is saying to our country, "Wake up!" Let us take this opportunity to draw closer to Him, be prepared, think about our eternal destiny, follow the Scriptures laid out for us, recognize the consequences of sin. If we are right with God, we don't need to fear (Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer 9/12).

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Phyllis Knobloch
Crystal Streitmatter

"Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ."

Gal. 1:3

Greetings to all of our loved ones! It is with much humbleness that I begin to help Sis. Crystal as reporter, taking the place of Sis. Mary Ehnle. We thank Sis. Mary for the many willing hours she has given in our behalf. May all of our labors be done to the glory of God!

Our dear Sis. Doris Christ (Bro. Walter) had a fall and broke her wrist. She is unable to use her left hand and arm. Also our dear Sis. Mary Lou Joos was a surgical patient and, Lord willing, will be returning to her Florida home soon. May God give them courage in the days ahead. It makes me think of this verse that is on my dresser, "Joy is not the absence of suffering, but the presence of God."

We are thankful that souls are still turning to God in repentance. Our hearts rejoice as Hannah Herrmann (Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann) has begun the path that leads to Heaven!

"O come let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation."

Psalm 95:1

The Princeville choir held their benefit dinner in the Fellowship Hall on the evening of September 9. Donations were given to some unfortunate people that are struggling with health problems. It was such a joy to see so many willing workers throughout the evening. We praised God in song from our hearts. What a blessing to be able to sing! Following a car accident thirty years ago, my jaws were wired together for nearly a year. There was still joy in my heart, but it is such an added blessing to be able to verbally express our thoughts of love to Him in song!

Sis. Alvina Streitmatter's granddaughter, Beth Bowdoin (Henry & Benola), was married to David Tyre (Mr. and Mrs. Al Tyre) on September 15. They will make their home near Toulon. We wish God's blessings on their marriage!

Many of our young adults are off to college. May God give them strength for each day. We know it isn't easy to be among certain conditions contrary to God's teachings. The following poem was submitted by a dear sister:

They Need Your Prayers

The college students are the ones,
 who surely need your prayers:
 Oh, yes they have their learning,
 but you rarely find Christ there.

His name? Oh, yes, it's mentioned
 by lips that blaspheme Him:
 By tongues that yield to Satan
 by youths marred black with sin.

The boys and girls seem happy,
 they laugh and talk and shout,
 But dates and cars and dances,
 are all they talk about.

And if you mention Christ there

and say He died for men,
 They look at you amazed and say,
 "Fanatic! One of them!"

I never would have thought it:
 you seem quite happy too,
 But when I come to think of it,
 there isn't much you do.

You don't go to the movies
 and dances, never one:
 I beg of you, please tell me,
 how do you have your fun?

And then you explain to them
 the joy you have in Him.
 Because you know He lives in
 you
 and saves from power of sin.

So let us give them one and all
 the precious book of Love,
 That shows the folly of mere fun,
 and tells of God above.

—*Author Unknown*

We thank our dear Elders who give so much of themselves to feed their flocks! We are being blessed by listening to the tapes the last four Wednesday evenings.

We held a special service on Wednesday evening following the news that has affected all of our nation. How thankful we are that we have an Almighty God to carry us through our struggles. We sang four verses from the Hymns of Zion #4, which starts with the following comforting words: God is our refuge and our strength, A very present help indeed: He in the time of trouble sends His grace to meet our every need. Safe in His tender loving care, We have no fear of what shall be, E'en tho' the earth should be removed, And mountains cast into the sea.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank the ministers, friends, relatives and my family for

all the prayers, telephone calls, cards, letters, gifts and visits at the hospital and nursing home and since returning home. May God bless each of you.

Sis. Lucille Rumbold

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Linda Hodel
Jenell Hodel**

"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else."

Isaiah 45:22

How thankful we are that after the tragic events of September 11, 2001, we can look to God and know that He is God and we can trust in Him. It was a blessing and comfort to go to church Wednesday the 12th when our Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman and Bro. Bill Hodel held a special service to pray for all those directly affected by this tragedy and to encourage all of us to focus on God and put our faith in Him. We so appreciate our nation and that the leaders of our land encourage us to pray. Our prayers are with the families of the victims, those injured, the rescue workers and clean up crews, and with President Bush and the other officials who will be making so many decisions concerning these terrorist attacks. May God guide them!

We appreciate those who came to minister to us this past month. They were Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), and Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO). Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) spoke at our monthly Bible Study. God bless each one.

On September 8, Chris Leman (Scott Leman and Mindy Norbom) and Elizabeth Seckler (Norman and Sharon) were joined together in marriage. May God bless them as

they walk hand in hand through this life.

God bless America, land that I love,
stand beside her, and guide her
thru the night with the light
from above.

From the mountains, to the prairies,
to the oceans, white with foam.
God bless America, My home
sweet home.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Heather Rassi
LaVonne Wagenbach**

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see.

On August 26 we welcomed a new brother and sisters into our fold, after hearing their testimonies the previous evening. Our new brother and sisters are Marcy Kaiser (Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy) and Adam and Kaitie (Strope) Reinbeck (Bro. Larry and Sis. Barbara). Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL). May God bless them along with our other visiting ministers this month: Bros. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Kenneth Dietz (Bradford, IL). We appreciate their efforts very much.

We rejoice with Bro. Matt Sauder (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joann) and Sis. Jenni Grimm (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth) of Goodfield on their engagement. We pray they will feel God's guidance in their life together.

We remember our dear ones who spent time in the hospital. They are Bro. Weldon Staker, Bro. Kenneth

Huette (Sis. Arlene) and Sis. Dorothy Stuber (Bro. Glenn). May God's healing hand be upon them.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Colleen Moser are rejoicing in the birth of their son, Adam Samuel, born August 21. Sister Anna welcomes him home. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Beutel and Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Moser (Morton, IL). Also thankful for the safe arrival of a new baby boy are Bro. John and Sis. Misty Sauder and family, Willow, Echo, Talon and Meadow. Arrow Blue was born September 5. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam Sauder.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Rob and Sis. Marcia (Beutel) Dennis on the death of Rob's father, Wayne Dennis. Also to Bro. Chris and Sis. Ruth Pflederer who lost Ruth's sister, Sis. Lillian Ramseyer, of Peoria, IL. Bro. Leslie and Sis. Betty Schweigert also lost Betty's brother, Bro. Marvin Huette, of Bloomington, IL. We also remember the family of Sis. Dorothy Brunner (Bro. Elmer) in our prayers. Her children are Charles (Susan) Brunner of Washington, IL, and Elise (Loren) Joos of Deer Creek, IL.

Notes of Thanks:

We extend our thanks to everyone for their prayers, cards, gifts and support during the time of Dorothy's failing health and death. May God bless you all.

The Brunner Family

We want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, gifts, and concern for Jess during his illness and after his death. Everything was greatly appreciated. God's blessings to all.

The Family of Jess Koch

We want to thank you all for remembering us at the time of my 2 brothers' deaths. The prayers, cards, gifts and food was greatly ap-

preciated. May God bless you all.
Leslie and Betty Schweigert

WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

**Dianne Wyss
Marcia Koch**

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and man.”

Luke 2:52

As the Sunday School and regular school sessions resume for another term, we pray that the children will not only increase in knowledge, but also in wisdom as they learn to apply truth to their individual lives.

We wish the Lord's richest blessing on Sis. Christine Hodel (Kent and Janet) and Bro. Blake Stahl (Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria) as they were married September 9. We pray that the joy of the Lord will be their strength.

We also rejoice with Bro. David and Sis. Michelle Kellenberger at the birth of their son Tyden David. Tyden's grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Carole Kellenberger and Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth Herman. Due to some initial struggles, we pray that he will soon stabilize and be able to come home.

We were thankful for the following visiting ministers this month who shared insights from God's Word: Bro. Marshall Heinold (Ixtilan, Mexico), Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann, Bro. Virgil Metzger, and Bro. Greg Rassi (all of Chicago, IL), and Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL).

We also want to express our appreciation to Sis. Sue Ruppert and Sis. Denise Romersberger who were our faithful correspondents for many years. May they be blessed for their willing service.

May the disastrous events of Tuesday, September 11, draw our

nation together in unity and prayer with our God.

BLUFFTON, INDIANA

**Tonia Isch
Beth Aschliman**

“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”

Proverbs 14:34

Let us continue to pray for our nation. We have so much to be thankful for and yet such a concern for a nation that has gone astray.

Kasha Gerber (Bro. Kent and Sis. Kim) and Kyle Swisher (Scott and Julie) have begun their walk with Jesus. We wish them God's perfect peace.

On July 8 Tony and Cammy Brantzeg were blessed with a son, Matthew Vincent. Happy grandparents are Bro. Les and Sis. Ann Frauhiger.

On August 3 Tye and Carla Cook welcomed Ian James into their lives. Sis. Sheri Cress is a very happy grandma.

Jeff and Denise Geisel and grandparents, Bro. Vernon and Sis. Luella Geisel, are enjoying new baby, Kellie Lynn, born on August 6. Dan and Jami Murray are blessed with another daughter, Lexi Lane. Lexi was born August 12. Taylor is excited for a new sister and Arlen and Jeane Gerber are happy for a healthy granddaughter.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill Frauhiger are thrilled to share their hearts with Ellie Charlotte. Ellie was born on August 24. Grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Carol Isch.

Believing in God's will for their lives, Bro. Zach Geisel (Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy) and Sis. Miriam Isch (Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene) have announced their engagement. Coming together in faith are Bro. Nathan Mueller (Bro. Dave and Sis. Terri)

and Sis. Rachel Schwartz (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jan).

Also trusting in God's will are Bro. Jameson Ringger (Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy) and Sis. Sheena Milholland (Rob and Sis. Tonya Troxel). We pray for our engaged couples as they learn to know one another and prepare for marriage.

Mandy Steffen (John and Etta) and Cameron Clark were united in marriage on September 16. We wish them God's richest blessing as they start this awesome journey of married life together.

Our prayers are with those who have lost loved ones this month. Gladys Geisel passed away on September 4. She will be missed by sisters, Delores Maller (Eugene) and Lorena Geisel, and brothers, Bros. Vernon and Harold.

Lester Geyer, brother to Sis. Lavera Heyerly (Homer) and Sis. Ilene Steffen, passed away on September 10.

Harold Krinn, grandfather to Bro. Kent Wolf (Sis. Viola), passed from this life on September 16.

Sis. Helen Stoller passed away on September 16. Her children, Sis. Evelyn Gerber (Bro. Robert) and Bro. Ramon (Sis. Flossie), will miss her but are thankful that she can go to be with her Heavenly Father. Our prayers are with the many people and families that these dear people have touched.

We want to thank Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) for sharing the Word with us in Bluffton this month.

We've had many loved ones spend time in the hospital and are now resting and healing at home. They are Bro. Glenn Graber (Sis. Evie), Sis. Marie Steffen, Bro. Ramon Stoller (Sis. Flossie), and Sis. Betty Baumgartner.

We want to welcome Bro. Dave and Sis. Joleen Sinn and their children, Bro. Joel, Amy, Breona, Carla,

Heidi, and Caleb. They are now making their home in our Bluffton community and church. They moved to Bluffton from the Fort Scott, KS, area. We welcome them with open arms.

On Saturday evening, November 3, the Galilean Children's Home choir will be in Bluffton to sing. Anyone wishing to attend is welcome. For more information, contact Bro. Bill Carrica at (219) 565-3243 or Bro. Doug Fiechter at (219) 565-3854.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Rhonda Maller
Ann Meyer**

Our hearts are heavy right now. We had the terrorist attack on our nation, there is foreboding war, and we buried a loved one recently. The future seems uncertain, but we thank God that He holds the future.

Our church held a special service the night of September 11 so we could all gather to pray for our nation. What a comfort to our hearts when Psalm 27 was read.

"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

Our nation is long overdue for a revival. Let's wear out our knees with fervent prayer for our lost loved ones.

Our sincere sympathy and love go to Kathy Meyer and her daughters Sis. Sarah and Becca in the loss of their husband and father, Ron Meyer, on September 5. Our thoughts are also with his mother, Sis. Evelyn Meyer, and siblings, Sis. Carol Lane (Bro. Roger), Marlene Stewart, Larry Meyer, and Bill Meyer. Bros. Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN) and Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), along with our Elder

Bro. Phil Stettner, shared in the funeral service. We will miss Ron at church and the encouragement he gave others. We are thankful that Becca has shown a desire to become a part of our church fellowship.

Our thoughts also extend to Sis. Lorene Geisel and Sis. Delores Maller (Bro. Eugene) in the loss of their sister, Gladys Geisel. She passed away on September 4.

We're thankful that Bro. Gene Moser (Sis. Edna) is doing fine after his surgery.

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

The Lord has given many in our congregation something to rejoice about. We have four couples that have announced their engagements.

Bro. Tim Drayer felt the Lord leading him to Sis. Gwen Kloter (Goodfield, IL). Their parents are Bro. Kent and Sis. Janell Kloter and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois Drayer. May the Lord bless their wedding which is scheduled for December 2 in Goodfield.

Bro. Zachary Geisel (Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy) has found his future helpmate in Sis. Miriam Isch (Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene, Bluffton, IN). They have chosen December 9 for their union.

December 30 will be the day when Bro. Nathan Mueller will vow his love to Sis. Rachel Schwartz (Bluffton, IN). Bro. Dave and Sis. Terri Mueller and Bro. Jim and Sis. Jan Schwartz are their parents.

Sis. Sheena Milholland (Rob and Sis. Tonya Troxel) was chosen by God to be the future wife of Bro. Jameson Ringger (Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy, Bluffton, IN).

May the Lord be with these couples as they prepare for their future lives together. May they create four new Christian households that will

be shining lights to those around them.

August 4 was the special wedding day for Heather Schwartz as she became the bride of Tyler Sonnigsen. Her parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan Schwartz. May this couple make Christ the center of their home.

Bro. Vince and Sis. Susan Gerber received a new blessing on August 17 when precious Owen Ray was born. Welcoming him are Sophia, Will, and Ian. The happy grandparents are Bro. Vernon Gerber and Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Jo Troxel.

We have two more sets of grandparents that are glad to have new babies join their families. Bro. Lynn and Sis. Val Kipfer are enjoying Drew Thomas. He was born August 22 to Bro. Scott and Sis. Abby Klopfenstein (Indianapolis, IN). Bro. Dave and Sis. Cathy Bussel have a new grandson, Kaden Laine, who was born on September 5 to Bro. Travis and Sis. Missy Bussel (Leo, IN).

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Pam Huber**

"What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory."

Romans 9:22-23

As we witness the incredible atrocities going on in our nation, we pray that our hearts may be "prepared unto glory" so we may witness God's power and "know the riches of his glory."

Our sympathies go out to the family of Dennis and Kathy Westfall (Bro. Karl) of LaPorte, whose daughter, Angela, passed away in a car accident September 2. May God comfort

you as only our Heavenly Father can. "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39).

We had the special blessing of hosting an "invite - a - friend" weekend here at Francesville. It was a blessing not only to those who had company in their own homes, but also for those of us who met these visitors for the first time. Several ministering brothers shared God's Word with us as well: Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and Dan Stoller (Remington, IN). Thank you for being an instrument of peace in the Holy Spirit's hands.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS**
**Sue Levy
Gail Bradford**

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

We, along with the entire world, have experienced a time to be born and a time to die, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to keep silent and a time to speak, a time to weep and a time to laugh, just as the preacher of the Old Testament expressed in those very words.

We have experienced several reasons to rejoice. Before a crowd of witnesses, Traevor Guingrich repeated vows to God and began a new life in the waters of baptism. What an encouragement to the many young people attending, and especially to

his sister Torey, brothers Blake and Bryce, and parents Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy. Assisting in the ceremony were Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN).

Bro. Ryan and Sis. Hollie Meister welcomed Alec Ryan. His happy grandparents are Mike and Joyce Pearson and Bro. Dick and Sis. Sharon Meister. Just a few days after Alec's birth, the family moved to Lafayette for Bro. Ryan's job.

Scott and Abby Klopfenstein also greeted a new son. Drew Thomas delighted his parents, as well as grandparents, Bro. Lynn and Sis. Christine Klopfenstein and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Valerie Kipfer.

Anticipating a spiritual rebirth also encourages us, and Mike and Julie Beebe gladdened our hearts as they began their repentance.

As events continue to unfold here and throughout the world, one thing has become evident. People are calling on the Lord. They are praising Him in song. They are writing His name on signs. They are pleading with Him for protection. They are crying to Him for solace. They are thanking Him for His acts of mercy in the face of tragedy. They are leaning on Him for strength. They are praying to Him for hope. May we who know Him do likewise.

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."

Psalms 31:24

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold

Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
Beneath His wings of love abide,
Thru days of toil when heart
doth fail,
When dangers fierce your path
assail,

All you may need He will provide,
Nothing you ask will be denied,
No matter what may be the test,
Lean, weary one, upon His
breast,
God will take care of you.

Hymns of Zion #138

We rejoice as we welcome three dear souls into our congregation as brothers and sisters in Christ following their testimony and baptism on August 25-26: Sis. Heidi Nuest (Bro. Don and Sis. Deb), Bro. Brad Frank (Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla), and Bro. Rudy Troxel (Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn). It was such a blessing to hear how the Lord has worked in each of their lives.

Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla Wuethrich and family have moved into the area from Francesville, as Bro. Chris has taken a new job. We look forward to having them worship with us and pray they will feel at home in the LaCrosse congregation.

Visiting ministers this past month have been: Bros. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA), Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN), Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), Ken Weerts (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL), Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL) and Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Sis. Dona, Taylor, MO). We thank each of these brothers for sharing the Gospel with us. May you be richly blessed for your love and service to the Lord.

Ned Troxel (Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn) has recognized his need for repentance and has made a beginning in a life of service to the Lord. As we rejoice with Ned and his family, we pray that he will allow God to work in his life.

We have received many blessings as we began listening to the Conference tapes this past month. We have opened our hearts and each one examined our lives, as we've received

loving instruction from our many Elder brethren.

**INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter**

Bro. Jaret and Sis. Sharlin Wieland welcomed their first child, a girl, Aviah Lei, on August 26. Grandparents are Bro. Brace and Sis. Brenda Wieland and Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki Huber (Francesville, IN).

September 5, a boy, Kaden Laine, was welcomed into the home of Sis. Melissa and Bro. Travis Bussel. His grandparents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Debbie Frieden (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Cathy Bussel (Bluffton North, IN).

Bro. Kurt and Sis. Kristen Slagel welcomed baby Michaela Rose on September 7. Her grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Gladys Slagel (Fairbury, IL) and Barry and Sis. Rosemary Koehl (Forrest, IL). We pray for the Lord's grace and guidance for these first-time parents as they experience the care of the little ones.

Bro. Shane Stieglitz and Sis. Laura Siegel were joined together as one in the Lord on September 9. Bro. Shane's parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Jane and Sis. Laura's parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Leann Siegel (Oakville, IA). Elder Bro. Edward Lanz and Sis. Joan (Oakville, IA) were among the many visitors attending the wedding ceremony. Bro. Ed had the morning service assisted by Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN). Bro. Shane's uncles, Bros. Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN) and Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), shared in the wedding service. Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz performed the vows. It was a beautiful service. Our prayer is that their life together will glorify our Lord Jesus.

Bro. Lynn Fiechter and family (Bluffton, IN) were with us on September 12. He presented a topical Bible study on "Maintaining

Margins". His many references to Scripture verses were very convicting.

"...now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves." (John 17:13). He asked "Is it difficult to maintain joy and peace? If our lifestyle the way God designed it?"

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)

Quote: We are missing God's best, when we take in all the rest.

September 11, 2001 — Devastation in New York, a wake - up call to search our hearts.

"Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust. O my soul, thou hast said unto the Lord, Thou art my Lord: my goodness extendeth not to thee; But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight. Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips. The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot. The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage."

Psalms 16:1-6

"For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him...For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

II Cor. 11:4,13-14

**INDIANA, MILFORD
Stacey Feller
Pam Beer**

Angie Beer became our new sister in Christ when she gave her testimony and was baptized the weekend of August 25-26. We rejoice with her, her family and her parents, Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat. Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN) were our visiting ministers and we appreciate them being with us for this special event.

We also say a big thank you to ministering Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) for leading a Topical Bible Study on a Saturday evening and teaching God's Word to us over the pulpit on Sunday. It was a very uplifting weekend as we were encouraged in our Christian walk of life and our love for Jesus. Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) was our other visiting minister this month and we appreciate his visit also.

Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Price recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary; we rejoice and celebrate this milestone with them. Their children planned a card shower for them and Glenn and Kathryn wanted to print the following thank you note: "A special thank you to our family, friends and neighbors for remembering us on our 60th wedding anniversary with so many beautiful cards, kind words, gifts and prayers. God bless each one for your love and kindness." Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn

We also rejoice with two couples who became grandparents again in the past months. Bro. John and Sis. Pam Lehman got another granddaughter, Reagen Breann, born June 15 to Brett and Michele Devenney. Older sisters, Alexis and Sierra, are happy for another sister to play with.

At the end of August, Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy Steffen got a new granddaughter named Asia born to

Sean and Caralee Niswander. Older brother, Quinten, is also excited about a playmate.

Bro. Marc Beer (Sis. Jodi) recently had surgery on his mouth from an earlier injury in a farm accident. We are glad he is having a good recovery and pray everything will be back to normal soon.

With the recent turmoil and devastation in our country, we have sent many prayers heavenward for those families and children who have lost loved ones and those who are still waiting to hear. We also think of two dear couples in our own congregation who have sons in the military. Bro. Bill and Sis. Anne Troup and Bernie and Peg Beer. May we keep them in our prayers as we wait to hear what decisions our countries' leaders make concerning future events.

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Beth Virkler
Rochelle Ward

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

In light of the recent tragedies that have struck our country, our eyes must be focused on Jesus. He told us we would face perilous times, but He also gave us a promise of courage and strength found only through Him. May our prayers never cease to go up for those who are grieving, for those who have heavy decisions to make, and for those who are our enemies. The Lord will prevail!

We have appreciated the visits of Bros. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL) and Ken Weerts (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL). They are beginning to become familiar faces as they

now have family in the area. We appreciate their willingness to bring us the Word.

Progress is being made with the construction of the Western Indiana Relief Center which will serve primarily as a place to make soap. This center is the fifth distribution center and will be used by the Indianapolis, Valparaiso, West Lafayette, LaCrosse, Francesville, Wolcott, and Remington churches. A special thanks to all the volunteers who have donated their time and talents. Lord willing, the building should be ready for use in January 2002.

We are thankful for Ben and Stephanie Standis (Joe and Sis. Cheri Frantz) who have made a beginning in Christ. Ben and Steph live in the Elgin area but come home often enough that we want to share our joy with them!

September 9 we hosted a Youth Fellowship Day for the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. The following churches were also involved: West Lafayette, Valparaiso, LaCrosse, Wolcott, Indianapolis, and Francesville. All had a blessed time. Thanks to all those who planned and participated in such a special day with our youth.

On August 13 we brought down the walls of our old country church. Although we realize the "church of Christ" resides in the hearts of its members and not in the physical building, it was still sad to see it go. Many of us gave our testimonies, were baptized, were married, and had memorial services for our loved ones there. We are thankful for the memories and that God has blessed us with a new edifice in which to worship in.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
DeAnn Schlatter
Lavilla Langhofer

Is the chaos in our lives drawing us to depend on God? Let us pause and thank Him for creating man

with the gift of choice. What an awesome gift. Much of this earth's chaos and evil comes from humans not making right choices. Pray for the wisdom of our country and each of us that we could make the right choices.

We congratulate Bro. Tom and Sis. Carolyn Frank on a new grandson. Jacob Wilson Frank arrived on August 13 to Clay and Wendy Frank of Fishers, IN. Dale and Kathy Wilson of Franklin, PA, are his maternal grandparents. We pray for God's guidance for this precious bundle in the choices he will make in life.

Thankful for microphones and tapes, we have started listening to the conference tapes. What blessings can be passed on through technology as long as we choose to use it for God's glory.

Special thanks to visiting ministers Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) for visiting us and sharing the Word with us this past month along with our home ministers. We pray that the Word will continue to go forth from our churches and that our choices will result in God-honoring fruit.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Darel and Janet Walker

Our prayers are with Bro. Mike and Sis. Claudia Thomas as Sis. Claudia broke her hip in a fall last month. She had surgery and has returned to church but will be confined to a wheelchair for several weeks. May she feel God's healing touch and receive the grace she needs to help her through a long recovery.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Bro. Edward Sauder (Roanoke, IL), and Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN). We appreciate the visits of these ministers and their wives and thank them for bringing God's Word to us. We greatly appre-

ciate that there are so many faithful ministers willing to come to Valparaiso and serve us when our ministers are traveling.

We mourned with the nation at a special service held the evening of the horrific terrorist attacks in New York and Washington on September 11. We were reminded that none of us know when our time will come and were encouraged to be certain our hearts are ready. One of the strange scenes from New York was the sight of financial documents covering the streets. One of our brothers reminded us that the only investment that lasts is the one we make in teaching our children and others to love God. We were also reminded that there is no security on the earth. The only true security we have is in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE**

Geoff and Angie Ginzel

The Dedication for the West Lafayette church was held on September 16. With a little over 200 visiting brothers and sisters, the day was a real blessing and a time of great fellowship. We wish to thank all those who attended and to those who continue to support us in prayer.

We want to welcome Bro. Ryan and Sis. Hollie Meister and their son, Alec, to the West Lafayette congregation. They recently moved from Indianapolis to Lafayette.

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. Dale and Sis. Sandra Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Todd and Sis. Karen Feller and Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank (all from LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna Kilgus (Remington, IN), Elder Bro. Steve

and Sis. Linda Gutwein and Elder Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella Gudeman (all from Francesville, 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 our local ministering Bro. Neil Widmer (765) 497-4709. Our counseling Elders are Bros. Curt Frank and Wendell Gudeman.

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

“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and last.”

Rev. 22:13

How thankful we can be that amidst all the turmoil and terror of the past few weeks, our God is still on the throne. He always will be and we can live in freedom from fear. Our prayers go out for the injured and the grieving, that they can be comforted. Also for our nation's leaders to have wisdom of what God would have them to do. May many more souls seek the Saviour!

We rejoice that two more souls are serving the Lord and following Jesus. John and Colleen Jacoby (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Pat Kyburz) have answered the call of repentance. God grant them daily grace to do His will.

Within a few months of his wife's passing, Bro. Ralph Ravellette was also relieved from his illness and has gone to be with Jesus. We offer prayers and sympathy to his children, Curtis, Gary, Charles, Linda Boerma and Mary Pistle, 15 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

We also offer prayers and sympathy to Sis. Nancy and Bro. Jerry Kyburz in the passing of her father, James Wortman. God comfort these families.

Nancy Bryant and Mike Scott were joined in marriage on September 21. Brian Kyburz (Ron and Donna) and Tabitha Heiney (Kim and Crystal, Warsaw) were married on September 1. We wish both of these couples God's blessings and His presence in their lives together.

We trust God to bless Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) for sharing the Word with our congregation.

Harvest has begun and will be well under way when this is read. Our prayers are for the safety and protection of our farmers and their families as they spend long hours reaping what was sown.

**IOWA, BURLINGTON
Brenda Schulz
Karla Gerst**

“And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified...”

I Cor. 2:1-2

We have had several visitors this past month. Among them were the following brothers who shared the Word with us: Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Bros. Dave Marquart (Taylor, MO), Ed Lanz and John Steiner (both of Oakville, IA). May the Lord reward them for their labors in His name.

**IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer**

“Then said Jesus, Father forgive

them, for they know not what they do..."

Luke 23:34

As our nation watched in horror at the tragedy that struck New York, D.C., and Pennsylvania, many of us felt shock, anger and sorrow. Human nature's first thought is to "get back" at the terrorists that brought this evil to our country and people. But may we remember the words of Jesus, to FORGIVE. Tragedy can often divide a school, a workplace, a church, a community, a marriage, but it is so inspiring to see our nation pull together to help those in need and as a nation, turn to God for His comfort, help and guidance. May we remember the victims, their families, and all military, medical and government personnel in our prayers.

The Elgin congregation enjoyed two very special weekends in September. Open house for our newly constructed church building was held on September 8 and dedication was held on September 16. We thank those that came to share both weekends with us. Those that came to share God's Word with us were: retired Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA). Ministering brothers present were Bros. Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA), Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA) and John Steiner (Oakville, IA). May God bless them for their willingness to serve.

Sis. Leona Fehr (Bro. Scott) and Sis. Gloria Frieden spent some time in the hospital. Sis. Leona has returned home and Sis. Gloria is hospitalized at the time of this writing. May we remember them in our prayers and pray for a full recovery.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Willa Clark

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

Matthew 5:14,16

We were reminded of the power of even the smallest light, when our Bible Class visited Kiowa, KS, with others from Kansas and Missouri. It was a weekend of powerful messages and fun fellowship. During Saturday activities, the group toured a natural cave. When the guide turned off the lights to demonstrate the total darkness, she requested everyone cover watches with glowing dials. When the dials were then uncovered, the glow seemed bright in the darkness. The guide said the light of one watch dial would be enough to find our way out of the depths of the earth into the bright daylight. If you think your Christian light is small, compared to all the darkness in the world, just think how the dim face of a watch could light the way for a lost traveler in a cave. Your light can brighten the pathway for others.

We are thankful for the visits of ministering brothers and their families: Bros. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN).

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We appreciated our visitors over the last couple of months, including ministering Bros. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL) and Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL). May God richly bless them for being servants for us. While we will

miss Bro. Doug being with us, we rejoice that Sis. Clara has been able to be at home after a lengthy stay in the hospital here. We will continue to pray for their family in the weeks ahead.

We extend our congratulations to Andrew Peterson (Bro. Larry and Sis. Emily) on his marriage to Millarahi Delso-Saadedra. We pray for God's blessings as they begin their married life together.

We ask for your prayers for Bro. Larry Peterson who has been recently hospitalized, and for my nephew, Mitchel Schulz (Bro. Roger and Sis. June, Oakville, IA), who is currently in intensive care in Iowa City with head trauma. May God grant His healing touch, both for body and soul.

We joyfully welcome our newest baby, Kyla Rae, born to Bro. Jim and Sis. Diana Butikofer. We pray God will grant them much wisdom as new parents bringing up their child to know God. Our small congregation has had four baby girls born in the past year, and we all enjoy them.

We also welcome Sis. Dawn Massner (Burlington, IA) who has accepted employment in our area. May she feel God's love and peace as she establishes herself in a new church home. Our prayers go with Karen Peterson, Zachary and Lilly as they leave our area to make their home in northwest Iowa.

We congratulate Sis. Melisa Gerst (Bro. Tim) as she has completed her final clinical requirements as an Occupational Therapist. May she feel God's blessings as she closes another chapter in her life and seeks God's will for the next.

With the events that unfolded on September 11, may we look to God for our comfort and security. While I was out of town at a meeting on that day, I looked back in my daily calendar and read the following entry: "Neither know we what to do, but

our eyes are upon thee..." (II Chronicles 20:12). If we wholly trust an interest to God, we must keep our hands off of it; and He will guard it for us better than we can help Him. Drop the tangles of life into God's hands and leave them there. After being bombarded with images and tales of the terrorist strike, I had to think of Philippians 4:8-9: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." While we do not want to diminish the actual and potential consequences of the tragedy in New York and Washington, D.C., may we not let the evil in this world disturb our peace and our ability to share God's love and plan of salvation with others. May our calmness in the time of storm be a light to those frantic souls around us who have no hope for God's benevolence in this life and an even better life to come.

IOWA, LESTER
Dawn Knobloch
Dawn Metzger

We want to welcome Ken, Sis. Karen, Ashlie and Sarah Hunt into our congregation. They have moved from the Rockville, CT, area to Livingston, MT, and will be assembling with us when possible.

Moving to Lester from the Congerville, IL, congregation are Bro. Isaac and Sis. Melissa Rinkenberger and Rebekah. Sis. Melissa was originally from here and we welcome her and her family back into our fold.

Our congregation was blessed with many visitors over the Labor

Day weekend for various different occasions. Among the visitors, we were blessed to have the following ministers: Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), and Bros. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), and Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL). Also ministering the Word to us earlier in the month was Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL). We thank these brethren for their willingness to teach us from the Word.

Bro. Lance and Sis. Kristi Knobloch were blessed on August 24 with the arrival of Gabe Walker. Big brothers are Keegan and Kelwin. Grandparents are Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie Knobloch and Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley Ifft (Forrest, IL).

Surgical patients this month were Sis. Carla Metzger (Jared) and Isaac Heyer (Ryan and Jodi). Three-year old Isaac had the misfortune of breaking his leg. His injury required surgery and an extended hospital stay. Isaac is the grandson of Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean Heyer and great-grandson of Sis. Iola Knobloch. Our prayer is that God's healing hand will be with all those who are recovering.

Private graveside services were held on September 7 for the premature babies born to Bro. Derek and Sis. Connie Knobloch. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they suffer this loss. May they be comforted, knowing their babies are safe in the arms of Jesus. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter (Sabetha, KS).

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Wilbert Knobloch, Sis. Emma Knobloch, Sis. Paulina Knobloch and Lydia Moser on the death of their sister, Julia Plattner (Bern, KS).

On September 16, the engagement of Bro. Dennis Schumacher (Eureka, IL) and Sis. Jill Aeschleman was announced to our

congregation. We rejoice with them and wish them God's guidance as they make future plans together. Parents of this couple are Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene Schumacher (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Dolores Metzger.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debbie Wagenbach

We wish the Lord's richest blessings to Bro. Shane and Sis. Laura Stieglitz as they were united as one in the Lord on September 9 at our Leo, IN, congregation. Sis. Laura's parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. LeAnn Siegle.

We thank Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) for bringing forth the Word of the Lord in our Oakville congregation. May God richly bless him and his family.

IOWA, PULASKI
Katrina Knobloch

We wish Josh and Tara Townsend God's richest blessings as they were married August 25. Josh's parents are Danny and Sis. Lynn Townsend.

Bro. Lee and Sis. Patsy Esslinger have moved and will be assembling with the Burlington, IA, congregation. We will miss them in our small congregation and hope they will come back and visit often!

As we listen to the tapes from our Brotherhood Conference, we are very thankful for the labors of our Elder brothers and appreciate their words of encouragement. May they always feel the Lord's leading and blessings.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Lori Skoglund
Berniece Banwart

We were blest with visits of ministering Bros. Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki,

Eureka, IL), Edwin Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS), and Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN). We thank them for their willingness to be used in the Lord's service and pray that God will bless them and all our ministers who faithfully bring forth the Word each time we gather in the Lord's house.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Evelyn Schmidt (Bro. Ivan) as she bade farewell to a dear sister, Sis. Lillian Ramseyer (Peoria, IL).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Lydia Edwards as she had surgery and will need continuing treatment.

We rejoice that Nancy Zaugg (Bro. Norman and Sis. Polly) has sought and found peace with God and man. In this life there is truly joy intermingled with sadness. Not one of us will forget September 11 as our country has been stunned by acts of terrorism against it.

Though troubles assail,
And dangers affright,
Though friends should all fail,
And foes all unite.
Yet one thing secures us
Whatever betide,
This promise assures us:
The Lord will provide.
Zion's Harp #86

May the words in this hymn be a comfort to us in these troubling times.

JAPAN, TOKYO Marie Inoue

All of our travelers have returned home safely, and we are very thankful. They all reported a blessed time as they so enjoyed the fellowship in many churches of our American brethren. We are especially glad our Elder brother arrived home safely as he was there during the terrorist attack. His business was cut short but

was able to enjoy meeting brethren and family in several of our churches before soon returning home. There were many who did not return to their homes, and for those who remain, we lift them up in prayer. We do not know all the answers to this tragedy, but we trust the One who does. We know our Lord is in full control, and may we heed the warnings given to us.

Our annual church cleaning was held this month. We were especially thankful for nice weather, as the inside as well as the outside received a good cleaning. Several friends joined our efforts which made the day especially blessed. Also included in this month's activities was a picnic at Kinuta Park. The weather, again, was very pleasant, and it was special to enjoy a meal outdoors with brethren and friends.

KANSAS, BERN Sally Strahm Lori Baumgartner

Swift to it's close ebbs out life's
little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, it's glories
pass away;
Change and decay in all around I
see;
O Thou, who changest not, abide
with me!
Hymns of Zion #110

As we have experienced much change and destruction in our nation during the past week, we find great comfort in knowing that we have an unchanging Lord to turn to. It is encouraging to hear those among our nation's leaders express the need for our government to humble themselves before God and to wait on His direction. It makes us wonder if God had a purpose in all of this destruction. Maybe it was to bring our nation humbly to it's

knees. We are thankful that He holds the key of all unknown.

Three families have lost loved ones during the past month. We pray that our Lord will ease the loneliness and provide them comfort during the weeks and months ahead.

Bro. Paul Grimm was called to his eternal home on August 23. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Katie, and two daughters, Martha Montgomery (Ross) of Sabetha, KS, and Mary Stamm (John) of Lyndon, KS.

Leora Baumgartner passed from this life on September 3. She is survived by her husband, Leslie; one son, Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori); and three daughters, Kathy Baumgartner, Sis. Peggy Strahm (Bro. Kyle), and Jan Baumgartner of Santa Maria, CA.

Sis. Julia Plattner died September 8 at our Apostolic Christian Home in Sabetha. She is survived by one son, Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary) of Zapata, TX; and two daughters, Lenis Tucker of Baldwinville, NY, and Loree Lily (Alfred) of Lenexa, KS.

We have appreciated the visiting ministers that have shared God's precious Word with us during the past month. Assembling with us were Bros. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), Jim Ramseyer (Sis. Marlene, Bay City, MI), Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA) and Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL). May the Lord bless them according to His will.

We rejoice with Ted and Marci Rottinghaus who were blessed with a new little daughter, Jenna Jean, on September 9. She is welcomed home by two siblings, Jacey and Colby. Her grandparents are Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona Strahm and Jerry and Paula Rottinghaus of Seneca, KS.

We have another reason to rejoice. On September 9, the engagement of Bro. David

Edelman to Sis. Shari Braker of

Kansas City, MO, was made known to us. Bro. David's parents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marlene Edelman. Sis. Shari's parents are Elder Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen Braker (Kansas City, MO). May they feel the Lord's presence as they plan for their life together.

"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love..." It is always a blessing to be able to travel to other churches in our faith and worship and fellowship with one another. The weekend of September 1 and 2, our single group enjoyed hosting visitors from various churches. Our ninth through twelfth grade Sunday School students traveled to Kiowa, KS, for the annual Kansas Youth Gathering, the weekend of September 15 and 16. We realize that quite often friendships are formed on these special weekends that can last a lifetime. Our special thanks to the Kiowa congregation for their labors of love towards our youth.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

Psalm 51:10

We feel so encouraged and uplifted when we hear of souls turning their backs on sin. Ashley Esslinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty) and Kristen Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) have each made a beginning in repentance. May they both take courage in the fact that even though Satan is mighty, God is Almighty! Our prayers are with them.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all, near and far, who remembered our family following the death of Leora. Our hearts have been touched by the outpouring of love shown to us through prayers, cards, flowers, food, memorials, and

words of comfort.

May our Lord bless each of you for your kindness and generosity.

Leslie Baumgartner

Kathy Baumgartner

Jan Baumgartner and family

Bro. Kyle and Sis. Peggy Strahm and family

Bro. John and Sis. Lori Baumgartner and family

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Ruth Bahr

Bro. David and Sis. Joleen Sinn felt moved to relocate in the Bluffton, IN, area. They and their children, Bro. Joel, Amy (convert), Brenda, Carla, Heidi and Caleb will be greatly missed by this congregation.

Labor Day weekend was filled with fellowship when a Jamaica work team held a reunion here. Several churches were represented. Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) ministered to us.

We welcome Jeff and Debbie McCoy who have moved here from Phoenix, AZ. Her parents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ethel Smith.

Our newest convert is Alyssa Banwart (Bro. Don and Sis. Aleta). According to the Word, the angels in Heaven are rejoicing.

On September 9, Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) ministered to us. Also in late afternoon we hosted the annual Fort Scott - Kansas City Sunday School picnic at Gunn Park. The day was a blessing to both the young and the old.

KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY Sarah Somerhalder

We have been listening to the Conference tapes from the 2001 Brotherhood Conference in Roanoke. Let us strive to walk a more consecrated walk and to keep the unity of the brethren.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Debbie Frieden were blessed with another grandchild. On September 5, Kaden Laine Bussel was born to first-time parents, Bro. Travis and Sis. Melissa Bussel (Leo, IN). Paternal grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Cathy Bussel (Bluffton North, IN).

We thank our visiting minister, Bro. Jim Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS), for being with us this month and bringing forth the Word of Life. May God bless him for his labors in the Lord's service.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who lost loved ones in the tragedies that occurred last month in America. Let us remember to pray for our President and the leaders of our country and may they seek God's counsel.

KANSAS, SABETHA Brenda Grimm Mary Kay Wenger

Speak the gospel of salvation,
boldly in the wilderness!

In the Saviour's blood there's
healing,

Grace and pardon He's revealing
To the sinner in distress.

Speak the gospel of salvation
Boldly in the wilderness!

Zion's Harp #112

How thankful we are that we have those dear brothers that stand before us and preach the true gospel. Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bros. James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI) were our visiting ministers this month and we thank them for their labors on our behalf.

Jesus knows thy sorrow,
Knows thine ev'ry care;
Knows thy deep contrition,
Hears thy feeblest pray'rs;

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 sympathy is extended to Bro. Velmer Meyer in the passing of his sister, Leora Baumgartner (Bern). Also, we want to remember Sis. Irene Lehman as her brother, Bro. Paul Grimm (Bern), was laid to rest this month. May these families feel God's comfort and peace during this time of sorrow.

September 8 was a beautiful day as Lana Grimm and Marvin Kuenzi were united in marriage in an outdoor ceremony. Their parents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene Grimm and Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). We will certainly miss Lana as they make their home in Oregon, but pray that God's blessings will be with them.

We want to thank the Kiowa, KS, congregation for recently hosting the Kansas Bible Class get together. What a blessing it is for our Sunday School students to travel and enjoy a weekend of fellowship together.

Bro. Darin Grimm (Sis. Marci) spent some time in the hospital with neck injuries and a broken nose following a car accident. We are so thankful for the Lord's guardian angel as his injuries could have been much worse. May he feel God's hand of comfort and healing during his time of recovery.

**KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY
Tamra Kaeb**

In times like these you need a
Saviour
In times like these you need an
anchor
Be very sure, be very sure
Your anchor holds and grips the

Solid Rock
This Rock is Jesus, Yes, He's the
One
This Rock is Jesus - The only
One.

Gospel Hymns #231

In wake of the serious tragedy and tumultuous events staring our beloved country in the face, we, who are Christians first then Americans, pull together to fight for our Lord. This Tuesday, September 11, 2001, is a date that few of us will ever forget. As terrorist - minded individuals have challenged our country's freedom and safety, Satan also challenges our soul's freedom and safety from sin. Encouraged by believing brothers and sisters, each one of us can be strengthened when we lift our voices to God in prayer and song. Tonight our small group of believers at K-State gathered together to lift one another up and encourage each other to remain strong and steadfast in the face of an uncertain future. May we all be prayerful for our country that our leaders will continue to make decisions pleasing in the Lord's sight.

This year we welcome all our new students on campus. Joining us from Taylor is Bro. Joe Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny). Amber Bahr (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Beverly) and Bro. Tommie Hitz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy) have moved here from Detroit and Kenton Snyder (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara) joins us from Kansas City. Our incoming freshman from the Bern area are Kristen Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda), Brett Edelman (Bro. Rod and Sis. Jolene), Ariana Esslinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty) and Clint Meyer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Kay). We hope they feel comfortable here among our group and we look forward to getting to know each one in their years at K-State. We also welcome back all our returning students from previous years. May the Lord bless us

with a safe and productive school year.

Three from among us have come back to school this year engaged. Bro. Quinton Snyder (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara) from our Kansas City congregation and Sis. Heather Hitz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy) from Detroit announced their engagement the second weekend of July. On the same Sunday, Bro. Scott Bahr (Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn) from Detroit and Sis. Jamie Menold from Bern (Bro. James and Sis. Lou) also shared their news of their upcoming marriage. We rejoice with both couples and pray that the Lord will shower His richest blessings upon their unions over Christmas and summer break, respectively.

Michelle Bahr was welcomed into the family of Christ through a water baptism in God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, in our Detroit congregation the first weekend of August. We rejoice with the angels in Heaven over her soul's redeemed state.

Christ has again shown His power over the spirits of evil by rescuing seven more souls from Satan's fateful clutches. We join in exultation with Brian Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) as he found the grace to turn his back on Satan and begin a new life serving God at the close of the school year last spring. As of this past weekend, Kenton Snyder (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara, Kansas City), Luke Knapp (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda, Taylor), Amber Bahr (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Beverly, Detroit) and Ashley Esslinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty, Bern) have also sought the Lord in repentance. As we started the week, two more individuals, Tasha Knoblock (Bro. Steve and Sis. RoseAnn) and Kristen Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda), turned to the Lord in sorrow for their state of sin. We delight in the fact that the Lord is still granting grace to lost souls and we trust more will seek

Him in the coming days. May He continue to guide these babes in Christ and bring them unto the true meat of the Word.

We had our annual Fall Picnic with all the K-Staters and their families on August 29. Elder Bro. John Lehman from Bern led us in our opening Wednesday night church service for the year. We appreciate all those who show up to support our group of brothers and sisters and friends. The remaining services for this semester will be held on October 10 and 24 and November 28. On Friday, November 8, we will have a Bible Study. The Spring schedule is January 23, Feb. 6 and 20, March 6 and 20, and April 10. We will have our second Bible Study on April 26 (Friday) and the final Spring Picnic on May 1, 2002. We invite all who would like to join us in worshipping our Lord.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

We in the Wichita congregation were saddened to learn that Bro. Kirt and Sis. Katie Reimschisel are moving to Atlanta, GA, where Bro. Kirt has a business opportunity. I am sure the congregation in Atlanta welcomes this addition to their body of believers as we did when they became a part of our church family in Wichita. Both Bro. Kirt and Sis. Katie came to Wichita from much larger congregations. We pray for their adjustment to their new location and for their commitment to their Lord and Saviour.

Bro. Ed Fritz and his wife, Sis. Sally, were in Wichita September 8-9 for our visiting minister schedule. We thank God for their sacrifice of time and energy to travel the miles to fulfill this duty to us. In view of the nationwide shock we experienced this past week, I am sure we all uttered prayers concerning the inhumane acts of violence and for our

leaders to make the right decisions as to how our country will react. I have the following lines posted in my bedroom. (They were clipped from a past edition of the Silver Lining and seem appropriate to review.)

Look Up

If you want to be distressed —
look within.
If you want to be defeated —
look back.
If you want to be distracted —
look around.
If you want to be dismayed —
look ahead.
If you want to be delivered —
look up!

These lines were followed with this scripture: "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

Luke 21:28

MEXICO, IXTLAN - MORELIA

Rosario Gonzalez

"Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways. For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord. The Lord shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel."

Psalms 128

Meet Bro. Rogelio Cervantes:

"I started seeking God because I knew I was missing something and had an emptiness in my heart. As a

university student I fellowshiped with many atheists and with many of communistic ideology. We received monthly magazines from the Russian and Cuban embassies which promised us success through their way of life, but they never spoke of God. I continued feeling disturbed and didn't feel love for others or even myself. My idols were mortal men, in particular revolutionaries.

When I was first invited to church, I didn't like it because they spoke of God and there was nothing entertaining. But I only became more empty and lonely. As I continued to attend and heard how God showed His love by sending Jesus Christ, I began to realize that God was calling me.

The turning point was when I was almost in a tragic accident and I called out to God knowing that He was real. The brethren here showed me much love and I realized that my life mattered to someone else and to God and that I was indebted to serve the Lord.

Around that time I got married and had problems relating to my wife. I saw that Christian believers had happier marriages and desired that and invited my wife to church. At first she didn't want to go and that discouraged me. When she finally accompanied me, I loved to hear the Word at church, on tapes at home, and hymns. As I recognized there was nothing good in this world, I started to get rid of my suitcase full of worldly music, one of my idols. I stopped fellowshiping with my worldly friends. I had finally found Christ's way and I could sleep peacefully without the terrible nightmares I had been having.

Reading God's Word daily, my former fears disappeared and I had hopes and plans for the future. I was baptized on November 20, 1999, where I made a covenant with God to obey Him. My closest friends were surprised to see the power God had

given me to overcome sin. Because He is faithful, I want to be faithful."

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow: though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Isaiah 1:18

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Sandy Schutte

Kristen Plattner

Congratulations to grandparents, Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne Kaeb, regarding the birth of Brian Lloyd to Bro. Tim and Sis. Melanie Tomic (Kitchener, Ontario).

We have had several hospital patients that would appreciate continual prayer and encouragement in their situations. Let us remember Sis. Christine Wingeier, Sis. Margaret Wingeier, Sis. Sandy Schutte, Sis. Virginia Schutte, and Bro. Wes Daniels.

Our visiting minister this past month was Bro. Tom Schrenk (Sis. Joan, Athens, AL). We are thankful for the exhortation to be quiet in the spirit. Their many ties to Alto are always special to us.

The Alto Sunday School appreciated the efforts of the Bay City Church for hosting the Michigan Sunday School on September 8-9.

Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen announce the engagement of their son, Jamie, to Kim Rengert, daughter of Keith and Sally Rengert.

In view of the horrible insult on humanity this past week, many thoughts come to our shocked minds. We must confidently turn to the Word where there are comforts that we can draw from. Please read and consider Matthew 10:28 as Christ spoke to his disciples. "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

Our emotions, which may span from great uncertainty to anger to fear to insecurity, are certainly part of our being. We are instructed that there are some things we are not to know but rather to trust a Sovereign Lord. May we daily be able to do so.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Rhonda Knochel

Peggy Jackson

We were very blessed to have nine visiting ministers this month. They are: Bros. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), David Graf (Akron, OH), and Elder Bros. Andrew Stoller (Smithville, OH), Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), and Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI). We are very grateful to these brothers and their wives for their work and labor of love. May God richly bless each one.

We were very pleased to hear of the birth of Chase Thomas this month. His parents are Glenn III and Rose Ruegsegger. Welcoming baby Chase home is big sister, Erika. We rejoice with Glenn and Rose and pray that God's loving hand would be ever present upon their little family.

We were saddened with the loss of Sis. Lillian Ramseyer (Peoria, IL) who spent many years here in Bay City. Our sympathy is extended to her son, Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly, and her daughter, Pam Ormstom. We also extend our loving sympathy to Sis. Leah, Sis. Helen and Bro. Earl Ramseyer, all from our church here in Bay City. Sis. Lillian was their dear sister-in-law. Our condolences are also expressed to all of Sis. Lillian's extended family and friends. May God's loving care comfort you as you mourn her loss.

Our retired Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Sis. Maxine) spent time under the care of physicians this

month. We pray that the Lord's healing touch will completely restore his physical strength and encourage him along the way.

It has been several months now since we were informed of Elder Bro. Andy's retirement both from the Eldership and from the ministry. We thank him and Sis. Maxine for their many years of labor here in our congregation and ask that the Lord's blessings be upon them. With Bro. Andy's retirement, we welcome Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen and his wife, Sis. Loretta (Alto, MI), who will be taking over the Eldership responsibilities in Bay City. It is our prayer that they will feel an extra portion of God's strength and nearness as they prepare to take on these new duties. May the love and prayers of our congregation encourage and support Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta during this time of transition.

May God go with each one in the month ahead!

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Sarah Beard

Holly Barton

Trading Hurt for Wholeness

We live in a world gone wrong, one that was created perfect but now suffers the ravages of sin: death, violated relationships..., disease, man's inhumanity to man, moral failures, tragedies of major proportions, chaos. It is indeed a broken world...

When we stand in the middle of a lifestorm, it seems as if the storm has become our way of life. We cannot see a way out. We are unable to chart a course back to smoother waters. We feel defeated—and broken. Will that brokenness produce a cynicism that will keep us forever in the mire of "if only" thinking? Or will we yield up that brokenness to the resources of One who calms the winds and the waves, heals the broken-

hearted, and forgives the most grievous of sins? The choice is ours.

Verdell Davis

Although we have certainly seen the forces of evil at work in our country recently, let us praise the Lord that we are also seeing the working of His Holy Spirit. One evidence of this here in Detroit is the turning of several young hearts to Him. Lauren Ringger (Bro. Von and Sis. Janelle), Brice Gasser (Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue), Kristen Hitz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy), and Amber Bahr (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev) are all seeking the spiritual wholeness that only Jesus can provide. May we as a church stand by them in prayer and encouragement.

Loved ones hospitalized this month were Sis. Maria Sabados and Bro. Ben Belsley (Sis. Lois). May God continue to be with them as they heal.

Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) ministered to us this month. We certainly have enjoyed his several visits to our congregation.

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Diane Stewart**

This article is being written one week after the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington D.C. We are different, aren't we? We're praying more fervently, singing more heartily, thanking God more abundantly, teaching and loving our children even more wholeheartedly, treating others more respectfully, doing acts of service more cheerfully and willingly. We thought we were doing all this before the attacks, but as one wholesome college student said, "Things have changed and we didn't realize how good we had it, and now it's different." We've now felt war on our own land. A Bosnian woman shutters to see more war and tears fill her eyes.

Scott Larson, an FBI agent in Washington D.C. tells his mom in Minnesota that it's in God's hands as he works long, long hours to analyze data and do everything possible in helping put the pieces of the puzzle together. And Nelson Haerr, we know, is in the thick of the day to day work as a fireman in New York City. Many of you have other personal stories. Let's keep praying and doing and loving.

Do you find yourself turning to Revelation in your daily devotions and asking guidance in understanding more of God's prophecy? I do.

We always appreciate our visiting ministers. Bros. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield, IL) and Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane, Rockville, CT) shared God's Word with us recently.

Jeannette Tilbury (Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb) was married to Korey Ackman on September 15. May God richly bless their union.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Dianne Kellenberger
Cheryl Messner**

Shari Schmidgall and Rod Olson exchanged marriage vows in an outdoor ceremony on July 14. We pray they will seek God's guidance in the decisions which lie before them. Parents are Bro. Jerel and Sis. Linda Schmidgall and Gerald and Bernita Olson.

We beseech God's blessings on two dear families who have been granted precious newborns. Our converts, Mark and Lori Mattson, welcomed Haley Ann on August 22. Sisters, Sabrina and Ashton, are excited about their little sister. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte Luthi and Roger and Patti Mattson.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Shadow Schaefer rejoiced with the birth of Esther Shadow on August 31. Big sister, Elena, is enjoying her future

playmate. Bro. Paul (Cork) and Sis. Pam Fehr and Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam Schaefer are the happy grandparents.

Take my life and let it be,
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my hands and let them
move
at the impulse of Thy love.

Take my will and make it Thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
it shall be Thy royal throne.

Hymns of Zion #106

We are so thankful that Tony Ascherman (Sis. Peggy) has heeded God's tender call and is seeking Him in repentance. Praying that abundant grace and understanding will be provided by our loving Lord.

We appreciated hearing the tapes of the Elder Conference. Their timely warnings and instructions should cause us to be more prayerful and diligent in this walk of faith.

Recent hospital patients have been Sis. Hazel Moser (Bro. Joe), Esther Schaefer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Shadow), and Sis. Virginia Schmidgall (Bro. Don). May God's healing touch be upon them.

Notes of Thanks:

With humbleness and gratitude, we thank all for the love and concern shown us during our loved one's illness and death. Your prayers sustained us and gave us strength during the discouraging times. Thank you also for the many cards, visits and gifts of food brought to our home. May God bless you all for your kindness.

The Leroy Fehr Family

I wish to thank everyone who remembered me on my 90th birthday. May God richly bless each of you.

Bro. John Schaefer

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Carol Ann Messner
Marilyn Messner

God Bless America

God bless America
 Land that I love
 Stand beside her, and guide her
 Thru the night with a light from
 above.
 From the mountains, to the prai-
 ries,
 To the oceans, white with foam
 God bless America
 My home sweet home.

"Why art thou cast down, O my
 soul? and why art thou disquieted in
 me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet
 praise him for the help of his counte-
 nance."

Psalm 42:5

"Now the God of hope fill you
 with all joy and peace in believing,
 that ye may abound in hope, through
 the power of the Holy Ghost."

Romans 15:13

Discouragement is Satan's tool,
 but God offers us hope.

Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae,
 Minneapolis, MN) ministered to us
 in conjunction with attending our
 fall pork chop supper. We thank
 them and all others who were able to
 come and fellowship with us for this
 special weekend.

In times like these we need a Sav-
 iour.

"Fear not: for I have redeemed
 thee, I have called thee by thy name;
 thou art mine. When thou passest
 through the waters, I will be there
 with thee; and through the rivers,
 they shall not overflow thee: when
 thou walkest through the fire; thou
 shalt not be burned."

Isaiah 43:1-2

"My grace is sufficient for thee:
 for my strength is made perfect in
 weakness."

II Cor. 12:9

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Garry and Marty Rokey

As we are writing this monthly
 column, it seems that round after
 round of horrifying news fills the air-
 waves. We can only hope and pray
 that God will stay the hand of this
 faceless and awful evil. Yet we know
 the Word warns us of these times of
 tribulation. Our prayers and chari-
 table aid must be with the thousands
 and thousands of victims and those
 who have given heroic efforts to res-
 cue those in need and to repair this
 devastation. We need also to pray for
 the President and other government
 leaders as they make decisions. May
 they turn to Thee, O Lord, for guid-
 ance in this matter. May we take
 comfort and courage from these
 verses in Psalm 46:

1-3: "God is our refuge and
 strength, a very present help in trou-
 ble. therefore will not we fear,
 though the earth be removed, and
 though the mountains be carried
 into the midst of the sea; though the
 waters thereof roar and be troubled,
 though the mountains shake with
 the swelling thereof."

6-7: "The heathen raged, the
 kingdoms were moved, he uttered
 his voice, the earth melted. The Lord
 of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is
 our refuge."

Praise be unto the Lord that we
 can still avail ourselves of the won-
 derful plan of salvation through our
 Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

On August 22, retired Elder Bro.
 Gene Marti spoke to us again on
 matters pertaining to our brethren
 in Eastern Europe. It was very inter-

esting as he explained the financial
 intricacies it takes to help them in
 their various needs. We greatly ap-
 preciate the labors of our brothers as
 they wisely use good stewardship in
 aiding our European brethren.

The annual Kansas City brother-
 hood meeting was held August 24.
 This meeting is held to elect breth-
 ren to various capacities and to orga-
 nize the various functions in God's
 house of order. We can only pray for
 His guidance in the coming year.

The yearly Sunday School picnic
 was held September 9 in Fort Scott,
 KS, with our loving brothers, sisters,
 friends and children from the Fort
 Scott congregation. This also is the
 start of the Sunday School term.
 May these precious young souls be
 nurtured in the Word and worship of
 the Lord. Since Sis. Komari Neal has
 moved away, Sis. Becky Weiss (Bro.
 Ryan) has been elected to teach the
 young children in our Sunday
 School. May God bless her efforts
 and all those who give of their time to
 teach our precious children in the
 ways of the Lord.

Even in these times of troubles
 and trials, we find that there are
 many things in which we can rejoice.
 On September 9, we were so happy
 when we heard of the engagement of
 our Sis. Sheri Braker (Elder Bro.
 Don and Sis. Eileen) and Bro. David
 Edelman (Bro. Nathan and Sis.
 Marlene) of Bern, KS. May God
 guide and direct this beloved couple
 as they prepare to walk together on
 the pathway of life.

"Create in me a clean heart, O
 God; and renew a right spirit within
 me."

Psalm 51:10

We further rejoiced when we
 learned of Kenton Snyder's desire to
 turn his back to the world and begin
 his repentance in the Lord. We
 praise the Lord, as do his parents,
 Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara Snyder.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Kristi Huber
Kristen Leman

We are thankful to have had ministering Bros. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) visit our congregation during the past month. May the Lord's rich blessings rest upon them for their labors.

Rise, O soul and break the bondage
age

Of the vanities of life!

Journey onward to the kingdom;

Leave the turmoil and the strife!

In this world and time we see

Naught but endless vanity.

Venetta Banwart (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Carolyn) has turned her heart to the Lord in repentance. We pray she will be able to leave all and follow Christ.

Sis. Julia Plattner of the Sabetha Apostolic Christian Home, a sister of Sis. Violet Luthi (Bro. Raymond), has passed from this life. May the Lord be near and comfort those who have lost loved ones.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Rachel Schrock

This month has been full of changes for the St. Louis congregation. First, we have started working on putting Sunday School rooms in the basement of the church. A special thank you goes out to those brethren from Taylor and Oakville who gave a Saturday to install the paneled walls for the two rooms, especially Bro. Norman Frank (Oakville, IA) who coordinated the project. The following Friday and Saturday was spent preparing and painting the cement walls. Thank you to those who helped with this part of the project as well. Carpet has also been laid. Once again, thank

you to all who have willingly lended of their time to establish these rooms for our children.

We would also like to thank the ministers who have brought us God's Word this past month. Our visiting ministers have included our Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Sis. Dona, Taylor, MO) and Bros. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield, IL), John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL), Dave Obergfel (Sis. Kathleen, Peoria, IL) and Tim Funk (Sis. Debbie, Peoria, IL). May God bless each of you for coming to serve us.

We wish God's blessings on those who have returned for the new school year. Our convert, Carrie Morgan, has returned from Elgin, IL, to continue her education at Logan College of Chiropractic. Jeremy Knapp (Bro. Charles and Sis. Paula, Bloomington, IL) and Travis Blunier (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Eddis, Goodfield, IL) have come to attend the nearby Greenville College. We welcome these three additions to our congregation and pray that they will feel at home among the brethren here in St. Louis.

We also welcome our Sis. Wendi Mathis back to St. Louis. Sis. Wendi spent her summer in Denver, CO. May God continue to guide you, Sis. Wendi.

May God likewise guide the leaders of our beloved nation during this time of turmoil. The changes that we are seeing across the land due to the terrorist attack should not bring fear to our hearts. Let us keep focused on Jesus Christ and be willing to let our lights shine true and bright for Him.

A final change that our congregation faces is the departure of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Rachel Schrock and their family. This change is not easy for us, either. After much earnest prayer, Bro. Kevin has accepted a new job, and so we plan to move to Eureka, IL, at the end of September.

Thus, this is my last opportunity to write the Silver Lining for St. Louis. I have enjoyed this duty for the past couple of years, and so it is hard for me to close. In contemplating how to say good-bye, I reminisced a little. A little over three years ago, I received a marriage proposal from Bro. Kevin. My main struggle with accepting that this was God's will for us was that I did not want to leave my comfort zone of Central Illinois where I have been raised. Now, in preparing to move back to our hometown area, our hearts grieve over leaving those who have become like family to us at a time where attendance here is at the lowest it's been in years. We ask you to pray with us that, somehow, God will work in the hearts of others to come and fill the gaps. You will be welcomed here with open arms and soon will call St. Louis your home, too.

With these thoughts on my heart, the following poem came to me. May all the glory be given unto our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Change and Trust

Oh, how often in this life
Change occurs. We wonder, Why?
Why cannot life go on as is?
Why does Thou ask us to do this?

And then He whispers, "Trust in
Me

For I see farther than you can
see.

My plans for you cannot go on
Unless you trust, have faith, and
come."

The change soon loses diversity:
Our life adapts, At home are we!
'Til a new bend comes in our
path.

Again we wonder, Why do that?

How we must weary our Lord
above

Who wants to guide us in His

love!
For, oh, how short our memory
All He did ask was "Trust in
Me."

So we must trust, and trust
again,
And leave the future up to Him.
When in His will, all change
brings forth
His perfect plan, and all it's
worth!

Late breaking news! Caleb Joseph Schrock was born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Rachel on September 19. He is welcomed by (not so) big sister, Rebekah. Grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie Stoller (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Schrock (Congerville, IL).

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Peg Haerr

Our heartfelt prayers go out to the friends and relatives that lost loved ones during the terrorist attacks on September 11. May we all be prayerful for our nation and its leaders.

We're so thankful to hear that Luke Knapp is repenting. His parents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp, and he attends college in Kansas.

We wish to extend a warm Taylor welcome to Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn Wegman and their children, Brett, Philip, and Kristen, who have moved here from the Chicago area!

Our prayers are with our recent hospital patients. They were Sis. Roberta Bostrom, Sarah Adrian (Bro. Rusty and Sis. Amy), and Sis. Vonette Sutter (Bro. Kim).

We thank the following Sunday School teachers who have recently completed their terms: Sisters Dianne Sutter and Tricia Grimm, and Bros. Keith Pflum, Don Grimm, Joe Yackley, Richie Sutter, and Shon

Haerr. Our prayers and support are with the following new teachers: Sisters Natalie Stratton and Jerilyn Yackley, and Bros. Jason and Michael Stratton, Roger Sutter, Brent Hoerr, and Shannon Haerr.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We had a blessed evening on August 27 when we gathered together for our annual church cleaning. We are thankful to each one that was able to participate with the upkeep of the Lord's house.

We were also blessed with two visiting ministers from Rockville, CT, this past month. Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan was with us on September 2 and Bro. Duane Reutter ministered to us on September 9. We thank them both for sharing God's Word with us, and may the Lord richly bless them for their efforts.

Our prayers went out for Sis. Ruth Rauhe, who was hospitalized this past month, as well as for Bro. Fred Ebersol and Alice Farney, who both underwent surgery. May the Lord continue to grant each of them healing and strength.

On September 16 we had several visitors from Akron, OH, and we thank them for worshipping with us. We also concluded listening to the tapes of our Brotherhood Conference that evening. What a blessing it is to feel and hear the love of the Holy Spirit expressed through these brethren.

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

I Corinthians 15:58

May the Lord also be with each one through the tribulations that

our nation has experienced in the past week. Let us continue to extend our prayers for the families, relief workers, and government leaders that each may feel the Spirit's direction, comfort, and strength. The Lord so adequately opened the scriptures to us on the following Sunday in this passage:

"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

Romans 12:19-21

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

We thank Bro. Gene Pamer (Sis. Eleanor) for having served for nearly 18 years as our Elder. Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barbara) is our new Elder, and ordination services were held September 9. Assisting our Elder Bro. Gene Pamer were Elder Bros. Andy Stoller, Ken Indermuhle, Merle Hartzler, and Mark Masters. We are thankful for the church labors of our dear Elder brothers. As Bro. Dave assumes his new duties, we are grateful for his willingness to serve as an Elder, and we hope that he can continue to feel the love, support, and unity of our congregation.

We appreciated retired Elders, visiting ministers, relatives, and many others who visited us during the ordination weekend. Those serving in the ministry were Bros. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), and Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH). On other visits, Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN)

and Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) served us. We thank all the visiting ministers that served us.

Don Graf received an injury to his knee which needed hospitalization. He is recuperating at a nursing home. Bro. Leo Heib has spent some time in the hospital. We hope he will soon be feeling better again.

Sis. Alma Curie passed away August 28 at age 94. Her husband, Arthur, preceded her in death. Surviving are her sisters, Sis. Louise Spangler and Sis. Laura Oppliger, and her brother, Bro. Alvin Riggenschach (Mansfield, OH). There are also many nieces and nephews.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Anita Steiner

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI). May God bless them for bringing His Word unto us.

On September 16 we had our annual College Welcome Day. Following services, we gathered at a local park for food and fellowship. We pray that our students will feel God's nearness as they would start their classes.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

God with us! We need not fear;
Jesus crowns with life eternal;
Faithful let us be while here,
Till God ends our pilgrim journey;

Trumpets for the conflict sound;
Up, ye valiant, stand your ground!

Zion's Harp #100

May it be our prayer that we will not become too fearful, but keep our trust in God.

We were grateful to have minis-

tering Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) with us on a recent Sunday. May God continue to be with you, Bro. Larry, as well as all of our ministering brothers as they labor on our behalf to bring forth God's good and Holy Word.

Jim Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) had the misfortune of getting a broken bone in his hand. We hope it heals up quickly for you.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn

Heidi Hackenjoes

Another soul in our congregation has begun her walk of repentance. We rejoice with the angels for Carmen Eisenmann (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol). Our prayer would be that she would strive to walk closer to the Lord each and every day.

Our congregation hosted the Men's Hymn Sing on August 25-26. What a foretaste of the singing in Heaven. We trust that the Lord's blessings will be upon all who assisted before, during, and after the weekend.

We enjoyed several visiting brothers who served on our pulpit during the month. They include Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), and Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN). What a comfort to rely on the Lord to work through each brother to bring us what we need for the coming days. With our prayers, this will continue to be our blessed lot.

September 8 we gathered for Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) assisted our Elder Bro. Ray in this important work. In the coming days, may our lives be so that we would be able to partake of Holy Communion at a moment's notice. Isn't that really how we want to be when we are

called out of this life?

Sis. Tootie Stoller (Bro. Ralph) had surgery this month. We pray that God's healing hand will be with her as her body heals and that she can assemble with us again. Little Kalin Gerber (Shawn and Shane) had a mishap and is wearing a cast to help with the healing. Sis. Lorene Hackenjoes (Bro. Myron) was also hospitalized for a time. We look forward to seeing her in church again also. May these words comfort those who are bearing a heavy load:

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Romans 8:18

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 vs. 1

These words can cause serenity to come over our minds, especially in time of great distress and turmoil. God is still in control.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank all that remembered me with prayers, cards, and gifts for my 100th birthday on August 26. I never expected to receive so many good wishes. God bless each of you.

Sis. Clara Sinn

OHIO, MANSFIELD**John and Marci Pfeiffer**

On August 26, Bro. Steven Gasser (Rittman, OH) and Sis. Jessica Keever were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser and Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev Keever. We will miss Sis. Jessica, but hope they will both visit us often. We appreciated the labors of the visiting ministers that assembled with us that weekend. They were Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Elder Bro. Robert Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH).

Jason Webel (Bro. Pete and Sis. Linda) and Juli Petruc (late Vasa and Bozanna) were joined in marriage on September 1. May God bless their home and life together.

We rejoice with Bro. Doug and Connie Boliantz that their daughter, Erica, has found peace with God and man and now awaits baptism.

Our congregation, along with the angels, are thankful for converts who seek God's grace. Betsy Rufener (Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay) and Kristan Keever (Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev) have turned to the Lord in repentance!

Those experiencing physical ailment and hospitalization are Bethany Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Dorina), Bro. Richard Sauder (Sis. Caroline), and John Them (Roma). May God comfort and grant healing, according to His will.

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

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the

judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."

Psalm 19:7-11

If a tree is known by its fruits and a book is known by the results it achieves, then the Bible has to be the greatest book ever written. Those who follow its teachings find forgiveness in times of failure, healing in times of pain, comfort in times of sorrow, hope in times of despair.

—author unknown

And the greatest result from the Bible is the conversion of the soul. Judy Hartzler (Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie), Shawn Acker (Boyd and Barb), and Jason Pelfrey (Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth) are seeking to repent and walk the narrow pathway to Heaven. May the grace of the Lord be with them. As the psalmist says, "The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever."

The Rittman Apostolic Church welcomes two precious sisters, Sis. Jessica Keever (Mansfield) and Sis. Laura Zollinger (Smithville) who have been united in marriage to brothers from our congregation. On August 26, Bro. Steven Gasser (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois) and Sis. Jessica Keever (Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev); and on September 2, Bro. Matthew Bauman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha) and Sis. Laura Zollinger (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Becky) were united in Holy Matrimony. May the Lord give them wisdom and understanding in sharing their lives together. "Each changing future scene I gladly trust with Thee", an excerpt from the hymn "My Jesus as Thou Wilt".

We welcome three new souls into the world. Bro. Gary and Sis.

Michelle Stoller welcomed a first son, Ryan Andrew, on August 18. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Janette Stoller and Bro. Robert and Sis. Mardell Dotterer. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Sue Hartzler, along with Mason, Baylor, Tory and Kya welcome Bennett Matthew, who was born August 20. Grandparents are Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane Hartzler and Sis. Irma Stoller (the late Bro. Millard, Latty). On September 1, Bro. Gary and Sis. Vicki Schar welcomed Joseph Rowen. Levi, Luke and Benjamin, as well as grandparents, Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar and Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell Palitto (Akron), will be happy to help take care of him.

Safe In the Arms of Jesus

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.
Hark! 'tis the voice of angels,
Borne in a song to me,
Over the fields of glory,
Over the jasper sea.

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe from corroding care,
Safe from the world's temptations,
Sin cannot harm me there.
Free from the blight of sorrow,
Free from my doubts and fears;
Only a few more trials,
One a few more tears!

Jesus, my heart's dear refuge,
Jesus has died for me;
Firm on the Rock of Ages,
Ever my trust shall be.
Here let me wait with patience,
Wait till the night is o'er;

Wait till I see the morning
Break on the golden shore.

Even though this song is sung often at a funeral, here on earth we can be "safe in the arms of Jesus". Keeping the law of the Lord in obedience, communion with God in prayer, the Lord's supper, attending church on Sunday, funerals, testimonies, Wednesday or Thursday evenings, song services and singing, etc. will help us to remain in the "arms of Jesus".

"Safe in the arms of Jesus" during her hospital stay was Sis. Yvonne Beery. We are thankful she is assembling with us again.

Our Sis. Elda Hartzler (the late Bro. John Hartzler, Sr.) passed away into eternity August 29. To her stepchildren, we pray for the comfort of their hearts. They are: Sisters Jane Klotzle (Bro. Irwin), Marge Zollinger (Bro. John, Smithville), Rosemary Gerber (Bro. Lester, Bluffton Country), Verna Rufener (Bro. Isaac, Jr.), Bros. Joseph Hartzler (Sis. Marian), John, Jr. (Sis. Joan) and Elaine McCreary (John). A stepdaughter, Sis. Lois Gasser (Bro. Glenn), preceded her in death.

The Lord again has given,
His counsel and His will,
He came to live among us,
His promise to fulfill.
We never are forsaken,
With Christ our Lord so near.
His faithfulness revealing,
We feel His presence here.
He grasps our hands to lead us,
Up to the mansions bright.
His fold He is preparing;
He'll lead our hearts aright.
His wholesome Word accepting,
May we His likeness bear.
By works and deeds confessing,
His righteousness we'd share.

Zion's Harp #138

We thank Bros. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) and Allen Stoller (Bluffton Country) for sharing the Word of God this past month. May the Lord bless them and their families for sharing their love.

OHIO, SARDIS Alice Ramsier

I was reminded by a sister in Christ that it is not only by doing physical deeds for those in need, but also by prayer that we can bear one another's burdens.

"Bear ye one another's burdens,
and so fulfil the law of Christ."

Galatians 6:2

Sis. Cyndi Figel (Bro. Andrew) was in the hospital for surgery. We have also kept Sis. Linda Indermuhle (Elder Bro. Ken) in our prayers due to the loss of her grandmother, Sis. Elda Hartzler (Rittman, OH).

At the time of year when school begins, we also begin new terms for our Sunday School teachers. We wish to thank Bro. Bob Indermuhle, Bro. Robert Figel, Sis. Janet Indermuhle, and Sis. Laura Dotterer for giving of themselves to teach our youth. The new teachers are Bro. Alan Blough, Bro. Bob Dotterer, Sis. Angie Figel and Sis. Alice Ramsier.

We have started to listen to the Conference tapes and have been exhorted to true worship and to "Love the brotherhood." (I Peter 2:17). We can be so thankful we have a brotherhood that unites around the Holy Bible.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer (Lamar, MO) were with us on a Wednesday night. We appreciate the effort made by visiting ministers on our behalf.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Ruth Gasser Edith Miller

"God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble."

Psalms 46:1

In the midst of the tragedy that has recently occurred in our nation, we can be so thankful that God is our refuge and our strength.

We wish to thank the ministers who have visited our congregation during the past month. Bringing God's Word to us were Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler and Bros. Jerry Bauman, and Ron Steiner (all from Rittman, OH). Also, Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Don Manz and Sam Schlatter (both from Junction, OH), Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), and Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle and Bro. Bill Brake (both from Sardis, OH). May God bless them for their efforts.

September 2 was the date chosen for the wedding of Bro. Matt Bauman and Sis. Laura Zollinger. May God richly bless this union, and may He ever be near them as they look forward to spending many years serving the Lord together. Parents of this couple are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky Zollinger.

On the weekend of September 15 and 16, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptism of four dear souls. Our new brothers and sisters are Samuel Maibach (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary), Garth Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois), Shari Indermuhle (Bro. Dennis), and April Miller (Bro. Max and Sis. Diane). We trust each one's faith is founded upon the Solid Rock of the Lord Jesus, so that when the storms of life occur, their house of faith will stand firm.

We rejoice with Mike and Robin

Miller as they have found the peace of God after having repented and become converted. We look forward to hearing their testimonies some time in the future. We also rejoice with the angels that Nathan and Bonnie Bauman have begun their repentance. Nathan is the son of Daryl and Ivy Bauman (Rittman, OH).

Bro. Carlton and Sis. Candi Schlatter have been blessed with the arrival of their first child, Carlie Esther, on August 30. Carlie's grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Patsy Stoller (Leo, IN). May godly wisdom be given to these new parents to raise their children in the fear of God.

We've had a number of loved ones in our congregation who needed to be hospitalized this past month. Those that we are aware of were Sis. Inez Ramsier (Bro. Robert), Bro. Ed Marty (Sis. Elaine), Sis. Clara Hartzler, Bro. Brian Miller (Sis. Alyssa), Terry Hanzie (Sandy), and Sis. Marsha Maibach (Bro. Jay). We are thankful all have returned home, and we wish the blessing of continued health for each one.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Laura Oppliger and Sis. Louise Spangler, whose sister, Sis. Alma Curie, passed away. The funeral service was held at the Akron church. Our sympathy also goes out to Sis. Marge Zollinger (Bro. John), whose stepmother, Sis. Elda Hartzler (Rittman, OH), passed away. May God's comfort sustain each one who mourns the loss of loved ones.

We are presently listening to the tapes of the summer General Conference. How thankful we are that we have Elders who are given the wisdom of God to direct us and keep us upon the path that leads to Heaven. May we make their job more pleasant by being obedient and supportive.

OHIO, TOLEDO Rebecca Beard Edie Fetter

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;"

Philippians 1:3,5

We enjoyed a special day of fellowship with our new and returning college students and their families. It is a blessing to be able to greet one another and feel the joy of a common faith and goal.

We appreciated the services of Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI). In a world that often does not want to hear the truth, may we support our brothers who speak to us, that they may have the courage to do so boldly.

OREGON, PORTLAND Louisa Gallup

Greetings everyone!

This article will cover news from mid-July to mid-September, since I was not able to send in my copy before the deadline, due to out-of-state travel. Several members of our congregation had the opportunity to attend the Conference in Roanoke, IL. It truly was a blessing to be there among so many brethren, to sing together and be uplifted, to listen to the speakers. May the Lord bless our Elder brethren for their efforts and willingness to serve. We have begun listening to the Conference tapes here on Wednesday evenings. May we retain much of what we hear and apply it to our lives.

Sis. Ann Rumbold had cataract surgery for the second time. Both eyes are treated now and we hope and pray her vision will improve. She recovered very well and has been able to worship with us again on Sundays, for which we are thank-

ful.

During these past summer months, we have had the pleasure of visits from quite a few ministering brethren and their families. Bro. Jim Vierling and his wife, Sis. Linda, were here from Eureka, IL, in July and we sure appreciated Bro. Jim's sermons on Sunday and Wednesday. We also had the privilege to listen to Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) and Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR). Other visiting ministers were: Bros. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda), Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele), Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer) and Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), all from Silverton, OR. We appreciate you all very much and may God bless you and your families for your efforts and support.

OREGON, SILVERTON Rosa Lee Kuenzi

Silverton's Single Member Group chose Labor Day weekend to invite single brethren from several distant states to come for a few days of fellowship. The response was good and well over a hundred came to spend a few days in Oregon. It was a pleasant time for the locals as well as the visitors. May God bless and keep us all until we meet again. "There are friendships that we cherish..." (Hymns of Zion #91)

Another weary pilgrim has been called Home. We sympathize with our Sis. Linda Kuenzi (Bro. Bob) and her children and family at the passing of her mother, Perceda Kyburz Scharer. She leaves her husband, Benny; sons, Steve, Roy, Eldon, John, Bobby and Tom; her daughters, Bev Woods, Karen Bone, Sis. Linda Kuenzi, Donna Christenson, Ginge Lichty, Marge Knode, Mary Johnson, Brenda Rassi, Becky Kirby and Susie Kostendo. She was preceded in death by a son, Larry, and daughter, Sandy. As she lay waiting for God's

call, Benny and the children were round about her. A son arrived from Japan in the last days and a daughter from across the state in the last minutes. It was just as if she waited until they all were there. In the realms above, when she asks one more time, "Are all the children in?", what will the answer be? She is gone but her many, many prayers for her family will ever be before God's throne.

As is our custom, we have been listening to the 2001 Summer General Conference tapes each week, beginning the Wednesday after school starts. We can feel the sincere concern and love our dear Elder brothers have for us, the Church. We pray we can remember the good advice, encouragement and admonishments they, with Godly fear, bring to us. We have all heard the old saying "there is safety in numbers". Will we be so foolish as to ignore the seriousness of the timely warnings they bring us, when they get together as a body and so lovingly entreat us?

Our visiting ministers during the last month were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), and Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI). May they ever feel the nearness and blessing of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, in their daily walk and in their service to His people.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Nathan and MaryElizabeth Gasser

We were deeply saddened by the tragic events of September 11, and many prayers were offered for those whose lives were affected, as well as for the leaders of our country. We have an opportunity in this time to help those around us who desire to turn to God for help, but perhaps don't know how to pray to Him. Let us show the world the strength and comfort God gives through prayer.

This month we gathered to listen

to the Conference tapes and we were reminded of our duties and obligations to our Lord, to our friends and our families, and to our church. May we all keep these obligations in mind as we strive to live a life pleasing to God.

We appreciated having many visitors this month, including Bros. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI) and Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) who ministered the Word to us. We thank them and their families for making the effort to gather and worship with us.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

As we reflect on the fragile nature of our physical security and freedom, which we have evidenced recently, it is so wonderful to be able to rejoice and rest fully assured in our spiritual security and freedom as we live our lives in obedience to God's Word, and trust in His promises.

We are so thankful for our ministering brothers who so willingly travel to share God's Word with us. Recently we have been encouraged and strengthened by the ministry of Bros. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN), Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Peoria, IL), Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO), and Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL). During the month, we have also been greatly blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends from Athens, AL; Oakville, IA; Congerville, Goodfield, Peoria and Princeville, IL; Francesville, IN; and Mansfield, OH, as well as a busload of young people from Roanoke, IL. Thank you all for your willingness to travel the miles to fellowship with us.

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: Goodfield, IL (10/21), Detroit, MI (10/28), Sardis, OH (11/11), Wolcott, IN (11/18), Tremont, IL (11/25). We also usually 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 Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946; Bro. Craig and Sis. Raelynn Plattner (615) 353-0495; and Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933.

TEXAS, SAN MARCOS

Dale and Amy Ringger

Have you noticed? The name for the Central Texas article has changed this month to San Marcos! That change represents a significant event in our local congregation. The Elder body approved the purchase of a building in San Marcos, TX, for the church here. The building is nearby to where we have been meeting for about a year.

The building will undergo remodeling during the winter months. We thank the Lord for the expectation of our own church building. We also thank the many brethren for the prayers and support in this process. We pray that the building will be a blessing to our local church family and to the entire Apostolic Christian Church.

We have appreciated the visits of ministering Bros. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL), Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH), Dale Frank (Sis. Christine, Oakville, IA), Brace Wieland (Leo, IN) and Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata).

November's schedule of ministers for San Marcos are these: November 4 - Cissna Park, IL; November 11 - Winthrop, MN; November 18 - Princeville, IL; and November 25 - Milford, IN.

We continue to meet for services at the Quality Inn in San Marcos, TX. San Marcos is located on IH-35,

approximately 20 minutes south of Austin or about 50 minutes north of downtown San Antonio. Exit at #206 and find the hotel on the southwest side access road.

We extend a welcome for anyone who may be in the area to worship with us. Also, let us know if you would be available for fellowship on Saturday or Sunday evening or during the week. For your benefit, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (979) 249-5102; Brian and Terri Kaisner (512) 266-0178; Dale Kaisner (512) 255-7583; Bro. David and Sis. Shella Brummitt (512) 360-3379; Sis. Dorothy Martin (210) 658-1968; and Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy Ringger (512) 933-1380.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Joyce Nohl

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary Plattner in the passing of his mother, Sis. Julia Plattner. May God comfort this family during this time of sorrow.

My lifetime doth pass away;
Hourly to the grave I hasten,
And I know each fleeting day
My allotted span will lessen.
Think, man, death comes soon or
late.

Tarry not, it will not wait!

Zion's Harp #253

When we lose a loved one it reminds us that the time will come and death shall call each one of us. Are we ready? Have we given thought to the things of the Lord or have we spent our time with the pleasures and/or labors of the world? On September 11, our great country

was attacked by an enemy. Never before in the history of America has it felt a disaster of this magnitude. We, as Christians, will view this tragic event in a different light than those who are not of the family of God. This is a time when we can be a light to those who surround us. I hear many voicing words of anger, anxiety, and even fear. We can give each of these hope, joy and a meaning in life by sharing with them the old, old, story.

It was such a blessing to be able to listen to the Conference tapes. It reminded me how fortunate we are to be a part of God's family. I was also encouraged not to become careless in my daily walk of life but to be constantly aware of my duties as His child. We thank God for faithful servants who year after year give of their time and effort for us, the Church.

Following is a continued report on the work being done at Rio Bravo, Mexico, written and submitted by Sis. Jennifer Kellenberger.

"Be still, and know that I am God."

Psalms 46:10

Now that summer is over, things slow down a little for all of us here at MCCS. The fall and winter are a special time for us to take some time out and reflect on the many lessons that God has taught us so far this year. May we all remember to take time out daily to just be still, and know that He is God.

We truly had a wonderful summer and are excited about all of the work that was accomplished. The construction advanced far enough that we are finally able to have the

deaf children attending classes on campus. Up until this point, they met daily in a government owned building in Rio Bravo.

Monday, August 27, marked the first day of class on the Rio Bravo campus of Mexico, Centros Cristianos para Sordomudos. What an exciting day that was. The majority of our 24 deaf students showed up in their school uniforms smiling from ear to ear. They all had anticipated that special day for a long time. Our hearts were all touched as we watched them run the halls curiously looking into one classroom and then the next. We are encouraged with each advancement that is made, and we long for the day that these children can fully understand and grasp the love of Christ.

In August we also had a visit from Ernest Clark, the director of International Christian Centers for the Deaf (ICCD). He was able to be here in Rio Bravo for the first day of class. We enjoyed his visit, as we were able to take care of many business matters and discuss future developments of the ministry. We are all excited to see how God leads as we are beginning to discuss the possibility of starting another campus for the deaf further south in Mexico. Please pray for us as we seek God's will about the expansion of the MCCS ministry.

During the fall and winter month we will tend to the needs of the school and make preparations for the next year. We look forward to the arrival of several more AC teams in 2002. If you are interested in joining or leading a work team to Rio Bravo, Mexico, please contact Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise Maller of Bluffton, IN (219) 565-3211.



Sermon continued from page 2

anymore. If we acknowledge that Christ was the Son of God and that He shed His blood for us, then we believe. If we believe, then we will confess our sin knowing, as in one of the books of John, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9.

There are steps that we need to take and God will keep His promise. His whole Word, this Bible, is a promise. If we enter into it the right way, with the right mind, and in humility and asking and seeking with a repentant heart and mind, it will be revealed unto us what we should do and we can find remission of sin. There is no greater thing that we can attain to in this life and time.

There are things that we desire, like a nice place to live, and in a land of freedom like we have, it is so nice. We appreciate that, but there is something that is so much greater than that, something that will last through all eternity that we can each one have also. These things that we have in this life, we know they will perish. They are temporal and they are seen for a time, then they pass away.

We will also do the same from this earth. We will pass away. If we are young, sometimes we don't think about that like we should. We think it is going to be awhile and there are many things that we need to do and accomplish. We can become so caught up with the things around about us that we don't spend time with the most important thing—the thing which will endure.

God has placed an undying soul within each one of us, and that soul desires to be rejoined with God. It cries out unto Him and that is the feeling that we have, that it is a desire to escape death. There will be no routes around death. We know if we are cleansed from our sin, we can experience what the Lord experienced even in the resurrection that death will not have dominion over us. That death and darkness forever

will not have to be a part of eternity for us.

Jesus tried to explain to the people why He was here. "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." John 9:4-5. Right here Jesus was trying to convince them that He was really the Son of God. He said, "I must work the works of him that sent me." Many times He was accused of devising His own plan. Or, what He had to say, they would accuse Him, because it sounded like God. They would ask Him who He was and why He made Himself thus and thus because it sounded so much like God, and no man should ever do that.

One time He said, "If you don't believe Me, do the works. At least believe that and do that so that they might receive it." Be the benefactors thereof. If they didn't think anything of Him, they were to at least do what God asked them to do. They could experience something that they never experienced before. Though they were so wise, yet, they rejected Him. They could not see that it was something that would be good for them. They thought they were seeing plainly already without being told and they were not interested in what He had to say. They would go back and say, "Abraham was our father, or we serve Moses. We know what he was about, but as for this fellow, we don't trust Him."

Jesus told them while it is day, do the work. The night is going to come when man can't work anymore. We can liken that unto our life. There is going to come a time when we can't work anymore physically. We know that. No one needs to convince us of that. Also, there is going to come a time spiritually where we won't do any work, where we won't do anything to prove to God that we love Him. Really, none of us know when that is.

Sometimes we think we do and

we think we know when that will be. We think it will probably come when we get older if our mind fails us, then we won't be able to do anything. That is the day when we can't work anymore. But there are many things that can happen between now and then to bring us to a place where we won't have a sound mind or body. Sound minds do that which we thought some day we really for sure are going to do.

The other thing that could happen here is, "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." John 9:5. We don't know how long the Lord is going to be in the world, and to be the Light of the world for us. This is going to ever be before us. There could come a time when it is taken away and all those that were going to repent tomorrow, will find there is no tomorrow. Really, there isn't. The devil would convince us that tomorrow we are going to do many things, but today is the day of salvation. Today while you hear His voice, it says in the Bible, harden not your heart.

"When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing." John 9:6-7. Jesus has His own way of healing. But we do need to recognize to do what He asks us to do, or there is no healing. So it is with our spiritual life when He asks us and tells us that we need to repent and to find remission of sin that we do that. We can follow in this way so that it would be said of us.

"He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing." John 9:7. Then we see with a different vision. We can see that we were not anything. Only God can cleanse us from sin and we marvel at His goodness towards us when we come into a condition of repentance and that God would really have mercy on us

and really do that for us. Really, in our former days we never cared about it. Never cared about Him or even the teachings that came from Him. We thought about them but it was always going to be some other time. When we come to a place or be ready to enter in, it is revealed unto us and then we wonder why so many more wouldn't do this.

It is a blessed thing and the blessings that can be received and that joy within and the peace of being forgiven of sin and being in communion with God and not being separated anymore by that wall of sin. Sin separates us from God today. It is that way. If sin is in our life, it is always going to be that way. We know that sin doesn't enter into Heaven and cannot be tolerated. It needs to be dealt with now before we get to those doors.

This blind man did what Jesus told him to do and he came seeing. "The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged?" They noticed a difference. "Some said, This is he: others said He is like him: but he said, I am he. Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened?" John 9:8-10. They were interested. They wanted to hear what He had to say how this was accomplished.

"He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight. Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not. They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind." John 9:11-13. They were going to see what the Pharisees had to say about this because they were instructed in the law and supposed that maybe they would understand what happened to this blind man.

"And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes." John 9:14. There are different places where we read

that Jesus healed on the Sabbath day. The Pharisees really had trouble with that. They thought He was doing a physical work and they thought that would be a good way to accuse Him. It was an opportunity for Christ to show them that there is a difference of a spiritual work and a physical work. They couldn't separate the two. They couldn't understand that. They thought they had accusation and reason to put Him to shame and to convince the people that He was not the Son of God and that this way would be diminished. But Jesus used it in an opposite way to convince the people that He was not one of them.

In the preceding chapter, He had to tell them in a way — a very straight-forward way — that He was not one of them. "And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?" John 8:45-46. If Jesus would have changed His talk here and tried to please these people, He would have been a sinner like unto them. But He didn't do that. He kept telling the truth no matter what. He did that until the end. He told the truth. We know what happened to Him. They crucified Him because He told the truth. Yet, we say how can the truth set you free then? In the Word, It says that the truth will set you free.

Do we question that it didn't set Jesus free because He was crucified? Why did He go to the cross? He knew what was going to happen to Him if He kept telling the truth. He knew that better than anyone else did of what was going to happen to Him, that He would suffer and die there; yet, he told the truth. He bore the cross for the joy that was set before Him. He knew where He had come from. He had been in Heaven before and He knew that if He overcame the devil, He would be received up into glory again. That is an example for us that we should always tell the truth. No matter what,

we will be delivered. Maybe not at the perfect timing that we think, but we will be delivered and it will be well with us. We love the truth, we tell the truth, and we live the truth.

They really made a big issue of this blind man and we read further on that even his parents, when they were questioned, they said, "Go ask him". If they would have told the whole truth of what they knew, they would not have been welcomed around the Pharisees. They would have been driven from the synagogue, so they just kind of backed around the situation and they said, "Go talk to him. He is of age; ask him" (See John 9:23). They knew that the Lord had done that and they were really denying the Lord.

"Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight...Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the Sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them." John 9:15-16. Why would the Lord bring division? We read in one place, the Lord said, "I don't bring peace on earth, but rather division." We think why would He do that? The division comes because some people believe and some do not. Then there is a division. There would be no division if everyone believed in Christ and served Him. All would be followers.

Christ predicted those things were going to happen because He knew that some men would receive the Word of God and some would reject it. That continues on year after year, generation and generation. Some enter in as recipients of the blessings of God by remission of sin, live a sanctified life, and separated from this present evil world and the lusts thereof.

We read one place in the Word that in times past, that was sufficient for us to live to the will of the

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flesh and to the will of man. But now we want to live to the will of God and that He would be the One that directs our life and to be led of His Spirit. We had enough of the old life and we want to put it away. How do we do that? We want to bury it. How do we bury something? What condition does it need to be in? We all know that it needs to be dead. Our old life needs to be dead and done away with, and that is to be crucified in the flesh through remission of sins. We don't want it to be a part of us anymore. We want to put it away and leave it there.

"But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents ... And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see? His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself." John 9:18-21. The authority that these Pharisees had really affected men the way they would live. They would deny Christ and yet, think they have a hope of life eternal. They were actually serving men. They were not serving God.

Then they did get him around and finally asked him, "Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner." John 9:24. They believed in

God, they said, but as far as Christ, they wouldn't take a chance on Him. They called Him a sinner. "Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes? He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples?" John 9:26-27. This is the point they were done listening to this man.

"Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is. The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes." John 9:28-30. This man recognized that this was a marvelous thing. What does it take to get us to recognize that this plan of salvation is a marvelous thing?

"Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth." John 9:31. Makes a difference there. Our attitude and what we want to hear, and if God is going to hear us or not. If we be a worshipper of Him, He will hear us and He will reveal unto us those things that have been hidden from us from our very youth. They can be revealed unto us but it is a righteous thing with God to withhold any of these things from us if we hold back. If we stand afar off and try to figure things out and to place them in our mind how it is going to be or how it should be, it will never be revealed

to us. It would not take faith if it would. There would not be any faith on our part. We would have it figured out and we would be the designer instead of God.

They didn't appreciate this man telling them about Christ. They thought that he was trying to convert them. So they reviled him. Even of a good thing like this, they didn't want to hear about it. It is the condemnation of sin that makes it uncomfortable and that miserable for men. What is the difference to make it something of some interest to us or not? Are we tired of the condemnation of sin, or do we want to continue to live in it and suffer the consequences? We make provisions in so many ways in our lives to avoid consequences. Why not in our spiritual life? Why would we not do that when we know the spiritual things are eternal and is a place without end? Why won't we do something to avoid the consequences of sin and death?

We don't have an excuse that we don't have the money to buy it or do it. So many things people would do if they would have the money. But this doesn't take any money. It is free and it is given to anyone who will believe. Anyone can have the best part of it for the same price. Christ was the price and it has been paid. Now it is like a mansion has been built for us and we are asked to enter in and to possess it. Who would reject it?



CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2001

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Tom Hitz, Ph. 734-454-9229, Fax 1-734-454-9259 or E-mail thitzhome@juno.com. For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-925-2409 or E-mail ksss@dpc.net.

HAITI						
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY	PERCENT FILLED
AWA-FRW	Oct 18-26, '01	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Voc. School	4	100%
AWA-T	Oct. 18-26, '01	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5	100%
AWA-B	Oct. 18-26, '01	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Voc. School	2	100%
MEBSH	Nov. 29 - Dec. 7, '01	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	9	0%
MEBSH	Jan. 4-11, '02	Les Cayes	Craig Emch	Grade School	9	0%
AWA-FRW	Jan. 17-25, '02	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Voc. School	4	100%
AWA-T	Jan. 17-25, '02	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5	100%
AWA-B	Jan. 17-25, '02	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Voc. School	2	100%
SEED	Jan. 24 - Feb. 1, '02	Les Cayes	Art Mueller	Agriculture Aid	9	0%
MEBSH	Jan. 31 - Feb. 8, '02	Les Cayes	Dean Pashak	Grade School	9	0%
Palm Grove	Feb. 15-23, '02	Les Cayes	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11	100%
SEED	Mar. 7-15, '02	Les Cayes	Robert Beebe	Agriculture Aid	9	0%
MEBSH	Mar. 14-22, '02	Les Cayes	Jim Walter	Grade School	9	0%
Palm Grove	TBD	Puit Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11	0%
MEBSH	May 16-24, '02	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	9	0%
AWA-FRW	May 9-17, '02	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Voc. School	4	100%
AWA-T	May 9-17, '02	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5	100%
AWA-B	May 9-17, '02	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Voc. School	2	100%
JAMAICA						
CCCD	(*) Jan 2-11, '02	Montego Bay	Mark Criss	Deaf School	50/60	(*) 50%
CCCD	(**) Mar 8-16	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40	(*) 10%
CCCD	(**) Mar 8-16	Deaf Village	(*) Nate Wiegand	Work Place	40	(*) 25%
CCCD	(*) Mar 17 - Apr. 5, '02	Kingston	(*) (1) Roanoke Bible Class	Deaf School	50/60	80%
CCCD	May 17-25, '02	Deaf Village	Kevin Sauder - TBA	Work Place	40	(*) 15%
CCCD	May 31-June 8, '02	Deaf Village	(*) (2) Taylor/Princeville BC	Work Place	50/60	100%
CCCD	(*) July 6-13, '02	Knockpatrick	(*) (3) 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

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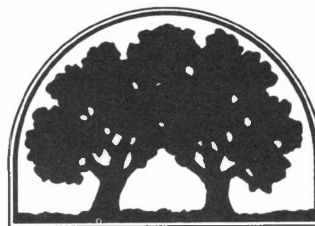
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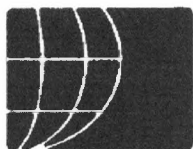
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EASTERN UNITED STATES



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief
 REVIEW

37th ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday,
 November 10, 2001

*Apostolic Christian
 Fellowship Hall
 Latty, Ohio*

*Hosted by the
 Latty Congregation*

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

Gal. 6:10

Come and share! Everyone is welcome.

- * *Hear reports of what is being done in Sewing Groups, World Relief and War projects.*
- * *Hear special presentations and progress updates of national disaster assistance programs.*
- * *Learn how you can get more involved in this important work.*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, November 9, 2001

For those arriving Friday night, your hosts for overnight accommodations will be at the Fellowship Hall from 7:00pm to 9:00pm.

Saturday, November 10, 2001

8:00am	Registration
9:00am	Morning Meeting
12:00pm	Lunch
1:30pm	Afternoon Meeting
4:30pm	Dinner

Sunday, November 11, 2001

10:15am	Sunday School & Morning Service
12:30pm	Afternoon Service
3:00pm	Dinner

Please let your local World Relief representative know if you are planning to attend.



The following is an analysis of the recent remarks of Bro. Henry Michel — and of the general origins of our church.

An analysis of the remarks by Bro. Henry Michel in 1947 — which were printed in the last several issues of the Silver Lining — helps draw our attention to historical events that have shaped our lives.

It is important that the present makes a connection with the past. From our spiritual history, we find a firm foundation wherein, with God's grace and guidance, we may spring forth into the future.

In all honesty, our more immediate spiritual roots are somewhat sketchy. Our predecessors, totally loyal to Scriptures and somewhat skeptical of high education, and thorough record-keeping, did not see a lot of value in meticulously recording events, baptisms, marriages, minister terms, and church goings ons.

So today, we try to piece together, as best we can, how our church denomination originated, progressed and grew, and ultimately gravitated to America.

The origins of a renewed faith in Switzerland were a calling from Heaven. Bro. Henry Michel's remarks certainly confirm this. Bro. Samuel Froehlich — as a somewhat agnostic seminary student - heard the call of God, and repented for his sins. His faith and inner soul struggle led him to a new birth and he became a new creature in Christ Jesus. Ultimately, his calling was to organize a new denomination based on God's Word. We

have come to be known as Apostolic Christians.

The events in Switzerland where many were called to repentance, often dramatically, are quite profound. Indeed, it is quite striking to note that 110 congregations were formed during a period of 35 years. That's an average of a new congregation every 3 months for 3 1/2 decades.

It is evident that a zeal to spread the Gospel existed, and God blessed the labors of Bro. Froehlich and his young contemporaries. But it must be remembered that the zeal to "evangelize" was marked by two foundational precepts, and it is vital that these precepts be understood today.

First, the truth was to be upheld. The Bible was true, and it's messages were to be adhered to and followed. One of the sole purposes of uniting together in this new church denomination was because it had discovered the Truth, and was willing to follow it. The hundreds and thousands who embraced the new faith did so because they had fled the falsehoods of those times (many of which exist today) such as infant baptism, eternal security, faith "alone", a lack of repentance and unrighteous living.

The second precept centered on the structure and authority of the church — and the major purpose in this was to follow the Bible's model. The matter of the continued nurturing of souls who repent and become converted was of primary importance. This was in light of the Scriptures found in II Peter 2:20-22 where it's taught that if a soul repents, and then departs back into sin, his state is

worse than if he had never repented. The first generations of our church took this teaching very seriously (as we still do today).

So souls could be fed and built up in their most precious faith, an order of worship and holiness was initiated as guided by the Word of God. New Testament ideals such as unity, likemindedness, keeping the same judgments, being perfectly joined together were sought. The church felt a deep responsibility to maintain a godly order so souls could better thrive as they walked on Christ's narrow way.

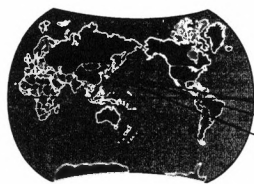
What is the message for today? As a people, we need to know our origins. The prophet Isaiah said to "look unto the rock from whence ye are hewn" (Isaiah 51:1).

The first century poet, Virgil, said, "Happy is he who gets to know the reasons for things." We benefit today if we learn to know the reason for things. If we know how and why our church was started, and how our Bible applications and traditions began, it will accrue to our supporting our beliefs (and practices) more fully.

Bro. Michel's message revealed a zeal of the forefathers. Let's revive and retain such zeal, but wisely insure it is accompanied by a Biblical order and holiness.

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

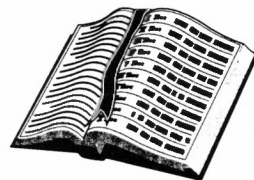
Next issue:
More about the early days



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“The Unexpected Attack”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

The Bible teaches us to expect the unexpected. Matthew 24:44, “Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”

The unprecedented manner of attack on the World Trade Center in New York was unconventional and unexpected. We must remember that there are many nuclear weapons in the world today and one nuclear bomb over New York City might well destroy all of the city with its eight million residents. In 1945, one small atomic bomb over Hiroshima killed about 100,000 people and melted the iron in the buildings. We forget, so easily, we forget.

The question always arises, “Why does a loving God permit such things to happen?” I don’t really know, but I believe Satan has something to do with it. In the book of Job, God had a conversation with Satan and Satan was permitted to test God’s servant, Job. The result was tragedy upon tragedy, such as recorded in Job

1:15, “And the Sabeans fell upon them and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.”

The attacks on New York and Washington, D.C. were terrible beyond words. One of the results is that more people are praying to God than before the tragedy. We have been sobered. All of a sudden, almost everyone has become religious.

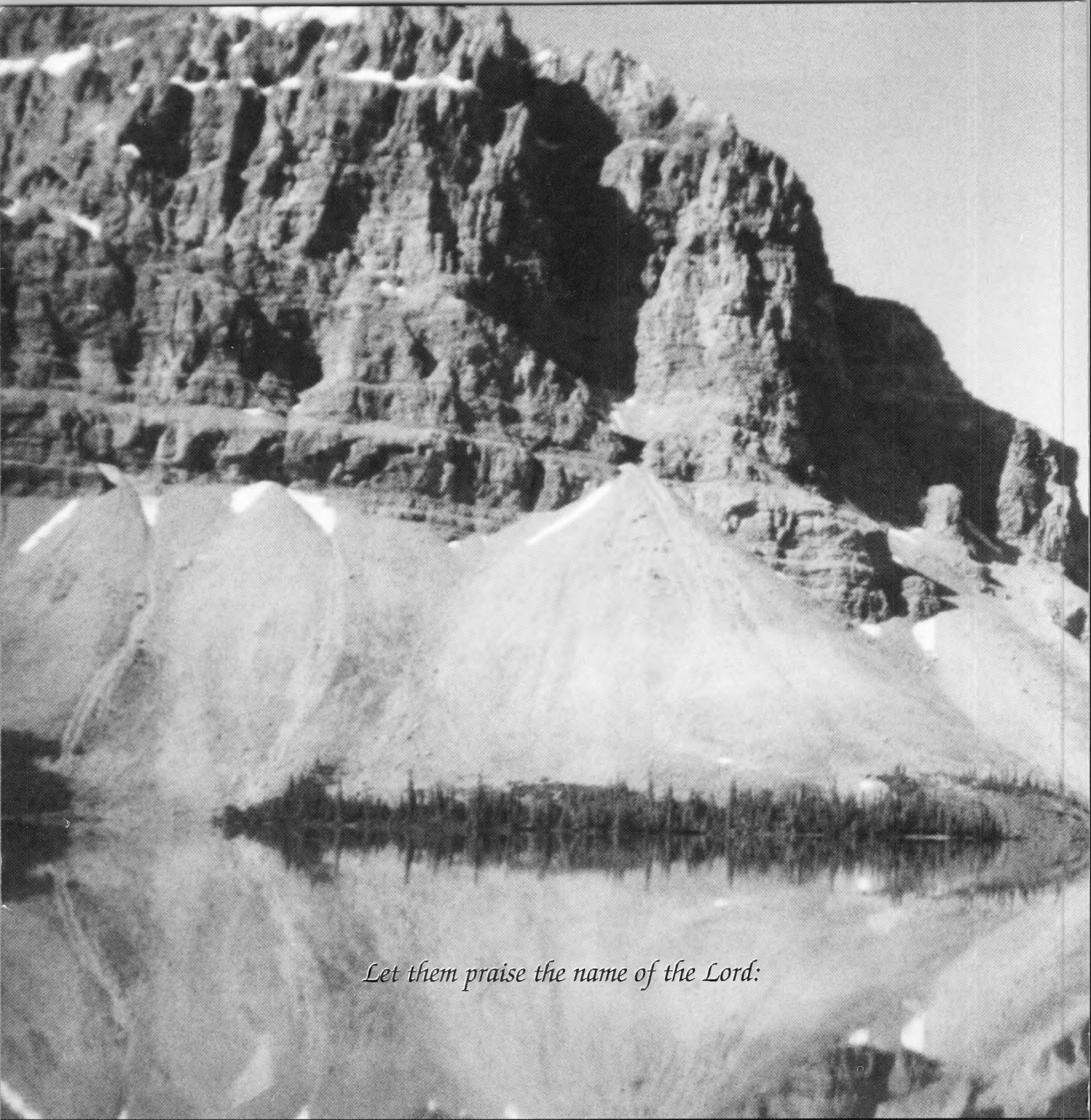
I arrived in Japan on January 9, 1951, on an American troop ship, the Marine Lynx. It was during the Korean War and the Chinese had entered the war on the side of the North Koreans. During the two weeks on the ship I often thought about how much difference six years make. At the beginning of that six year period, the Japanese were the most terrible people on the face of the earth and the Chinese were our bosom friends. When I was on that ship, the Japanese had become our bosom friends and the Chinese were the

terrible enemy who had poured thousand upon thousands of troops into the war to assist North Korea, and they were mutilating our troops, many of whom I had trained with, who were sent to Korea while I was temporarily out of the army in the reserves. I kept wondering, how can the Japanese people and the Chinese people change so quickly. The truth is, they didn’t change, but world conditions changed.

On the ship, my favorite Bible words were “See that ye be not troubled.” It is found in Matthew 24:6, “And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled.” I tried to pretend that I was a newspaper reporter, just going along to observe. However, it was, and is today, difficult not to be troubled.

In the army I was a conscientious objector and by so being I know that I have forever lost my right to be selfish. We must cheerfully live for Christ and help others.

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