

A black and white photograph of a large, rugged mountain range with snow-capped peaks and a body of water in the foreground. The mountains are steep and rocky, with patches of snow or light-colored rock. The water in the foreground is dark and calm, reflecting the sky. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

The Silver Lining

Thou, O Lord God, art an island of hope as we cross the sea of life.

November 2001

“THE UNSEARCHABLE WISDOM OF GOD”

Sermon by Bro. Donald N. Miller, Minneapolis, MN
Habakkuk 3 and Romans 11

We can say “Amen” to this also. This certain chapter that Paul had written to the church at Rome was to remind the believers at Rome. It says that some were Jews, I believe, but there were also Gentiles there. Let it be known, as we well know and it has been mentioned many times and we read it in the Old Testament, we know that through the Old Testament, we find that God took this group of people and set them for Himself to magnify His name through them.

We can read in the Old Testament how He did this in many ways. He lifted them up, as It says, “As an eagle soareth.” Even as we look and see the majesty of an eagle as it flies and how it follows thermal clouds and air currents and floats up and down so beautifully. God has made that bird just like He has made everybody else and made everything else. He has done this and He has placed people in certain positions. He has placed nations in certain positions for His purpose and for His holy will.

It says that the children of Israel were given the lively oracles. They were given the Mosaic law. They were given a guide. They were given away so that they could know this God ... this God who came and visited them in a cloud during the day and led them by night with a pillar of fire.

This was a God, as we read, who spoke openly to Moses. Never before and never again was that ever done the way that God did to Moses. Yet, Moses did not become uplifted over it. It says that he was a humble man but he wanted to carry out that mission. He wanted to be obedient unto God as he was given the responsibility of leading the children of Israel from the land

of bondage to the Promised Land. We know very well of that story. We know how God used them to conquer the heathen nations round about and to make them aware to serve this God that they could not see. God is who Jesus mentioned to the woman at the well and that we worship this God in Spirit and in Truth. God is a Spirit. It says that He seeketh such to worship Him in such a manner.

That is how the children of Israel were reminded. They were consulted to do it in that manner and in that way as long as they carried this out. We know that in the Old Testament they had to bring offerings and bring sacrifices. It was visible things and they had to follow the precepts that were given unto them. It was for a purpose and to bring them, as It says, to their schoolmaster unto Christ until the New Testament, the new dispensation of grace.

Yet, God did not leave them. We know that when Christ went into the grave, It says, He preached to the Old Testament patriarchs and those who were willing to accept the call to repentance. It says that they were going to be judged the same as you and I are going to be judged, even though, shall we say, gone into the earth and decayed. Yet, God has given each one of us an undying soul, and that soul is going to live on. We are not going to be able to get away from that. That soul is going to live on into eternity.

When that rich man was in hell, he lifted up his eyes. That gave us a good example. He had torment. He could experience, just as you and I experience today. He experienced torment and condemnation.

It says in heaven, we are not going to do that. The former things are going to pass away to those who pass on into heaven. But to those who go to hell, they are going to experience the same things they have experienced in this life, but it is only going to be condemnation. It is going to be such like as that rich man who wanted to dip his finger in water just to cool his tongue. It was not permitted. He wanted to hear just one word from

Sermon continued on page 44

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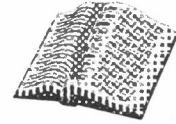
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1389 County Road 1600 N

Roanoke, IL 61561

*"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

November 2001

Double Mindedness

"No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other... Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Lk. 16:13).

During political campaigns we so often hear a candidate for office try to please everyone by taking one position with one interest group and then taking the opposite or, at best, a very different position with a different interest group. It happens so frequently and so blatantly that we must be careful to not become calloused to such inconsistency.

Perhaps we should not be surprised to encounter such behavior in the world. Self exaltation from those who have selfish ambition has been with us for a long time. Absalom, the son of David, "...stole the hearts of the men of Israel" (II Sam. 15:6) as he advanced his own ambition. While he pretended to "...go and pay a vow... unto the Lord, in Hebron" (II Sam. 15:7), he went with soldiers to organize and carry out a conspiracy against David, his father, to take his kingdom from him. Thus we can see that political double mindedness is not new.

Also, in business, doublemindedness is used to try to get a better bargain, and thereby improve ones material position. "It is naught, it is naught, saith the buyer: but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth" (Prov. 20:14). Unjust gain, often a result of a doubleminded individual, is utterly condemned by the Scripture. "Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them who have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth" (Ja. 5:4).

If we take unfair advantage of another or if we are "Masters (who do not) give unto your servants that which is just and equal..." (Col. 4:1), we will surely be held accountable by our Master.

Doublemindedness in politics, business or any other aspect of our life is a symptom of a more significant problem - that of spiritual double mindedness. "A double minded man is unstable in all his

ways" (Ja. 1:8).

Trying to serve two masters had its beginning in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve tried to serve God and also listen to the enticements of Satan. They were deceived into thinking that they could fulfill the lust of the eye and serve God at the same time. When they saw the tree was good for food "...and a tree to be desired to make one wise..." (Gen. 3:6), Adam and Eve both preferred to do what appealed to the flesh rather than to obey God. They were cast out of the Garden because of their sin.

The impact of their sin affected every generation that followed them. Cain, who pretended to serve God by bringing "...of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord" (Gen. 4:3), found that his offering was not accepted by the Lord because "...sin lieth at the door..." (Gen. 4:7). He tried to serve God in a manner that suited his purpose rather than God's purpose. He did not have as the sole intent of his heart to serve God.

This practice of trying to serve two masters was often evident in the lives of the Children of Israel. "They feared the Lord, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations..." (II Kings 17:33).

So many times the Children of Israel lost their singleness of purpose and served other gods. When they fell into the sin of idolatry, God did not help them. They fell under the rule of their enemies and suffered until they returned to serving the one true God. Psalm 107 records the sad state of affairs as they fell from God's protection time after time. However, the mercy of God is also evident as Psalm 107 also tells of the blessings the Children of Israel felt when they truly repented and again served the Lord. "Then they (cried) unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses" (Ps. 107:19).

The way of escape from this distress is clearly stated. "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men" (Ps. 107:15)! We need not fall into

the same distress that has overtaken so many of God's people in times past. If we do not allow ourselves to be doubleminded, if we retain singleness of mind and keep Satan completely out of our lives, we can escape this problem.

There are numerous problems facing the Church today that are a result of double mindedness. Riches, worldly entertainment, pride, the desire to excel beyond reasonable levels, and filling our lives with many unwholesome thoughts or activities will most likely lead us into a position of compromise. If we compromise our faith for any reason, it becomes evident that God is not first in our lives. We want God's blessings and we want to spend eternity with Him, but are we willing to pay the price that is necessary to serve God with singleness of heart?

What is the cure for double-mindedness? "...Cleanse your hands, ye sinners;..." and "purify your hearts, ye doubleminded" (Ja. 4:8). To cleanse and to purify require effort and diligence.

Perhaps the first step in this process is desire. We must want to serve God and Him alone, regardless of what it may cost. "Whom have I in heaven but Thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire besides Thee" (Ps. 73:25). To rid ourselves of the pollutions of double mindedness requires diligent self examination and a willingness to admit that we may need to purge impurities from our lives. Having identified these impurities we must then "Submit (ourselves) therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you..." (Ja. 4:7-8).

If we have allowed ourselves to become heavily involved in worldliness, it is likely that impurities have entered our lives. If so, they must all be removed so there is no separation between us and God. To be double minded means we are willing to serve Satan part of the time. If we serve him part of the time in this life, we will spend eternity with him.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

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

Distribution Centers and Material Aid Coordinators

Thanks be to God and our generous supporters who have so freely given to the needy of this world. As contributions continue to increase we have been able to share more humanitarian aid. This allows us to supply ongoing programs as well as to assist in creating new ones.

International shipping

The three international shipping centers are designated for special collections. Bluffton will send aid primarily to Haiti and Mexico.

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

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

Examples of useful items

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

Always ask before accepting

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

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

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

What kind of clothing?

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

Wolcott Distribution Center

A new building, 60' x 180' is nearing completion about one quarter mile north of Wolcott, IN. Brethren hope that it can be used during the coming winter season for soap making as well as other purposes.

The building has several docks and large doors to make it convenient to load and unload large shipments.

The facility is also designed with a multi-purpose room that can be used for World Relief activities and meetings. This new facility is being financed by funds appropriated from the World Relief Committee as well as from local contributions of both money and labor. Thank God and our brethren for their willing efforts.

Distribution Center Coordinators

Bay City – Kurt Munsel
989/686-6634 Phone
989/671-2109 Fax
989/686-5681 Ext.13 Work

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

Ohio - Walter Beery
330/925-1638 Phone

Wolcott – Dave Schieler
219/279-3161 Phone

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

Goodfield – Marvin Wagenbach
309/925-5628 Phone

Regional Aid Coordinators

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

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

Mexico – Cheryl Hermann
309/385-1082 Phone

Item Coordinators

Beans – Kurt Munsel
989/686-6634 Phone
989/671-2109 Fax
989/686-5681 Ex.13 Work

Kits – Les Fehr
815/646-4536 Phone

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

Soup – Bob Steffen
219/565-3383 Phone



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 from the USA meet with Ukrainians

(Continued from last month)

In May 2001, a group of our brethren spent five days in Ukraine to evaluate past efforts in that land of turmoil as well as to try to determine the course of action in the months ahead.

As is customary, before meeting with the local brethren, our team visited the open markets that are located in many places throughout Eastern Europe. In these markets, we found that virtually all consumer goods are indeed available, but there is a genuine problem with lack of money to buy them.

One of our brethren overheard a woman looking at a booth full of meat products as she said, "The meat looks good to my eyes, but I have no money to buy it with." Sadly, this is normal, and not an exception. With another winter now coming, it is clear that many people face the grim specters of cold and hunger. With God's help, we hope our brethren are not among these unfortunates.

Cost of goods in the markets

The only meaningful method to compare costs is to evaluate various items in terms of how long one must work in order to buy it. Following are some examples of this that are based on the average monthly wage of a worker.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Cheese (2.2 pounds)	14
1 liter of soda	1
1 banana	1
1 orange	6
Loaf of bread	1.3
4 eggs	1

1 liter cooking oil	3.2
Flour (2.2 lbs.)	1.8
Chicken (2.2 lbs.)	8.8
Strawberries (2.2 lbs.)	15
1 bar soap	3
Men's stockings	1.5
Nike pants	20
Men's shoes	25
Candy bar	1.5
Adidas jacket	56
White shirt	7
Toothpaste	9
Clothes dryer	1100
Bicycle	10 months

We are not too sure how much this even means because unemployment is over 50% in Ukraine, even among our brethren.

How do people cope?

The visitor from the West always asks the same question. It is impossible to explain a situation such as this to someone who has never seen it. The markets are crowded, and the people seem to be clothed and fed. The government is supposed to be paying pensions and child support, but these payments are many months in arrears. Subsistence farming and living off the land is seen everywhere. Even in the cities are chickens and other animals.

Our brethren share their situation

After visiting the markets on Saturday morning, our group of brethren ate lunch at the home of Elder Peter Karcia. This meal was followed by a meeting in which 20 brothers participated. This included our American brethren, Elder Ernst Pfister from Germany, translator Bro. Filip Augustinov from Romania, and the Ukrainian elders and deacons. Elders Marvin Leman and Andy Stoller were in Ukraine for the first time, but the other brethren were well acquainted because of our many visits. It was clear that God's spirit was present in

this meeting.

After an opening prayer by Bro. Andy, our brethren began by relating the methods used by the European Board and the accountability that we feel to God, the World Relief and Mission Committees, and to the entire brotherhood whose contributions fund this work. This was well received and the tone of the meeting was quite brotherly although sometimes emotional. Tears were shed, but this was not bad.

Accountability for funds

Local brethren in Ukraine have been selected to receive and distribute money coming from the USA. Some years ago we established a simple bookkeeping system to track this. For seventy years these unfortunate souls were under the oppression of communism with little opportunity for individual initiative. Our brethren felt that the funds are being used properly.

One month's wages is about \$25.00. In the beginning of 2001, every believer received \$50 and each child \$10 in support money from the USA. In addition to this, those who were the most needy received additional help on a case-by-case basis. They also received assistance in buying firewood for cooking and heating.

Living from the land

With only a few exceptions the Nazarene believers live on small pieces of land that enable them to raise livestock, fruit, and vegetables. Most have a cow and some pigs in addition to chickens and rabbits.

At one house visited later, the wife had just milked the cow and was straining the milk. The interesting part was that she was already in labor with her 12th child born later in the day. Our mothers wouldn't like that!

(To be continued)

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"Jesus ... help ... Amen." Three simple words, hesitantly spoken with some prompting, but representing all we need. They were spoken from the mouth of a lady leading in prayer at a Resident Council meeting and they brought a cheer from all the others!

Earlier in the meeting, the other Council members had welcomed her warmly because it was the first meeting she had attended since she had moved to Timber Ridge coming from a long stay at the hospital. She had spent many weeks in the Intensive Care unit unable to talk or comprehend the full seriousness of her illness. Now she and her friends were rejoicing that she was on her way to recovery.

When one of them asked her to pray, she had stated, "I can't", but with the encouragement of another, hearts were touched as she prayed those three simple words, "Jesus ... help ... Amen."

Maybe the next time any of us is faced with something we feel we can't do, we can realize that God only needs our availability, not our ability and be humble enough to accept the love and encouragement of others around us to do what we are asked to do. "God gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6)

As leaves turn to gold and red, people from all the homes are enjoying wiener roasts, fall parties and visits to apple orchards. This is also the time we are all anticipating Thanksgiving dinners as well as exchanging names, buying gifts, planning parties and programs to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and our love for each other made possible by His great love for each of us.

Love and a desire to help others was again evident as one Resident

Council from a group home voted unanimously to give their "can recycling" money to the Red Cross for the people in New York. How important it is at this time for us to believe and live the truth that love is greater than hate.

DECEMBER birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550 are: Anna Viens (3), Dirk Slonneger (5), Bryan Streid (8), Christina Otten (9), Delores Wieland (15), Phil Fehr (18), Bland Jones (18), Anne Carrescia (30). At Linden Estate, 1000 Linden, Morton, IL 61550: Jennifer Steiner (15).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Lauretta Schafer

"Train up a child in the way he should go..." (Proverbs 22:6).

The Greek word for "train up" is *chanak*, meaning "narrow". As parents, we are to instruct our children to live within boundaries. We make the way "narrow" for them. Instruction needs to be repeated until our children have learned. Some children learn more quickly than others. You may need to repeat 30, 300 or 3,000 times. Be patient, kind, loving, and firm. Don't give up. God is still teaching us as His children. How many times does it take us to learn a lesson from God? And we are grown ups. Shouldn't we have more patience with our children?

We celebrated 25 years of service at Gateway Woods with a reunion October 6-7. It was a joy to see many former board members, staff and residents and to hear them talk lovingly about their heritage connected with this ministry. Even though there are many, many children and families who need help in this world, we are

grateful that God allows us to be His instruments to do His work on earth with one child and one family after another. Pray with us that His Word and testimony will be alive and touch each of our residents and their families so that they are changes forever. Please keep this work of faith in your prayers daily. To succeed, it must continue to be God's work and not ours. November 7 marks the official anniversary of the first child admitted to the Apostolic Christian Children's Home in 1976!

We said "Good-bye" to two residents from the Lehman house, Terry H. and Josh L. May they feel God's closeness in their lives. We welcome Dian M. to the Plattner House and pray for God's guidance in her life. Continue praying for all the Houseparents for them to be consistent, loving, kind, yet firm in all their dealings with each resident.

It is with joy that we announce the birth of Michaela Rose Slagel. Her first-time parents are Bro. Kurt and Sis. Kristen Slagel, who are our Alternate Houseparents. Grandparents are Barry and Sis. Rosemary Koehl (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys Slagel (Fairbury, IL).

Our Building Committee continues to work on details for our new school building with construction to begin any day now. We are looking forward to increasing the number of students our private accredited school may accept. In the past there were times we had no room in our school even though we had room in the houses. With a new school, there will be a need for more staff. Start praying now, "God, dost Thou want me to be used by Thee on the Gateway Woods Team?"

We have a variety of new brochures available on our various

programs and services. These also include staff and houseparent recruiting brochures. We plan to make these available in the local churches through our Representatives. In the mean time, please contact us for information and/or a copy of any brochure at (888) 443-4283.

**APOSTLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Melinda Matuch**

“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down and when thou risest up.”

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Every day, the mothers and fathers of our children leave their greatest treasures in our care and keeping until they can come and take them home each night. We, as teachers and caregivers, have the great privilege and responsibility to keep them safe and teach them so many of the things they will need to know to grow up to be capable, caring adults. They need so much from us. Love, attention, instruction, and chastisement are just part of what we try to give them in generous portions every day. It would not be possible for us to make this the caring, joyful place that it is without the grace of our Lord and Father to guide us and show how to teach them.

Our school board of dear brothers, who give so generously of their time and talents to keep us up and running, will be meeting October 27. We pray that they will be blessed for their efforts on our be-

half. The following week we will hold a fall party for the children where we celebrate the turning of the leaves and God's bountiful harvest.

During November, the weather is fickle at best. Some days we will be able to play outside in short sleeves, and the next day we will wear winter coats. Short recesses will be the order of the day with many more indoor activities planned to keep twenty-six active children busy enough to be content.

We have stressed the importance of community helpers, the different modes of transportation, personal safety, and how music is made in our month-long topics so far this fall. This month we will teach the children about nutrition and the meaning of Thanksgiving. We want the children to learn to be thankful for all the good things that God provides for us every day. We will conclude this month with a Thanksgiving feast. The children will dress up as pilgrims and Indians, and we will spread a tablecloth on the floor and share our morning snack.

Note:

Please send all correspondence intended for the preschool to the following address:

Apostolic Christian Preschool
15284 Hastings Road
Athens, AL 35613

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Joan Reinhard
Louise Hall**

Sunday, September 23, we were thankful to have Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister (Peoria, IL) here to worship with us. Bro. Paul had the adult Sunday School and we appreciate his willingness to give of himself.

We are also thankful for the many visitors we had on the week-end of October 6-7 and other times through the month. We had visitors from Roanoke, IL; Bluffton and Leo, IN; Sabetha, KS; Bay City, MI; and Smithville, OH. What sweet fellowship we enjoy with those we've known for a long time and also with those we have only just met. What a reunion that will be someday in Heaven! We look so forward to that day when we will be together, forever, with the Lord. As the days get shorter because of the change in the seasons, let it be a reminder to us of the shortness of the days until our Lord comes back again. Let us redeem the time.

Our Sunday School had their annual Fall Festival at the Fellowship Hall. We all had an enjoyable time and just appreciate the times when we can get together and enjoy each other's company.

We have had a number of our brothers and sisters that have not been feeling well. Sis. Joan Schrenk had some health problems and is anticipating some surgery, and Bro. Buddy Lynn has not been feeling well either. Please pray for them as they have both have had to go through some unpleasant testing and have some anxiety about their health. We are so thankful to our God who is the Master Healer, and we just pray for His will to be done.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee withersoever thou goest.”

Joshua 1:9

Dear ones, we have all gotten a wake-up call! When searching for words of comfort, start with the above scripture. The following was marked in a worn Bible from years ago: Be strong and courageous, for the Lord is with you.

We've had encouraging messages from our Phoenix ministers and are thankful. Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), and Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) came to share God's Word to us this month. We are thankful for our visitors and look forward to seeing those who come during the winter months.

Our sympathy to Bob and Arlene Farney in the death of his uncle, Arnold Ott, and to Sis. Barbara Schupbach in the death of a sister-in-law.

We continue to pray for those who are homebound: Sis. Ruth Baer, Sis. Cathy Labudde, Sis. Lucille Richardson, and others. We are also praying for our country and its leaders.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Genesis 2:24

Our first wedding in the Prescott church was held October 21, with approximately 100 in attendance to witness the vows of Sis. Bethany Furrer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena) and Bro. Dan Dubach (Bro. Ken Dubach and Jodi Holloway) of Bluffton, IN, as they were joined in Holy Matrimony. There was a full pulpit of four ministers on this joyous day,

the first time since the church dedication in March, 2000. Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Bros. Herb Knochel, Jr. and James Emch, (both of Phoenix) shared the morning services. Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz had the wedding service, ministering on Proverbs 3:1-10 and Genesis 2:18-25. He spoke of the man and woman leaving father and mother, cleaving to each other, and then weaving their lives together as one flesh. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) performed the wedding ceremony. We welcome Bro. Dan into our congregation as they make their home in Prescott, and we pray that God will richly bless their lives together.

The other ministering brothers this past month included Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR). We as a congregation feel so blessed by the ministering brethren the Lord provides and pray God will richly bless each one and their families.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Grace Marie Kaufman made her presence known on September 26. She is the beautiful daughter of Carrie Kaufman and the first grandchild of Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline Kaufman. Our little church is thankful for Grace's safe arrival. We pray God will be with Carrie as she seeks to raise Grace in an uncertain world; both she and Grace have a lot of family and friends who are ready to help in any way we can!

We are also thankful for the continued visits of ministers who come to help Bro. Curt on the pulpit. Bro. Doug and Sis. Lillian Wagenbach brought their family from San Diego to spend the week-

end with us recently. Besides being a great help to Bro. Curt in the ministry, it was good to see them and spend time fellowshiping with them again. Many thanks to Bro. Doug and Sis. Lillian for making the effort to come over and help out. We enjoyed your visit and welcome you back anytime.

Little Tyler Knapp (son of our friend Dale Knapp) was hospitalized recently for an infection. He is out of the hospital now and doing very well. We thank God it did not develop into a more serious situation and that Tyler is looking and feeling good again.

We enjoyed our annual Sunday School picnic yesterday with absolutely perfect weather. It was a beautiful breezy 85 degrees out with bright sunshine. The children brought many friends to enjoy the games, piñata and bake sale/auction to benefit the Sunday School. Add a table full of good food and lots of soda pop and you have everything you need for a very successful Sunday School picnic. Many thanks to Bro. Brad and Sis. Sandy Bauer for hosting this fun event and also to everyone who brought food, auction items and their open checkbooks to make the auction a great success! It's amazing what so few people can do when they work together! Praise God!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Jim Klotzle

Greetings from Altadena!

Following many years of faithful service on our pulpit, Bro. Richard Aberle (Sis. LaNae) has announced his decision to retire. Bro. Richard's ministry was a blessing to our congregation, and we welcome him with thankful hearts back into the pews.

Bro. Jeff Luthi (Sis. Shirley)

was selected as our new ministering brother. We pray that the Holy Spirit would continually be with him during his ministry and with his family in this time of adjustment. May Bro. Jeff boldly proclaim the gospel, exhort the saints, and shine the light of Christ in this darkened world.

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;”

Isaiah 61:1,2

The engagement of Sis. Sarah Aberle to Bro. Jeremy Ringger (Chicago, IL) was announced this month. We wish them God's blessings as they seek out His perfect will for their lives.

Several of our congregation traveled to the San Diego area for the funeral of Sis. Freda Minger. We hold her memory dear, but rejoice that she has found her reward.

Bro. Steve Czer was elected trustee, replacing Bro. Joe Klotzle, who had fulfilled his term. Sis. Heidi Luginbuhl was elected assistant kitchen coordinator, replacing Sis. Marilyn Graf, who had fulfilled her term.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO **Peggy Jevremov**

This past month we have enjoyed our visitors. We appreciated having ministering Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie, Silverton, OR) with us on a Wednesday evening.

May the Lord bless him for his willing service to us.

Asleep in Jesus

Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep
From which none ever wakes to weep
A calm and undisturbed repose
Unbroken by the last of foes.

Hymns of Zion #111

After many years, the Lord called our dear Sis. Frieda Minger Home on October 6. We are thankful that her battle is over and she can be at rest. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to her family. It is never easy to say good-bye to our loved ones, but may the hope of meeting again in Heaven comfort each one.

“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Proverbs 3:6

We have experienced another loss this month as Sis. Melinda Koehl felt led to move back to Morris, MN, for her employment. We truly miss her presence here, but know that our loss is the Morris congregation's gain. We pray the Lord's blessings will be upon her there.

CANADA **KITCHENER, ONTARIO** **Nathan Reutter**

Dear brethren, we have very little in the way of news this month. We feel that the Lord has been with us, though, and this makes us rejoice. This month we had four visiting ministers. We also finished listening to the Conference tapes. And lastly, we had a few singings. We were thankful for all we could do for the Lord. Times pass so quickly and the opportunities we

have to serve the Lord in any way are lost forever if we do not take advantage of them.

Grant to thy servants grace and might
And wisdom, working virtues bright,
That in this time good seeds they sow
From which eternal fruits may grow.

Zion's Harp #188, verse 6

Our visiting ministers this month were as follows: Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT), Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH), Bro. Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise, Bluffton North, IN), and Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI). We also have had other visitors come to worship with us. We always appreciate it when brethren find it a blessing to come to visit us. This is especially true of ministering brothers, because they ease the burden of our minister. We invite everyone who has come to visit us to visit again, and we invite all those who have not visited to come. We feel that the ministers of our church fulfill this scripture: “The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity. For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.” (Mal. 2:6-7)

We, as a church, also ministered to people in a different way. Every other week or so we like to go to a local nursing home to sing to the residents there. Or, if we know of someone sick in the hospital we like to sing to them, too. Our singing seems to bring a fair bit of

smiles to those we sing to. The other weekends of the month we have a church singing in our sanctuary. During these times of singing we fulfill Ephesians 5:19: "speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

As November comes, we are reminded to be thankful for our many blessings. We have freedom to worship. We have freedom to travel and visit beloved brethren. We pray that God would continue to grant us His blessings and prosper us in His way. We wish you the peace, grace, and benevolence of God this coming month.

COLORADO, DENVER

Mike and Heather Katanic

Our high school Sunday school classes spent a weekend with students from the Kansas churches in Kiowa. We are thankful they had a fun and safe trip.

We thank Bro. Jeff Thames for coming and presenting the Greater Love marriage seminar. What a blessed and enjoyable time, while learning more of God's plan for our marriages.

Visiting us and bringing forth God's Word were Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL).

The engagement of Sis. Kathy Leman and Bro. Art Kellenberger (Sabetha, KS) was made known this month. How excited we were, but sad to realize she will be moving away. May God bless them as they prepare for their marriage.

During this season of thanksgiving, let us remember "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (I Thess. 5:18). Even for the things that are so hard to be

thankful for.

CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE Cherie Galat

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Genesis 1:1

Through the course of our lives, we can experience many new beginnings.

A beginning in faith to follow our Lord ... We rejoice with Suzanne Schillinger (Jeff) as she turns to Him in repentance. May God give her the strength and direction as she takes this most important step in life.

A beginning in birth ... Precious Abigail Lynn was born September 19 to Bro. Chad and Sis. Jenn Virkler. Grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy Virkler and Michael and Debra Hufnagel.

A beginning as loved ones are directed to marry ... The engagement of Bro. Gardy Moreau (Gregoire Moreau and Lucia St. Eloi) and Sis. Suzanne Hoffman of Bern, KS (Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella) was made known unto us. We look forward to when Sis. Suzanne can return home in the coming weeks. As they further seek out His will, may He clearly direct their path in all future decisions.

A beginning in marriage ... Bro. Stephen Lanz and Sis. Julie Schulz (Burlington, IA) were united as husband and wife on October 7. Parents are Bro. Sherman and Sis. Joanne Lanz and Bro. Gary Schulz (Burlington, IA). Many of our Rockville brethren traveled to Iowa to attend the wedding. We welcome Sis. Julie to our Rockville congregation and hope that she can feel the Christian love of the brethren.

We are thankful for the ministry of Bro. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA) as he shared to us out of God's Word. What a privilege we have that we still are under a government that allows us to gather as a brotherhood and worship our Heavenly Father in peace.

We welcome Abbie Feucht (Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret, Princeville, IL) to the Rockville congregation as she goes to school here in the Northeast. We hope she can visit with the brethren often and feel the love that we have toward her.

Our prayers are with our dear Bro. Wilbur Kloter (Sis. Florence) as he recovers from hospitalization. May He strengthen and heal according to His will.

Beyond the sunset a hand will
guide me
To God, the Father, whom I
adore;
Hymns of Zion #172

May God comfort Bro. Wilbur Kloter (Sis. Florence) in the passing of his sister - in - law, Sis. Lorene Kloter (Goodfield, IL). Our prayers are also with the family of Bro. Martin Luginbuhl who passed from this life. He leaves his wife, Dorothy; sons, Bro. Ron (Sis. Kay), James, Paul, Bro. Lloyd and Alan; daughter, Charlene Abrahamson (Gayland); brothers and sisters - in - law, Bro. Robert (Sis. Martha), Bro. Rudy (Sis. Evelyn), Bro. Ed (Sis. Alma), Lillian Luginbuhl, Sis. Charlotte Luginbuhl and Sis. Florine Luginbuhl; sisters and brothers - in - law, Sis. Esther Kupferschmid (Bro. Werner), Sis. Adele Trueb (Bro. Ron), Sis. Elizabeth Luginbuhl and Bro. Ken Virkler and extended family.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

"He changes the times and the seasons."

Daniel 2:21

We are enjoying the fall with the beautiful leaves and cooler days.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Elder Bro. Robert Walder (Congerville, IL). We appreciate the brothers and their families coming to be with us. Other visitors this month were from Morris, MN; Elgin and Bradford, IL.

As Thanksgiving, a day set aside by our government, approaches, let us pause and reflect on how much we have to be thankful for. We must also remember to pray for our government that we may continue to have the freedoms we enjoy.

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**

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;"

II Timothy 4:2-3

Our two visiting ministers were Bros. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO) and Marvin Steffen (Sis. Rhea, North Fort Myers, FL). May God bless you for your labors.

Sis. Jayne (Bro. Brian) Webb had outpatient surgery. We are thankful that she is doing well.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Revelation 21:4

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Bob (Sis. Doris) Huber in the loss of his sister, Sis. Lorene Kloter, from Goodfield, IL.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Carol Koehl**

Many from Sarasota enjoyed the weekend of October 12-14 at Lakewood Retreat, along with others from Ft. Myers and Ft. Lauderdale churches. We sincerely thank Bros. Kent Kloter and Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) for being our guest speakers.

Let's continue to pray for Bro. Dave Eisenmann and Sis. Phyllis

Zobrist. Bro. Dave recently had heart bi-pass surgery, and Sis. Phyllis has started chemotherapy treatments since her arrival in Florida.

We will surely miss Sis. Hermine Miller (Gridley, IL) this winter, but we are thankful she could go Home. Much love and sympathy are extended to her two sons, Bro. Tom and Bro. Terry and Sis. Bev Miller.

Bro. Delmar and Sis. Marguerite Stoller (Latty, OH) also have our sympathy in the loss of Delmar's brother, Bro. Bill Stoller (Latty, OH).

We really appreciated Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) so willingly sharing God's message with us in October.

Notes of Thanks:

Words cannot express my heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, hospital visits, phone calls, cards, letters, the group who sang to me, and all the other gifts of love from all my dear brothers, sisters and friends during my recent heart surgery. A special thank you to a young couple who took of their time to put gutters on our mobile home.

Bro. David Eisenmann

I would like to thank all of those wonderful angels out there who sent cards, phone calls, prayers, and gifts of love to me for the sudden loss of my husband. Most of all, I would like to send a special thanks to my mom and dad and brothers and sisters for being there for me. It's still hard, but with all your help and prayers, I hope to feel a little better soon.

Jean Shackelford (Eisenmann)

GEORGIA, ATLANTA John Brewer

The weekend of October 13-14 was the weekend our congregation observed Communion. On Saturday night Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman and Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) conducted the service as we remembered the Last Supper and what Christ was entering into that we might be free from sin and death. We were reminded of His coming, suffering for our guilt and His love for us to take on that debt. We thank Bros. Wendell and Steve, with their wives, Sis. Marcella and Sis. Linda, for coming down to serve and participate on this special weekend.

That weekend it was made official that Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein will be assuming the shepherding duties for our church, as Bro. Wendell steps aside. Our prayers, love and support are with Bro. Steve and his wife, Sis. Linda, as he oversees our small flock. Thanks and prayers also go out to Bro. Wendell for his love and willingness to serve for the past 20 years and the countless spirit led counsel and encouragement he has been more than willing to share. Even though both Wendell and Steve are in a different state and region of the country, their willingness to serve and guide has shown no natural boundaries.

We are also thankful for other visiting ministers that visited us the past month. They include Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Bill Gerst (Sis. Judy, Alto, MI). We thank them and their wives for traveling down and the brothers sharing the Word with us.

Bro. Linn Stoller (Sis. Brenda) was hospitalized in October for surgery. He has recovered well from it and our prayers are with

him and his family that he will continue to heal.

Bro. John Kaufman has moved to Atlanta from the Phoenix congregation to be closer to his family (Bro. Keith and Sis. Carol Kaufman). We welcome him into our fold and look forward to the added fellowship.

If you are in the Atlanta area or passing through, our church family enjoys the added fellowship from other believers. Our Sunday service starts with singing at 10:15 and midweek services are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. Our church is located in Fairburn, GA, southwest of Atlanta. We are approximately 15 miles southwest of the airport on I-85 south at exit 64 (Jonesboro Rd). Once you get off we are exactly four miles west of the exit. Please contact either Bro. Tom Waldbeser (770) 463-4778, Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631) 4554, Bro. Keith Kaufman (770) 304-8335 or Bro. John Brewer (770) 304-8706 if you have any questions or just to tell us you are stopping through.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Sheila McCoy Doreen Moser

God is our Refuge

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.

While heathen rage and kingdoms move,
And desolations sweep the land;
The Lord of hosts is with us still,
To save us by His mighty hand.

Soon will the day of vict'ry come,
When wars shall cease in all the

earth;
Soon shall eternal peace be ours,
And new Creation have her birth.
O.M. Seamans

We were surely blessed to have Bro. Art Mueller for our September Bible study in Madison. With the terrorist attacks in mind, the discussion was on "Justice." We read several prayers in the Bible: those of Moses, Daniel, David, Paul, and Jesus. Daniel prayed, "We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments." Even though Daniel was a very righteous man, he said "we" have sinned. As we pray for our nation during these troubled times, let us have a humble attitude like Daniel. Our October Bible study was on "Fear." Our thanks go to Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN).

We were grateful that Bros. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) were able to be with us for Sunday services this month.

We were blessed with a crisp afternoon for our annual fall wiener roast and hay ride at a forest preserve. We thank God for these joyful times.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Ann Kellenberger Shawn Masters

On September 25, little Mitchell Phillip was welcomed into the family of Bro. Phil and Sis. Kathy Sauder. He was joyfully received by his three sisters, Stephanie, Katelyn and Elizabeth. Thankful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Esther Sauder and Mark and RuthAnn Martino, all of Roanoke.

“Conflict in the Middle East - trying to understand it from a Biblical perspective” was the topic of our Family Night Topical Bible Study, given by Bro. Ron Heiniger on October 3. Bro. Ron explained the Biblical reasons why the Israeli's and the Palestinian's are always in conflict. Many families attended this very informative evening of worship.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Eloise Diggelman and family following the sudden loss of her little grandson this past month. Our prayers were also with Sis. Loretta Funk, following the loss of her sister. We trust that God will continue to comfort these dear ones at this difficult time.

June 16 was the wedding of Becky Lockwood and Ken Taczy. Becky's parents are Robert and Virginia Lockwood. May God bless this young couple as they begin their future together.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Chad and LauraLee Plattner

We are grateful to God for the blessing of another harvest. We are also thankful that it has been a safe one so far.

Our prayers are with those that have been in the hospital recently: Bro. Elwin Rumbold (Sis. Loretta) and our convert, Richard Gillespie (Paula).

Note of Thanks:

Thank you family, friends and relatives for the phone calls, flowers, cards, gifts and food while I was in the hospital and nursing home. All was deeply appreciated. God bless you all.

Sis. Lois Endress

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Samuel and Pamela Furrer

Various gatherings involving our students and the rest of the church seemed to be a central theme of mid-September into October. The evening of September 19 was rather wet and chilly, but a number of students and others from our congregation didn't let the inclement weather stop the annual wiener roast at Illini Grove. Nestled within a small grove of very tall old pines, the warmth of the Lord was present and those who attended received nourishment for both body and soul. At the end of September, our college students had a special evening at the home of our Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart. Elder Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont) and Ron Messner (Washington) were present for this “Night of Encouragement” to address concerns felt to be of special interest to young people on college campuses.

Early October signals the annual cookout and hay ride at the home of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cheryl Mangers. They host the college students on Friday night, and the rest of the church on Saturday night. The Saturday evening event normally draws families and individuals who used to assemble with us and have moved on. This year was no different, and we had some from within Illinois and others from Pennsylvania and Kansas return to keep in touch with their Champaign-Urbana church family. Visiting, eating, taking a hay ride, and singing hymns under the beautiful star-lit heavens were enjoyed by all who attended. A special thanks goes to the Mangers family for providing the venue for this annual “homecoming” event. It is a real blessing for the church.

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

Psalm 37:4

The Lord has moved in the hearts of a few of our college students, and this past month we saw one of them become our sister in Christ. Julie Neukomm was baptized in her home church of Lexington, KY. We welcome her into both our church family and the family of Christ. What a blessing it is to see the constant working of God in the hearts of our students!

We can “chalk one up” for two of our former students listening to the teachings of the Lord. The engagement of a couple of our students who are now teachers was recently announced. Our Sis. Gretchen Knepp (Roanoke) who lives in Urbana and is in her second year of teaching elementary school in nearby Oakwood, IL, was engaged to Bro. Joel Gehrig (Princeville IL) who graduated last spring and is a first-year high school ag teacher in Lewistown, IL, near Peoria. We wish them many blessings as they make preparations for marriage.

Ministering Bros. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), and Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington-Normal, IL) came to Champaign-Urbana over the past month to share the Word of the Lord. We do appreciate these brothers and their families' willingness to take of their time to make the trip.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO**Jill Rager**

This has been an active month for our church. Thankfully, much of the activity has been centered around joyful events.

Bro. David and Sis. Becky Kiefer have been blessed with a baby boy to add to their family. Seth David was born on September 21 and joins his older sisters, Rachel and Megan, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay Cargill (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Robert and Sis. Delores Kiefer (Oakville, IA). We congratulate the Kiefer family and pray that they can bring up their family in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Additional congratulations are in order for three couples who have announced their engagements. They include the following: Renae Metzger (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Mary) and Bruce Bergman (Jerry and Pam), Sis. Jaron Grimm (Bro. Earl and Sis. Anna Lou, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Adrian "Al" Montgomery (Bro. Marion and Sis. Barbara Meiss, Fairbury, IL), and Sis. Sarah Aberle (Bro. Richard and Sis. LaNae, Altadena, CA) and Bro. Jeremy Ringger (Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy, Bluffton, IN). We pray that God will guide these couples as they prepare to join their lives in marriage.

We have also had the joy of welcoming three dear souls into the family of God. On October 13 Nathan Rassi and Bethany Rassi (Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla) and Sherri Metzger (Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) shared their testimonies with the church and were baptized the next day. We rejoice for the reminder that God is still moving within the hearts of men.

A few days later we saw the evidence of God's movement once

again as Darin Metzger (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Mary) came before the Lord in humble repentance. We want to assure Darin of the prayers of the church as he grows in the Lord.

Many visiting ministers were with us for the baptism weekend. Elder Bros. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) assisted with the testimonies and baptisms. Others in attendance were Bros. Darren Fehr and Wayne Grimm (both of West Bend, IA), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL). Bros. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) also shared in the ministry this month. Our home Bro. Matthew Rassi shared a topical Bible study with us regarding "Our Earthly Homes". Bro. Matthew shared many helpful teachings on how our earthly homes should and should not look. Many thanks to all of our ministers this month.

We want to encourage Mabelle Welk as she recovers from surgery and pray that God's healing mercies would be upon her. Lastly, we want to welcome back Sis. Tammy Zimmerman who has once again taken employment in our area.

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

We are thankful for all the ministers who have shared God's Word with us this past month. They are Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Bros. Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Greg Lehman and Al Schambach (Wolcott, IN), Leonard Meyer (Chicago, IL) and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL). May God bless each one for their labors of love.

"...What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Matthew 19:6

September 30 was a special day for Sis. Erica Rudin (Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LaNae) and Bro. Brent Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynelle, Wolcott, IN) as they were joined together as one. On October 7, Sis. Andrea Maul (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann) and Bro. Nick Walder (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon) were united as one in Christ. We pray God's richest blessings on each of these couples.

Sis. Clara Hofer is recovering from cataract surgery. We are thankful she is doing well.

We extend sympathy to the family of Amos Baumgartner. He had been in the nursing home for several years. May God comfort this family during this time of loss.

We rejoice with Bro. Todd and Sis. Valerie Kaeb on the birth of a daughter, Abigail Lynn, born on October 2. Big sister, Amber, and brothers, Nathan, Justin and Trevor, are excited to have a new sister. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Sid and Sis. Sandy Kaufmann and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb.

Notes of Thanks:

A special thank you for all the prayers, cards, food, visits and phone calls during my recent surgery and recovery. God bless each and every one.

Eldon Steffen

Thanks to all my friends and family for all the well wishes I received on my 80th birthday. God bless you.

Ed Alt

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE **Glenna Rinkenberger**

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

St. Matthew 18:20

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this past month. They were Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), and Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI). Our thanks go to God for delivering these brothers to us, and to them for their submissiveness to be tools of the Lord.

On September 22 and 23 we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of our new sister, Rebekah Zobrist (Bro. Clarence and Sis. Luann). We rejoice as yet another soul has been found. May she have divine strength to live in this wicked world.

We are so happy to have back with us Bro. Kevin and Sis. Rachel Schrock. They have returned from living in St. Louis, MO, while Bro. Kevin pursued his education. We also welcome Caleb Joseph, born September 19, and big sister, Rebekah. Happy grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie Stoller (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Schrock of our home congregation.

Another little boy joined our church family on September 25. Jason Robert was born to Bro. Ben and Sis. Juanita Walder. He is welcomed by his siblings, Marlise, Kyle, Lynn, and Keith, and his grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Gerst (Alto, MI) and Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria Walder at home here. A week later, little Jason had heart surgery. He is doing

very well, for which we are all so thankful.

Jackson Jean Baptiste, 16, came from Haiti in June to stay with Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie Zobrist and their children until he could have heart surgery. He also is doing well.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA **Janet Zimmerman**

Jeremy Jacob was born September 28 and is welcomed home by his loving parents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Dianne Wettstein. His siblings are Joshua, Jeni Lyn, Katie and Kendra. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Ida Mae Rocke.

The engagement of Bro. Alan Huber and Sis. Angie Schmidgall was made known on September 30. Believing it is the Lord's will, we wish them God's blessings and guidance as they prepare for their future together. Parents are Bro. Gary Huber and Karen Huber and Bro. Paul and Sis. Kris Schmidgall.

We extend a warm welcome to Larry Fink who began assembling with us recently and are especially thankful that he has found the need to turn his life over to the Lord in repentance. Our prayers are with him and we wish him God's grace during his repentance.

We extend our love and sympathy to Bro. Leroy Huber (Sis. Clara), Sis. Wilma Huber and Sis. Pauline Rocke on the death of their sister, Sis. Lorene Kloter. She died October 8.

Our dear sister-in-faith, Ruth Schumacher, was called from her earthly cares and burdens on October 10. We extend our deepest sympathy to her sisters, Wilma McCanless (Phil), Clara Knapp (Morton), and brothers, Walton of Washington and Richard of

Streator.

We were thankful to have visiting ministering Bros. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Gene Metzger (Lester, IA). May the Lord bless these faithful brothers who labor in His service.

It was an uplifting and inspiring weekend October 20-21 as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of four dear souls. We welcome our new sisters-in-faith, Sis. Jena and Sis. Julie Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane), Sis. Laurel Zimmerman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl) and Sis. Rachel Zimmerman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Sue). Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) were here for this special occasion.

We continue to keep our dear retired Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Sis. Clara) in our thoughts and prayers as he was hospitalized for a serious illness and underwent a major surgery. May God be with him and his dear wife during this difficult time.

We likewise pray for Tim Bradle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila) who was seriously injured in a truck accident. Tim is hospitalized at this time with serious injuries and also has undergone surgery for broken bones. We are thankful for God's tender love and mercy and trust He will provide for their needs as they arise.

We are so thankful that souls are still seeking the Lord in repentance. Marissa Hoerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Connie) and Tim Bradle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila) have recently taken this most important step in their lives.

The precious hymn "How Sweet the Privilege of Prayer" #205 Hymns of Zion comes to mind so often and especially when the soul is burdened down with a load of care. Verse #3 reads, "As friend to

friend will oft confide, in prayer we seek the Saviour's side, and tell Him all our grief, and tell Him all our grief. If we but ask He'll lend his aid: when on the altar prayers are laid, He'll send the soul relief, He'll send the soul relief."

Bro. Nick Hoerr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Carolyn) also met with a serious accident which badly cut three fingers. We are thankful that they could be saved. May God grant His healing power according to His good and perfect will.

We are thankful to report that Jeremy Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Janet) is home from the hospital and doing better. We will continue to keep him in our prayers as he still has a time of chemotherapy treatments to take.

A dear sister-in-faith told me how much she really appreciated the work the Young Group did for her recently. The past few Saturdays the Young Group has set aside part of those days to help others with outdoor yard work, indoor housework and other various chores that need to be done. May God richly bless them for giving of their time in helping others who are in need.

Kandi Bauman and Ryan Carr became engaged recently. We wish them God's blessings as they plan their future together. Their parents are Glen and Sis. Becky Bauman and Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna Carr.

Note of Thanks:

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
Or sat quietly in a chair,
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,

If so we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest
words,
As any friend could say;

Perhaps you were not there at
all,
Just thought of us that day,
Whatever you did to console our
hearts,
We thank you so much whatever
the part.
—*The Family of Sis. Ruth
Schumacher*

On The Wings of Prayer
Just close your eyes and open
your heart
And feel your worries and cares
depart,
Just yield yourself to the Father
above
And let Him hold you secure in
His love...
For life on earth grows more in-
volved
With endless problems that can't
be solved
But God only asks us to do our
best,
Then He will "take over" and fin-
ish the rest...
So when you are tired, discour-
aged and blue,
There's always one door that is
open to you
And that is the door to "The
House of Prayer"
And you'll find God waiting to
meet you there...
And "The House of Prayer" is no
farther away
Than the quiet spot where you
kneel and pray
For the heart is a temple when
God is there
As we place ourselves in His lov-
ing care,
And He hears every prayer and
answers each one
When we pray in His name "Thy
Will Be Done"
and the burdens that seemed too
heavy to bear
are lifted away on "The Wings Of

Prayer".
—*Helen Steiner Rice*

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Tammy Hinrichsen
Joann Zehr

Greetings to all of our loved ones! We are always thankful when we hear of another soul turning to God in repentance. Our hearts rejoice as Bethany Edelman (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Laurie) has started down the path that leads to Heaven!

We were happy to hear of the engagement of Bro. Adrian Montgomery (Bro. Marion and Sis. Barb Meiss) to Sis. Jaron Grimm (Bro. Earl and Sis. Anna Lou, Princeville, IL). May God guide and direct them as they prepare to walk together on the pathway of life.

September 29 turned out to be one of those beautiful fall days, just perfect for the outdoor wedding of Tim Huber and Dawn Fehr. Parents of the couple are Bro. Richard and Sis. Dawn Huber and Ralph and Martha Fehr. On October 14 Bro. Kevin Meiss (Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Kati Kaisner (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna) were joined in marriage before an overflowing congregation of brothers, sisters, family, and friends. May God bless both of these couples with joy and wisdom in their new lives together.

Our dear Sis. Vi Moser has been in the hospital this past month. We pray the Lord will comfort her and grant her healing according to His will.

We extend our sincere sympathy and love to Billy and Sis. Barb Mashburn and their children, whose mother and grandmother, Ruth Mashburn, passed away. May God comfort you all in this

time of loss.

Our congregation has been blessed with many visiting ministers this past month. They include Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Dean Massner (Winthrop, MN), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), and Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA). We thank you all for willingly coming and letting our Lord speak through you to teach each of us!

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, food, and visits while on my way to recovery. I am doing fine. God bless each of you!

Sis. Darlene Steidinger

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp
Linda Anliker**

“Show me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; On thee do I wait all the day.”

Psalm 25:4-5

We are thankful for those who have recently offered their hearts to the Lord to guide and direct them, including Jenny Wenger (Bro. Rich and Sis. Jill), Seth Leman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Brenda), Katie Steidinger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly), Stephanie Kuntz (Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda) and Kyrstin Kilgus (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise). May their faith be strengthened as they conquer each obstacle on their pathway.

Finalizing their wedding plans

are JaNae Drayer (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria) and Mark Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane) of Fairbury, IL. May they draw near to the Lord and His directives as they take this important step in their lives.

September 23 marked the 50th anniversary of Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther Gerber and we rejoice with them. As they continue to walk the pathway together, may they always feel the Lord's nearness and blessings.

We thank visiting ministers, Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) for their willingness to share with us from the Word of God.

Welcomed into the home of Bro. Tom and Sis. Jolene Young is Shayna Kay born September 21. Her sisters, Shelby and Shania, and grandparents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy Young, share in their joy.

Aaron Mark was born to first-time parents, Bro. Shawn and Sis. Tami Aberle. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne Aberle and Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane Brown.

Bro. Larry (Sis. Donna) Bachman and Sis. Carolyn (Bro. Al) Zimmerman were in the hospital in this past month.

The funeral for Eugene Schladenhauffen was held on October 7. We extend our sympathy and pray God will comfort his wife, Sis. Velma, and children, Kathy (Garry) Knauer, Karen (Rick) Bauman, Keith (Gail) Schladenhauffen, Kay (Steve) McBride, and Kara Schladenhauffen, and two surviving sisters, Eunice Dotterer (Sedona, AZ) and Sis. Ann Reber (Elgin, IL).

Notes of Thanks:

We humbly express our thanks and appreciation for the many prayers, cards, gifts and meals given to us as Clarissa recovers. May God bless each of you for all the love you have shown.

Bro. Jeff, Sis. Sarah, Clarissa and Travis Mueller

We wish to thank everyone for the lovely cards, memories, gifts, and prayers we received for our 50th anniversary. May God bless each one.

Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther Gerber

The family of Eugene Schladenhauffen wish to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone for their prayers, cards, food, flowers, memorials and any other expression of kindness and comfort shown at the time of his death. May God bless each one of you.

Sis. Velma Schladenhauffen

Kathy and Garry Knauer

Karen and Rick Bauman

Keith and Gail Schladenhauffen

Kay and Steve McBride

Kara Schladenhauffen

and families

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Heather Hohulin

Our hearts are saddened in the loss of our dear Sis. Lorene Kloter (the late Bro. Edmund). She was always such a fine example and pillar of faith. We rejoice that she can finally be free of the cares of this world. Our prayers are with her sons and their wives, Bro. Barry and Sis. Joyce, Bro. Kent and Sis. Janell, and Darryl and Sandy. We also think of all the grandchildren and great-grandchildren that will miss her. May God be with this family.

The engagement of Bro. Nathan Wiegand (Bro. Roy and Sis. Jan) and Sis. Laura Mott (Bro. Denny and Sis. Beth, Morton, IL) was announced this month. How happy we are for this couple and their families. We pray that God will be with them and bless them in this special time.

Sis. Marie Goetzinger was hospitalized this past month. We pray she can feel God's healing hand and the love and prayers of her brothers and sisters.

Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL) ministered to us this past month. May God bless him for his service to us and to God.

How thankful we are for two new precious baby boys. Bro. Josh and Sis. Carolyn Knapp had Job Joshua. Bro. Ryan and Sis. Elizabeth Knapp had Cade Michael. We pray that God will be with these new "mommies and daddies".

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

Our congregation was saddened by the death of Sis. Hermine Miller, 90, who passed away on October 9. Yet, solace can be found in that she had wisely (in time past) made preparation for her soul in all eternity. She is survived by two sons, Bros. Terry and Tom, of our Gridley congregation; and two sisters, Sis. Lulu Schlipf and Laura Martin, Gridley; and three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She had been a widow for 14 years.

Sis. Hermine had a gentle quality, and was a sweet person. Her special, kindly smile will be missed.

Carlee Dan Stoller was born on September 11 to Jeff and Becky Stoller. She has four siblings: Scott (16), Cole (10), Connor (7) and Cal-

vin (6). Grandparents are Art Stoller and Ruth Dunn, Gridley; and Dan and Judy Roe, Pontiac. Bro. Reuben Stoller is a great-grandparent. We are happy for the birth of Carlee and wish her parents well.

On October 21, Bro. Brandon Witzig was announced to be married to Sis. Renee Schallmo. His parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Elaine Witzig of the Eureka congregation. She is the daughter of Ronald and Judith Schallmo of Chicago (Bridgeport neighborhood). These souls are to be commended for submitting to God's direction.

On Wednesday evening, October 10, Elder Bro. Earl Ringger spoke on a special topic, "Doctrinal Purity". In this, he explained several aspects of keeping our doctrine pure, foremost of which is not mingling with or being subject to watered-down doctrines and beliefs. It was a beneficial evening and timely, as we are surrounded by many winds of doctrines.

Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Zimmerman observed their 50th wedding anniversary on October 7. God is to be praised for this marriage union of many years.

Bro. Keith Zimmerman had surgery and is recovering. Sis. Kay Hohe was also hospitalized. Sis. Kathy Taylor is recovering from surgery.

Sis. Lavielle Yoder is recovering from a broken pelvis and broken arm. She has been moved to the Meadows Mennonite Home at Meadows, IL.

Sis. Marilyn Schieler has assumed the duties of compiling the new church directory.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

The Christian Home

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

Hymns of Zion #64

We rejoice with the couples that have been announced to be joined together in Holy Matrimony. The Lord has blessed Sis. Mavis Kaiser and Bro. Don Hermann by bringing them together. They are both from Morton.

Sis. Laura Mott is engaged to Bro. Nathan Wiegand of Goodfield. Sis. Laura's parents are Bro. Denny and Sis. Beth Mott and Bro. Nathan's parents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Jan Wiegand. We welcome both couples as they go forward to serve the Lord together.

We have reason to once again praise and thank our Heavenly Father as a new minister was provided for our congregation. Bro. Fred Funk was put into the pulpit ministry on September 26. He and his wife, Sis. Diane, have a young family ranging in age from 7 to 13 years. Bro. Fred's parents are Jim and Sis. Louann Funk of Peoria. Sis. Diane's parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Joann Fischer of Morton. We wish the Funk family much grace and peace as they undertake this important work.

We wish to thank Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) for sharing the Word with us this past month.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Arthur Heiniger

wishes to express our sincere appreciation for all the kindness shown to us during his recent illness and death. Your expressions of love and sympathy have been a great comfort to our family. Thanks so much and may God bless each of you.

The Arthur Heiniger Family

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

The events of September 11 gave us a good picture of Rev. 18:10: "In one hour is thy judgment come." A country gathered around the Lord ... the people's hearts turned to Him ... may what happened not be in vain (Bro. Tim Roecker 9/16).

On September 23 we were reminded that what was experienced at WTC is just a small fraction of what's to come. God has reappeared in public — the nation stopped in its tracks and everything came to a halt. People suddenly found time. Let us pray hard for those who terrorize this country and the world: "Pray for them which despitefully use you" (Luke 6:28). What have we done to further, or hinder, His work? Could we be the fig tree to bear fruit for the Lord? We can be healed on the Sabbath (Luke 13:14-17) as God has full control of our lives. Is our soul ready, like Simeon, to look for the Lord? (Luke 2:25). Let us surrender ourselves into His hands; He will see us thru to the end (Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer and Bro. Ken Hoerr).

We must ask ourselves whether we really have the Spirit of God. Is coming to church a disruption to our week? It's so easy to say "yes" when the Scriptures say "no" as we don't want conflict. But death is overhanging us and if we don't fol-

low Him, it becomes evident as He is a divider. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; Jesus must become our Significant Other. We can't run on fumes forever but can come to Church and feast on spiritual food (Bro. Rick Plattner 9/30).

The Beatitudes in Matthew 5 are a blueprint for human behaviour; a demolition of the old and creation of a new heart. They are meant to show us God. The greater the change, the greater the joy. God's power is not seen in ability, but in availability. Where do we find significance? in performance? It's not who we are, but what we are. If we died tonight, where would all our things go? Blessed are those who depend on Jesus and have the right attitude towards the Father and become more and more like Him. His is a peace, which circumstances cannot steal. Come and experience this joy and great will be your reward in Heaven. We thank Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) for his family night service on 10/3.

When wave after wave of bad news roll over us, Jesus doesn't want us to quit, but look to Him as the Author and Finisher. Don't let Satan make you wonder and become ineffective, but have faith and trust in the Creator of the universe. There is no retirement plan for a Christian — just keep going. We like to run the race downhill, with the wind in our back. Jesus designed the course and can be touched by our infirmities. He expects us to finish, come to the throne of grace and diligently seek Him and don't let things get into the way (Bro. Dave Obergfel 10/14).

We trust in God, not multiculturalism, and do not compromise our cornerstone. Don't you

want to serve a God Who has chosen us before the foundation of the world? The world feels anxiety because the foundation was shaken, but we have no need to fear as we are called by the spirit of love. Do you trust Him to give Him control of your life? God will deliver 100% on your investment, which is out of this world (Bro. Tim Funk 10/14).

A special day of joy, as ordained by God from the beginning, was the wedding of Bro. Jim Carlson and Sis. Faith Herrmann on September 16. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings for their new life together and that one + one + One may always equal one.

Bro. Victor Stickling (82) passed away at the Skylines on October 1 and we express our sympathy to his five sisters and many nieces and nephews.

Hospital patients were Bro. George Koehl and Sisters Anna Schneider and Viola Herman.

Where are they now?

A patent attorney, Bro. Mark Triplett has lived in Chicago for the last 1 1/2 years and attends the Chicago church. He is going to Loyola Law School to complete his post-graduate education.

Bro. Rick Kaisner, a mechanical engineer, has made a number of trips to Europe and the Far East to monitor the cell phone antenna installations of his employer. He is teaching Sunday School in the Chicago church and has purchased a home in Hoffman Estates.

It has been said that reading this column (almost) makes it unnecessary to listen to the taped sermons. Hopefully, they are not mutually exclusive but serve to achieve a common purpose.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Phyllis Knobloch
Crystal Streitmatter

"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."

Psalm 103:1-5

During this Thanksgiving season, may we truly give thanks to our Lord for the many blessings we experience each day!

Several in our congregation have suffered illness or injury this past month. Those needing our prayers are Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri), Beau Martin (Bro. Mike and Sis. Julie), and Zachary Rumbold (Bro. Rick and Sis. Joyce). May they feel God's strength!

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

Psalm 127:3

Another precious son, Jason William, was born to Bro. Bill and Sis. Lisa Wade on September 19. His brothers, Jacob and Joshua, welcome him home! His grandparents are George and Jane Wade and the late Bro. Loris and Sis. Martha Kieser.

The engagement of Sis. Jaron Grimm (Bro. Earl and Sis. Anna Lou) to Bro. Adrian Montgomery (Bro. Marion and Sis. Barbara Meiss, Fairbury, IL) was announced on September 23. Sis.

Jaron and Bro. Adrian both live in Chicago, but Sis. Jaron grew up in our congregation. On October 14, the engagement of Bro. Joel Gehrig (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Donna) to Sis. Gretchen Knepp (Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise) of Roanoke, IL, was made known. We wish both of these couples God's richest blessings!

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) and Dwayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN). May God reward them for bringing the Word of Life to us.

Notes of Thanks:

A special thank you to our family, friends, and neighbors for remembering us on our 60th wedding anniversary with so many beautiful cards, gifts, flowers, and your love and kindness. We pray God's blessings on each and every one.

Bro. John and Sis. Lucille Elsassner

I would like to express my appreciation for the prayers on my behalf, the cards and remembrances shared during the time of my surgeries and convalescence. May God bless each one, as only He can.

Gratefully,
Sis. Mary Lou Joos

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Jenell Hodel
Linda Hodel

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.

What a powerful statement in regards to the tragic event that happened on September 11, and

we know from God's Holy Word, more evil will be coming, but in the same book we find many strengthening and comforting verses: "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7). "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).

Are we praying that God will work a miracle in the hearts of those who think they are doing God's will by the acts they have done, and are doing? Didn't the Apostle Paul, before God struck him down, feel he was doing God's will by wanting to have the Christians killed? Each one of us who have been born again out of water and Spirit know the miracle God did ... and nothing is too impossible for our Heavenly Father.

We rejoice in those who are desiring to be born again and at peace with God. They are: Tony Mueller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jan), Chris and Liz Leman (Scott Leman and Mindy Norbom, Norman and Sharon Seckler), and Olivia Wuthrich (Bill and Sis. Valerie). Let us be diligent in praying for them!

Feeling those prayers from a recent fall, our beloved Bro. Bill Hodel (Sis. Betty) has returned home from a five day hospitalization and is on the slow road to recovery. We miss him already in church and look forward to when he can assemble again with us, and eventually be able to minister the gospel to us! We are also thankful Sis. Ida Mae Barth (Bro. Morris) has recuperated from her illness and is doing better.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Clark Stoller

and Dave Zehr (Gridley, IL), Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL), John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) who gave a Bible study on "Prayer", and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL).

We continue to hear the beautiful teachings and instructions from the Holy Spirit through the Conference tapes. May we all strive to be not only hearers, but doers of God's Word (James 1:23-25).

On October 14, we heard the engagement of our Sis. Gretchen Knepp (Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise) to Bro. Joel Gehrig (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Donna) of Princeville, IL. May God guide them as they make plans to live their lives together as one.

We ask that our Heavenly Father would provide the comfort to all those who helped care for Rhodemika Jean Lewis, the little Haitian girl, who now has a new body, and will no longer have suffering. God bless Bro. Tim and Sis. Linda Martin and their family for their love and support to her, who were her "American family".

One final thought: Live today as you will wish you lived when you stand before God.

Note of Thanks:

What a blessing it is to be part of a loving church family in a time of adversity. I want to thank all you loved ones, from far and near, for your prayers, your visits, the phone calls, many cards with encouraging words, your gifts of love, and delicious food brought to our home since my fall, and hospitalization.

Also thanks to the Roanoke and Eureka young groups and others who came with beautiful singing. It is all appreciated very much, and I pray God will bless each one of

you.

Bro. Bill Hodel

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Heather Rassi

LaVonne Wagenbach

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month. They were Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Neal Widmer (West Lafayette, IN) and Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN).

Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Rebekah Wagenbach welcome a precious new baby boy, Ryan Michael, born October 3. He was welcomed home by Nichole, Whitney and Jordan. Grandparents are Bro. Michael and Sis. Dorothy Meister and Si and Sis. LaVonne Wagenbach. We apologize that we failed to report the birth of Maggie Joan Bolliger on August 28. Her parents are Larry and Ida Bolliger and brothers, Greg and Jed. Grandparents are Gale and Joan Bolliger and Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda Glueck.

How often we take our good health for granted, until we have health challenges. Hospital patients this month were Bro. Kenneth Huette (Sis. Arlene), Sis. Pauline Sauder (Bro. Willis) and Sis. Lee Pflederer (Bro. Jim). May God be with them and grant them renewed health.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our love and gratitude to our many church families for their support and kindness shown to us during Walt's long illness. He had back surgery May 1 and returned to the hospital two more times in three months as an infection settled into the bone of his spine. He was bedridden for months with an IV going every day at home. He is now recovering nicely for which we thank and

praise God. God has been so faithful to us and our family. We appreciate the many visits by our ministers and the prayers, cards, and gifts of our brothers and sisters and friends from many congregations. May God richly bless each one of you.

Bro. Walter and Sis. Vera Aberle

Correction: Aden Samuel was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Colleen Moser on August 21. His name was mistakenly reported as Adam last month.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Marcia Koch

Dianne Wyss

As our nation faces uncertain times, we as God's children can rest in, "I don't know what holds tomorrow, But I know Who holds my hand."

Several babies have joined our church family this past month: Benjamin Philip Fritz was gladly received into the home of Bro. Phil, Sis. Jessica, Amber and Holly Fritz. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally Fritz and Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol Schick. Dan and Dawn Boles are thankful for the safe arrival of Zachary Daniel. Grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Sharon Martin and Dennis and Jo Boles. Bro. Chris and Sis. Stacy Ledford have a new daughter, Trinity Hope. She is welcomed home by siblings, Bro. Rustin (Sis. Cara), Bro. Shea, Jobie, Ebony, Bo, Cali, Shasta, Patience, Promise, True and Shiloh.

We were able to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Bro. Dave Prather (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marlene). We welcome our new brother in faith.

We appreciate the willingness of our visiting ministers: Bros. Jeff

Grimm (Sis. Ruth) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg), both from Goodfield; Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL), Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) and Steve Baner (Sis. Donna Lou, Gridley, IL). Bros. Fred Knapp (Sis. Marjorie, Congerville, IL) and Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Peoria, IL) served at our monthly Bible studies.

Sis. Sue Ruppert appreciates the prayers and support she had during recent hospitalization.

We thank the Mortonaires for singing at our family hymn sing.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Beth Aschliman
Tonia Isch

“Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.”

Psalm 103:1-2

We have five new little blessings in the Bluffton area this month. Juniper Marie was born on September 14 to Bro. Dan and Sis. Tricia Tucker. Big sisters are Timber and Meadow and grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Ruth. On September 17, Trace William entered this world to Bro. Chris and Sis. Shari Pfister, joined with his brothers and sister, Kyle, Karli and Clay. Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose Pfister and Bro. Rich and Sis. Arlene Stoller are the happy grandparents. Hayden J. was born on September 21 to Bro. Jason and Sis. Gwen Craighead and big sister, Miranda. Grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay Gerber and Bro. Mike and Kay Craighead (Bluffton North). Emilee Sue was born on September 25 to Jay and Barb Werling. Grandparents are

Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jeannie Baumgartner. Bro. Chris and Sis. Kara Pulver received their new little blessing on October 4. Welcoming Morgan Elizabeth are big brothers, Taylor and Chad, and grandparents, Sis. Adulia Pulver and Bro. Simon and Sis. Delores Heyerly. We rejoice with these families.

Spending time in the hospital this month were Bro. Melvin Maller (Sis. Berniece), Bro. Homer Aschliman (Sis. Minnie), Bro. Ramon Stoller (Sis. Flossie), Jonathan Kipfer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Brenda), Ben Girod (Sis. Carla), Bro. Kenneth Aschliman, and Tracey Bedwell (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Nancy). Sis. Marjorie Ringger was able to leave her extended hospital care and move to Ossian Health Care. We will keep all of these dear ones in our prayers.

We are saddened by the unexpected death of Herman Heyerly. Surviving Herman are three brothers, Bro. Simon (Sis. Delores), Bro. Homer (Sis. LaVera), and Bro. Luster (Sis. Martha), and six sisters, Sis. Dula Heyerly, Sis. Rosella Heyerly, Sis. Gladys Gerber (Bro. Floyd), Sis. Ada Gerber (Bro. Henry), Sis. Berniece Maller (Bro. Melvin) and Sis. Jeanette Tonner. Also passing away was Randy Schriver's (Sis. Kathy) mother, Dorothy Ellen Schriver. Our hearts go out to these families.

Bluffton has had two engagements this month. Bro. Jeremy Ringger (Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy) and Sis. Sarah Aberle (Bro. Richard and Sis. Lanae, Altadena, CA) have announced their engagement. Also announcing their engagement this month are Bro. Lane Moser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda) and Sis. Tara Laukhuf (Bro. John and Sis. Marcia, Latty,

OH). We are so happy for these two new couples.

Celebrating 50 years together are Bro. Paul and Sis. Mildred Schladenhauffen. We are so blessed to have couples being such an example to our congregation.

INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Ann Meyer
Rhonda Maller

“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”

Hebrews 13:15

Our congregation has been blessed with several visiting ministers this past month. We give thanks to each of them for their willingness to faithfully serve and to God for his outpouring of grace and strength. Bros. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH) and Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) shared God's truth with us on Sunday, September 23. On October 14, Bros. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) and Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI) joined us for our first “Invite a Friend” weekend. Our benches were full as we were honored with guests from over ten different Apostolic Christian Churches and friends from our community. On Saturday, many attended the annual Sunday School Pork Chop supper. Sunday afternoon we shared sweet fellowship over a church supper. It was a special weekend and we look forward to doing it again, Lord willing.

“We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house

of God in company.”

Psalm 55:14

The angels are rejoicing, and so are we, over two new converts. Hannah Rauch (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy) and Taye Gerber (Bro. Blake and Sis. Fawn) have surrendered their hearts in repentance to the one true and living God. We pray that Hannah and Taye will continue to walk in His way and listen to His Spirit as they grow in the love and joy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We uplift Bro. Max Steffen (Sis. Eunice), Bro. Mick Culp (Sis. Coleen), Sis. Rochelle Gerber (Bro. Rod), and Sis. Marge Ringger in prayer. Each of them has spent time in the hospital this past month. May God comfort them and restore them to full health.

“Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed: save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.”

Jeremiah 17:14

Bro. Jason and Sis. Gwen Craighead and their daughter, Maranda, were delighted to welcome their new son and brother, Hayden J. His excited grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Kay Craighead and Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay Gerber (Bluffton, IN). Sis. Adulla Pulver also welcomed a new grandchild. Morgan Elizabeth was born to Bro. Chris and Sis. Kara Pulver (Bluffton, IN). Children are a wonderful blessing of the Lord and we know that Hayden and Morgan will bring much joy to their families.

It has been a month of many blessings and we give all thanks and praise and glory to God, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Jessica Murray

“If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.”

I Timothy 4:6

O, what a joy it was to feel the Spirit of the Lord at work this past month as prayers were answered. As our dear Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue) and Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky) began their ministries, we have faith that they will be good ministers of Jesus Christ. May we continue to carry out the will of the Lord.

As our Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Sis. Marcella), moves on into retirement from the ministry, may we always cherish the many years of dedicated service he has given unto us. Thank you, Bro. Wendell, for all your words of wisdom, encouragement, love, and preaching of the Lord Jesus Christ.

May our prayers help deal with the loss of dear loved ones and their families. Our sympathies go out to the family of Bro. Dave Metzger (Sis. Arlene) whose step-mother went to her reward. We also pray for comfort of the Greg Westfall (Bro. Karl) family of St. Augustine, FL, whose son, Braden, passed away in a car accident.

Those who were in the hospital with illness and surgery were Sis. Helen Eshleman (Bro. Morris) and Bro. Eugene Huber. May the Lord continue to guide them into healing and strengthen them daily.

“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

This is a special verse to our friend Danielle Wuethrich (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy) as she has just found peace. What a great joy it brings to our hearts as we live in these times to feel the hand of God and what He can do when we lean on Him and seek to do His will. May the Lord continue to give you strength as you prepare your heart for baptism.

“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.”

Phil. 4:4

What a blessed time for our dear Sis. Kayla Wuethrich (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Aaron Kilgus (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna, Remington), as they are engaged to be married. May they seek to have the Lord at the head of their lives. We pray their time of engagement can bring them strength and give glory to God. May the Lord bless you always.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Gail Bradford

Sue Levy

We rejoice with the arrival of a baby boy, Jason Andrew, born on October 18 to Bro. Ken and Sis. Jill Martin. Joyfully welcoming him are grandparents Sis. Karen Martin (Detroit, MI), Kaywin Martin of Ft. Lauderdale, FL, and Bro. Jim and Sis. Joy Hohulin (Goodfield, IL), and Jason's little sister, Julia.

Our junior high and high school young people and teachers traveled to Camp Mac to meet and study God's Word together. What an encouragement to all of us to see how they want to learn!

We appreciate the words spoken from the pulpit by visiting minister Bro. James Ramseyer (Sis. Marlene, Bay City, MI). Will the Gospel be preached in truth and in sincerity from all our pulpits? God's Word is consistent, and because these dear brothers rely solely on Him, we can have confidence that we will hear the truth.

As we make adjustments to the "new reality" of our world, we should take strength from God's sacrificial love. Because Jesus died for us, we can reassure our children, comfort our brethren, share with our friends, and look ahead to our heavenly home, where there will be no more tears. And we can be thankful, living with an "attitude of gratitude", praising God for His bountiful mercy!

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold

Beyond the sunset, O blissful morning,
When with our Savior heav'n is begun.
Earth's toiling ended, O glorious dawning;
Beyond the sunset, when day is done.

Beyond the sunset no clouds will gather,
No storms will threaten, no fears annoy;
O day of gladness, O day unending,
Beyond the sunset, forevermore!

Beyond the sunset a hand will guide me
To God, the Father, whom I adore;
His glorious presence, His words of welcome,
Will be my portion on that fair

shore.

Beyond the sunset, O glad reunion,
With our dear loved ones who've gone before;
In that fair homeland we'll know no parting,
Beyond the sunset forevermore!
Hymns of Zion # 172

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of Bro. Ben and Sis. Kendra Stoller in the passing of Bro. Bill Stoller, Sr. (Latty, OH); Bro. Glen and Sis. Kerri Gudeman in the passing of Harold Goodwin (Wanatah, IN); and Bro. Eric and Sis. Bobbi Ann Heinold in the passing of Sis. Helen Stoller (Bluffton, IN) as they have all had grandparents that have gone on to their eternal reward this past month.

INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter

"And the whole earth was of one language and one speech...And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name...And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded."

Genesis 11:1,4,5

"The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility."

Proverbs 15:33

Bro. Jim Plattner and Sis. Marlene (Princeville, IL) visited us on September 30. His message on accountability of husbands and fathers as head of the home impressed me, because God spoke to us through our brothers recently

also. It was amazing all the different scriptures that prompted the admonition.

Gateway Woods 25th anniversary reunion on October 6-7 brought many visitors, former staff, residents and board members. Among them were three visiting ministers: Bro. Jeff Thames and family (Washington, IL); he and Sis. Brenda were former staff. Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA) and Bro. Matt Rassi (Chicago, IL) came because their wives, Sis. Susan and Sis. Brigett, were former staff. It was good to see them all again. We appreciated the messages God brought to us through them.

"Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven."

Psalms 148:13

We are thankful Bro. Marvin Fischer's surgery was successful and his recovery quick.

Bro. Gene Stoller was released from Kingston Care Center and has gone home. May God grant strength and health to both brothers.

Lead on, O King Eternal,
the day of march has come!
Henceforth in fields of conquest
Thy tents shall be our home.
Thru days of preparation
Thy grace has made us strong,
and now, O King Eternal,
we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King Eternal,
till sin's fierce war shall cease;
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet Amen of peace;
for not with swords loud clashing
nor roll of stirring drums,

with deeds of love and mercy
the heav'nly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King Eternal,
we follow, not with fears:
for gladness breaks like morning
where'er Thy face appears.
Thy cross is lifted o'er us;
we journey in its light:
The crown awaits the conquest
Lead on, O God of might.

—Ernest Shurtleff

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Pam Beer
Stacey Feller**

As the events of the past months unfold, we each have concerns in various stages of our lives. May God keep our hearts uplifted and our lights shining. Psalm 91 is an incredible chapter of encouragement during this time.

September 30 was the annual Indiana Youth Fellowship Day held at Camp Mack on Waubee Lake in Milford. We hope the day was a blessing to all involved. It takes the joint efforts of all the Indiana churches to organize this day, and may God bless each one who took part.

We are rejoicing with Clint Steffen (Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen), who was recently announced as having the "peace that passeth understanding". We look forward to a special weekend ahead for his baptism.

Our retired minister, Bro. Elmer Hartter, recently moved from his home in Milford to Greencroft Retirement Center in Goshen. We wish him the nearness of the Lord in this new phase in life and special blessings that could only be had by change.

October 7 was the wedding day of our Sis. Kari Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) and Bro. Tim Stoller (Bro.

Rod and Sis. LeAnn, Latty, OH). May this new couple feel the love and peace of God poured out upon their household.

Many thanks to the following ministering brothers and their families who came and helped in various capacities, including in our Sunday School and at our neighboring nursing home: Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), and Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH).

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Rochelle Ward
Beth Virkler**

On September 23 we witnessed the wedding of Bro. Jeremy Scheitlin (Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori) and Sis. Amanda Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb). Their new address and phone number is 10 N. Illinois, Apt. #1, Remington, IN 47977, (219) 261-3628.

Jaedyn Taylor Ward, born to Bro. John and Sis. Rochelle, came into the world on October 16. Four-year-old Madison welcomes home her baby sister. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Brenda Clark (Remington, IN) and John and Rosa Ward of Wolcott, IN.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Genesis 2:24

On October 14 we heard the announcement of Bro. Aaron Kilgus (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna) and Sis. Kayla Wuethrich (Bro. Bruce and

Sis. Kathy) of Francesville, IN.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**DeAnn Schlatter
Lavilla Langhofer**

Unite with us at South Bend in special prayer for Sis. Shirley Lehman (Bro. Wayne). She has had a time of hospitalization and tests and may have treatments ahead. Pray for the Master's healing touch and wisdom for the doctors in doing the correct treatments. Also pray for her children and grandchildren as they support her in this time.

Our hearts were joyful as we heard that Mark and Julie Beebe have made a beginning step in faith to turn their lives over to God. May their home be blessed as they seek God's direction. Mark is the son of Bro. Robert and Sis. Sue Beebe.

As we watch the harvest coming in from the fields around us, we are reminded to pray for the Lord of the harvest, that He will send laborers into His harvest. Christ said the laborers are few. May we be ready and willing to do whatever the Lord of the harvest has for us. We pray for a safe return of those from our congregation that will be out of the country in November on mission trips and for a harvest of souls for the Lord as the Seed is sown in other countries and at home.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Darel and Janet Walker

We wish to thank Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN) for letting God use him to bring us a message this month. It was nice having Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis with us for the day.

On October 7 we rejoiced as we welcomed Bro. Ben Bucher (Bro.

Tim and Sis. Julie) into our faith. We were all touched by the testimony of faith as Bro. Ben described how some adversity in his life brought him closer to God. Thanks to Elder Bros. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) for assisting with his testimony.

The day was made special by several visiting ministers who brought us the Word. Thanks to Bros. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), and John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN), and to Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann, who assisted with the services and the baptism. May God bless them for their efforts. We rejoice with Bro. Ben and wish him much grace and joy as he continues his Christian walk.

INDIANA

WEST LAFAYETTE

Geoff and Angie Ginzl

The angels in Heaven rejoice when a soul is saved. Nathan and Kelli (Bro. Gerry and Sis. Marcia Waibel) Pritts have made the decision to live their lives for Christ. Our prayers are with them and may God's blessings be upon them.

On October 7 we held our first church Sunday School picnic at Bro. Gordon and Sis. Kathy Gerber's home. We had a potluck wiener roast and a variety of activities for the Sunday School children.

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. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi (Chicago, IL), Bro. Greg and Sis. Lisa Stieglitz, and Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier (all from Indianapolis, 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 local ministering Bro. Neil Widmer (765) 497-4709. Our counseling Elders are Bros. Curt Frank and Wendell Gudeman.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Mary Beth Lehman Erica Wagenbach

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 were thankful to witness the wedding vows of two couples this month. Bro. Brent Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell) and Sis. Erica Rudin (Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LaNae, Cissna Park, IL) were united as one in Christ on September 30. Bro. Derek Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell) and Sis. Theresa Schwab (Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel) began to walk life's pathway together on October 14. May God richly bless each one of these couples.

We were thankful to have ministering Bros. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) and John Stoller (Leo, IN) with us on October 14. May God bless them for sharing the Word of Life with us.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Karla Gerst Brenda Schulz

Greetings in the name of our Lord! This month we had two visiting ministers. They were Bro. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO). May God

bless and reward their efforts.

Our Sis. Tillie Frank has recently moved to the Mediapolis care center. Also, Bro. John Buster (Sis. Ingrid) has received a new heart after many weeks in the hospital. At this time he is doing well. We pray that all can feel the comfort and healing of God.

We have had some additions to our congregation this month. We gladly welcome Bro. Paul Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Lee and Sis. Patsy Esslinger (Pulaski, IA) to Burlington.

On October 7 we had a full church for the wedding of Bro. Stephen Lantz (Rockville, CT) and Sis. Julie Schulz. Their parents are Bro. Sherman and Sis. Joanne Lantz (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Gary Schulz and the late Sis. Karen Schulz. May they feel our love and prayers as they make their home in Rockville.

Note:

Trustees are trying to locate building plans for the Burlington church. We have given out a number of them over the years, and now we don't have any left. Please contact Bro. Richard Taeger at (319) 752-1231.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

Psalms 116:15

Sis. Eleanor Butikofer was just thirty-five days shy of her 100th birthday when she was relieved of her earthly burdens. No doubt many of you will remember reading some of her articles, as she was the Silver Lining correspondent

for Elgin, IA, for many years. She had a great love for nature, which one could easily sense when reading her articles. She was a real example of patience and endured various bodily afflictions without murmuring or complaining. Also, I don't remember ever hearing her say an unkind word about another person. We are thankful that her example is stored in our memory, and we trust that she is now enjoying the beauties of heaven. Our sympathy is extended to her remaining three brothers and two sisters, LaVerne, Robert, and Jacob Schneider, Sis. Ruth Metzger, and Betty Curtis, and their families.

What a blessing it has been to listen to the Conference tapes and feel the love and concern our Elder body has for the flocks. Their kind admonishments and exhortations are greatly needed and appreciated.

We have been blessed with two visiting ministers this past month. They were Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL). We want to thank them for being willing to be used in the ministry for our benefit.

As we look ahead to the month of November, we see the day of Thanksgiving approaching. We truly are a nation and people blessed by God. May we, with thankful hearts, daily give Him our thanks and praise.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE **Willa Clark**

Fall leaves drifted down and the sun broke through the clouds as Katie Clark (Don Clark and Sis. Willa Clark) and Jason Newton (Claudia Schindler and Tom Newton) were united in marriage on

October 13. We wish them God's richest blessings as they blend two lives as one.

Ministers traveling to share God's Word with us this month have been Bros. Ed Strahm (Bern, KS), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Glenn Funk (Wichita, KS) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA). We thank them for their love and goodness.

IOWA, IOWA CITY **Diana Butikofer**

We are grateful for all of our guests who come to visit. We especially appreciate the work of the ministers who are willing to share the revelations the Spirit gives them. This past month, Bros. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL) and Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) gave of themselves for our benefit. We need to remember to pray for our Elders and ministers in their daily lives as well as on Sundays.

We are going to miss Karin Peterson and her children, Zach and Lilly. Karin is moving to northwestern Iowa. We have enjoyed her presence in our congregation for the last year, and we hope she returns to visit often.

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

One of the greatest joys we can experience in this lifetime is the gift of children. On September 28, Axel Sergei and Zachariah Vladislav (of Vladimir, Russia) were held in the arms of their loving parents, Bro. Duane and Sis. Ann Wulf. These two precious boys have a sister, Cassidy, to help them adjust to their new Christian home. Bro. Leonard and Sis. Vi Wulf (Morris, MN) are their grand-

parents.

October 4 brought a healthy baby boy into the lives of Bro. Steve and Sis. Liz Warner. He has been named Nathan Lee. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther Warner and Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie Zaugg (West Bend, IA).

Jalyn Donald was born October 5 to Kjert and Michelle Gramstad. Jalyn has an older brother, Korbyn. Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Whye are his grandparents and Sis. Zelma Knoblock is his great-grandma.

October 10 was the birth day for Logan Wesley. First-time parents are Wes and Dawn Meyer. Bro. George Meyer is Logan's grandpa and Sis. Emma Meyer is his great-grandma.

Bro. Marty and Sis. Martha Knoblock are delighted to have a daughter, KaryAnn, who was born on October 12. Riley is her brother and her happy grandparents are Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce Metzger. Sis. Zelma Knoblock is her great-grandma. May these families all be seeking the wisdom from God to train these precious souls in a way pleasing to Him.

Bro. Justin and Sis. Jodie Metzger have moved here from Minneapolis, MN, so we welcome them into our fellowship!

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Andy and Sis. Freida Mogler as we learn of the death of his sister, Lorene Farrell.

Darcy Leuthold (Bro. Jim and Sis. Betty) is engaged to Andrew Bristol and planning an October 20 wedding. We wish them much happiness as husband and wife. Four other couples are engaged and making preparations for marriage. Stuart Moser (Jim) and his fiancé, Karin Reiffenberger; Jeff

Knobloch (Bro. Delbert and Sis. June) is engaged to Heidi Sandholm; Wayne Meyer (Bro. George) who is engaged to Angie Osterday; and Catherine Leuthold (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki) is the fiancé of James Ver Steeg.

Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN) was our visiting minister this past month. It is truly a blessing that we're able to gather to worship unhindered.

Recent hospital patients have been Louise Tolvstad (John), Sarah Feucht, Bro. George Meyer, Bro. Dean Feucht (Sis. Diana) and Sis. Zelma Knobloch. Sis. Erma Gerber (Bro. Bill) had the misfortune of breaking her foot, but we are thankful she will not need surgery.

"My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Jeremiah 5:19

Unlike most books that are written after an event has taken place, consider today, we are living out the prophesy already recorded in the Bible. Therefore, we know all things are in God's control and all will be fulfilled according to His will. May we plead for His mercy to be upon us.

IOWA, WEST BEND

**Berniece Banwart
Lori Skoglund**

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

II Timothy 4:2

We are thankful for the visiting brothers who were willing to follow those instructions sent from the apostle Paul to Timothy so long ago: Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), and Bros. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA) and Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diane, Iowa City, IA).

Our congregation, along with the angels, rejoice over one sinner that repenteth. Jeremy Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlie) has found peace with God and we are looking forward to hearing his testimony on October 20.

First-time parents, Bro. Jason and Sis. Angie Fehr, gladly welcomed Caleb Mychal into their hearts and home on October 6. Thankful grandparents are Elder Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther Warner (Lester, IA) and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr.

Sis. Eunice Koehl from Morris, MN, recently moved to the West Bend Care Center but at present is seriously ill in the hospital. Our prayers are with her and Bro. Art (Madeline) Banwart, who also is in the hospital for therapy. Bro. Vic (Sis. Marilyn) Banwart, Sis. Edith (Ernest) Kellenberger and Ashley Banwart (Bro. Marc and Sis. Jami) have had short hospital stays this past month.

Steve Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlie) and Angela Dykstra (Mr. and Mrs. Galen Dykstra) were married on September 29. We wish them much happiness in their lives together.

As Thanksgiving approaches, may we each take time to reflect on our many blessings.

"But godliness with contentment is great gain."

I Timothy 6:6

A Thankful Heart

May we always each remember
On this special day
Many blessings that are ours
All along the way.
May we with deep humility
Forever have a part
In expressing gratitude
From a thankful heart.
Grant us strength to do our best
In each daily task;
To be worthy of this day
We would humbly ask.
Help us walk in paths of service
Doing all we can
By giving thanks through kindness
To our fellow man.

—Virginia Katherine Oliver

JAPAN, TOKYO

Marie Inoue

We gathered on October 8 for our Fall Fellowship Meeting at Hachioji which was a national holiday. Shioda church was our host and although it was raining outdoors, inside we enjoyed hearing about the 3 main missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul and the wonderful zeal he had that others might be saved. The Shioda brethren brought this interesting message to us mentioning that Paul's journeys equaled the distance of 10 round trips from Tokyo to Kyushu, or half way around the equator.

Bro. Matt Brake had 5 special guests from Ohio this month. They were friends of his when he lived in the Rittman, OH, during university days. Visiting from Akron were Bros. Andy Steidl and Greg Henico; from Smithville were Bros. Dana Nieman and Kirby Stoller; and from Rittman church was Bro. Scott Hartzler. It didn't take long to notice that their walk and talk was among those who put Christ first in their life. We so appreciated getting to know them

and their wonderful help in our song and worship services.

We are happy to report that Sis. Urushino's grandson, Kazuki Urushino, was able to return home from the hospital following the first surgery on his lips. They are so thankful for skilled surgeons who did a good job. The next step is inside his mouth. Shortly after this, Sis. Urushino's husband, Toshio, was scheduled for heart surgery. He had some complications and spent one week in ICU. We are again thankful for answered prayer and that he is improving and could be placed in a private room. Not only for the above health problems, but for all our cares and concerns we are so privileged to take all to the Lord in prayer.

Relocating to a new place in the same general area this month was the Klaus family. This new home also serves as the work place for Bro. Andrew. The first impression Sis. Jana had of their new neighborhood was that it could not possibly be as friendly as their former one. And, lo and behold, as each day passes, one by one of the new neighbors are showing themselves so helpful and friendly. It seems to be another sign of God's guidance to the new home. It was a big decision for them to relocate, and after much prayer and waiting for God's direction, He unfailingly paved the path and opened the gates for them. Each one in their family is a vibrant part of our church, and we rejoice with them. Their new address is: Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Klaus, 425-31 Nagafusa-Cho, Hachioji-Shi, 193-0824. Phone number remains the same. The Klaus' were appreciative of all who assisted in moving their belongings, which included local friends and brethren, and yes, the visiting Ohio Brothers!

KANSAS, BERN
Lori Baumgartner
Sally Strahm

The Golden Harvest

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

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

Chorus:

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

Hymns of Zion #46, verses 3-4

With this being the season of earthly harvest, let us ask ourselves if we have prepared ourselves for the heavenly harvest.

Anthony Esslinger has turned his life and heart to God in repentance. We wish him much grace and help as he makes this most important step in life. We also rejoice with Anthony's parents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty Esslinger.

We have thankful grandparents in our congregation who have been blessed with grandchildren. Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois Hartter welcome two precious granddaughters into their family circle. Audrey Elizabeth was born to Paul and Amanda Simpson of Kansas City, MO. Audrey has one sister, Hannah, who gladly welcomes her home. Elena Maria was born to Jeff and Stacia Bone of Lawrence, KS. Elena has one sister, Sophia, to welcome her home.

Lee and Carmen Ukele of

Sabetha are likewise thankful for the arrival of Carson Samuel. Carson is welcomed home by his playmate and brother, Tanner. Grandparents of Carson are Bro. Leonard and the late Sis. Nancy Baumgartner. All three new babies are great-grandchildren of our retired Elder Bro. Lester Hartter.

With joy in our hearts, we are happy to announce the engagement of our Sis. Suzanne Hoffman, who is formerly of the Rockville congregation, to Bro. Gardy Moreau of Rockville, CT. Sis. Suzanne's parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella Hoffman and Bro. Gardy's parents are Gregoire Moreau and Lucia St. Eloi. May God provide His blessings on their union.

We are always thankful to have ministering brothers in our midst. Bro. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice) of the Kiowa, KS, congregation was with us on October 7. May God bless him for his labors of love.

A beautiful fall October 7 evening was provided for our congregation to have a picnic, singing and fellowship. We are thankful for the ties that bind in times like these.

As Thanksgiving approaches, may we be ever so thankful what our Heavenly Father has done for us. Not only at Thanksgiving time, but every day God has given we should be thankful for it. Each one has experienced different circumstances this year. Among them are sorrow, happiness, joy, peace, forgiveness, discouragement and faith. Whatever befell us, may we take courage to strive onward and forward and be thankful for all He has done.

*Praise and Thanks
for God's Blessings*

Lord God, we honor Thee
And praise Thy mild compassion,

That Thou so gracefully
Dost hear our supplication!
Thy love is truly great;
Thy mercies are untold;
Thou givest food and drink
For Spirit, flesh and soul.

So now again Thou hast
To us a blessing given.
Our handiwork is blest
By Thy good Word from heaven.
Thou blestest food and drink
Our needs to satisfy.
Therefore, we give Thee thanks;
Our song shall rise on high.

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

We sing our heartfelt thanks,
Thy truth and love adoring.
For guidance and for light
Thy Spirit we're imploring.
Our hearts we offer Thee
For life and ev'ry day,
That with Thy grace we tread
The straight and narrow way.
Zion's Harp #13

We will discontinue our Sunday evening hymnal singings and resume Wednesday night services following Thanksgiving.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Ruth Bahr

We thank Bros. Ben Wysong (Sis. Janice, Sabetha, KS), Jeff Streitmatter III (Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL) and Arnold Gerst (Sis. Marjorie, Taylor, MO) for their visit and bringing the Word of Life to us.

Sis. Lucille Schurter spent an unexpected overnight stay at the hospital. She is doing well again. Retired Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart is slowly improving. His relief team surgeon in Joplin, MO, has released him. The doctor said Bro. Raymond's neck has healed remarkably well.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Laura Wagenbach
Jennifer Stewart

Nearer, my God to Thee
Nearer to Thee!
E'en tho' it be a cross
That raiseth me,
Still all my song shall be
Nearer my God to Thee.

Or if on joyful wing,
Cleaving the sky,
Sun, moon, and stars forgot,
Upward I fly,
Still all my song shall be
Nearer, my God to Thee.
Hymns of Zion #278

Isn't it a wonderful feeling that no matter what our circumstances, whether we are contented and as close to God as we think we need to be, or as lost and at the lowest we feel we can get, we can still draw nearer to our loving Saviour. In these turbulent times in our country we pray for God's nearness and His all-knowing guidance. We also continue to pray for His nearness to the families who have lost loved ones in the tragedies that took place on September 11.

On September 15-16, our high school Sunday School class hosted a get-together weekend for the high schoolers from all Kansas, Denver, Garden Grove and Lamar churches. We traveled to Freedom, OK, to tour the Alabaster Caverns

and then a picnic supper and a fellowship time in the park's outdoor amphitheater. We thank Bro. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa) and our counseling Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bro. Ron Allenbach (Kiowa) for delivering the messages. We also want to thank the churches and the sponsors and the teens themselves for making the effort to travel the distance.

The following weekend, we welcomed several young college students for their bi-annual campout along the scenic Medicine River. We always enjoy having these young men with us and this weekend was a bonus as it was our turn to sing and have services at the Kiowa Manor (rest home). Even those who were hard of hearing could have heard the praises that day.

On October 7, many of the Kiowa congregation traveled to Sabetha to witness the marriage vows of our Sis. Komari Neal to Bro. Rick Aberle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Lavonne) of Sabetha. May God grant them many blessings in their life together. We wish to say many thanks to the Sabetha congregation for the weekend of hospitality.

We were saddened this month by the passing of our Bro. Arnold Ott. He leaves behind his widow, Sis. Nelda; a daughter, Sis. Sandra, and her children, Craig and Bethany; and a son, Sam, and his wife, Glenna, and son, Derrick. Our prayers go out to them in this time of sorrow.

We wish a speedy recovery to Judy Tucker (Stan) who was in the hospital for a time this past month.

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Sarah Somerhalder

Thanks to all who came for "In-

vite a Guest" weekend held September 22-23. Among our guests were Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and ministering Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL). May the Lord richly bless them for their willingness to share God's Word with us.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held October 7 at Redmond Dam. It was a blessed evening and was enjoyed by all.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Eldon Metzger (Sis. Dorene) who was hospitalized in Wichita this past month.

We also are thankful for ministering Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) who was with us this month. May God bless him for his labors of love.

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, may we take time to count our many blessings that God has bestowed upon us. As we count our blessings, let us remember and pray for those who are in need of prayer.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Mary Kay Wenger

The tragic events of September 11 have brought our nation closer to God through lip service, but how many people will truly commit their lives to God? One classroom teacher has decided to make singing "God Bless America" a part of their daily routine from now until the end of the school year.

We rejoice that here and there are souls seeking God in repentance. Tasha Knoblock (Bro. Steven and Sis. Rose Ann) and Marvin and Lana Kuenzi have taken the first step to serve Him. Marvin and Lana were married this summer and have established their home in Oregon. Lana's parents re Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene Grimm.

October 7 was the wedding day for Bro. Rick Aberle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Lavonne) and Sis. Komari Neal. We pray God will bless their lives together. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) assisted in the wedding. Other ministers with us were Bros. Ronald Allenbach (Kiowa, KS), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) and Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO).

On October 7 we heard the engagement announcement of Bro. Art Kellenberger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian) and Sis. Kathy Leman of Denver, CO (Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene). May they look to God for guidance throughout their engagement and married life together.

Megan Jean was born to Bro. Darin and Sis. Marci Grimm on October 2. She is welcomed home by her sisters, Ashley (3) and Brianna (2). We are thankful she has been released from a stay at the hospital shortly after her birth. Her grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Ruby Grimm and Eugene and Judy Edelman, and great-grandmother is Sis. Lois Grimm.

Sis. Evelyn Steiner and Sis. Caroline Banwart have been in the hospital. Frank Krogmann (Sis. Julie) is presently in Stormont-Vail in Topeka. We pray for God to heal where it can be His will and may He uplift and encourage each one.

Life is easy, when you're up on
the mountain,
And you've got peace of mind
Like you've never known.
But when things change and
You're down in the valley,
Don't lose faith for you are never
alone.

Chorus:
For the God of the mountain,

is still God in the valley.
When things go wrong,
He'll make them right.
And the God in the good times,
Is still God in the bad times;
And the God of the day
Is still God of the night.

We talk of faith when
We're up on the mountain,
But talks come easy when life's
at its best;
But in the valley of trials and
temptations,
That's when faith is really put to
the test.

—Tracy S. Dartt

We extend sympathy to the family of Margaret Meyer who passed away October 17. Survivors include her brothers, Bros. Walter (Sis. Mildred) Strahm and Elmer (Sis. Phyllis) Strahm.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

On September 24, some of our sisters went to Newton to take supplies for the school health kits that the MCC center is preparing for shipment. They then spent the day working to prepare the kits.

Our Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and Sis. Jane spent the weekend of September 29-30 with the Wichita congregation. They used the time to get acquainted on a more personal nature. Thank you, Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane, for caring about us individually.

On October 14, we were privileged to have Bro. Darrel Stoller and his wife, Sis. Gloria, with us. And we thank them for their sacrifice of time and energy to meet the needs of the Wichita congregation. Bro. Darrel read from Jeremiah 32:17, "Ah, Lord God! behold, thou hast made heaven and the earth by

thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee." That verse should comfort us as we wait for the present day terrorism to be subdued.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Glenda Neukomm

The Potter

Today as I watched a potter
He molded a beautiful vase.
As he picked up the clay to shape
it,
Each particle fell into place.
It seemed as he crushed it and
pressed it
Every flaw had dissolved in his
hand;
And soon he had fashioned a ves-
sel,
Exactly as first he had planned.

Then I saw him open an oven
And the vessel was placed in the
heat.
The surface began to harden;
To glisten and shine as a sheet.
So often we're placed in the fur-
nace,
We're tried and crushed to pure
gold.
As the potter turns out his vessel,
So our lives are shaped I am told.

Now I thought as I saw him in
action,
How God molds our lives every
day,
How He irons out all of our de-
fects
And works every blemish away.
Then I prayed, "Oh, may I be pli-
ant,
That I may be easily bent,
That I may fit into the pattern,
Of the mission for which I am
sent."

—Norman P. Woodruff

My daughter is taking a pottery class. She has expressed how hard and ugly clay is without form. It takes lots of strength in the hands to work it, then to shape it into the form it is to be made. As the Word says: "But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand." (Isaiah 64:8). Many times in the Bible it is mentioned we are the clay and the Lord is the potter who waits to shape us into His beautiful design, so that we can be used for His glory. How humbling it is to see how He loves us, in spite of man's many weaknesses and failures. May we strive to diligently, by His grace, serve Him faithfully in our walk day by day.

Bro. Alex Neukomm (Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda) in September was offered a job in Chicago, IL. We will surely miss him in our Lexington congregation. Our prayers are with him at this transition time. May he feel the Lord's continued nearness and blessings as he worships with the Chicago congrega-
tion.

Jonathan Huber (Ben and June) recently enlisted in the marines. He is stationed at Parris Island, SC. Our prayers are with him during basic training, for his safety and for the Lord to be his guardian angel, as he commits to the service of our country for this time.

We rejoice with Julie Neukomm (Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda) who has found peace with God and man. On the weekend of September 22-23, it was encouraging and uplifting to witness her testimony and baptism. We thank Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) and Wayne Banwart (Sis. Char, Champaign, IL) who were here to carry out this important

work of the Lord. May the Lord richly bless them. Many were present from Francesville, Milford, West Lafayette, IN; Morton, Tremont, Washington, Gridley, Champaign, Goodfield, Cissna Park, Bloomington, IL; Smithville and Rittman, OH.

This past month our congregation listened to our Brotherhood Conference tapes on Wednesday evenings. We're thankful for the Elder brethren that watch for our souls.

The marriage of Tom Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) was October 13. We pray that the Lord will bless the union of these two dear souls with His joy, peace and happiness in their lives.

We want to express our thanks and gratitude for the patience and many efforts of love shown by our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller. There have been many trips to Lexington made to carry out the duties of the church leadership. We pray the Lord will reward these many labors of love on his behalf.

We have been so very blessed to have ministering Bros. Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL), Tim Funk (Peoria, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), John Stoller (Leo, IN), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Walt Steffen (Milford, IN) and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) bring us the Word over the past couple months. May the Lord richly bless them.

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

MEXICO, IXTLAN
Rosario Gonzalez

"Blessed are they that keep his

testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart."

Psalm 119:2

Meet Sis. Fernanda Angelito de Cervantes:

"I started to go to church shortly before my marriage. After our marriage, I began attending every other week. We saw adult baptisms and I was surprised to see how even an older person could be changed from a staunch Catholic to a follower of Jesus Christ.

Because of a childhood illness, my mother made a pledge to the virgin that I would dress in typical Indian dress once a year, which I did until the age of twenty. My mother passed away and we more or less followed the religious currents of the world we lived in.

When I came to our church, I noticed the way the believers cared for each other and were interested in each one who was there. When my brother-in-law's family came to visit, I saw the difference in praying at the table and how children were raised in a Christian home. We began to read the book of John and it was beautiful since we never had a Bible and had never read it. We were expecting a baby and my husband and I began to think about what kind of example we would be to our child and how we wanted him to be trained.

Reading the books of Isaiah and Jeremiah opened our eyes to see what idolatry was and what God's truth is. We were married in the Catholic church just to please my brothers and sisters and besides, we didn't know how to go about having a Christian wedding. For years, I had been religious but had an emptiness in me. Living in Acapulco, I saw tourists coming to church in bathing suits, but here I saw a different people dressed with

modesty. When I heard the Word, I realized that Jesus Christ could fill the emptiness in my heart. Since we lived three hours (by bus) from the church, we asked the brothers if they could come more often to help in our conversion and they said they would try to come every two weeks to have services.

We lost our parents when young and I had a great fear of death and hell. Through repentance and faith in God, I realized there could be comfort at time of death and also a hope for eternity for those who serve the Lord. Also, being an orphan I had fear of being alone. God removed my fear of death and loneliness and what a miracle how He brought me to a place in Mexico where I could hear His Word! November 20, 1999, was the most important day of my life when I was baptized into Christ's death.

Although the Christian life is not easy, there is nothing in this world that compares to the peace I have in Christ.

(For the testimony of Rogelio Cervantes, husband of Fernanda, see the October, 2001, issue of the Silver Lining.)

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Kristen Plattner
Sandy Schutte

"The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knoweth them that trust in him."

Nahum 1:7

As we come again upon the Thanksgiving season, let us be thankful that God and His Word are full of promise. Bro. Bill Gerst reminded us that God has blessed this country and he wondered if in the last months that God has gotten our attention? Our nation's

motto is "In God We Trust" and over the past years the people of this nation have put their trust in many things, but God has not been at the top of their lists. So let us give renewed meaning to Thanksgiving and let it be 365 days of the year. Looking for God in everything, not just the spectacular. Remembering always we are blessed with the hope of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

"Saying, Amen; Blessing and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen."

Rev. 7:12

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Sis. Suzanne, Fairbury, IL) for coming to assist us in Holy Communion. A blessing was shared by everyone who attended.

The angels rejoice in Alto as young soul Tasha Steffen (Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy) has expressed a desire to begin a life in God's service. Also, Terry Watson has found peace with the Lord. A Thanksgiving weekend is planned for Terry's baptism.

Congratulations to Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Gerst for the birth of grandson, Jason Robert Walder (Bro. Ben and Sis. Juanita). And thanks to God that the open heart surgery of little Jason went well.

We also welcome Victoria Leigh to Jessica Oesch (grandparents are Sam and Randy Oesch) and Marcella Faye to Dave and Julie Stouffer (grandparents are Dave and Bonnie Stouffer). "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord." (Psalm 127:3)

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Margaret Wingeier, Bro. Wes Daniels and

Sis. Susan Steffen. We pray that the Lord is with them as the healing process continues.

Accidents happen and so it is with Sis. Judy Gerst (Bro. Bill) who is home recovering from a broken ankle, and little Daniel Steffen (Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy) who has suffered a broken arm. Our prayers go out for a speedy recovery for both.

Another child has left us for college. Ryan Sanders (Bro. Ed and Sis. Julie) has gone off to Northwestern Diesel Tech in Lima, OH. May God be with him as he continues his education.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Rhonda Knochel
Peggy Jackson

We were pleased to be a part of the marriage celebration of Bro. Steve Wieland (Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn) and Sis. Tiffany Gasser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary, Rittman, OH). We pray that their marriage will be built on the foundation of Christ's love and that their love for one another will continue to grow with each passing day. Our sincere congratulations are extended to them and their families.

Sis. Florence Wieland spent time in the hospital this month. We are pleased to see that her recovery is going well and that she has been able to return to fellowshiping with us on Sunday. We pray that her recovery will continue and that it would be quick and complete. May the great Physician continue to work in her life.

Bro. Erwin Wieland celebrated his 90th birthday and we were invited to celebrate that milestone with him. We are encouraged as we look at Bro. Erwin's life and see God's faithfulness through all of those years. We extend loving con-

gratulations to Bro. Erwin and pray that he will continue to experience God's love and grace for many years in the future.

May God bless you in the new month ahead!

Note of Thanks:

I want to express my sincere thanks for remembering me for my 90th birthday. May God bless you richly.

Bro. Erwin Wieland

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Sarah Beard
Holly Barton

We rejoice with Bro. Steve Wieland (Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn, Bay City, MI) and Sis. Tiffany Gasser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary, Rittman, OH) as they were joined in marriage on September 30.

Our prayers go out to Sis. Kay Rauhe (Bro. Warren) as she has undergone surgery. We pray that she will assemble with us again soon.

On September 17 we had our annual Sunday School picnic. Fellowship was enjoyed by all.

We are thankful that Brandon Bahr (Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn) has found peace with God and man. We look forward to his testimony and baptism in the near future.

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the many blessings we have been given. May we never take these blessings for granted and always remain thankful for them.

MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Diane Stewart

We, as a church, always appreciate our Elder Bro. Leroy Messner and his wife, Sis. JoAnn, showing their love and concern for us in

their visits.

An open house was held this past month for Sis. Esther Lienemann to celebrate her 90th birthday. Always smiling and active, Sis. Esther gives us a good example to keep pressing on.

Our prayers go out for Sis. Millie Schmidgall and Sis. Esther Lienemann as both have spent time in the hospital this month.

Thanks be to God, Sis. Rachel Kent's cancer is in remission. Please continue to uplift her and her family in prayer.

Changed

Oh, God, what happened, on
9/11/01,
When my sense of security was
totally undone
Death and destruction was all I
could see,
The sound of cries to please save
me!

I feel so afraid, of what is to
come,
But then I remember, the gift of
God's Son.
It gives me great peace, of what
is to be
Remembering that Jesus, already
saved me.

Now I have a new sense of re-
solve,
When I see a need, I will get in-
volved.
I won't be afraid, to go on with
my day,
For Christ will go with me, all of
the way.

My heart is still heavy, for all
those who died,
For families, for friends and all
who have cried.
But Christ has shown me, death
isn't the end,

And I know on His Word, I can
always depend.

—Lynn Burwell

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Dianne Kellenberger
Cheryl Messner**

Bro. Chris and Sis. Shelly Koehl rejoice as God has blessed them with another healthy baby. Candice Belle was born on September 17 and joins siblings, Olivia, Kaitlin, and Tony. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Eileen Nohl and Bro. Eddie and Sis. Lois Koehl. We pray for grace as our young parents endeavor to raise their children in accordance with God's Word.

Hospital patients this month included Max Feuchtenberger (Bro. Craig and Sis. Paula) and Bro. Joe Moser (Sis. Hazel). We are thankful God grants healing.

Our dear elderly Sis. Eunice Koehl has moved to West Bend, IA, where she resides in a nursing home. She has recently spent time in the hospital and we pray she will ever feel God's strength and nearness.

Believing through faith that God has brought them together, Bro. Kurt Wulf and Sis. Savannah Gramm became engaged on September 30. May God continue to grant guidance as they plan their future together.

Bringing joy to the home of Bro. Ryan and Sis. Joan Kellenberger is their firstborn child, John Daniel. He arrived on October 8. May they seek Godly wisdom as they begin their new role as parents.

"Continue in prayer and watch
in the same with thanksgiving."

Colossians 4:2

Thanksgiving is a time of appre-

ciation for God's blessings given throughout the year. Let us be most thankful for God's gift of salvation, praying fervently for our many loved ones that they can yet be drawn into this precious covenant.

"Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

I Cor. 15:57

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Carol Messner
Marilyn Messner**

Thanksgiving

Now thank we all our God,
With heart, and hands and
voices,

Who wondrous things has done,
In whom the world rejoices.
All praise and thanks to God,
The Father now be given,
The Son and Holy Ghost,
Who dwell in highest heaven.

We were privileged to have visitors from Lagos, Nigeria; Toks, Mejebi and Ife Phillips. They came to visit the home of Bro. Verl and Sis. Jamie Schmidt where their son and brother, Ore, lives as a foreign exchange student. The parents, Toks and Mejebi, shared an interesting talk with us after a potluck supper held for them. Ore is spending his second year at the Schmidt home.

It was wonderful to see the Sabetha Bible class here this past weekend. We were thankful for the good weather and God's protection over the travelers.

We were thankful to have Bro. Ernest Dapper (Sis. Marcelle) attending church again after a severe break to his leg. We pray for God's continuing healing touch.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Florence Messner. Sis. Florence passed away at the age of 94 on October 8. Surviving are sons, Bro. Kenneth and Margaret, John and Jane, Bob and Margie; daughters, Sis. Dorothy and John Jacobson, Sis. Julia Messner, Mary Ann and Bill Ohland; and sister - in - law, Sis. Sophie Miller; and many other family members. She has entered a city where the roses never fade.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Garry and Marty Rokey

We can take comfort in the fact that in our church tradition, visiting ministers use the same basic format when we gather together to worship. Praise be to God that the Word is preached in truth and sincerity. Our thanks to the following laborers for assembling with us and proclaiming the Word of the Lord: Bros. Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita, KS), John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA), Jim Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS) and Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI).

On September 30, nearly all of our church, brothers, sisters, friends and children, gathered together at Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen Kellenberger's home and yard for the annual fall wiener roast which they have hosted for nearly 10 years. After good food and fellowship, the evening ended with the singing of hymns, reading of the Word and prayer. We have to believe that these wonderful times are a little foretaste of Heaven which the Lord has provided. Many thanks to Bro. Randy, Sis. Karen and family for hosting this annual event.

We recently suffered the loss of Sis. Marty Rokey's mother, Illa

Mae Arnold. The support and love that was shown to us during this time was nearly overwhelming. We can never thank our church family enough for the cards, visitations, flowers, food, prayers and comfort we were given. How wonderful and precious is our brotherhood.

To paraphrase a verse from Eccles. chapter 3, there is a time to weep and mourn and a time to rejoice. Certainly we had a time to rejoice when Sis. Komari Neal and Bro. Rick Aberle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Lavonne, Sabetha, KS) were united in holy marriage on October 7. A majority of our church attended the wedding in Sabetha. Our best wishes and prayers to Sis. Komari and Bro. Rick. May God richly bless this union.

On the weekend of October 14, the Ed Steiner family reunion was held in Kansas City and most attended our church on Sunday. The Steiner family nearly filled our assembly to capacity. We were thankful for this wonderful fellowship.

Our column can be reflected in these verses from Romans 12:10-15:

“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; continuing instant in prayer; distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality; bless them which persecute you: bless and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.”

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Kristi Huber
Kristen Leman

“Peace I leave with you, my

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

John 14:27

We are thankful for Kayla Kellenberger (Bro. Curt and Sis. Martha) as it was made known to the church that she feels she is at peace with God and man. Kayla continues to be in our prayers as she anticipates the time of proving and baptism, Lord willing.

Bro. Raymond Braker (Sis. LuEtta) was hospitalized overnight this past month. We are thankful that he seems to be doing well.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Betsy Schrenk

We had a special blessing in September when Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL) came to minister to us in St. Louis. Nineteen of the Single Group from Princeville came, and we gathered for a pizza dinner on Saturday at the church and sang songs to honor and praise God afterward. Our visitors' enthusiasm and the beauty of their united voices contributed to an enjoyable and encouraging evening for our little congregation.

We also thank our other ministers this month. Elder Bros. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) and Roy Grimm (Sis. Dona, Taylor, MO), and Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine, Burlington, IA) each prayerfully lent himself to God's service, and our spirits were nourished and blessed.

Due to some delays in starting construction on their New Hampshire project, Bro. Doug Mangers' company has him again working in St. Louis for a few months. Al-

though this change of plans is a disappointment for Bro. Doug, we welcome him back into our fellowship, even though it is temporary.

With Bro. Kevin and Sis. Rachel Schrock moving, we lost our song leader. When we have visitors who lead singing, we are so appreciative! If you have this gift, we invite you to come along with the minister from your church when he takes his turn serving St. Louis.

We have an arrangement with a Hampton Inn along I-70 in St. Charles County for a room rate of \$63, with no state tax charged, if you mention the Apostolic Christian Church when you make reservations. The phone number is 636-947-6800. To obtain a packet of good information on family-friendly activities in our area, call the St. Louis Convention & Visitor Center several weeks before your visit at 800-888-3861.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Peg Haerr

The Sunday School students and teachers enjoyed a fall picnic at Bro. Kenny and Sis. Phyllis Knapp's farm on October 7. It was a beautiful afternoon to appreciate the beauty in God's wonderful world!

Special thanks to the brothers who visited and/or shared with us at Taylor this month: Elder Bros. Andrew Stoller (Smithville, OH), Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and John Lehman (Bern, KS), and Bro. Brad Funk (Garden Grove, IA). As always, we pray they will all be blessed for their efforts!

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

Hope Graves

We gathered together on the evening of Friday, September 21, for a World Relief work night. We spent the evening packing school kits and rolling bandages for those in need. May we always be willing to give of the abundance that the Lord has provided us with.

As we are enjoying the beauty of the fall season in our area and the splendid array of colors in the trees, we have been blessed with numerous visitors and ministering brethren over the past weeks. During these times we have gathered together for several potluck suppers and singings in our church basement and enjoyed the fellowship of those of like mind and faith. The ministering brethren that were with us include Bros. Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT) and Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), and Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH). We thank each of these brothers for their willingness to stand and share God's Word with our small congregation. We also were enriched with the presence of four retired Elder brethren in our midst this past month: Bros. Gene Pamer, Joe Braker, Edwin Ringger and Andy Virkler. It is hard for us to express the deep love we hold for them as we think of the many years they have spent in willing service unto our great God and His church.

Ye shepherds who the Lord do
love,
And through the Spirit from
above,
Proclaim to men salvation,
How much the Lord to you has
willed,
Who at His blessed kingdom

build,
It is beyond expression!
Therefore, therefore, Be ye faithful!
How delightful! God with pleasure
Will impart the crown and treasure.
Ye messengers of peace shall bring
The glorious gospel of the King
To man in accents truthful.
How great your blest reward shall be
When Jesus Christ, the Lord, will see
That ye were true and faithful!
Every brother Who such mission
And position has been granted,
Shall be to the end undaunted.
Zion's Harp #210

Our prayers went out to Sis. Julia Karcher, Sis. Esther Rauhe, Elizabeth Stockburger and Bro. John Rauhe who each met with hospitalization this month. May the Lord grant them His healing strength. We especially remember Bro. John and Sis. Esther Rauhe who plan on leaving our area to spend the winter with their daughter. We will miss them fellowshiping with us and pray the Lord's blessing and health upon them during this time of separation.

May we each continue to pray for our nation in all its turmoil. We are daily reminded that there is no continuing city upon this earth. So may we each continue to earnestly strive for the goal that is set before us.

"Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God con-

tinually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

Hebrews 13:13-16

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

One way of showing appreciation to our retired Elder Bro. Gene Pamer for his years of labors serving as our Elder was that our Akron church presented Bro. Gene and Sis. Eleanor with a gift and had a dinner at the fellowship hall, followed by a singing. We appreciated the many that came to be with us from the congregations of Sardis, Columbus, Mansfield, Smithville, and Rittman.

To Sandra and Roy Haga on September 5 was born a new baby girl, who they named Olivia Marie. She has a brother, Nathan. The baby's maternal grandparents are Bro. Zoltan and Sis. Bonnie Bako.

To Bro. Sandor and Sis. Gyongyi Hegedus on September 11 was born their fourth baby boy and they named him Janos. His brothers are Ruben, Daniel and Sanyi. The baby's maternal grandparents are Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy Bako.

Margaret (Graf) Gallagher was in an accident on her way to work and was hospitalized. We pray a recovery for her.

There was a graveside service for Julia McCormick, whose father, deceased Bro. Joseph Hartzler, had been a minister at Akron years ago.

We appreciated visiting ministers, Bros. Brian Webb (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and William Brake (Sardis, OH).

OHIO, COLUMBUS**Anita Steiner**

We would like to thank our visiting ministers from last month for coming and sharing God's Word with us. Those who visited us were Bro. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI), Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH). May God bless them for their efforts.

Also last month we gathered together after a summer recess for a World Relief work night. These nights remind us of how blessed we are. We are thankful for all those that could attend.

Larry and Emily Leonhard welcomed Elijah Jay into their home on September 7. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy Banks and Harold and LeeAnn Leonhard.

Autumn Eilene was born on October 19 to Bro. Henry and Sis. Diane Pfeiffer (Mansfield, OH). Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder.

OHIO, JUNCTION**Cindy Schlatter**

We were filled with thankfulness when we heard that Gina Schlatter (Bro. Ray and Sis. Corrine) has received peace from our great and merciful Heavenly Father. It is our prayer, Gina, that you will continue to feel this wonderful gift of peace while you wait to give your testimony, as well as for the rest of your life. May God continue to be with you and with us all.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Sis. Evelyn Manz (Bro. Eli) in the passing of her brother, Bro. Richard Sauder (Mansfield, OH).

Jesus knows thy sorrow,
Knows thy every care;

Knows thy deep contrition,
Hears thy feeblest prayer;
Do not fear to trust Him,
Tell Him all thy grief;
Cast on Him thy burden,
He will bring relief.

Hymns of Zion # 74

Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) spent a recent weekend with us. We enjoyed having him and his wife with us and extend our thanks to him for his labors on our behalf. May God continue to bless you and open the way for you to visit again soon.

**OHIO, LATTY
Heidi Hackenjoes
Kathy Sinn**

Our hearts are comforted to know that God is in control during these troubled times. Our prayers are that God will give wisdom to our president and watch over our servicemen and women.

Bro. Tim Stoller (Bro. Rod and Sis. Leanne) was united in marriage to Sis. Kari Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat, Milford, IN). We welcome Sis. Kari to Latty.

The engagement of Sis. Tara Laukhuf (Bro. John and Sis. Marcia) to Bro. Lane Moser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda, Bluffton, IN) was announced. May God bless them as they start their life together.

We had a blessed weekend when we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Bro. Robert Williamson (Sis. Janet).

Our congregation was saddened by the death of Bro. Bill Stoller (Sis. Florence). Our prayers go out to Sis. Florence, Bro. Bill (Sis. Barb), Bro. Bob, and Darlene (Powell, TN). We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Roy (Sis. Helen), Bro. Loren, and Bro. Delmar (Sis. Marguerite).

Spending time in the hospital this past month were Brianna Sinn (Bro. Gary and Sis. Paulette) and Sis. Delores Grant (Bro. Tom). May the Lord grant healing to each one.

**OHIO, MANSFIELD
John and Marci Pfeiffer**

We welcome back Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Sauder and their daughters, Lauren and Lanae. They have moved to Mansfield after living in Central Texas for about four years.

We are thankful for the peace of God which can be found through repentance. Tonya Domka (Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie) and Deanna Masters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine) have found peace with God and man.

It is encouraging to know that God is still drawing souls unto repentance. Bruce and Denise Sauder and Melinda Robertson (Steve) are seeking their salvation. May God grant them grace and strength for each new day.

Sis. Helen Bricker (Bro. Richard) and Sis. Peg Graszl (Bro. Frank) have both been hospitalized this past month. We continue to pray for them.

God hath not promised
Skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways
All our lives through;
God hath not promised
Sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
Peace without pain.

But God hath promised
Strength for the day,
Rest for the labor,
Light for the way,
Grace for the trials,
Help from above,

Unfailing sympathy,
Undying love...

— *author unknown*

Bro. Richard Sauder passed away on September 26. We extend our prayers and sympathy to his dear wife, Sis. Caroline; his sons, Rick, Edward (Paula), Gary (Vicki), Terry, Gregory (Missy), Randy (Pamela), Brian (Danyelle), Bruce (Denise), and Dale (Dannette); and his daughters, Linda, and Vickie Kirschenmann (Ron).

Our messengers this month have been Bro. Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Ontario) and Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzler (Sabetha, KS). We appreciated their visit and pray God will bless them for their services.

“And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

Acts 2:47

On October 13 and 14 we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Sis. Abigail Ramsey (Bro. Ed and Sis. Laura) and Sis. Erica Boliantz (Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie).

OHIO, RITTMAN

Cheryl Hartzler

Beth Beery

A prison inmate sent me this story in the mail.

Under the Dog Skin

A sentinel was set to watch an encampment of soldiers during the night in a district infested with Indians. One night the sentinel was killed. Another sentinel was put there to watch, and he, too, was found dead in the morning. The commanding officer called his

most trusted man and said to him, “I want you to take that place tonight. Do not let anything escape. If anything moves, shoot it!”

The trusted soldier patrolled his post. Back and forth, back and forth, he marched for hours during the night. Nothing happened. At last he heard a twig crack. Was something or someone walking through the dry leaves? True to his post, he called out, “Who goes there?” There was no answer. Quietness reigned.

Peering through the darkness, the sentinel saw something move. He had his orders to shoot, and raising his gun to fire, he saw it was a dog. He put down his gun. But he remembered his orders. “Shoot anything that moves!” So he did. The dog fell. He ran to it and found a dog skin with an Indian — a dead Indian — inside! The Indian had fooled two sentinels. He had crept upon them under the guise of a dog and murdered them before they knew there was any danger.

Like the Indian, Satan creeps up on us and tries to make us believe we can trust him, but he is the father of lies, for the Bible tells us so. We cannot trust him, no matter how he comes to us. Sometimes he appears as an angel of light, again as a roaring lion; but no matter how he comes, he is the devil for sure, and we need to shoot! What shall we shoot? Scripture, of course. Do as Jesus did when the devil tempted Him. “Thus it is written” and “thus saith the Lord” are mighty weapons.

We cannot always recognize Satan’s disguise, but one thing is sure, when he comes, it is always with something wrong for us to do. If we have the Lord in our hearts, if we belong to Him, we can fight Satan with the Word of God. This is why it is necessary to know the

Scriptures, to learn portions by heart, to learn where in the Bible certain Scripture verses are found. Then when we need something quickly, we have it at our command.

— *Gospel for the Youth*

The word that I felt was a summary of this story is obedience. We see obedience among the brethren and friends frequently. Obedience to the call of God to repent, become converted, be baptized and seal in the Holy Spirit is the most important. Tom and Rhonda Troyer (Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth Pelfrey) and Tiffany Gasser (Brant) are seeking the Lord’s will in repentance. And then we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of three precious souls October 6-7: Sis. Tara Steiner (Mark and Sis. Debra), Ryan Winkler (Bro. Stanley and Sis. Margaret) and Bro. Andrew Steiner (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail). Elder Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Andrew Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler.

Another act of obedience is marriage. Bro. Milan Indermuhle (Elder Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) and Sis. Cheryl Hartzler (Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie) announced their engagement September 23. A January 13 wedding is being planned. On September 30, Bro. Stephen Wieland of Detroit, MI (Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn, Bay City, MI) and Sis. Tiffany Gasser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary) were united in Holy Matrimony. May these couples find much wisdom and understanding to encourage one another in the path to Heaven. Many visitors assembled with us for these two occasions and we are thankful for each one. We were privileged to

have many Elders and ministers, although not all shared the Gospel over the pulpit. But those who did shared with us obedience of God. Elder Bro. Mark Bahr and Bros. Hartzell Kaisner and Randy Gasser (all of Detroit, MI), Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Elder Bros. Charles Sauder, Mark Masters and Andrew Stoller, and Bros. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Mark Steiner, Gary Maibach and Victor Bauman (all of Smithville, OH), and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) assembled with us and preached obedience September 16. Thank you for your love and obedience.

One blessing in Holy Matrimony is children. Brian and Debbie Stoller welcomed their firstborn, Blake Marlin, on September 26. Grandparents to assist in his life are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean Stoller and Bro. Steven and Sis. Karen Ramsier. Bro. Rodney, Sis. Jill, Jeremy, Jessica and Riley Steiner welcomed Reed William to hold and love on October 12. Grandparents who also will share in that love is Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Ruth Steiner and Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Schambach (Akron, OH).

Another act of obedience is sharing and giving to those in need. Smithville, Akron, Rittman and Mansfield gathered at the World Relief Center four days in October to can turkey for the needy. Much fellowship was shared. May the Lord bless all who give in time, money, etc.

As we carry out the obedience of the Lord, we have trials. Hospitalized were Sis. Carolyn Marty, Bro. Everett Stoller (Sis. Marge) and Laurie Beery (Bro. Walter and Sis. Lynda). May the presence of the Lord be with each one who has pain

or affliction of the body.

The reward of obedience is Heaven. Bro. Glenn Gasser (Sis. Elizabeth) has entered eternity. May his wife and children, Sis. Linda Indermuhle (Elder Bro. Kenneth, Sardis, OH), Sis. Lois Gasser (Bro. Virgil), Bro. Dale (Janet), Bro. Daniel (Sis. Diane), Sis. Jolene Hofacre (Bro. Steven, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Ben (Sis. Sharon, Smithville, OH) and their spouses and the extended family feel the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

OHIO, SARDIS Alice Ramsier

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our
way!

While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and
obey.

Hymns of Zion #186

Following the reading of this song, the wedding announcement of Bro. Milan Indermuhle (Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda) to Sis. Cheryl Hartzler (Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) was made known to us. Also announcing their engagement is Steve Miller (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Doris) and Kati Cook (Bill and Ruthann, Clarrington, OH). May God bless and lead both of these young couples as they plan their future together.

Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the
way;
What He says we will do,
Where He sends we will go,
Never fear, only trust and obey.

Hymns of Zion #186

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Linda Indermuhle (Elder Bro. Ken) in the passing of her father, Bro. Glenn Gasser (Sis. Liz, Rittman, OH).

Once a year we gather here in Sardis to have a pork roast dinner and enjoy God's beautiful fall season. The schedule of events has varied throughout the years, but the fellowship that we have together in Christ has stayed the same. We were treated to pancakes for breakfast. Later in the day, some of our young sisters gave of themselves in doing different crafts with the smaller children. After a good supper, Bro. Eli Manz (Junction, OH) was our guest speaker, sharing with us history of his forefathers.

Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz (Junction, OH) were also able to be with us that weekend. May God bless you, Bro. Don, for graciously ministering to us all day Sunday.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Edith Miller Ruth Gasser

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

Zion's Harp #177

How we would like to share this message with the troubled world in which we live! We were blessed with the good news of this Gospel when ministering Bros. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Brian Webb

(Fort Lauderdale, FL) visited us recently. We thank them for their labors and pray that the Word can be fruitful.

On September 29 Michael Lusk and Terry Luginbuhl (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose) became husband and wife. We wish God's rich blessings on this union.

Several in our congregation have lost loved ones in recent days. Bro. Ben Gasser (Sis. Sharon) and Sis. Jollene Hofacre (Bro. Steven) have laid to rest their father, Bro. Glenn Gasser (Sis. Elizabeth, Rittman, OH). Sis. Barb Maibach (Bro. Rudy) has also lost her earthly father. Bro. Charles Nieman (Sis. Delphine) bade farewell to a brother-in-law. We extend our sympathy and pray that the Lord will ease the pain of parting.

Sis. Gloria Hartzler (Bro. Stan) has been hospitalized, and we wish her a complete recovery.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter

Last month we neglected to mention a hospital patient. Sharlene Harmon (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna) had surgery. We are glad that she has fully recovered and is feeling well again.

We have enjoyed a number of visitors to our congregation recently. We appreciate the fellowship that we have enjoyed and welcome all who can come to be with us.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Louisa Gallup

We have finished listening to the Conference tapes and are thankful for our Elder brethren. We appreciate the wonderful mes-

sages, teachings, and admonitions we heard.

The Young Group from the Silverton congregation joined us recently in our annual clean-up of our church building and grounds. We enjoyed their company as well as their energy and enthusiasm! May the Lord bless these dear ones for their willingness to lend a helping hand.

We thank Bro. Victor and Sis. Dorothy Beer (North Fort Myers, FL) and those who traveled with them for coming to Portland. We appreciated listening to Bro. Victor share the Word with us. Special thanks to Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) for ministering unto us and for his exhortation on Holy Communion. We hope to have our Communion Service some time in November.

We have had plenty of visiting ministers this past month. We know it takes extra time and effort for them and their families to get ready earlier than usual on Sunday morning and make that hour-long drive to Portland. All the more do we appreciate and treasure the sermons, the fellowship, and the added voices to our singing. Our gratitude to Bros. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele), Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer), and Don Sinn (Sis. Linda), all from Silverton, OR. May the Lord bless them all for giving of themselves.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Rosa Lee Kuenzi

September 8 will always be a very special day for Marvin Kuenzi and Lana Grimm, as it was the day they exchanged their marriage vows before God and a goodly number of witnesses. The wedding took place in Lana's hometown of

Sabetha, KS, at the Apostolic Christian Fellowship Center. Parents are Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi and Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene Grimm (Sabetha, KS). May God bless them and the home they establish together.

Much has been written about the tragic events of September 11. As we each carry on with our various activities and responsibilities, our Faith gives us so much strength and comfort. These words in Genesis 8:22 always have a steadying effect: "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Arriving a little early for her appointment was little Lanah Ann Metz who was born on October 12. Her joyous family members are Bro. Joel and Sis. Laura Metz and brother, Josiah. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz and Bro. Gary and Sis. Beth Metzger (Lester, IA).

Deep sympathy and love to Sis. Esther Dettwyler in the loss of her sister, Helen Schmidgall, of Silverton. Helen was a beloved sister, aunt and friend to many in our congregation and will be missed by all.

We were privileged to partake of Holy Communion recently. We were well reminded of our Lord's suffering, both in the anticipation of the cross and endured on the cross. We appreciate Elder Bro. Art Metz and Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) for serving this Holy Lord's Supper.

Our thanks to Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) for ministering to us during the past month. May God bless them and their families.

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA**

**Nathan and
MaryElizabeth Gasser**

This month we rejoiced as we welcomed healthy baby Cole Kenneth Beyer to our congregation! We rejoice with his parents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Amy, and wish them God's guidance and richest blessings throughout his life. He joins big sister, Sophie Claire, and grandparents, Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen Beyer (Sabetha, KS) and Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Beverly Bahr (Detroit, MI).

We were blessed to have many visitors this month, including Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) who shared God's Word with us, and retired Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) who encouraged us in uncertain times to leave our cares with the Lord and not to worry, but rather to trust in Him and His care.

**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Mike and Monica Fritz**

We have been so richly blessed in this past month through the clear ministry of God's Word and the fellowship with His saints. We are thankful for our recent visiting ministers: Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL) and our Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN). Likewise, we are thankful to have enjoyed the fellowship of brethren and friends from Elgin and Eureka, IL; Bluffton North, IN; and Oakville, IA.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. We have a visiting minister scheduled for every Sunday, except 12/23 and 12/30. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Princeville, IL (11/25), Tre-

mont, IL (12/2), Sabetha, KS (12/9), Milford, IN (12/16). 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. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933; and Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928.

**TEXAS, SAN MARCOS
Dale and Amy Ringger**

Sequence of events great empires of the world have followed:

Bondage to Faith
Faith to Courage
Courage to Liberty
Liberty to Abundance
Abundance to Selfishness
Selfishness to Complacency
Complacency to Apathy
Apathy to Dependence
Dependence to Bondage

We are thankful for our physical liberty in our land of America and more importantly, for the spiritual liberty we have in Christ. May we be watchful that our liberty and abundance do not lead us to selfishness, complacency, apathy and all the rest.

We have appreciated the visits of these ministers: Bros. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH), Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) and Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise, Bluffton North, IN). We also had a visitor from Smithville, OH.

December's schedule of ministers for San Marcos are these: Dec. 2 - Sabetha; Dec. 9 - Fairbury; and Dec. 16 - Elgin, IL. We do not have services scheduled for December 23 and 30.

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**

Lord God, we honor Thee
And praise Thy mild compassion,
That Thou so graciously
Dost hear our supplication!
Thy love is truly great;
Thy mercies are untold;
Thou givest food and drink
for Spirit, flesh and soul.

So now again Thou hast
To us a blessing given.
Our handiwork is blest
By Thy good Word from heaven.
Thou blessest food and drink
Our needs to satisfy.
Therefore, we give Thee thanks,
Our song shall rise on high.

Thy living Word is sent
Our souls to feed and nourish.
Thou wilt that in our hearts

Thy love and praise we cherish.
Thou sheddest light and pow'r
Upon our pilgrim way,
And lead'st us by Thy hand
To heaven day by day.

As we approach this Thanksgiving season, let's remember to give God our thanks and devotion for all He has given us. He supplies our daily needs and does so abundantly. His love for His children surpasses our understanding. God wants us to be a thankful people. In I Thessalonians 5:18, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

The Zapata reunion was held on September 15-16. My husband and I were unable to attend but Sis. Melva Messner of the Winthrop, MN, congregation willingly contributed the following and I thank her for her kindness:

We wish to thank the Nashville, TN, and Athens, AL, churches for

hosting the Zapata reunion. They so graciously provided for our needs. With over 80 voices blending in praise to God we sang "God bless America" after our evening meal. In the wake of the tragedy on Tuesday it seemed very fitting to sing this song and the words seemed to have more meaning.

We enjoyed the services at the Athens, AL, church on Sunday. We thank Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Sis. Ann, Latty, OH) and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise, Bluffton North, IN) for sharing inspiring messages with us. There were 8 churches represented.

We welcome our first winter residents, Leo and Sis. Hedy Ormsher of Mansfield, OH. We are now looking forward to the fellowship the winter visitors bring as they come south to a warmer climate for the season. May God protect each one as they travel south so that they may arrive safely.

We also welcome back Bro.

John and Sis. Viola Perdelwitz. They have been visiting relatives and vacationing and it was so nice to see them arrive back safely. We miss them when they are not with us as we feel they are our "family". They were in Zapata when we first came 24 years ago. Sis. Viola taught Sunday School to our foster children and showed them the love of God that they never felt from anyone else. Because of this, our foster children were always excited about going to Zapata to church, even though it was a two hour drive. Bro. John also took special time out to visit them and made them feel special. Such love they showed to the little children; I pray God will reward them for their time, effort and love.

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

Matthew 19:14



Sermon continued from page 2

God, but it was not permitted unto him.

The children of Israel, It says here, often wondered because they had seen what God did to them and how He took them into bondage. As we read recently of the time when Nebuchadnezzar of the Babylonia Empire came and conquered the children of Judah and Benjamin, they conquered and even tore down and destroyed the city of Jerusalem. They were carried away into captivity. Yet, they were promised if they would submit and go into captivity, God would bless them and provide for them. But they did not yield to that.

God had to scatter them, It says. He scattered them upon the wide face of the earth because of their disobedience. So here It says, "I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin." Romans 11:1. God has not cast away His people. Because It says that there is going to come a time when they are going to be gathered together again.

"Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying..." Romans 11:2. Here was Elijah, the prophet. We remember this story well that Jezebel had made a decree that she was going to have Elijah's life. Just after Elijah had been strengthened by God and was up in a mountain, I believe, first came a wind storm, and then an earthquake and then it was the fire. God was not in this. God was not a part of that. Then it was a small still voice and when Elijah heard that small still voice, It says, he went forward because God spoke to him.

Yet, Elijah thought he was the only one left because It says here

that that was not so because the answer came to Elijah, "I have reserved to myself seven thousand men," besides Elijah "who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal." Romans 11:4. Here was a time when the children of Israel had gone into idolatry and they were beginning to worship Baal. The reason this came about was because of the marriage of King Ahab to Jezebel. She brought in her way of worship which was idolatry, which was worshipping idols.

"Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace." Romans 11:5. Children of Israel, whoever they may be or wherever they may be scattered, those that might be called, not just Jews, they have a chance, even though they may seem as a remnant, and may seem such as we do not know wherever they are all at. Yet, God knows, but He says according to them to the election of grace, they are going to be given another chance.

It was not during the time of grace that was permitted unto them. They lived mainly by works by the Old Testament law. We live by the New Testament. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works," as he writes here, "lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9. They could boast. They could present their works and it was acceptable unto God as long as it was an offering, an offering of the first of the flock, or an offering that was without blemish. Even the first fruits of the harvest, wherever it might be, was given to God. It had to be the best. As long as they gave this, it was acceptable unto God.

Yet, still every year, regardless if they carried this out, they were still in the flesh. The high priest had to go in once a year to make an

offering, an atonement for the people because they were still in the flesh. It was not during the time of grace, the new dispensation of grace.

"What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded" Romans 11:7. We read that when Moses came down from the mountain, he read the Ten Commandments to the children of Israel, and his face was just white, I should say. It was hard for the people to gaze upon him.

So It says that he put a veil over his head to speak to the children of Israel when he read that. I believe we read in some place where it says that instead of having that veil lifted, that veil to this day is still over their eyes. They were somewhat blinded as it is still over them. Even though they listened to what was said at that time, they did not, as we have read in the Old Testament, they would be here and they are up and down.

So it came to be that this thing had to be taken away from them. So they are blinded even to this very day. Yet, now, although there are those and there are some who may be of the seed of Israel, they can trace their lineage back. They have the opportunity just as you and I to repent and to become converted.

We read in Ezekiel and have often heard of that, even in a song many years ago of the Valley of the Dry Bones. That is what happened. Their life had been taken away from them in a sense because they were not acceptable to the Word and they did not care to hear it. It was blindness given to memories of dead men. As dead men walking and as dead men they offered their sacrifices. Finally, It says in one place, God

got to the point and said that He did not even care anymore for their sacrifices. We read in Amos that He did not even care for their viols—their songs—because there was no heart in it. They were doing it, just to do it for something they had to do.

Do we see that today? Do we see that today as nominal Christendom? Is this the same thing? Isaiah says it is going to happen. "And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name," a Christian "to take away our reproach." Isaiah 4:1. Listen to the Word of God the way we want to hear it according to the itching of our ears. Let's place those individuals who can speak the Word of God, water it down or whatever has to be done so that they can satisfy us. Bring in the events of the world and the sporting events and talk about that. Make the people laugh. Get them away from being serious about what this thing is really all about. Preaching of fire and brimstone as it used to be years ago is not anymore, hardly at all. Things are not as they should be, but this is going to go on, It says, until the fullness of the Gentiles come in. Until all this comes to pass, until the times comes as, I believe, both brothers probably read not too long ago.

We are part of the end of the Roman Empire. We are still in that period of time where John says there are so many kings and so many of them have fallen, and one is yet, and one is going to come out. It says the anti-Christ is going to come out of the Roman Empire at some point. So we are still in the fullness of the time of the Gentiles, but when that comes to an end, and the door of grace closes, then again, It says, these

individuals are going to have another chance. These dry bones are going to come to life again, and they are going to be able to listen to the Word of God. It is their own will. We know that. Some minds say this thing is forced upon us. It is not. We don't have to accept this thing.

They had a chance. They had everything and all the evidence was in front of them of how God took care of them and how He blessed them. Also how the sea was opened up and they walked through. When the enemy came behind and how they were destroyed. All through their journey through the wilderness, they were provided with manna from heaven every single day. Their shoes on their feet and the clothes on their back and everything they had was good enough. It says that they murmured and complained. Because of their murmuring and because of their complaining, It said that God concluded at that time that they were all in unbelief. That certain generation was in unbelief and they could not pass across into the Promised Land until that generation who were disobedient died off. Then the rest could pass through. Except Caleb and Joshua who were the only two of the older generation who passed through.

About the reports of the spies of the Promised Land, how would it be if we would say that heaven is not the place as we read it is? As mentioned before, if we would raise teachers to the itching of your own ears that say, "Well, heaven is not the place. This is heaven here on earth." Just like what we have been given, It says that we are stewards. We have been given all of this — our health, families, places to live, jobs, all this is given unto us. So many people and even we ourselves some-

times, we begin to think maybe we acquired all of this.

It says we are just stewards. We are not owners of this. Job realized that when all that he had was taken away from him. He said, "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh." Most of all, he said, "Blessed be the name of the Lord." Job 1:21. He could recognize that; he was not under the time of grace.

The children of Israel had all this before them. They were given all this and, yet, It says they stumbled and with their stumbling, it was for a purpose. It says here. "...but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy." But It says, "Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?" Romans 11:11-12. When they again are given this opportunity and this chance, just think what that time will be like! Then everybody is going to have the opportunity. Everybody is going to grasp at it.

It says here, "For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all." Romans 11:32. That is true. "...there is none that doeth good, no, not one." Romans 3:12. But the opportunity is given and that can be changed. Each one of us can make that change. It is the goodness of God, as we read here, which leadeth thee to repentance.

"For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief" Romans 11:29-30. But we should not boast. We have been grafted in. We are the wild branch, just as in the spring of the year when there is pruning done. We see in time the

Sermon continued on next page...

Sermon continued from page 45

results of it and of how it can make that tree and those branches that were grafted in fruitful and bear fruit.

So are we because this thing was not first given unto us. We are not the first recipients of it. So we have to be very careful that we do not boast and do not complain towards them. Let us be thankful that we have been given an opportunity that we have been able to be recipients of this thing, as we mentioned, as this word comes unto us. Let it not fall void to the ground. Let us not trample it under foot. Let us be grateful and let us make

use of it.

It says here, "For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee." Romans 11:21. Who has given this to God first? And It says, "...a recompense unto them:" Romans 11:9. "For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen." Romans 11:36. As Bro. Dewayne often mentions about this glory, this is of God. We have nothing. The glory is all from God. Even Jesus mentions that.

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his

counsellor?" Romans 11:34. We have often wondered where does he come from? Someday we are going to know if we get to heaven. But that is not the thing that should concern us. Let us be able to understand this. Let us be able to realize that their fall has made it possible.

It says here, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" Romans 11:33.



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
MEBSH	Nov. 29 - Dec. 7, '01	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	9	(*) 70%
MEBSH	Jan. 4-11, '02	Les Cayes	Craig Emch	Grade School	9	(*) 70%
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	11	60%
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	(*) 90%
CCCD	(**) Mar 8-16	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40	(*) 80%
CCCD	(**) Mar 8-16	Deaf Village	Nate Wiegand	Work Place	40	(*) 70%
CCCD	May 17-25, '02	Deaf Village	Kevin Sauder - TBA	Work Place	40	(*) 20%
CCCD	(*) Apr 1-8, '02	Kingston	(1) Roanoke Bible Class	Deaf School	50/60	(*) 95%
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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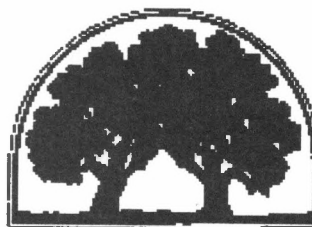
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History and Development of Apostolic Christian Counseling Services

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

The first and primary mission of the church has always been to reach the lost by preaching and teaching the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Because of the structure of our church, the elders and ministers spend a significant amount of time meeting with people for many different reasons. Often this involves converts and dealing with specific spiritual issues. At other times, however, this involves dealing with marital and family problems, adjustment issues, depressions, etc. The elders of the church have recognized their need for additional help in understanding and dealing with the mental health issues and relationship problems that people were coming to them with. They also felt that the church had a responsibility to assist in meeting these needs.

I Thess. 5:14 "Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men."

In 1988, the elder body asked a group of brothers to form the Mental Health Committee to look at ways the church could help address some of these needs. The committee was formed and was comprised of two elders and four lay brothers who had experience or interest in the area.

This committee met for many years. Their projects included a questionnaire to find out what needs existed in the

churches and what services brothers, sisters and friends were using at that time. A directory of counselors that were being used by elders and local churches was compiled to assist people trying to find services. The committee also set up a hotline for people to call and get information, referrals, and screening for services. The Mental Health Hotline has been provided by several loyal sisters (all are registered nurses) who were willing to offer assistance to those trying to deal with mental health issues.

In addition, the committee compiled tapes of presentations that had been made by brothers on topics that were related to mental health and relationships. These tapes are available through Apostolic Christian Publications in Eureka.

As a part of the original proposal to the elder body, there was a suggestion to create an actual counseling service. However, this part of the proposal was put on hold while other parts were being developed. In 1999, the committee brought the proposal back to the elder body and was directed to implement a counseling service. The committee appointed a task force to work out the details of the service. Several brothers gave many hours of their time to complete the plan. Apostolic Christian Counseling Services was opened in March of 2000. An announcement about the opening of ACCS was sent to all of the churches and placed in the Silver Lining. The ACCS office is located at 73 East Queenwood Road in Morton, IL, and can be reached by a nationwide toll free number (877) 370-9988. The services have been in place for a year and a half and are being utilized by brothers and sisters across the United States. This is the first in a series of articles describing the services, staff and funding of ACCS.

Heft Cassette Tapes

Selling these lovely tapes has proved to be such a blessing to us, and we hope to all who have purchased them as well. We enjoyed "meeting" all of you who ordered them by phone, mail, or in person.

Though we still have a nice supply on hand for sale, we will not be reordering any more tapes. These cassettes make wonderful gifts for all occasions.

The early proceeds from the sale of these tapes were donated to the Vienna church renovation project, then for relief work in our churches in Romania after "the wall" came down, and now the moneys are being used for the Hallein, Austria church addition and remodeling effort.

Through the years, \$32,000.00 from the sales of 4600 tapes has been sent to Bro. Josef Farkasch, the producer of these lovely cassettes. The 3 cassettes contain the first 48 hymns from our old "Heft Long Book", most of which are instrumental in nature. Bro. Farkasch is now the elder of the Hallein church and it appears these demands will prevent him from producing the 4th cassette. However, we will make them available should he complete this project.

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This begins a series entitled "Applying God's Word". It will describe the spiritual attitudes and fervent vision of the early days as our forefathers sought to re-establish a church based on God's Word.

Initial Attitudes

When our church was formed in the 1830's by Brother Samuel Froehlich and his co-workers, the intent was to re-establish a new church body solely on the Word of God.

The Bible became the final authority for faith and practice. Because the religious scenario around them was so clouded with interpretational falsehoods (i.e., infant baptism, the church-state concept, faith "alone", eternal security, a lack of sanctification and instant salvation, etc.), the goal was to set up a church that modeled the Bible's teachings. To fulfill the Scriptures in everyday life became a very serious matter.

By studying the Word, they grasped the concept that the Scriptures clearly give the church authority to interpret and subsequently define the Word so it can be applied consistently in the body of believers. There are many verses that give support to this concept: Philippians 3:16; I Cor. 1:10; Heb. 13:7,17; Matt. 18:17-18; Matt. 16:18-19; I Peter 5:2; I Thess. 5:12-13; Phil. 2:2.

They gave definition to the Word so it could be applied in a practical way. They felt in order to best understand and practice the Bible's concepts of holiness, separation and nonconformity (to the world), it was necessary (from a practical perspective) to define them. This was not adding to the Word, but was giving it a practical dimension. Visible, Godly patterns became noticeable as a "light" and "witness" for the world to see. Our sense of outward sanctification began, among other things, to identify us as a church body.

The church leaders, through much

prayer and acting according to the Bible's guidance, reached a consensus on what the Bible taught. This further resulted in an applicational consensus. That is, the leaders agreed how the members could best apply the Word in a specific, practical way each day.

An applicational commonness came into being. Because Christ is not divided, and the Word's messages are not diverse, a likemindedness and uniformity regarding application of the Word began to emerge.

Essentially, a united interpretation of God's Word along with its common application in everyday, practical living (among the brethren) resulted in a church body walking in a uniform way. This was enormously encouraging to the rank and file believers. The new believers felt joy because they were following the Word.

Because the Holy Spirit was at the core of such motives — and guided their efforts — an attitude of very deep appreciation for this newly-established way of interpreting and following the Word took root. An order of holiness was born. A reverential fear of God enshrouded it.

The new church was dedicated to applying God's Word in everyday living. The Word was not to be regarded as casual, neither was it to be interpreted individually. This would only cause diversity, not the unity exhorted in the Bible.

Consequently, in order to achieve both an interpretational and applicational mode that was pleasing to God, the newly-ordained leaders began to give definition to the Word so the members could follow it in a likeminded, reasonably similar way. A consistent (as opposed to a pluralistic) witness to the world was the goal.

Because of the sub-standard "Christian" environment they had come out of, early church leaders/members were insistent not only have faith in Christ, but also to follow Christ and to seriously implement His teachings (and those of the

Apostles).

The less-explicit Calvinists of their day were rooted in a faith "alone" doctrine to the exclusion of the "faith and follow" belief. This had led to worldliness and doctrinal falsehood. Bro. Froehlich and his co-laborers were insistent this would not be the case in their new church.

They comprehended that the church and the world could not co-exist as a mix. The latter was to be separated from the former. The church was to "come out" from the world. Moreover, they realized that members were not to be "conformed" to the world. Separation and nonconformity thus became important ideals for their holiness applications.

To fulfill separation and nonconformity, such precepts needed definition. Consequently, the early elders met often in council to seek God's will for the brethren — and to collectively perceive the dangers facing the church.

In this pursuit, they fully grasped that a common application of Scripture would engender a closely-knit and strong fellowship in the Lord Jesus. Coordinated perceptions and a mutual, equally-yoked outlook would form a bond of faith that linked brothers and sisters together in the true spirit of I Cor. 1:10 in which believers are exhorted to be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

It is significant to note that as our early brethren became unified in thought — and their beliefs were coordinate — a wonderful unity came into being. It was considered a precious thing. Their unity of conviction was twofold: (1) a common faith in Christ Jesus, and (2) a common application of His Word.

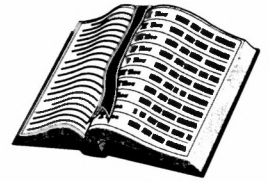
By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next issue:

"Applying God's Word" continues

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



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“What Our Church Teaches, and Why”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

The Shioda Church asked me to speak on this subject at our fellowship meeting this summer in Japan.

Our church teaches faith in Christ, repentance, confession of sin, and restitution. The reason our church teaches these things is because that's what the Bible teaches. Acts 16:31, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 3:19, "Repent and be converted." I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins." Luke 19:8, "If I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold."

Our church teaches separation from the world. The reason our church teaches this is because that's what the Bible teaches. II Corinthians 6:17, "Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate." I John 2:15, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." Our church teaches that men should have short hair and

women should have long hair. The reason our church teaches this is because that's what the Bible teaches. The church did not dream it up. I Corinthians 11:14-15, "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering." I think it has to do with femininity versus masculinity. It is not good to get the sexes confused.

Our church teaches that when praying, or prophesying (speaking of spiritual things), women should have their heads covered and men should have their heads uncovered. The reason our church teaches this is because that's what the Bible teaches. I Corinthians 11:4-5, "Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head." The church under-

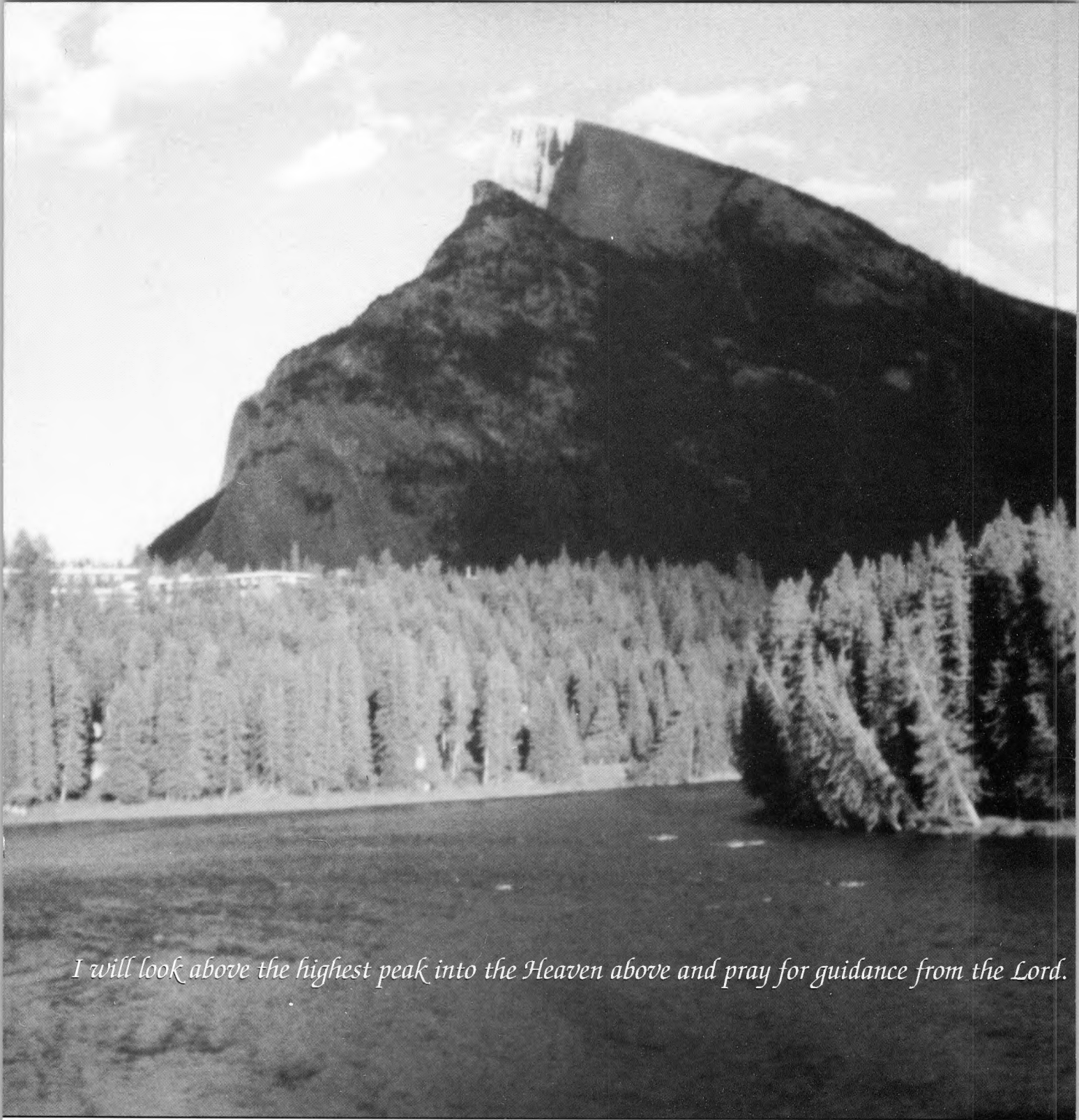
stands that this refers to another covering besides her long hair.

Our church teaches that regular and loyal attendance at all church functions is important. The reason our church teaches this is because that's what the Bible teaches. Hebrews 10:25, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together." Experience also teaches that attendance at all church functions is important for the welfare of the church, and it is to the glory of God. God is the author of the Bible. Let's work together to improve where we can and make Him glad. The more we live in accordance with the Bible, not only in conduct but also in our attitude and heart condition, the happier we are, spiritually. Let's be thankful for our church's teachings.

If anyone has a question about the Bible or about our church doctrine, please feel free to forward it to me via e-mail. My e-mail address is:

ehnle@mx.cosmo.ne.jp

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I will look above the highest peak into the Heaven above and pray for guidance from the Lord.

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