



The Silver Lining

*Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding
seed and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind.*

June 2002

Sermon by Bro. Duane Metzger, West Bend, IA

Ezekiel 34:1-24 and I Thessalonians 2

I couldn't help but think, as we read this chapter this morning, sometimes when we open the Word as brothers, we know not where God's going to part the Word of God. But in the two chapters this morning, there's almost a contrast, a stark contrast, as to the willingness of the Lord's servants to labor. In the first reading we could sense that there was a children of God that God loved. Because of a complacency amongst those that were called to be the shepherds of the flock, to be the rulers in the synagogues or wherever it might be in the Old Testament ways, we find that they became lax. And the children of God, the lambs of the fold, the sheep suffered.

It wasn't hidden from God's eyes, was it? Not hidden at all. But dear ones, we find here that the Lord God was concerned for them. He gave an allegory of the pastures that were given to the children of Israel, how some of them used it for their own tangible and material welfare with no concern to their fellow man. And even when there was plenty left over, they trod down the rest. We find also here there were the wells that they drank of and then they walked through it and polluted it. We find here, too, then that God saw these dear suffering children, His loved ones, needing help. Really, as He looked into the Old Testament way, the way of the law, He saw where the blood of goats and sheep were not going to suffice

for the sins of mankind.

He could see here the nature of man, the tendency of man to veer to taking care of self, trying to provide for oneself rather than being concerned for others. Here we find He wasn't pleased. He said "Therefore will I save my flock, and they shall no more be a prey; and I will judge between cattle and cattle." Ezekiel 34:22. And aren't we thankful? Really, there are a lot of times in life when we perhaps can think upon a situation here upon this earth. All of us are given the ability to reason and to perhaps sometimes try to make something out of what is going on, maybe in our lives or someone else's. Yet when we stop to think, how does God look at it? Why has He allowed some things in life to take place in our lives or in others' lives?

We find here that the Lord was aware of the struggles of these poor individuals. He says "Because ye have thrust with side and with shoulder, and pushed all the diseased with your horns, till ye have scattered them abroad; Therefore will I save my flock..." Ezekiel 34:21,22. We can gather together in this day with just that much confidence, that our God is going to come and He is going to sit with us this day, whoever we are. He is going to minister unto us our needs. We as your poor brothers cannot look into your hearts. We just rest on your prayers.

Here we find that there is a shepherd, our dear Lord and

Savior, who sits at the right of the Father. He has heard your prayers in this day. He knows your concerns, He knows your needs. He knows the reasons why. He hasn't promised that this earth is going to be an Eden. He hasn't promised that this earth is going to be heaven. But

Sermon continued on page 44

The Silver Lining subscriptions are due from the following churches. Please collect in:

July

1. Columbus, OH
2. Princeville, IL
3. Bern, KS
4. Belvidere, IL
5. Francesville, IN
6. Elgin, IL

Suggested Donation: \$11/subscription

Next correspondence due:

For July Issue

(16 May News - 15 June News)

Due: 20 June 2002

The Silver Lining (Vol. 57, #6)

1389 County Road 1600 N

Roanoke, IL 61561

USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America

Counselors:

Ervin Knecht, Ron Schambach

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Silver Lining

1389 County Road 1600 N

Roanoke, IL, 61561

309-923-7513 (phone) 309-923-7359 (fax)

cleman@lonewillow.com (e-mail)

Periodical Non-Profit postage paid at Roanoke, IL 61561, and additional offices. The subscription rate is a donation. Send zip number with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips). Postmaster send address changes to:

The Silver Lining

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

June 2002

Blasphemy

"But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation" (Mk. 3:29). The thought of committing a sin that hath never forgiveness strikes fear in the hearts and minds of those who love the Lord. Occasionally there are sincere souls who fear that they may have committed this unpardonable sin.

We need to understand that Jesus Christ made it very clear that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit was the worst kind of blasphemy possible. "Wherefore I say unto you, all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men" (Mt. 12:31). Jesus also made it clear that speaking against the Son of Man was serious, but forgivable. "And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him, but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come" (Mt. 12:32).

Blasphemy under any circumstances is very serious. But what is blasphemy? Can we be guilty of blasphemy and not know it? Can a sincere Child of God accidentally commit blasphemy? Many of us have pondered these questions at times.

Blasphemy is defined as contemptuous speech, railing, slandering or defaming that which is sacred. Each of these terms implies a very strong statement against the one being blasphemed. Thus, in blaspheming against the Holy Spirit, one would deliberately resist and repudiate the sacred work of the Holy Spirit unto repentance and salvation.

Jesus warned the scribes, and all who would hear or read His words, of the very serious danger of attributing the sacred work of the Holy Spirit to the devil. His condemnation of their accusation was especially strong because they said the work of Jesus, which was in perfect harmony with the Holy Spirit, was of "...Beelzebub, and by the prince of devils..." (Mk. 3:22) and that "He (Jesus) hath an unclean spirit" (Mk. 3:30), rather than the Holy Spirit.

We are also instructed of the seriousness

of the fallen state of a believer who does despite to the Holy Spirit. "Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace" (Heb. 10:29). Despite is a deliberate ongoing rejection of the Holy Spirit, which if continued to the end of one's life would have the same impact on a soul as blasphemy against the holy Spirit – putting one in danger of eternal damnation.

The Apostle Paul confessed that he "...was before a blasphemer, and persecutor, and injurious:" (I Tim. 1:13). Was Paul therefore guilty of a sin that could not be forgiven? Paul's blasphemy, which appears to have been against Jesus rather than the Holy Spirit, was very serious "...but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief" (I Tim. 1:13).

We can understand, therefore, that there is more than one way to commit blasphemy. All are serious. None of them would occur accidentally or unknowingly. One, that which is against the Holy Spirit, is unforgivable. Doing despite to the Holy Spirit and thus committing ongoing, deliberate rejection of the Holy Spirit, in effect, becomes blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. Knowingly attributing the work of the Holy Spirit to the spirit of the devil is also blasphemy. These two situations leave the guilty person in danger of eternal damnation.

Blasphemy is somewhat difficult to define precisely. However, we find comfort in the scripture that sincere souls are unlikely to be guilty of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit because those who do despite to the Holy Spirit seldom feel remorse or have any concern about this great sin.

We can also take comfort in knowing that if Satan brings doubt to our minds and causes concerns that we are guilty of sin, we are not alone in this situation. We are taught that Satan will bring accusations to the brethren about their spiritual well being. "Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which

accused them before our God day and night" (Rev. 12:10).

Paul wrote that "...if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins," (Heb. 10:26). Additionally, Paul wrote of those who have "...their conscience seared with a hot iron" (I Tim. 4:2). Both of these scriptures imply that the sin of the individual was willful and ongoing. Therefore, to choose to live in sin without repentance and recovery is to place ourselves on a path that could lead to rejection of faith and the danger of committing blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

From this, and the promise in the Holy Scripture "...though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Is. 1:18), we can understand that sincere souls who diligently seek to do God's will are not likely to be guilty of a sin that cannot be forgiven. Also, we know that God "...will have all men to be saved..." (I Tim. 2:4) and that "...As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked..." (Ez. 33:11). We must, however, recognize that individuals who continue to resist the Holy Spirit, and individuals who either deliberately or through carelessness allow themselves to be drawn back into sin and remain therein are given no hope of salvation.

We know that "...now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face..." (I Cor. 13:12). We also know that God will give sufficient understanding so that sincere souls can serve Him faithfully and need not have undue fear of committing blasphemy. God will make the final judgement on who will be forgiven and who will not be forgiven. However, He has made it clear that "...to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word" (Is. 66:2). In James 4:6 we read that God "...gives grace to the humble". Christ promised us that "My grace is sufficient for thee:..." (II Cor. 12:9) and John writes, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7).



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

Support for Small USA Churches

A significant part of the work of the Mission Committee is to help establish and provide ongoing support for small groups of brethren throughout the nation. Over the years there have been numerous situations in which congregations have been established in remote locations with no existing church. The Mission Committee will report on a number of these new churches throughout the land.

Prescott, Arizona

At an elevation of 5354 feet, this city of about 27,000 lies in an area designated as the Prescott National Forest. The winters are mild with very little snow. This temperate climate provides an excellent situation for visitors and residents alike in all seasons of the year. The area is full of natural features including the Grand Canyon National Park. Most of these vacation spots can be visited using Prescott as a base from which to make one-day trips.

Although there is not a large industrial base, there are employment opportunities in the region. The business climate is also favorable for someone with an entrepreneurial spirit. Brethren have already been successful in establishing small companies in this area. Property values are such that it is possible for families to locate here.

A church begins

Some years ago Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ethel Smith moved into the Prescott area and established their home. The first church services were held on May 4, 1986 in the office of Ray Massner, a chiropractor who is a

brother to Ethel. In the beginning, services were held once a month by ministers from the Phoenix church, about 95 miles away.

From June 1987 until sometime in 1995 services were held in the original location on the first and third Sundays of each month, served by ministers from Phoenix and Tucson.

Services every Sunday

In 1995 they began to have church services each Sunday. The assembly was held in a building owned by the Odd Fellows Lodge which provided an adequate place for this. Ministers continued to come from Phoenix or Tucson, and sometimes the little group listened to telephone services coming from Phoenix.

Mission Committee supports the work

In 1996 the Mission Committee initiated an active involvement in this work. They added a schedule in which ministers would come four times a year, and in 1997 this was stepped up to two Sundays a month, with brothers coming from the western areas of the USA. In the next few years several families or individuals moved into the area to form the nucleus of a congregation. About eleven families or households make up the core group.

A new building

In 1998 the congregation was able to purchase land on which to build a church of their own. Several years ago our brethren on a national basis established a committee known as the Building Advisory Committee. It is the function and purpose of this group of brothers to work with small congregations and help build churches that meet their needs and further the work of the kingdom.

Ground is broken

By the grace and help of God, and the support of our brotherhood, on April 18, 1999, a ground-breaking ceremony was held at the site of the proposed building. Brethren came from a wide area to help build this structure, and on February 13, 2000 the first services were held in the new church.



On March 11 there was an open house for anyone wishing to attend, and on Sunday, March 12, 2000, the dedication service established the new facility of the Prescott congregation as a part of our national brotherhood.

A glance backward

As the little group in Prescott looks backward over the years, they stand somewhat in awe of the grace and mercies of God in providing for their needs. Step by step a dream and vision became a reality, and a new congregation of the Apostolic Christian Church was born. With gratitude in their hearts, they wish to express their thanks to everyone who helped in bringing this about. It is their sincere hope that this effort can be a blessing to those who live in this area and to each and every person who visits the church.

A sincere welcome to all

The Prescott congregation welcomes everyone who comes to visit. If guests can stay a few days, the local brethren and friends would like to make arrangements for fellowship activities with them.



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

The Granjas Community Center in Juarez, Mexico

World Relief involvement in Mexico began in the 1980's after the massive Mexico City earthquake. Several brothers met Chito Aguilar in Juarez, an impoverished city of about two million just across the border from El Paso, Texas. The brothers were impressed with Chito's work of feeding children and trying to reach the poor with the gospel message. Many from the interior of Mexico come to Juarez with hopes and dreams of a better life. But better jobs often aren't found and they settle into utter poverty just miles from the US. World Relief investigated and proposed that a community center be built to assist Chito's work. The Granjas Community Center became a reality in 1987. Over the years, a school was added and the building enlarged.

On June 20, 2001, a raging fire destroyed the entire center at Granjas. Chito called his grieving people together and urged them to praise God for a new opportunity to reach the community. As the cleanup progressed, neighbors and friends of the ministry joined in the work. Many souls were touched by the joy and love expressed to them in the process.

Last August the National World Relief Committee gave permission and funding to rebuild the Granjas center. Extensive plans were made and in late January 2002 construction began in earnest. After nine continuous weeks of work teams, the project is nearly complete. Groups are scheduled to finish the remaining details this summer.

The new facility is concrete, cement block and steel. It is an attractive structure consisting of a large meeting room, eight classrooms, a nice kitchen, dining area, and a small office for administration. The building will be used for the feeding program, which has been very instrumental in providing for the children and the school. The school children are sponsored by our Apostolic Christian Child Sponsorship Program.



The Granjas Community

The neighborhood of Granjas is a quiet, restful suburb despite its sprawling, wall-to-wall housing and arid, desert terrain. An old lady walks the few blocks from her home to the corner store to buy fresh fruit and tortillas. Nearby in a rocky courtyard, energetic boys kick a soccer ball at a makeshift goal. The construction site is wedged tightly between the neighboring houses like a cereal box on a store shelf.

Many of the people of the Granjas church have seen terrible hardship in their life – physical, financial, emotional, and spiritual. One man left his job as a tattoo artist to follow the Lord and has been unable to find other work. A fifteen-year-old watched his parents separate and leave him. He now stays with his grandmother. Another man who struggled with alcoholism had been given six months to live but was rescued from his addiction by the miraculous grace of God.

Work Team Experiences

Work teams painted, installed suspended ceilings, windows, toilets, and sinks, set and welded steel rafters, coordinating jobs, bought supplies, and waited for building materials to cross the border. Stateside concrete crews worked side-by-side with Mexican workers, despite knowing only a few crucial Spanish words such as mucho (a lot), poquito (a little), and ¡no más! (no more!). Both humor and affection know no language boundaries, and laughs and smiles were many and frequent.

Not only was it a privilege to work on the building itself, it also was a tremendous blessing interacting with the school children attending the temporary school. Although starving for love, attention, and the simple things that we Americans daily take for granted, these children gladly gave us coins, candy, and drawings. They reminded us of the woman and her two mites and the fact that God wants us to have child-like hearts in serving Him. Their true spirit of sacrifice was humbling to witness.

“Gracias a Dios”

The poor that have come to Juarez may not have found the economic gain they desired, but they are finding something far more valuable in the Good News of Jesus Christ. The people of the Granjas area wish to convey their heartfelt thanks to the brethren of the Apostolic Christian Church not only for the building, but also for the assurance that we love them and pray for them. Chito, Lydia and their family, the schoolteachers, the students, and the families of the students ultimately thank the graciousness of our Heavenly Father. May His name continue to be praised!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN COUNSELING SERVICES

*Part VIII -
Summary of Past
Year's Services*

Romans 15:1-3 "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me."

The Lord has clearly called us to bear each other's infirmities. It is often difficult to know how to help but we know the Lord will bless us for obedience to His Word. Because of this, we should each seek our neighbor's good even as Christ did not seek His own good but ours.

The past seven articles have been about the development and services of ACCS. In this article, we would like to summarize the services delivered in the past year (1-1-01 to 12-31-01). A full report has been sent to the Elder or lead minister of each Apostolic Christian Church.

Professional counseling is offered in the offices at 73 East Queenwood, Morton, IL. There are three counselors who provide these services. In the past year, there were a total of 42 clients (68 previous year) and a total of 531 (431 previous year) actual visits or sessions. The issues that were most commonly addressed in counseling were marital and family discord, depressions, obsessive-compulsive disorder and adjustment disorders.

The Mental Health Hotline is staffed by five sisters who are registered nurses. They take calls from people who would like a referral to a professional counselor or who would like information on mental health issues and relationship problems. The hotline received 69 calls (64 previous year) in the past year.

People can call ACCS to speak to a

counselor about mental health issues or relationship problems. They can call for themselves or concerns regarding another person. These calls come from individuals, family members, Elders and ministers and from friends of people needing help. These consultations may be a one time call or ongoing assistance for difficult situations. In the past year there were 406 calls (174 previous year) made for assistance. These covered a wide variety of situations and needs.

From the time services began, ACCS has provided services to 56 different Apostolic Christian churches.

In the past year, the ACCS staff made a variety of presentations to Apostolic Church groups. Topics included such things as dealing with depression and issues specific to adolescents and young adults.

We surely depend on God's grace as we continue to serve and covet your prayers for God's direction and blessings.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard."

Psalm 19:1-3

As we look outside, the sights and sounds of spring can be seen everywhere. As spring starts to blossom here at the Home, we are so thankful for the new season of life. The trees with all their green leaves and the colorful flowers in all their beauty excite us all, as we look to each new day "planting" and "growing" seeds for the Lord. We are so blessed by many caring staff and look forward to the springtime activities of going for walks, sitting in the sun, and

watching as God's beauty explodes around us.

We are thankful we can trust God to answer our prayers to comfort where there is sorrow. Gary Feller, a longtime resident of Timber Ridge, passed away on April 19. He had lived at the Home for almost 29 years. Many remember the times he would bring smiles to our faces with his funny phrases and singing.

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

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Clint Plattner

As we are witnessing the change of another season, I am again impressed by God's creation. Everything happens on time. There is new life. It is unfortunate how we become conditioned to not stop and think what a miracle it is to see everything transformed. The trees put on new leaves, and the grass demands to be cut. The Bible says that, "the heavens declare the glory of God." In other words, His own creation tells of God's glory.

A few weeks ago, one of the boys asked me at bedtime, "How do you know that the Bible is true, anyway?" I replied to his challenge by telling him that the twinkling beauty of a star filled sky demands an answer. There has to be an explanation to all that surrounds us. The Bible is the only thing that not only describes the creation, but answers

life's questions, such as why we are here, and how we should live. I hope we can all let God's creation minister to us and that we can continue to go to His Word to find answers to the questions of life.

Along with the sound of lawn mowers on campus, one can also hear the sounds of construction. Our new school building is going up quickly between rain delays. Most of the walls are framed, and it is taking shape. You can watch our school building's progress on our website at . Your local Gateway Woods Representative has information about how to get involved. There will also be a chance to see the school building at this year's Auction. Come and see what the Lord is doing at Gateway Woods!

Bro. Andy and Sis. Jill Lehman have announced that they will be leaving Gateway Woods. We are thankful for their service and sacrifice as Houseparents while at Gateway Woods, and we wish them and their children, Tavor and Haley, God's richest blessings.

We would like to welcome Theresa O. to our campus in Leo and Timothy K. to Foster Care. We pray that God will bring salvation to their hearts. Please continue to pray for all of our residents and foster children.

We would also like to welcome Sis. Julie Zimmerman (Congerville, IL) to our staff as an Assistant Houseparent. She will be taking Sis. Becky Stoller's (Roanoke, IL) position in a few months. We wish her God's grace and strength.

During the summer, volunteers are needed both in Leo and central IL. If you are interested in volunteering in Leo, please contact Bro. Brian Knudstrup at 1- 888-443-4283. If you are interested in volunteering in central IL as a part of the Gateway Woods Workteams project, please call Bro. Todd Stoller or Bro. Kevin Hodel at 309-264-8077. Volunteers bless Gateway Woods in many ways. Your time is our treasure!

Please continue to pray for this

Apostolic Christian outreach to troubled children and their families. It is our desire to honor and obey God by providing help and healing to troubled children and their families who then may bless others. Whether it is in our group homes in Leo, our foster homes in northeast Indiana, Gateway Woods School, Home-Based Services, or Family Services in Illinois, we are committed to the presenting and living the Gospel and love of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world. We continue to covet the prayers and support of our Apostolic Christian brotherhood as we labor to plant the seeds of God's love.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Melinda Matuch**

Jesus loves me and He loves you too;

Come and see how much He cares for you.

You will never find a friend so true;

Jesus loves me and He loves you.

Jesus loves me. It doesn't get any simpler than that. If our preschoolers take only one thing with them from preschool, we hope that this is it. This is one of the songs that we sang at our graduation on May 17. We celebrated with twelve big kids who are now ready to move up to regular school. There was lots of singing and a few laughs. We will miss each and every one of them.

Summer has arrived at the preschool, and that means that there will be some changes. With the preschool graduates moving up to kindergarten, the four-year-olds are now the big kids on the playground. Also during the summer some of our children go home and stay with big brothers and sisters, so we have a few less attending each week.

The slower pace of summer preschool and the more relaxed schedule gives us more time to play every day and gives us an opportunity to do

some special fix-up projects as well. This is a terrific time for volunteers to visit and help us out. Please call the preschool at (256) 233-0591.

Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go;

Anywhere He leads me in this world below.

Please prayerfully consider supporting the Athens church by moving here to work. There are many blessings to be realized from being an active member in a smaller church. Let your light shine in northern Alabama for a while. The position of Director/Teacher is still open for the coming year. This position requires a degree in education. Please contact the preschool administrator, Bro. Tom Schrenk, at (256) 232-0037.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Joan Reinhard
Louise Hall**

April was our month to take care of some church business. We elected two new trustees. Bro. J.R. Hall will start a three year term taking Bro. Don Ross's place and Bro. Andy Witzig will start a two year term which is taking Bro. Daron Price's place. Sis. Pam Moore was appointed Secretary and Bro. Mike Moore is the Treasurer. We also held a Sunday School meeting and appointed some new teachers. Sis. Beci Fischer will take Sis. Barbara Coulter's place with helping Sis. Louise Hall with the Preschool - Kindergarten class. Sis. Pam Moore and Sis. Louise Haggemaker will continue teaching the 1-3 grades. Sis. Joan Reinhard will be teaching the 4-6 grades, and Sis. Melinda Matuch will begin teaching the 7-10 grades. Sis. Doris Moore is the substitute and Bro. Joel Schrenk will continue teaching the adult class. We are thankful to have Sunday School and we realize that our children are the future church.

We appreciated the message that Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy,

Morton, IL) shared with us on a Wednesday night in April. Also, we had Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH), Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL) and Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH) the weekend of the Preschool Board meeting. We are thankful for the willingness of Bro. Bill to have the adult Sunday School and Bro. Bob to have our regular service. Bro. Ken then gave us a Communion exhortation so that we might know what the Word says and prepare to take Communion. We did have our Communion Service on April 28 and we are always glad to have our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) here to serve Communion to us.

It was good to have Sis. Dessie Siniard back in church with us after a brief stay at a nursing home. We also offer prayers for Mrs. Lewis, who had her appendix burst. Bro. J.R. fell, but thankfully he did not break anything and he is doing fine now. We also have been and will continue to pray for Sis. Rhoda Meister (Bro. Paul, Peoria, IL), mother of Sis. Joan Reinhard, as she had an aneurysm and had to have surgery. We are thankful that the frailty of this earthly body will be replaced some day with a new body – a glorious body!

On Mother's Day we honored our mothers in church by presenting them with flowers. How thankful we are for the Godly influence of our mothers and pray that we could continue to carry on that influence to the next generation.

May 12 was also the last Sunday for our Bro. Daron and Sis. Monica Price to assemble with us here in Athens. They are moving back to Milford, IN, and even though we will miss them here, we pray the Lord will bless them as they begin a new home in Milford.

We have appreciated visitors from Sarasota, FL; Belvidere, Chicago, Cissna Park and Peoria, IL;

Francesville, and Milford, IN; Mansfield, OH; and Nashville, TN.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”

James 4:8

On April 24, Bro. Marshall Heinold opened our evening with a prayer before the Memorandum was read by Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich, Tom Hoffman and Chuck Hemmer. We are encouraged to walk in faith, act responsible with a close relationship with God, and put on the whole armor of God.

Our Phoenix Silver Lining news had been sent when we got word that Bro. Bob Hill died April 17 in Ohio. He and Sis. Eleanor went to Mansfield to attend a grandson's wedding, when health problems put him in the hospital. He died April 17. The funeral service was on April 20, burial was in Mansfield. Sis. Eleanor has returned to her home in Phoenix.

Our April Fellowship Dinner and Singing was on the 21st. 'Tis quite a joy to see our youngsters enjoy this time of fellowship.

A reception for our school graduates was held on May 5, in the congregational room. Graduating from college: Bro. Justin Gramm. From High School: Adam Ebert, Olivia Gramm, Amber Greenbank, Andy Knochel, Bro. Morgan Langhofer, Jayme Richardson, B.J. Roth, Rachal Woodruff. From 8th Grade: Alyse Freed, Franz Hoerr, Kaitlyn Meiss, and Luke Lindenbaum. Our hope and prayers are you will walk and talk with God as you are blessed with each new day.

Our annual business meeting was May 8. Praying for God's guidance to lead are: Secretary Trustee: Bro. Jerry Tooley; Exterior Maint. Trustee: Bro. Brian Katcuh; Sunday

School Asst. Supt.: Bro. Sam Hohulin; Song Leaders: Bro. Erik Langhofer and Bro. Randy Wuethrich; Ushers: Bro. Joe Greenbank and Bro. Mike Ringger; Lunch Fund Treasure: Bro. Jim Beres; Congregation Room Coordinators: Bro. Scott Klopfenstein and Bro. Jeremy Ebert. We thank those who filled these positions this past year. May the Lord keep on blessing you for your job well done.

Our visiting ministers were: Bro. Steve Ringger, Elder Bro. Mark Bahr, and Elder Bro. Marvin Leman.

Several of our church family had medical procedures: Richard Kraft, Bob Rebbec, Bro. Ron Hoerr, Sis. Nancy Baumgartner had foot surgery and is doing nicely, Sis. Lucille Richardson had toe surgery, Bro. Dick Beery had shoulder surgery.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Les and Sis. Wilma Pulfer on the death of his brother-in-law, Bro. Lynn Rinkenberger, of Gridley, IL. They went to Gridley for the funeral.

Mother's Day lunch was planned, prepared, and served by our Singles Group. Our thanks for lunch and a job well done. Your help is appreciated every week. We can serve Him in so many ways.

The lack of rain in Arizona is a great concern; however, floods and tornadoes and snow elsewhere doesn't sound comforting.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

On the evening of April 27, our congregation assembled to hear the Memorandum presented to us by Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ). Then, on Sunday afternoon, we shared in Holy Communion. We were all truly blest and refreshed in spirit.

Doug Hodges (Sis. Jane) graduated from high school on May 24. He plans to attend Arizona State University in Phoenix in the fall and work towards a degree in business

administration.

The Prescott forest fire that many of you heard about was not in the area of our church. It was one or two miles south of Prescott, and the church is north of town and outside of the pine tree area. The Lord answered many prayers, and for three days the winds died down so that the fire could be contained. All of the southwest is so dry that many of the national forests are being closed. Another fire is now burning just south of Flagstaff. So far the fires have been caused by humans.

The other ministering brothers last month included Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), and Bro. James Emch (Phoenix, AZ).

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Our friend, Dale Knapp, was hospitalized recently. We are thankful he is able to be home again, getting back to work, and was at church this past Sunday. We will continue to pray for God's healing mercies.

We were reminded this past Sunday of the importance of mothers in our lives. We're certainly thankful for a Christian mother if we were blessed enough to have one. The Mother's Day message also served as reminder of how seriously we mothers need to take our job.

We officially hit the century mark, marking the beginning of summer in Tucson! The evenings and mornings are still cool, so there's always something to be thankful for.

Bro. Norm and Sis. Jan Rechkemmer (Roanoke, IL) have gone back to Roanoke to their family and church after spending the winter and early spring with us. We were sad to see them go, but hope to see them again soon, Lord willing.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Jim Klotzle

"But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee. For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield."

Psalm 5:11 - 6:1

Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter, John Lehman and Ben Wiegand visited us this month to help in seeking out future leadership for our congregation. We thank them for their labors of love. Our Elder Bro. John Klotzle has indicated his desire to seek retirement. We prayerfully move forward at the Lord's direction, trusting He will guide each step.

Bro. Lance Pfeifer, completing his years of study here in California, will be moving to Indianapolis to continue research in chemistry. We will miss his presence here in our congregation and young group, and pray that the Lord will bless him in his pursuits.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Peggy Jevremov

Greetings of Christian love. As always, we have enjoyed each of our visitors that fellowshiped with us this past month. Time is passing so quickly and soon summer vacations will begin. We look forward to visiting with those who will include San Diego in their plans.

With Mother's Day over and Father's Day approaching, our thoughts turn to the blessed heritage that is ours, passed down to us by faithful mothers and fathers of old. Many people on this earth have parents who have taken care of their children's earthly needs, but we have had parents and forefathers who have endured many things that we may still have the precious faith that is ours today. Are we truly thankful for such? And are we doing

our part for those that are coming after us, as our parents have done for us?

Faith of Our Fathers

Faith of our fathers! Living still
In spite of dungeon, fire and
sword,
O how our hearts beat high with
joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious
word!

Our fathers, chained in prisons
dark,
Were still in heart and conscience
free;
How sweet would be their children's
fate,
If they, like them, could die for
Thee!

Faith of our fathers! Holy faith!
We will be true to thee 'til death!

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

Nathan Reutter

Dear brethren, this has been a pretty typical month. We had visiting ministers. We have had church singings. We also visited a retirement home on a Sunday afternoon to sing hymns to the residents there.

We had four visiting ministers this month. They were Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI), Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT), Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) and Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH). Bro. Art brought up a large group from Rittman. We were thankful to have so many visitors and a full church. "We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company." (Psalm 55:14) We trust and pray that these occasions of walking and communing together are written in God's book of remembrance mentioned in Malachi 3:16.

This sweet fellowship was also felt when we participated in church singings this month. It is always nice

to have a singing when visiting ministers come. It is also nice to have us locals sing together as a group. The former provides an opportunity to meet and greet those from far away who we would not often get to see. The latter provides an opportunity to encourage, edify and exhort those we love and cherish. We try to fulfill the words in Luke saying, "When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." (Luke 22:32)

We also tried to comfort and strengthen the feeble minded as we sang to residents of a local nursing home this month. We enjoyed having the opportunity to share hymns and a chapter of God's Word to them. They stated that they enjoyed hearing the singing. We tried to encourage these people to praise the Lord for His merciful kindness towards mankind. (Psalm 117:1-2)

We pray that the Lord also has been with you this past month and will continue to bless your ways. We ask God's blessing on you, both now and forevermore. Amen.

COLORADO, DENVER

Ann Gonglach

On the weekend of April 26-28 our Junior High Sunday School class, along with Bro. George Gal and Bro. Tom Katanic, went to Bern, KS, for a Sunday School gathering. The theme was "The Armor of God". They had a blessed time together learning more about God's Word, as well as getting to know one another. Thanks to the Bern church for their efforts in planning the weekend and hosting the children, and also to Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) for delivering the Word.

In days of youth seek ye the Lord,
His love and truth with one accord,

Go offer Him thy youthful days
And walk within the Saviour's ways.

Hymns of Zion #135

Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Beth,

Wolcott, IN) visited and shared God's Word with us on May 12, for which we were thankful.

Our prayers are with Tara Huber (Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcel) as she has turned to the Lord in repentance. We wish for her to feel the Lord's presence as she seeks Him in her life.

On May 18, we shared a blessed time in Holy Communion together. We were thankful to our Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) as well as Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandra, Eureka, IL) for their labors on our behalf in serving the Lord's Supper and ministering to us.

We would like to thank Bro. Mike and Sis. Heather Katanic for their past service as Silver Lining reporters.

As Father's Day approaches, let us take the time to thank the Lord for men of integrity who have been Christ-like examples, passed on a godly heritage, and trained their children in the way they should go. May the men in our fellowship continue to strive toward these goals.

CONNECTICUT

ROCKVILLE

Cherie Galat

"...This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

I Corinthians 11:25, 26

We shared together the loaf and cup, representing our Lord's body and blood, in Holy Communion. Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), and Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) were here for the weekend, and we appreciate the kind exhortation given. Assisting our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan to serve us in Holy Communion was Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI). May God bless these dear brothers for their service in this work.

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

Psalm 127:3

Precious Wade Christian was born on April 25 to Bro. Andrew and Sis. Colleen Luginbuhl. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Kay Luginbuhl and Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Ryan. May God give them guidance to bring up a child in the ways of the Lord.

Hark to the voice that is calling in kind invitation!

That hand obey Which oft has pointed the way

To the dear Saviour's salvation!

Zion's Harp # 168

Our hearts are always refreshed when we hear of another soul coming to the Lord in repentance. May God give direction and grace to Eric Virkler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy) as he begins a new walk with Him.

What a blessing it is to see brethren and loved ones come together for a common purpose to help landscape our church property and clean the Longview Village. Not only do we need to keep our spiritual house in order, but even to tend to the earthly structures that serve to help keep the brotherhood together. We are thankful for the effort that each one gave as a labor of love.

As Father's Day approaches, many memories are stirred within us. Our Heavenly Father loved us so much that He gave His beloved Son, Jesus. Our prayer is that each one can submit their lives unto Him. Many will think of their own fathers who have passed on who have given wise counsel. We are blessed with fathers of faith all around us. May each one be comforted to know that we can call upon our Father and seek the counsel of our dear brothers in a midst of a multitude of counselors.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

Our country will soon be celebrating another birthday. How blessed we are to live in a country that allows us the freedom to worship as we choose. We encourage you to come visit the nation's capital. Some streets may still be blocked, but using Metro, the Tour Mobile and/or good walking shoes, you can still get where you want to go.

Our ministers the past month were Bros. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL), Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH). What a blessing the Sunday we had three ministers. Other visitors this month were from Lester, IA; Bluffton and Bluffton North, IN; Rittman and Smithville, OH; and Rockville, CT. We are always glad to have visitors whether they are here visiting family, on vacation or for business.

Services are usually held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at the Tysons Corner Westpark (Best Western) Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. Song service begins at 10:15, worship service at 10:30; afternoon service begins at 12:15.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. for vacation or business, please call Bro. Barry and Sis. Doreen 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

We welcome Bro. Ryan Harris from Belvidere, IL, to our congrega-

tion. As we welcome Bro. Ryan, we bid Sis. Orsi Trohaska farewell as she returns back to Hungary. We will miss her smiling face. We wish them God's blessings as they are going through changes in their lives.

Sis. Ethel Rambau had surgery, and Sis. Katherine Fulop had cataract surgery. Also, Sisters Josephine Martin and Elena Zurz spent some time in the hospital but are both home now. We wish them God's healing hand and nearness.

FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS Leslie Masters Mary Masters

At the end of May, we will be bidding farewell to one of our longest standing Ft. Myers regulars. It is with mixed feelings that we send our Bro. Les Meister off to live with his son and daughter-in-law, Dick and Sharon Meister, in West Lafayette, IN. Bro. Les will be sorely missed at our little assembly, but we are happy for him to be able to be near his family. His dear wife, Sis. Edna, has been gone for about five years. Bro. Les has been a valuable asset in our church and moved to the area in 1984. Les and Edna first lived on Pine Island and were here when the church gathered at Punta Gorda, then moved to Fort Myers in 1988. We are thankful that Bro. Les has been so faithful in attendance and service to our church. He has served as usher, trustee, and every other area imaginable where he saw a need. Les has led quite an interesting life, retiring from working for the Ft. Wayne Pump Co., and then becoming involved with Phil Klaus in the operation of a Kentucky Fried Chicken. Les told us about frying over 1,500 chickens in one day, and was acquainted with Dave Thomas of Wendy's restaurant chains and Colonel Sanders of Kentucky Fried Chicken. After church on May 19, we bid Bro. Les farewell as we gather together to eat out. We wish him the very best at his new home and hope

that he will come to visit us often.

Our Wednesday night church services have been discontinued for the summer and will resume when our attendance increases again in the fall.

We were very thankful to have Bro. Ron Koehl and his wife, Sis. Carol, from the Sarasota congregation come and minister to us. They brought some of their Sarasota young group with them, which we enjoyed immensely. It was very nice to have some young people with us for the day and we thank Bro. Ron for helping out when our dear Bro. Vic and Sis. Dottie were out of town to see their granddaughter graduate.

Once again, a reminder for anyone in the Fort Myers area, please come and worship with us on Sundays. Our church is located at 2801 Rustic Lane, Trail Dairy Circle, less than ½ mile from US Route 41. Pulpit services begin at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Carol Koehl

We want to sincerely welcome newcomers, Bro. Miklos and Sis. Aranka Bozzay, who have moved here from Chicago.

Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) so willingly shared the Word with us this past month, and we wish to thank him for his labors.

Our retired Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) recently had knee surgery, and we continue to pray for his complete recovery.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA John Brewer

It seems like an eternity when attending school that one day you would be finally finished, especially those who continue their education into the college years. But when you have completed the education, you not only have closed one door in your life but have opened a whole series of

new doors that God has waiting for you to open. The funny thing is that your education never stops but with the guiding of the Lord, the experience and blessings of life will give you wisdom that schools can never teach. Our congratulations and prayers go to Sis. Erica Stoller (Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda) for completing her schooling at Berry College and wish that God will order her steps as she goes on.

We were blessed for those who have visited the past month. Visiting ministers for May include Bro. Vic Beer (Sis. Dorothy, North Fort Myers, FL) and Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH).

With summer upon us, if you are vacationing or plan to be in the Atlanta area, we would invite you to worship and fellowship with us.

We start song service at 10:15. We also gather on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Our church is in Fairburn, Georgia off I-85 southwest of Atlanta. We are 15 miles south of the airport on exit 64 (Jonesboro Rd.) 4 miles due west after you get off the exit. Please contact Bro. Tom Waldbeser 770-463-4788, Bro. Keith Kaufman 770-304-8335, Bro. Linn Stoller 770-631-4554 or Bro. John Brewer 770-304-8706 if you need further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Doreen Moser
Shelia McCoy**

Count your many blessings, Name them one by one ... Our Country.

My country 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty
Of Thee I sing:
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrim's pride,
From every mountain side,
Let freedom ring.

Our fathers' God, to Thee,

Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing,
Long may our land be bright,
With freedom's holy light
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King.

Gospel Hymns #738

Memorial Day was declared a national holiday in 1971 to pay tribute to those who gave their lives for our country. As we take time to honor those who died for our country and visit the graves of loved ones we have lost, may we remember Who died for us all. He shed His precious blood to save all of us from our sins and waits for us on high.

Count your many blessings,
Name them one by one ... Our earthly mothers and fathers.

"Honour thy father and mother:
(which is the first commandment with promise;)"

Ephesians 6:2

As we celebrate Father's Day and Mother's Day, may we be obedient to our earthly fathers and mothers and honour them every day as they have our best interest at heart.

"My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord, neither be weary of his correction: For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth."

Proverbs 3:11-12

Count your many blessings,
Name them one by one ... Addition to the fold.

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;
Lord, I will forever and always be Thine,
For Thou has created and purchased me, too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou make me new.

Zion's Harp #209

With many joyous voices and hearts full of praise, we lifted our voices to the Lord on high as Sadie Nazareuk (Michael and Kay) was baptized and became a sister in the Lord. As Sis. Sadie is a babe in Christ, may we as a church gather around and help her through the struggles ahead so that we all may one day meet on yonder shore.

Count your many blessings,
Name them one by one ... Our ministers.

We have been blessed this month with visiting ministers and their families. Bros. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) and Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and our Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) have taken time to share the Gospel with us.

Count your many blessings,
Name them one by one ... Willing servants.

Our annual election of Sunday School teachers was held recently. Sis. Karen Wettstein was reelected to teach the 3 and 4 year olds and Bro. Jim Jepson will be teaching the high school Bible class. Being a Sunday School teacher is filled with many blessings. The Lord is always there in the classroom even when we forget to ask for His help. Bro. Mark Wettstein was elected as trustee.

Count your many blessings,
Name them one by one ... The joy of spring.

This is my Father's world,
And to my list'ning ears
All nature sings, and round me
rings
The music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world!
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him
pass,

He speaks to me ev'rywhere!

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**

**Rebekah Kaufmann
Ann Kellenberger**

This past month, we were blessed by the following visiting ministers: Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Bros. Jeff Neihouser (Francesville, IN), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Nate Lehman (Denver, CO), and Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN).

April 20-21 was a special weekend for our congregation as we rejoiced with Delayne and Lori Stickling and Lindsay Gramm, daughter of Bro. Ted and Sis. Wanda Gramm (Morris, MN) as they shared their testimonies and were baptized. May God continue to guide and keep them in His care.

On April 24, our church family was blessed with the opportunity to take communion. Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) assisted in the service. It was humbling to partake of the sacrament that Christ established. We were reminded once again of the great love of our Heavenly Father and the redemption that we have through Jesus Christ.

This past month our church family was blessed to share in the joy of three engagement announcements! On April 28, Bro. Darren Freidinger (Goodfield, IL) and Sis. Jane Knobloch announced their engagement. Bro. Darren is the son of Bro. Duane and Sis. Vermeda Freidinger (Goodfield, IL) and Sis. Jane is the daughter of Bro. William and Sis. Elenor Knobloch (Lester, IA). Also, announced to be married on that day were Bro. Brett Heiniger to Sis. Jen Hohulin (Roanoke, IL). Bro. Brett is the son of Bro. Ron and Sis. Kayleen Heiniger and Sis. Jen is the daughter of Bro. Tim and Sis. Cathy Hohulin

(Roanoke, IL). Then again on May 12, Bro. David Kieser and Sis. Alesa Knapp announced their engagement. Bro. David is the son of Bro. David and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Sis. Alesa is the daughter of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dixie Knapp. We rejoice with all three couples and their families and pray for God's continued care as they plan their futures together.

Many families in our congregation are celebrating the graduation of their children from High School and College. The juniors and Bible Class teachers held a senior breakfast to honor the following High School graduates and their families: Sara Cook, Evan Fleming, Anna Keeley, Sis. Karen Kieser, Whitney Koehl, Sis. Marla Schieler, and Marissa Stock. College graduates are Amber Albritton, Todd Heiniger, Becky Ifft, Ashley Endress, Suzanne Kieser, Sis. Alesa Knapp, Jennifer Knapp, Sis. Kendra Knapp, Sis. Jolynn Schmidgall and Bro. John Steffen. We pray that they will seek God's direction and protection throughout the coming years.

May 1 was our Family Night and we were thankful to have Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) come and give an insightful message from Psalm 1. He discussed how this Psalm clearly shows the difference between a righteous and an ungodly man. We were challenged to delight in the law of the Lord, to meditate on it day and night, and then to go forth and live it in our lives.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Chad and LauraLee Plattner

Bro. Fred and Sis. Sue Hausmann have been blessed with their fourth child. Rachel Lynn was born on April 24. Her older sister and brothers are Amy, Steve, and Jacob. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Noah and Sis. Evalyn Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Alfred and Sis. Verla Hausmann.

May God bless Bros. John Rowell (Burlington, IA) and Walter

Herrmann (Princeville, IL) for ministering the Word to us recently.

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

"For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy:..."

Ecclesiastes 2:26

May brings with it the annual graduation of some of our students. This year, I am aware of ten of these fine young people who have completed their education in Champaign-Urbana and are now ready to move on to other places for employment or continued schooling. Sis. Amber Heimer (Taylor, MO) is leaving us to attend the Purdue University School of Pharmacy in the fall. After working at a pharmaceutical research lab here for the summer, Sis. Karla Kieser (Fairbury, IL) will be looking for a job in the Chicago area. Teaching English at Crystal Lake South High School will undoubtedly keep Bro. Rich Martin (Gridley, IL) busy. Combining his UI civil engineering education and summer work experiences will serve Bro. Jarod Rinkenberger (Chicago, IL) well as he begins his employment with Nussbaum Enterprises Masonry in Bloomington. Armed with a degree in Animal Science from UI, Sis. Janelle Schlipf (Gridley, IL) is currently pursuing employment. Bro. Jason Stoller (Princeville, IL) will be working as a mechanical engineer at Caterpillar Technical Center in Peoria, while Bro. Jeff Stoller (Fairbury, IL) will be working in the Information Services Dept. of Cat's Logistics Division in Morton. Returning to Eureka to work in his father's law offices will be our new lawyer, Bro. Justin Stoller. Bro. Luke Wuthrich (Morton, IL) has graduated but has obtained employment with Heatcraft Refrigeration Products in nearby Danville, so we are pleased that he will be staying in

C-U. Transferring from Parkland College, Sis. Kim Young (Cissna Park, IL) will finish her degree in early childhood education at Illinois State University in Normal. Whether they are working in an office setting, a school, or continuing on as students, we wish each of our exiting students many blessings as they move on and we thank them for all they have contributed to our congregation.

Our students hosted an appreciation dinner for their parents and the local congregation. They do this each year, and it is a very kind gesture. However, we "locals" are really very glad to have the students here and we are a much richer congregation because of their presence. It is always nice to have students' parents visit, and we encourage them to come often.

Our annual business meeting was held in late April and it included the election of Sunday School teachers, a trustee, and an usher. Replacing Bro. Matt Ginzl and Sis. Margie Heintz in Sunday School will be Bro. Darin Blunier and Sis. Cheryl Mangers. Bro. Art Walder's position as trustee will be filled by Bro. Samuel Furrer, whose vacated post as usher is being filled by Bro. Matt Ginzl. Particularly in a church the size of ours, it seems we are all needed to assist in the functioning of the church. Our thanks go out to all those who help our church run smoothly, especially those who have just completed terms in these church offices.

Following our business meeting, our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart had the exhortation for Communion. The point was made that in the first books of the Old Testament, God required a lamb for the individual, then a lamb for each house and household, then a lamb for a nation. In the New Testament, the requirement was a lamb for the world, and that Lamb was our Lord Jesus. Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) assisted Bro. Wayne with serving us Communion in early May.

Visiting ministers over the past month have been Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Ron Messner (Washington, IL), and Ted Witzig, as well as Bros. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO). We are grateful for the time and effort that these brothers and their families sacrifice in order to minister to us.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Jill Rager

This past weekend we had our annual church cleaning day and in the Sunday service our minister brought out how good it is to have things clean. Our hearts are the same way, and if we can maintain a cleanliness, it is so much easier to detect the dirt that does come in.

On April 26, we joined together to commemorate the Lord's suffering in Holy Communion, following the spiritual cleansing of the church. The fellowship following our Communion services is always such a sweet time.

We also enjoyed sweet fellowship with the Nashville, TN, congregation on our annual bus trip April 20 and 21. We extend our many thanks to the Nashville congregation for such an enjoyable visit and pray that God would continue to bless their congregation.

We rejoice with Mabelle Welk as she has made a beginning in the repentance process. We pray that Mabelle can sense the Lord's presence as well as our prayers with each step she takes.

We welcome Bro. Philip Schulz (Burlington, IA) who will be spending the summer in the Chicago area completing an internship.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Doug Stoller at the passing of his grandfather, Bro. Burton Streitmatter, of Princeville, IL.

We were blessed by Bro. Bob Pflederer's (Morton, IL) willingness

to share God's Word with us. We pray that those blessings can be returned to him.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Gary Feller wishes to express sincere thanks to all who remembered them with expressions of sympathy and prayers since his passing.

Dale and Judy Eisenmann and family

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Denise Walder Susan Waldbeser

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

Matt. 19:6

April 28 was a special day for Sis. Rachel Conrad (Bro. John and Sis. Jayne) and Bro. Blake Graham (Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeanette, Princeville, IL) as they were joined together as one. Visiting ministers on this weekend were Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Al Schambach (Remington, IN).

"He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation."

John 5:24

The weekend of May 4-5 was the time for testimonies and baptisms of Zachary Anderson (Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee) and Jess Walder (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon). We welcome these two dear souls into our church family. Ministers who shared the weekend with us were Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and ministering Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Brad Gudeman (Bradford,

IL).

Bro. Les Maul and Sis. Lisa Kaufmann had surgery this month. We trust God's healing touch will be upon them.

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

Psalm 127:3

We rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Matt and Sis. Jerilyn Waldbeser, on the birth of their son, Braden Todd. Braden has been in St. Francis Hospital in Peoria since his birth due to some complications. He is getting along really well and we hope he can come home soon. Our prayers are with Bro. Matt and Sis. Jerilyn during this time. Braden's grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser and Bro. Larry and Sis. Sheryl Knobloch (Lester, IA). We extend congratulations to Sis. Velma Rinkenberger (late Bro. Steve) on a new granddaughter, Alyssa Renae, born to Bro. Dan and Sis. Anne Moser (Elgin, IL).

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."

Matt. 5:4

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who lost loved ones this month. We extend our sympathy to the Gary Feller family. He was the son of the late Bro. Earl and Sis. Lucille Feller. Our Sis. Nettie Scharlach was also laid to rest this past month, and we think of her dear sister, Sis. Mary Anderson, and family during this time. Also, we pray God will comfort Sis. Caroline Gudeman on the death of her brother, Emanuel Hofbauer.

Ministering Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Bro. Don Sinn (Silverton, OR) also visited us this month and we thank them for being willing servants.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Glenna Rinkenberger

The church is completed! We truly rejoice!

We praise the true Builder with heart and with voice.

The brethren and friends in loving accord

Have built the church to the praise of the Lord.

The church is of God and the building of man.

So has He ordained it in His gracious plan.

This house will once vanish; the church will remain;

All those who have labored God's truth to retain.

—Henry Beer

May 15, 2002, was the final service in the original Congerville church. It was touching to see as the congregation filled the assembly and extended all the way into the dining room. Many visitors attended. Following the service four songs were sung. From our Hymns of Zion #222 "Will the Circle be Unbroken?" Verse 5 states: "One by one their seats were emptied, One by one they went away"; #85 "Faith of Our Fathers" and #259 "Trust and Confidence". Then from the Zion's Harp we sang #143 "Farewell Song". "We'll now depart, ye faithful friends; And from this place we'll go; The Lord, in whom our spirits blend, Will lead us on the road." Many memories go with us of joy and sadness. But we trust our future is sure because the Lord will lead us on the road.

Now that our new building is completed, we would once again like to thank all who helped in any capacity to make it a reality. God has been good to us. Open house is planned for June 8 from 1-4 p.m. Dedication services will be June 9.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL), Walt

Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Dan Koch (Tremont, IL). Our thanks go out to these brothers for their service to the Lord for us.

Our congregation continues to grow. Three babies were born. May 3, converts Chris and Michelle Miller became new parents of Christian John. His grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Phyllis Miller and John and Sis. Barb Gastman (Roanoke, IL). On May 13, Bro. Jim and Sis. Ree Hartman added Angela Mae to their family. Perri, Nathan, Jacey, Carly, Cammi and grandparents, Sis. Carrie Hartman and Sis. Marie Taufer (Morton, IL), welcome her home. May 14, little Julia Mae Luthi was born to Bro. Troy and Sis. Vannessa. She joins Maranda, Jordan, Jennifer, Matthew, Jacob, Mark and Mary. Grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Violet Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Howard and Mary Zartman (Fruitland Park, FL).

Hospital patients were Bro. Kent Wiegand (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue) and Sis. Sheri Dietrich (Bro. Bill). Both are back assembling with us. We are thankful.

ILLNOIS, ELGIN Amy Gasser Kay Kellenberger

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Ted Schock (Belvidere, IL) and Bros. Brad Eisenmann and Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL). We thank these brothers for their labors in God's service.

Those who have spent time in the hospital this past month were Bro. Don (Sis. Leann) Schambach, Bro. Gene (Sis. Libbie Ann) Moser, Sis. Marilyn (Bro. Elvis) Kellenberger, Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Albert) Schambach, and Sis. Lucy Schultz.

We rejoice with Keith Schambach (Bro. Les and Sis. Alison) and Ben and Stephanie Standish who have found peace and are awaiting baptism.

Marianne Cox (Bro. Bob and Sis.

DeAnne) and Kevin Power were united in marriage on April 21. We wish them God's blessings in their life together.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Dave (Gloria) Rinkenberger whose brother, Bro. Lynn Rinkenberger, lost his life in a tractor accident. His funeral was held on April 30 in Gridley, IL. Bro. Lyle (Sis. Delores) Kellenberger passed away on May 5 after a short stay in the hospital.

On May 4, Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) came to assist Bro. Ron in reading the Memorandum to our congregation. We thank Bro. Lawrence for his willingness to come and exhort us to live a faithful life in Christ.

Also that same evening, Bro. Fred (Sis. Shaena) Dietz was chosen to serve an 8-year term in Sunday School, taking the place of Bro. Don (Sis. Peg) Heiniger.

A little girl, Alyssa Renae, was born to Bro. Dan and Sis. Anne Moser on May 6. Joshua, Ryan, and Nathan are happy to have a little sister. Alyssa's grandparents are Sis. Velma (the late Bro. Steve) Rinkenberger and Bro. Gene and Sis. Libbie Ann Moser.

Our high school graduates this year are as follows: Jaclyn Kellenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Vicki), Scott Krueger (Jim and Mary), Scott Leman (Doug and Melinda), Craig Weiss (Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen) and Keith Wonneberg (Jerry and Sis. Gail).

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Lyle Kellenberger wishes to express their heartfelt thanks. We felt the spirit of Christ from each one who so graciously supported us during our loved one's passing. May God richly bless each one.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Janet Zimmerman

Bro. Dan and Sis. Holly Bradle have been blessed with a precious baby, Jordan Roger, born on April 23. His big brother, Jessie Wallis, lovingly welcomes him home. His grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle and Bro. Wallis and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger of Morris, MN.

"And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons which need no repentance."

St. Luke 15:6-7

With great joy and much thankfulness, we report four souls who are seeking the Lord in repentance. We wish God's grace to Andy Gerber (Bro. Neil and Sis. Leesa), Tyler Knapp (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori), Clint Metzger (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley of West Bend, IA). We extend a warm welcome to Clint who moved to Eureka recently. Helen Wick is also repenting. Helen lives in a cottage at Snyder Village in Metamora. She would appreciate any notes of encouragement. We are thankful for each convert.

Three dear couples were united in marriage recently. Joni Martin (Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki) and Jeremy Zacha (Bro. Gary and Sis. Connie Allen) of Goodfield became husband and wife on April 27.

May 4 was the wedding day for Darci DeSigne and Erik Gerdes. Their parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy DeSigne and Dick and Mary Gerdes of Benson.

Merle Blunier (Bro. Roger and Sis. Wendy) and Amanda Starkey (Ray and Kay) of Goodfield were united in marriage on May 18. We wish each of these couples God's

blessings as they begin their lives together.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Marie Meyer on the sudden death of her brother, Bro. Lynn Rinkenberger, of Gridley. He died April 26.

We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Joe and Sis. Lavina Dotterer on the recent death of her brother, Bro. Ben Hodel, of Roanoke.

Likewise we sympathize with Bro. Harold and Sis. Ethel Schmidtgall on the death of her only sibling, Ralph Gerber. May God comfort and provide for each one as they grieve the loss of their loved ones.

We bid farewell to Bro. Dave and Sis. Eva Rocke and their girls, Krista and Miriam, as they are visiting Sis. Eva's family in Hungary. We are thankful God opened the way for them to go and spend this time with their loved ones. We will surely miss them while they are gone. "The Lord watch between me and thee, When we are absent one from another. Amen." (#104 Hymns of Zion)

Our prayers are with Sis. Evie Gudeman (Bro. Don) and Sis. Thelma Saathoff (Bro. George) who spent some time in the hospital recently. We are thankful for God's healing touch.

Our Bible Class hosted Princeville and Bradford Bible Classes on May 5. We certainly want to thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) for being willing servants on our behalf and for sharing with us. Also a thank you to the Bible Class teachers and their wives for their part in the day.

It was a special blessing to have ministering Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Silverton, OR) with us for midweek services on May 8.

Bro. Craig Martin (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA) were our visiting ministers on May 12, Mothers Day. May God richly bless each one.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank you for your prayers during Harold's surgery and recovery. Also for the many cards, food and visits. God has been so good to us. We could feel the prayers from those we love.

Bro. Harold and Sis. Mick Hodel

"...The prayer of the upright is his delight."

Proverbs 15:8

Our home life has its ups and
downs,
Some days are dark, some fair:
When comes the night.
But all is right,
When Dad calls "Time for prayer."

We read the Book for guidance,
Sing praises for His care,
Then as we kneel,
God's touch we feel,
As Dad leads us in prayer.

Sometimes we face temptations
strong,
Or burdens hard to bear,
But hearts grow light,
New hope beams bright,
While Dad's voice lifts in prayer.

Oh, I am rich, this legacy
Exceeds the millionaire's:
To know you've had
The kind of Dad,
Whose daily guide is prayer.

—Ada Wine

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY**Tammy Hinrichsen****Joann Zehr**

Our thoughts and prayers are with those from our congregation who have been in the hospital during this last month: Sisters Louise Bach, Sally Schieler, Jan Schieler (Bro. Harvey), Kathryn Kaisner, and Bro. Jesse Huber (Sis. Donna). May they continue to improve each day.

We had a very special weekend on April 27 and 28 when we heard the

testimonies and witnessed the baptism of Carrie Steffen (Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay) and Rollin Nussbaum (Sis. Elna and the late Bro. Willis). They are welcomed into our fold as our new Sister and Brother in Christ. It was very inspiring to hear how God worked in their hearts and remembered them with His love and mercy. May we all strive each day to faithfully serve Him. A special thanks to our Elder Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) who helped our Elder Bro. Art Bahler and also ministering Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) who were with us.

Greg and Julie Bazzell, along with Abbie and Mitchell, welcomed Kylie Ann on May 16. Happy grandparents are Bro. Donald and Sis. Carol Bazzell and Charles and Arlene Farley.

A baby boy, Loren John, was also born on May 16 to Bro. Doug and Sis. Julia Moser. He is also welcomed by Walter, Sadie, Arthur, Wendell, and Lilly. Happy grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser and the late Myrna Moser and William and Helen Fehr. May God bless both of these families.

Another "thank you" is extended to ministering Bros. Brad Gudeman and Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and Harvey Kuenzi (Silverton, OR) who brought us the precious Word of the Lord.

May is graduation month and we want to remember our high school Seniors: Tara Davis (Mark and Elaine), Sis. Janelle Schmidgall (Bro. Bill and Sis. Anna), Sis. Hope Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane), Bro. Joel Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary), Chris Kafer (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carol), Neil Kaisner (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna), Troy Kieser (Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky), Ryan Mashburn (Billy and Sis. Barb), Derek Rassi (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane), Josh Runyon (Bro. Mark and Julie), Bro. Michael Slagel (Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys), Troy Steffen (Bro. Henry and Sis. Lola),

and Jason Welborn (Bro. Don and Sis. Phyllis). May they seek God's help and guidance as they plan their future careers.

ILLINOIS, FORREST**Jean Knapp
Linda Anliker**

"And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee."

Psalm 9:10

We see how God provides for those who put their trust in Him as we heard the engagement of Bro. Joel Beard (Toledo, OH) and Sis. Heidi Stoller. May they continue to feel God's guidance as they make plans for a July wedding. Their parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee Beard (Toledo, OH) and Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller.

Our Bible Class had the opportunity to host the Tremont Bible Class on April 28. We are thankful that Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) could spend the day with us and especially for sowing seeds of God's goodness in the hearts of our students.

We also thank Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bros. Tom Schambach and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Harvey Kuenzi (Silverton, OR) and Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) for sharing God's Word with us this past month.

Sis. Jean Knapp has been chosen to teach our Sunday School children of God's love and the plan of salvation. May God grant her much grace and wisdom as she undertakes this important work.

A sweet baby girl, Grace Jean-Marie, has arrived in the home of Dan and Abby Eisenmann and big brother, Gaige. Grace's grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Bev Eisenmann and Bro. Terry and Sis. Deb Nussbaum and Bob Livingston (Chatsworth, IL).

Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie Kaeb are the happy parents of a precious son, Lucas Robert. He is welcomed home by Krystle, Joshua, Kaylee, Kara, Jenna, Joseph, and Levi and his grandparents are John and Adeline Kaeb (Fairbury, IL) and Bob and Sis. Elaine Mueller (Bloomington, IL).

Note of Thanks:

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in
heart,
And hope to meet again.

Hymns of Zion #156

We wish to thank all who extended thoughts, prayers, cards and food during the illness and death of our mother, Sis. Bertie Leman. May God add His blessings.

The family of Bertie Leman

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Rita Bauman
Heather Hohulin**

Our heartfelt prayers are with Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Wiegand and their family in the death of their mother and grandmother, Sis. Florence Bucher. Also, our prayers are with Julie and Lonnie Ellis and their family in the death of his brother. We also think of Larry and Diane Brown and their family in the death of his father. We pray that God would be with each of these families.

Joined as one this month were Jeremy and Joni Zacha. Parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Connie Allen and Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki Martin of Eureka. May God be with them as they start a new life together.

We also rejoice with Bro. Nathan and Sis. Emily Sauder as they were joined as one. Parents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Rhonda Zeltwanger and Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sauder of Roanoke. May God bless this new union.

Preparing for a new life together are Bro. Darren Friedinger (Bro.

Duane and Sis. Vermeda) and Sis. Jane Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Elli, Lester, IA). We pray that God would be with them as they plan for a wedding and a life together.

Speaking of new life, we were excited to hear of the birth of Jonathan Ray, born to Bro. Rudy and Sis. Shelly Haerr. Grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Dort Leman and Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeanie Haerr of Bloomington.

Our love and prayers go out to Sis. Jodi Hohulin (Bro. Sam and Sis. Cindy) as she relocates to Phoenix, AZ, to be with her parents. She will be missed, just as her parents are.

Our prayers are with Bro. Warren Kloter (Bro. Kent and Sis. Janell). This whole summer he will be in Jamaica to oversee and coordinate work teams to help in the deaf village. God bless him for his service.

Our prayers are with Sis. Elna Grimm as she recovers from an injury. We hope she is feeling better soon.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Sis. Jeanne), Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou), Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel), and Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie). We thank them for their service to us.

Our congratulations go out to our high school graduates: Brooke Monfre, Brooke Harminson, Barbara Jean Hinrichsen, Blake Knapp, Caleb Wyss, Sarah Leman, Eric Fehr, Jessica Musselman and Joy Wiegand. Our prayers are with them as they plan for their future.

Little Braden James, son of Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen Wiegand, had surgery. We are thankful to hear he is doing well.

**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein**

April 26 was a very sad day for our community. Bro. Lynn C. Rinkenberger, 68, lost his life in a farming accident. His untimely and unexpected death was surely a reminder that life is fragile, and none of us have any promise of tomorrow.

Bro. Lynn is survived by his wife of nearly 46 years, Sis. Ruth. A daughter, Sharon Rinkenberger, Gridley, and son, Gary Rinkenberger, Fort Pierce, Florida; and four grandchildren also survive.

He is survived by three brothers, Orville Rinkenberger, Gridley; Bro. David Rinkenberger, Elgin; and Bro. Raymond Rinkenberger, Mackinaw; and six sisters, Sis. Marie Meyer, Eureka; Sis. Esther Kaupp, Gridley; Sis. Ruth Lowery and Sis. Dorothy Harsh, Bloomington; Verna Harsh, Bloomington; and Eleanor King, Pewaukee.

Bro. Lynn appreciated the faith of our fathers. He had begun repenting in the early 1950's while attending our Portland, OR, church, and was later baptized by Elder Bro. Noah Schrock in Japan. He liked to visit about the past, and was always congenial in conversation during the noon fellowship hour. His passing is a shocking loss to our local congregation, and we surely want to lift up his dear wife in prayer, now and in the time ahead.

It has been a time of graduation on several levels. Eighth grade graduates are: Kayla Butikofer, Kristin Butikofer, Mindy Campbell, Traci Gramm, Crystal Hodel, Melissa Kaeb, Emily Ringger, Lea Ann Ringger, Joshua Stoller and Marissa Witzig.

There were 14 high school graduates: Seth Campbell, Amanda Funk, Derek Meiss, Bro. Jamin Ringger, Sis. Alison Romersberger, Sis. Carrie Stoller, Sis. Melissa Taylor, Bro. Doug Dolman, Nathan Hodel, Sis. Callie Prevo, Sis. Leslie Ringger, Bro. Jeremy Schlipf, Sis. Leah Stoller and Sis. Nichole Wiegand.

The college graduates were: Sis. Jeanette Feucht, ISU; Bro. Doug Hodel, ISU; Bro. Richard Martin, U of I; Bro. Philip Romersberger, ISU; Sis. Janelle Schlipf, U of I; Sis. Laura Vercler, ISU.

Sis. Vyra Stoller remains very sick and in need of our prayers. She has been in and out of the hospital. Sis. Ruth Gramm was also hospital-

ized briefly with pneumonia. Sis. Sonia Endress has been bedfast because of pregnancy. May God restore all to good health, according to His will.

Bro. Brace Wieland (Leo, IN) was a visiting minister on May 26. On May 2, Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Dave Obergfel (Peoria, IL) were visiting ministers.

We are happy to report the engagement for marriage of Bro. Mike Knapp to Sis. Janet Kaiser of Tremont, IL. Her parents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marlene Kaiser. He is the son of Bro. Larry and Sis. Stephanie Knapp and the late Sis. Rosella. We offer our sincere best wishes to this couple on this happy occasion.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Julie Bahr
Christie Zeller**

Truly we can be so thankful for God's love shown unto us through His beautiful creation as it comes alive with the rain and lushness of the green earth and flowers all around us.

Mother's Day was a time of reflection for all of us in thanksgiving for our earthly mothers and also for all our spiritual mothers of the Bible.

May God bless all our high school graduates as they go on to higher learning and occupations. Our graduates this year are: Bro. Eric Kaiser, Sis. Heidi Knobloch, Jeremiah Psinas, Sis. Sarah Rassi, Trisha Sauder, Jodi Schick, Carrie Spangler, and Leah Zimmerman.

Bro. Ted Witzig brought us our Family Worship topic, "Potholes in the Road of Life" directed towards our graduates. His five keys to shield us from temptation were: keep a clean heart – guard our minds; keep a cautious mouth – guard what we say; keep a controlled eye – guard what we see; keep a careful foot – guard what we do and where we go; keep a concentrated ear – tune into wholesome hearing. Faith comes

from hearing and hearing from the Word of God.

More loved ones went Home to be with the Lord. Laverne Mary Mayo (Overland, KS) passed away. She's the mother of our Bro. Bill Mayo (Sis. Gail). Bro. Irvin Leman passed away at the age of 96 years. He and his wife (the late Sis. Leona) worshipped with us for many years before they took up their residence at the Peoria Home. Glenn Becker (Katherine) passed away at our Restmor Nursing Home April 27. Herb Stieglitz also passed away at our Restmor Nursing Home. Salome Knapp also passed away. She too, worshipped with us for many years. May God comfort these families in their loss.

We are so thankful for our new Sunday School teachers: Bro. Scott Mangers (Sis. Shayna), Bro. Bart Rinkenberger (Sis. Janelle), Bro. Clint Heinold (Sis. Stephanie), and Sis. Joyce Kaiser (Bro. Mike). May God bless these loved ones for being willing servants to teach our children.

We also want to thank our dear Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Peoria, IL) for sharing God's Word with us on Sunday, April 21, when they came to visit.

Another little bundle of joy has blessed the household of Steve and Catherine Michel. Steven Blake was welcomed home by his big sister, Gabrielle. The thankful grandparents are Bill and Sis. Doris Michel and Roger and Carol Hoffman (Peoria, IL).

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

God reveals Himself in our lives, wants us to realize His greatness and experience Him: watch a falling star or a flower pop open ... just a small part of God. He told Ezekiel to do many strange things: lie 390 days on his left side (4:4-6), cut his hair (5:1 – a symbol of mourning), expect cannibalism (5:10) because of the Israelites' wickedness. Ezekiel knew

judgment was coming, realized how insignificant he was, but grew stronger. Today God says: "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which has great recompense of reward" (Heb. 10:35) (Bro. Dave Obergfel 4/21). Ezekiel 37 mentions the valley of dry bones, representing the Jewish people scattered all over the world. These bones are coming to life again with flesh and muscle. Where are we in the process? The next thing is the coming of the Lord, and "breath will come into them, an exceeding great army" (37:10). We are living in volatile times. Jesus cursed the fig tree, because it brought forth leaves but no figs. Do we have religion, or salvation? (Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer 4/14).

"Frozen chosen?" asked Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) on April 21. Are we ready for Christ's return? Through the writings of Peter, we can be saved through eternity. Let's reflect on what has been given to us; we cannot gamble with the decision we need to make. (I Peter 1).

"Now is the accepted time" (II Cor. 6:2) ... the sooner we repent, the fewer sins we have to answer for and, if we are converted, Jesus will answer for us as our advocate. Repentance and faith are the beginning steps in a relationship with God and we are grateful Amber Criss, Brittany Getz, Brooke and Miranda Hoerr and Rhoda Sceggel could give their testimonies on April 27 and be baptized on April 28. We thank Elder Bros. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Ron Messner (Washington, IL) for their assistance and ministries, also Bros. John Stoller (Leo, IN) and Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) and many visitors for their presence. "Stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God" (Job 37:14) and our relationship with Him. "Cast the net on the right side of the ship (of Jesus), and ye shall find" (John 21:6). Cast your lot with Jesus. The Church family net will not break (Elder Bro. Wes Knapp).

Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN)

concluded his review of "David's Secrets of Success" at our family night service on May 1. Satan is not our greatest enemy. God limits him - it is with us, within ourselves. David had a great capacity to repent and be disciplined to God's will. Bad times do not present problems, it is the good times. Nathan gave David the "no-temple-teaching" as God closed the door to building it, but had something better in mind: He gave David the ability to write the temple of the Psalms (at least 75) ... to last forever, not just 398 years as the physical temple, which was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar. Like David, we need to be disciplined, broken, and maintain spiritual and doctrinal integrity. David took God's tough medicine and God selected him over and over again: David realized he was gifted and didn't hide it (musician/harp, singer, composer, praiser) / fearless and brilliant in military matters / outstanding statesman / crossed generational lines (don't stay in your own age group) / astute financier / deep spiritual person / prophet, who spoke for God / had absolute love for God and exuded the reality of God (inner reality must become outward reality). Real service begins when we exit through the church doors. We thank Bro. Will for sketching the life of David for us and encouraging us to build on David's virtues.

Isaiah 45 assures us there is one God Who rules the earth, at the same time numbers the hairs on our head and molds us in Christ's image. He asks us to give up everything: "...suffer me first to go and bury my father" (Matt. 8:21) ... a good thing, but an excuse not to follow Him NOW. We need to cut off all but our dependency on the Father and keep our eyes on the One Who is above the storm. We thank Bro. Mark and Sis. Sara Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) for their visit on May 4 and Bro. Mark's ministry.

As Jochebed knew Moses was a goodly child, she took a chance by hiding him three months from Pha-

raoh, who tried to limit the Hebrew descendants. Totally depending on God, she laid him in a basket of bulrushes (Ex. 2:2,3), not knowing whether she prepared a casket or a seaworthy ark for him. God had a plan for Moses, who didn't know he was destined for history. Later God fashioned His perfect plan in another baby, Who received redeeming powers when He became a man. Moses chose to suffer afflictions rather than enjoying Pharaoh's favors. There are choices to be made; all we can do is sow the seed. Moses led them out with a mighty arm but today we are leaning on the EVER-LASTING ARM. Mothers, share that precious pearl so it can be perpetuated (Mother's Day 5/12, Bro. Rick Plattner).

Our loss, their gain! Bro. Rick Plattner announced to the church on May 12 that he has accepted the job of administrator at Fairview Haven and will move to Fairbury, IL. He has been our faithful, inspired and talented minister since February 14, 1988, and will be greatly missed. The entire congregation wishes him well in his future endeavors.

Edna Binkele (94) passed away at the Skylines on April 15, and we express our sympathy to her family. Marie Kupferschmid (83), the sister of Sis. Velma Hoerr and Bernice Otto, met her Lord on April 19 at Fisher, IN, and we convey our condolences to her family. Bro. Irvin Leman (96) went to his reward on April 20. "Troubled on every side, yet not distressed" (II. Cor. 4:8), "A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth" (Ecc. 7:1). Our heartfelt sympathy to his son, John, and daughters, Rachel Neuswanger and Sis. Christine Klopfenstein, and the rest of his family. "...he being dead yet speaketh" (Heb. 11:4).

How quickly our lives can change! Sis. Rhoda Meister mentioned recently that she had never been a hospital patient expect for the birth of her children. On April 28, on the way

home from the baptism of her granddaughter, Sis. Rhoda Sceggel, she suddenly experienced extreme headache pains and went straight to the hospital, where she was operated for an aneurysm. We pray she can soon return to her family. Bro. Jim Hoerr and Norm Rocke were also hospitalized and we wish them the healing mercies of the Lord.

Sis. Marie Messerli observed her 90th birthday on May 5 at a nursing home in Fairfield, CA, and wishes to express her thanks to all who remembered her.

Where are they now?

Bro. Joe Bohart has been employed as programmer by Goldman Sachs and is going back to school to get his Master's degree. He lives in Des Plaines, IL, and attends Chicago church.

Todd Wieland, son of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Erma, is now established in Naples, FL; his e-mail is .

March 28 was a joyful day for Bro. Matt and Sis. Aimee Moser as they were told by St. Jude's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN, that their daughter, Becca, could transfer from the Cancer to the Survivors section. Her family was thankful to learn they no longer have to worry about relapses and only need to report to the Survivors section for the next nine years.

Note of Thanks:

When Becca was first in Memphis seven years ago, we told her doctor that thousands would be praying for her. To these thousands of people: our family has felt the love and prayers for Becca and because of our Father in Heaven, and these prayers, doctors had proof the power of prayer works. Keep us in your prayers and thoughts. Thank you, and God bless you.

Love in Jesus,
The family of Becca Moser

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Phyllis Knobloch
Crystal Streitmatter

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

Psalm 27:14

May we always diligently strive to uplift our dear fellow believers! It is such a wonderful blessing to be a part of a “caring” body of believers!

We were so blessed to have Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN) with us for Good Friday services. Thank you, Bro. Fred, for expounding the Scripture to us. We appreciate all of your visits! Also our thanks to Bros. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL) and Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL) who were with us on April 7. We also had a special surprise on Wednesday evening, May 8, when Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL) was with us. Thank you for driving through the rain to spend a few refreshing hours with us here.

Sis. Rachel Conrad (Bro. John and Sis. Jane) and Bro. Blake Graham (Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeanette) were united in marriage on April 28 at Cissna Park, IL, the home of her parents. How thankful we are that God has drawn these dear souls together!

We were deeply saddened when our Bro. Burton Streitmatter, 83, was suddenly taken from this life on May 8. He was a faithful pillar in our church and will be sadly missed. Our sympathy goes out to his wife, Sis. Martha, and the children: Duane (Barb) of Peoria, Bro. Steve (Sis. Mary Lynn), Sis. Teresa Martin (Bro. Dale), Sis. Rose Herrmann (Bro. Allan), Sis. Sonia Stoller (Bro. Gale), 16 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren and a brother, Bro. Harold, all of the Princeville congregation.

Our list of high school graduates are: Sis. Rachel Baer (Ron and Sis. Deann), Sarah Baer (Bro. Larry and Sis. Vera), Bethany Kieser (Bro.

Mark and Sis. Cathy), Sis. Stephanie Regier (Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay), Sarah Streitmatter (Bro. Alan and Sis. Janet), Jill Wagenbach (Curt and Mary Beth), Jonathan Aupperle (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cindy), Ty Endress (Bro. Jerold and Sis. Luann), Brett Herrmann (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Lavonne), Bro. Michael Herrmann (Bro. Allan and Sis. Rose), Beau Martin (Bro. Mike and Sis. Julie), Bro. Andy Schick (Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie), and Jacob Streitmatter (Chuck and Linda).

College graduates are Ted Ehnle (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jane) and Bro. Jason Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathleen). Also, Sis. Kathy Martin has graduated and is now a Nurse Practitioner. We wish them all God’s nearness in the future!

“He that followeth after righteousness and mercy, findeth life, righteousness and honor.”

Proverbs 21:21

Happy Father’s Day to all of our fathers! I will never forget the words of wisdom my father gave to me the day of my baptism over fifty years ago, “You won’t always agree with the Elders but if you do as they say, you will be blessed!” I have been blessed over and over and am thankful for the love of God that fills my heart to overflowing!

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Jenell Hodel
Joan Leman

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 5:1

We were encouraged and uplifted as we listened to the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of four dear souls the weekend of April 20 and 21. It was indeed a blessing to hear how God worked in each of their lives. We welcome our new sisters and brother in faith: Sis. Lindsey and Sis. Allison

Schroeder (Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel), Bro. Tony Mueller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jan), and Sis. Caitlin Isaia (Bro. Richard and Deanna). Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) shared this blessed weekend with us. Also sharing the Word of Life with us this past month were Bro. Dan Beer (Milford, IN) and Bro. Fred Funk (Morton, IL). May the Lord bless these brothers for their labors of love in ministering unto us.

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

Luke 15:10

We are rejoicing along with the angels in Heaven as five more souls have answered the call of the Lord and have turned to Him in repentance. They are Wendy Rebbec (Jeff), Steven Sauder (Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy), Brent Rocke (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Eva), Jake Zimmerman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Mary Beth), and Jake Fischer (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annette). May the Lord grant them the needed grace to completely surrender unto Him.

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

Psalm 127:3

We rejoice with Bro. Jason and Sis. Rena Hodel as they welcome their newborn daughter, Clara Jane, into their hearts and home. May the Lord grant them wisdom as they fulfill their new role as parents. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy Hodel and Bro. Harlan and Sis. Martha Braker.

“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord.”

Proverbs 18:22

The engagement of Sis. Jenny Hohulin (Bro. Tim and Sis. Cathy) and Bro. Brett Heiniger (Bro. Ron

and Sis. Kaylene, Bloomington) was announced. May they look to God for direction and guidance as they prepare for their threefold cord of Christian marriage.

Our recent hospital patients have been Steven Fischer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Debbie), Sis. Elsie Beer, and Joan Burton (Richard). We are thankful they are at home again and pray they can feel God's healing power. Also recovering from surgery is Yvel Gresseau of Haiti who is staying with Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen Martin.

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

Hymns of Zion #74

Our heartfelt prayers and sympathy are extended to the family of Bro. Willis Hodel (the late Sis. Margaret) as he was taken suddenly from this life into eternity. We pray that his children, Bro. Mike, Tim (Patty), Sis. Sally and Mark, will feel God's love and the prayers of our congregation as they go through this time of sorrow.

Our Sis. Florence Bucher went home to be with the Lord on May 9. Our prayers and sympathy are with her son, Bro. Gene Hangartner (Sis. Evelyn), her two daughters, Sis. Ida Mae Barth (Bro. Morris), Sis. Mary Ellen Wiegand (Bro. Steve), her 16 grandchildren and 42 great-grandchildren and her sister from our Roanoke congregation, Sis. Elsie Beer.

Bro. Ben Hodel was relieved of his suffering here on earth and has gained a crown of victory. His funeral service was held on May 20. Our prayers and sympathy are with his wife, Ruth Ann, and their children Mary Huber (Rod), Bro. Steve (Sis. Joyce), Mike (Billie Pat), Susan

Davis (Tom), Bruce (Donna), Herb (Susie), Sis. Jan Heimer (Bro. Kent), Mark (Pam), Bro. Scott, and Annie Trapp (Paul). Also surviving are 33 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. May the Lord grant them comfort and peace.

Congratulations to our high school and college graduates. May the Lord bless them as they begin a new stage in life.

Notes of Thanks:

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who extended their love and thoughtfulness through cards, gifts, food, labor, and most importantly prayers during the illness and passing of our father and grandfather. We appreciate your support very much. May God bless you all.

The family of Bro. Joe Aeschleman

We would like to thank everyone for the thoughts, prayers and expressions of sympathy since the sudden loss of our father.

The Willis Hodel family

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Heather Rassi

LaVonne Wagenbach

Our appreciation and thanks go to the following ministers of the Gospel who visited our congregation and had a part in the services: Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL).

We share our joy with Sis. Janet Kaiser (Bro. Mel and Sis. Marlene) upon the announcement of her engagement to Bro. Mike Knapp (Bro. Larry and Sis. Stephanie) of Gridley, IL. May God's blessings be upon this couple.

Where God in truth abides,
Where two join hand and heart,
We find a three-fold cord,

Not lightly rent apart.

Zion's Harp #79

On April 25, we witnessed the union of two hearts, Bro. Jeff Rocke (Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth, Eureka, IL) and Sis. Carrie Reinbeck (Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb). May God be the center of their marriage as they walk the path of life together.

God has added another child to the family of Bro. Todd and Sis. Val Steiner. Faith Ann was welcomed home by her siblings, Victoria, Trent, Corbin, Philip and Thad. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner and Bro. Ken and Sis. Mardell Dietz (Bradford, IL). Isaac Shawn was born to Bro. Shawn, Sis. Sarah, and big brother, Dakota Lennington. Rejoicing in the arrival of their most recent grandson are Bro. Mike and Sis. Dorothy Meister, along with Tyler and Cheryl Lennington, both of Tremont. Bro. Mike and Paula Hartman (Congerville, IL) are also thankful grandparents.

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

Eccles. 3:1-2

Our sympathy is given to Sis. Dorothy Stuber (Bro. Glenn) on the passing of her brother, Bro. Bob Hill (Phoenix, AZ). Additional condolences are extended to Bro. Ray Rinkenberger and Bro. Les Pulfer on the passing of their brother and brother-in-law, Bro. Lynn Rinkenberger (Gridley, IL). Our thoughts and prayers are with Betty Hild on the passing of her husband, Ryan. May God be a comfort to her and her children, Don (Debbie) Hild and Barb Maloney, both of Pekin.

Hospitalizations this month included Bro. Ken (Sis. Arlene) Huetter, Sis. Doris Hutchinson, Levi Steiner (Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth) and Bro. John (Sis. Ingrid) Buster. May God hear and answer each cry and need of our loved ones.

"And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."

Psalm 50:15

Note of Thanks:

We wish to first give God all praise, honor, and glory for all our blessings. However, we also want to express our deep gratitude and thanks to the person(s) who so generously gave us a monetary gift of love in January which arrived in time to meet a special need we had. May God's richest blessing be yours.

In Christian love,

Bro. Walt and Sis. Vera Aberle

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Dianne Wyss
Marcia Koch**

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

Romans 6:4

We are thankful for the new life that Sis. Megan DesCarpentrie (Bro. Stan and Sis. Jane), Bro. Logan Hangartner (Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Katelyn Thames (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda) now have in Jesus Christ as they were recently baptized. A special thank you to Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and his wife, Sis. Linda, who shared in the services for the weekend.

We also are grateful for the visit and Sunday spent with us by Elder Bro. Phil Stettner and his wife, Sis. Maureen (Bluffton North, IN).

Our dear Sis. Martha Simon celebrated her 90th birthday this month, and we rejoice with her. Her willing hands and cheerful disposition have blessed our congregation for many years. We pray that she might soon be back with us. She is still convalescing from her hospital stay.

Our graduating high school seniors this year are Sis. Heather Messner, Bro. Thomas Kellenberger and Mark Schurter. We pray that they will know the Father's wisdom and direction as they begin a new phase in their lives. "Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee." (Proverbs 4:5-6)

Recently Bro. Chris and Sis. Stacy Ledford's little son, Shiloh, was hospitalized. We are remembering them in prayer.

As our redecorating project has come to a close, we want to thank the many volunteers, and especially those from other congregations, who contributed their time and talents to the effort. May the Lord be your rich reward.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Elizabeth Aschliman
Tonia Isch**

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

Romans 12:15

We are rejoicing with our new convert, Sarah Gerber (Bro. Nathan and Sis. LeAnn) as she has decided to follow our loving Saviour. We wish her God's grace as she begins her walk with Him.

Our congregation weeps for Kayla Kipfer and her dear family. We are saddened by her unexpected death in a fire. She was 11 years old and the daughter of Bro. Troy and Sis. Brenda. Brothers are Johnathan and Taylen who will also deeply miss her. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Susan Kipfer and Howard and Judy Hess. Kayla is now safe in the arms of Jesus along with her brother, Seth, and sister, Sierra. We will miss her greatly and continue to be prayerful for her family.

Our dear faithful Bro. Homer Aschliman went to his Heavenly home this month. His wife, Sis.

Minnie, will greatly miss him along with his sister, Sis. Dora Aschliman, and his brother, Bro. Roy Aschliman.

Also gaining his Heavenly reward this month was Bro. Henry Isch. Bro. Henry was 100 years old and had one son, Bob; two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren along with a brother, Reuben Isch, and a sister, Sis. Lillian Isch. Our congregation will miss these three dear souls until we see them again in Heaven.

Spending time in the hospital this month were Bro. Ken Aschliman, Bro. Steve Reinhard (Sis. Renee), Bro. Harold Geisel (Sis. Ellen), Sis. Lula Baumgartner, and Sis. Brenda Kipfer (Bro. Troy). Our hearts and prayers go out to these dear ones.

We rejoice with Bro. Nick Bertsch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy) and Sis. Brooke Dehoff (Scott and Sis. Rita) as they have become one in Christ Jesus on May 5. We wish them a blessed life as they serve God together.

Bro. Eric and Sis. Annie Craighead welcomed their gift from God, Dylan Michael, on May 7. Happy grandparents are Bro. Mike and Kay Craighead and Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee Reinhard.

Also receiving a blessing from above is Bro. Clint and Sis. Amy Moser. Grace Morgan was born on May 8. Grandparents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Jean Moser and Bro. Dan Jr. and Sis. Charlene Lantz. We rejoice with these new parents as they raise their children to follow our Lord.

Our thanks go out to Bro. Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise, Bluffton North, IN) as he has shared God's Word with us this month. May we share our loving Saviour with others, as He is so good.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Ann Meyer
Tiffani Schladenhauffen**

Follow me with cheerful spirit

That my kingdom ye inherit.
Yea, forsake the highway broad;
Follow me on heaven's road.

Zion's Harp #95

We were challenged this month by the reading of the Memorandum on areas where we could better follow heaven's road. We were thankful for Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz's (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) willingness to help Elder Bro. Phil with the reading.

Bro. Klint and Sis. Amy Moser welcomed their first little one, Grace Morgan, into this world on May 8. The happy grandparents are Bro. Dan, Jr. and Sis. Charlene Lantz and Bro. Phil and Sis. Jean Moser (Bluffton, IN).

However, our Sis. Roberta Steffen (Bro. Ken) said goodbye to her mother, Pauline Holloway. Our sympathies are with her and her family. We also want to express our deepest sympathies to Angie Loker and her family at the sudden and tragic passing of her father, Dennis Loker.

We rejoiced to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four dear souls. We welcomed Bro. Shawn and Sis. Mindy Yergler into the fold. Bro. Shawn is the son of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg. We were glad to have Sis. Mindy's parents, Jim VanCamp and Susie Dickey, share in this special time with us. We also welcomed Sis. Kathy Meyer (the late Ron) and her daughter, Sis. Becca, into our church family, and we rejoiced with Ron's mother, Sis. Evelyn.

Our thanks to Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL), who assisted Elder Bro. Phil. Thanks also to Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL) and Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN) for sharing our special weekend.

We want to thank everyone who took the time and made the effort to come to church cleaning, and we also thank Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg Yergler for the excellent job they do year round of making sure our church is

clean and tidy.

In appreciation of our mothers, our Single Group served the noon lunch on Mother's Day. It is always such an encouragement to see our Single Group so eager to serve.

We want to uplift in prayer Bro. Harold Geisel (Sis. Ellen), who was hospitalized this month. Our prayers are also with Sis. Dee Steffen and Sis. Gladys Fiechter, as they are recovering from earlier hospital stays.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Sis. Becky Bertsch (Bro. Lonnie) as she faces surgery at the end of May and then possible treatments. We know the only One we can trust in times of uncertainty is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May we all just truly rest in Him.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

St. Matthew 11:28

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Pam Huber

"And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh."

Mark 10:8

Our Sis. Kayla Wuethrich (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Aaron Kilgus (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna) were united in spirit on May 19. We rejoice with them and pray God's grace be with them as they build their lives together anew.

Travis and Angie Wuethrich have been blessed with a dear little girl, Kelsie Marie, born May 3. May God grant you the wisdom to train her up in the way she should go.

We are thankful to have had several visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Don Sinn (Silverton, OR) and Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN). What a blessing it is to meet old and new friends in the house of the

Lord!

Sis. Amelia Schini and Bro. Walter Culp (Sis. Valera) have been in the hospital this past month and Sis. Esther Gray (Bro. Joe) and Bro. Carl Gutwein (Sis. Yvonne) had surgery. Our prayers are with you as you rest in the Lord's tender hands.

Note of Thanks:

Greetings in the Lord. A special thank you to my family and church family for the many lovely cards of well wishes, prayers, gifts, visits and phone calls during the time I was in the hospital and in the care center for therapy. We appreciated all your love and kindness. God bless you all.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emilie Anliker

INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS Sue Levy Sandy Lichtle

On April 20, we had "Outreach Weekend". Many young people cheerfully gave of their time and efforts to help those in need in our community. What a true example of Jesus' words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

Trusting in God's will for their lives, Bro. Reg and Sis. Lora Wuethrich and their three children have moved to Roanoke, IL. Bro. Reg has accepted a new job there. We wish them God's blessings in their new home, and we will miss them very much.

Some blessings last for a short time, but some are called Mothers and enrich us all our lives.

-Holley Armstrong

Thank you, God, for the priceless treasure you have given us - our Mothers.

INDIANA, LACROSSE Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour
of prayer,
May I thy consolation share,
Till from Mount Pisgah's lofty
height
I view my home, and take my
flight;
In my immortal flesh I'll rise
To seize the everlasting prize,
And shout while passing thru the
air,
Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of
prayer!

Hymns of Zion #215

We bid farewell to our dear Bro. Aaron Heinold who went to be with his Lord on Sunday, May 19. He is survived by his children, Gwen Bucher (Valparaiso, IN); Eula (Art) Mogler (West Bend, IA); Emily (Bill) Schlatter (Junction, OH); Marshall (Jan), Ixtlan, Mexico; Eugene (Evie), LaCrosse; Glen (Sandy), LaCrosse; son-in-law, Duane Metzger, West Bend, IA; daughter-in-law, Carol, Pierceton, IN; daughter-in-law, Marty, Crawfordsville, IN; two brothers, Otto Jr. Fritz (Muriel), LaCrosse; Ralph (Pat) Fritz, Valparaiso, IN; and one sister, Sylvia Banwart, Eureka, IL; as well as 45 grandchildren and 64 great-grandchildren. We will greatly miss Bro. Aaron and his example as a faithful servant of the Lord.

Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN) were with us this past month to share the Word of God.

We are blessed with four new babies. Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank are the grandparents of Jerrett Michael born on April 20 to Bro. Josh and Sis. Molly Zimmerman of Forrest, IL.

Bro. Owen and Sis. Nicole Gudeman are blessed with a son, Kendon Levi, born on May 4. Kendon is welcomed home by his sister, Jaela, and brother, Kyler. The

grandparents of this little one are Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Gudeman (LaCrosse) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Ellen Dahlhauser (West Bend, IA).

Bro. Dale and Sis. Andrea Schneider are blessed with a daughter, Amanda Danielle, born on May 9. She is welcomed home by her sister, Alyssa, and brothers, Blake, Jade and Alec. Grandparents are Richard and Carolyn Rogers (Brookston, IN) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta Schneider (Remington, IN).

Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller are the grandparents of Ivy Marguerite born on February 5 to Bro. Ned and Sis. Heidi Stoller of Alto, MI.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of Sis. Nicole Gudeman (Bro. Owen) as she has been ill and in the hospital this past month and John and Carol Ailes and Drue and Diane McClanahan, as their daughter and sister, Sis. Dawn Ailes, of Valparaiso, IN, has undergone extensive surgery. May God grant Sis. Nicole and Sis. Dawn healing mercies.

Sis. Michelle Stoller (Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie) and Sis. Melinda Heinold (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy) both graduated from Purdue University this month. May you each feel God's guidance and direction as you take the next step in your life.

Note of Thanks:

The children of Aaron Heinold would like to thank everyone for all the love, prayers and support shown to Dad when he was at Parkview Haven and also for your support, prayers and many, many acts of kindness at the time of his death. May God bless each of you!

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Chris (Bro. Lynn) Klopfenstein and her family on the passing of her father, Bro. Irvin Leman, who had been living in Peoria, IL.

Raymond Winzeler, 87, who was living at The Cedars, passed away on April 29. He is survived by his wife, Pearl; daughters, Janice (Richard) Schrenk, Carol (Loren) Krienke; a son, Jim; brother, Richard; two sisters, Sis. Viola VonTobel and Sis. Dorothy Kaehr Gerber; six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all. "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:2).

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz on Saturday evening, May 4, in the reading of the Memorandum of the Elder Conferences. "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment: that ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;" (Phil. 1:9-10).

Sis. Thelma Schlatter has improved enough to return home after spending several weeks with her daughter, Joyce Kaiser. She attended church services with her daughter, Sharon Hepler, on Mother's Day. Sis. Helen Zimmer and Bro. Gene Stoller are again attending church services. We thank the Lord for His healing touch.

We rejoiced to have all our local ministers home and at the pulpit on Mother's Day.

We welcome Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber Pfister from Bluffton, IN, as they begin their duties as alternate houseparents at Gateway Woods.

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine..."

Prov. 17:22

Our ladies spring luncheon was held May 11. The theme was a "Merry Heart". It was attended by mothers and sisters from Illinois, Ohio and Michigan; it was the largest group ever. We all had a joyful time.

Wednesday evening, May 15, Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) pre-

sented our monthly topical Bible study. His topic was "Oh, to be Nothing". What is it to be nothing? Nothing is everything. It is important to be broken, emptied, humble, to be filled with God. First, recognize who God is. Isaiah 40:12-17 and 66:1-2. Second, recognize who we are - Isaiah 40:21-22. Who are we without God? Nothing, less than nothing - Isaiah 64:6. Third, we need to understand God's attitude toward us - Jer. 31:3. He loves us - Eph. 2:4-7. Fourth, who do we then become before God? - Col. 1:19-22. We are reconciled to God through the blood of Jesus Christ. The worth of a person is measured by God's friendship. Barriers to God's friendship is sin, pride, fear, bitterness and busyness. To deal with barriers we must have the mind of Christ - Phil. 2:5-10, John 13:4-5, 12-17. "...If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

Congratulations to our High School graduates: Sis. Laura Fischer (Bro. Paul and Sis. Leanne), Dustin Donovan, Sis. Amanda Stieglitz (Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda) and Bro. Brett Wieland (Bro. Brace and Sis. Brenda).

Our congratulations to Mike Campbell (Sis. Janet) who received his Associate Degree of Applied Science in Industrial Technology with an Industrial Maintenance Specialty. He completed classes December 2001 and graduated May 16, 2002, at the Memorial Coliseum.

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."

Prov. 4:7

Tod Klopfenstein (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Chris) announced his engagement to Angelyn Bickel (Steve and Ramonda) of Huntington, IN. Congratulations.

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Paula Haab
Stacey Feller**

We congratulate Jason Price (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane) and Jenny Russell on their engagement, and extend to them our warm wishes for God's blessings in the days leading up to their wedding. We are happy for Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane as well as Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen Steffen as their children who were married last year and have been residing in Alabama have returned to Milford. Welcome back, Bro. Daron and Sis. Monica Price. We are thrilled for the addition to our congregation.

Our recent college graduates are Bro. Jeff Beer, Bro. Shane Beer, Brad and Kim (Troup) Brown, Greg Koutsouros, Ryan Mikel, Bro. Rob Schlipf, and Bro. Phil Yargosz. High school graduates are Regg Beer, Rick Bowerman, and Sis. Kristi Schlipf. May the Lord bless and keep each one as they embark on exciting new beginnings.

We enjoyed hearing from our Sunday School children at our promotion program. We entreat the Lord's blessing and protection for each one as they advance in Sunday School and enjoy their summer vacation from school.

The ladies enjoyed an evening of fellowship as they gathered at the fellowship hall for our Mother/Daughter banquet. And with Father's Day upon us, we remember and honor our earthly fathers. For those who have had mothers or daughters, fathers or sons pass on before, may the Lord comfort them and fond memories sustain them.

Our congregation enjoyed an evening of fellowship on May 18 at a retirement dinner/singing for our retired Elder Bro. Jesse Beer and his wife, Sis. Shirley. We appreciated having several Elders here for this occasion including Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler, Curt Frank, Ray Sinn, and retired Elder Bros. Ed Frank, Wendell Gudeman, Perry Zimmerman.

As we "rejoice with them that do rejoice and weep with them that weep," our hearts and prayers go out to Kenny Brooks who is experiencing recent health difficulties.

We rejoice with Jodi Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) as she was announced for peace and is awaiting baptism.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler
Rochelle Ward**

We've been experiencing one of the wettest, coldest springs in the history of this area. Being surrounded by those who wait to till the soil, we wait with them in our hearts - just as we celebrate the fall harvest with them.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna Kilgus, along with Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy Wuethrich (Francesville, IN), shared the joy of giving away their children, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Kayla, in marriage on May 19. Their new address is: Aaron and Kayla Kilgus, 2246 South Beck Lane, Apt. #106, Lafayette, IN 47909.

Justin Scheitlin (Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori) announced his engagement to Emily Chamberlain (Bill and Connie, Wolcott, IN). They are planning their wedding for September 21. We wish both of these couples the sovereignty of God's grace.

As we commemorate Father's Day this week, perhaps Deut. 4:7-9 is fitting. "For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? Only take heed to thyself and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life but teach them thy sons and thy sons' sons." It's interesting to note the connecting thought between these verses. Is a nation great because the fathers

take heed and train their sons? May God grant all fathers wisdom to complete their duty.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Samantha Schafer
Kara Beebe**

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God and in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions, if it were not so I would have told you. I go prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.”

John 14:1-4

We rejoice at the engagement of Bro. Brad Langhofer (Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla) to Sis. Becky Zimmerman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Maryellen, Congerville, IL). May the Lord richly bless their marriage as they begin this walk together in Him.

We wish the Lord’s blessings on our graduates as they embark on a new journey. Graduating from high school are Ben Lehman (Bro. Don and Sis. Jill), Bro. Buicky Boriboune, Sis. Samantha Schafer (Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi) and Sis. Kara Beebe (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue).. Graduating from college is Sis. Keyna Langhofer (Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla). May they look to the Lord always for guidance and wisdom.

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

Psalm 127:3

Bro. Otto and Sis. DeAnn Schlatter and their little Kenneth welcomed Samuel Robert into their home on May 22. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe and Bro. Otto and Sis. Pat Schlatter (Alto, MI).

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Darel and Janet Walker

In Northern Indiana we are experiencing an abnormally cold and wet spring. Though many farmers are disappointed with the growing season, there is comfort in knowing that God will take care of us. As the Apostle Paul said in the letter to the Philippians, “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” (Phil. 4:11). We hope the weather will improve and that crops can be planted, but if not, we know that God will provide.

A group of local churches including Remington, Wolcott, Francesville, and Valparaiso have been conducting a monthly service at the Indiana Lakeside Correctional Facility in Michigan City. What a blessing it is to see the faith of these young men drawing near to God. We are often touched by the stories of offenders tell of how they were lost but yet saved by God’s grace.

Our annual mother/daughter luncheon was held May 8. The mothers and daughters enjoyed some beautiful singing by Sis. Jessica Feller and Sis. Kristi Massner (La-Crosse, IN). How special motherhood is. It is nice to take the time to tell our Moms “thank you and we love you” for everything they do for us.

Bro. Andy Moser honored all mothers with a special service on Mother’s Day, May 12.

“Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. Strength and honor are her clothing and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.”

Proverbs 31:10-11, 25-26

May 8 was also a special day as Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and Bro. Garry Bucher conducted the sacrament of Holy Communion. Thanks

again to Bro. Dale, Bro. Garry and Bro. Andy for serving our small congregation so well.

INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

**Diane Houston
Nettie Haab**

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:10

We welcome new baby Elijah Andrew, born on May 11. Parents are Bro. Nick and Sis. Sandra Waibel and grandparents are Bro. Gerry and Sis. Marcia Waibel (West Lafayette) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice Gutwein (Francesville, IN).

We bid farewell to Bro. Nate and Sis. Sara Huber as they move to Indianapolis to further education and pursue careers. May the Lord bless them and watch over them as they move on.

We are so thankful to have peace announced for Olivia Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie) and look forward to her testimony and baptism.

Congratulations to the following college graduates: Sis. Tiffany Schwab, Bro. Shane Beer who will be returning in the fall for grad school, Bro. Jeff Beer, Sis. Michelle Stoller, Bro. Kent Bahler, Bro. Aaron Zeller, returning in fall for med school, Sis. Briana Furrer, Bro. Phil Yargosz, Sis. Rachel Huber, Sis. Melinda Heinold, Andy Getz, Chariti Wuethrich, Bro. Rob Schlipf, Greg Koutsourof (wife Kelli).

Purdue group officers for next year are: Bro. Grant Gudeman, President; Bro. Clint Bahler, Vice President; Sis. Angie Beer, Secretary; Sis. Kristen Fiechter, Treasurer; Bro. Ben Bucher and Bro. Brad Widmer as Ushers.

We express many thanks to the following ministers for being willing to travel and bring us the Word of the

Lord: Bros. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL), Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL), Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse, IN), Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN), and Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN).

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Erica Wagenbach
Luann Gerber**

We have three graduating from high school this year. They are Sis. Katie Schwab (Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel), Amy Schieler (Bro. Duane and Sis. Suz) and Bro. Lee Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell). May God be near them as they continue on to higher learning.

We also have three that graduated from college. They are Sis. Tiffany Schwab (Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy), Bro. Kent Bahler (Steve and Sis. Elaine) and Kim Furrer (Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley). May God bless each one of them as they enter the workplace that they may be good lights and examples to those around them.

Elder Bro. Ernst Pfister and his wife, Sis. Elizabeth, and Bro. Heinrich Gephardt and his wife, Sis. Anne Marie, of Germany have been visiting in our area. We know it must be very different to come here and visit, but pray they will feel the love of the brethren even through the language barriers.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Lana Metzger
Brenda Schulz**

We have had a few visiting ministers this month. They were Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Brad Funk (Garden Grove, IA). Many thanks go out to them and their families for their service.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Blaine Applegarth (Sis. Margaret), Sis. Mathilda Frank, and

Sis. Maye Heiniger. May God comfort them as they return home. Visiting the elderly and the sick even though we become busy in our lives and families is an important duty as Christians.

The Heavenly arrival of Samuel Ronald on April 12 was the first birth for Bro. Curt and Sis. Lorenia Schmidgall. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Schmidgall and Felice and Sis. Lurdes Sibaja (Ixtlan, Mexico). We wish them many of God's blessings as they start their family.

God has again sent a baby from Heaven into the lives of Mark and Jamy Eisenmann. Kaley Elisabeth is welcomed home by her parents and brothers, Taylor and Brady. Grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Elaine Eisenmann and Leo and Connie Martin (Burlington). We wish them many blessings as their family continues to grow.

This past month we have been privileged to witness the testimony and baptism of Clarence Massner. God is still able to call souls and they are able to answer even though they are physically incapacitated or not able to communicate well with others.

The end of the school year is here and brings along with it graduation time. There are several graduates this year in our congregation. They include the following: Bro. Jonathon Eberhardt (Bro. Fred and Sis. Kathy), Seth Eberhardt (Bro. Curt and Jean), Sis. Mandy Gerst (Randall and Sis. Juanita), Trevor Knapp (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna), Bryan Kuntz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Beverly), Sis. Amy Massner (Bro. Ron and Sis. Donna), and Sis. Marie Schmidgall (Bro. Don and Sis. Carol). We pray that they will look to God for guidance as they continue on with schooling or begin making a living in the workplace. May God protect them and help them make wise decisions on this next step of life's journey.

Mother's Day honors our mothers and other women in our lives who

have faithfully and unselfishly raised us. Mothers hold a special place in our hearts because they were given to us by God. May God bless them for their hard work and devotion.

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her A woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

Proverbs 31:28-30

Notice: On March 10, a hoodless, dark blue, "Basic Editions" winter coat was mistakenly taken from our church. A similar coat, with a hood and with a pair of black leather gloves in the pockets, was left in its place. This coat belonged to a guest visiting our church and they can be reached at (641) 664-3093. Thank you.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank all who remembered me with cards, gifts, visits and phone calls following my stroke and during my recovery. God bless each of you.

Bro. Joe Wiegand (Sis. Lois)

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

Hosting the World Relief Committee meetings was indeed a special and blessed weekend for us. We enjoyed retired Elder Bro. Roy Grimm's slide presentation of his travels to India. May God bless each committee member and their wives for their time and labor put forth in their duties of meeting the needs of the less fortunate.

Visiting ministers during this past month were Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Marvin Lehman (Bradford, IL), retired Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), and Bros. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL),

Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA), and Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA).

On May 4th, Bob Frieden (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan) and Julie Berns (Gary and Carol) pledged their faithfulness to each other until death they part. May Bob now look to God for guidance to "rule well his own house" as this responsibility will now be his.

"And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Ephesians 6:4

What a weighty responsibility rests on the fathers as "head of the home". May God grant each one an extra portion of wisdom and grace, and may we be thankful for their love and care this Father's Day.

As we will soon be celebrating the birth of our nation, may we remember to give God thanks for the many blessings that have been ours, and may we each do our part that we might continue to be "one nation under God".

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE **Willa Clark**

June is the month to honor our earthly fathers. We appreciate the lessons learned at the knee of a loving dad, and honor him by living a life committed to our Heavenly Father. Oh, what a huge responsibility fathers have in this life, as they raise children to know and do what is right in the sight of God.

We wish Robert Wuthrich many blessings in his new home with the Pulaski, IA, congregation, where he moved to be closer to his family. We will sorely miss him, and hope he'll remember to visit us.

Recent visitors have been Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA). Thank you for taking time in your busy schedules to share God's Word with us.

A new grandson joins the family

of Buck and Sis. April Parmer. Luke Howard is the bundle of blessing born May 18 to parents Aaron and Beth Parmer, and big sister, Kaylee.

IOWA, IOWA CITY **Diana Butikofer**

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) with us for Communion and the following Sunday. We appreciate his labor on our behalf.

We have three college graduates this year. We wish Nick Bruellman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa, West Bend, IA), Sis. Kelli Frank (Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina, Oakville, IA) and Sis. Sharon Gerst (Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie) God's guidance and richest blessings as they pursue careers in their chosen profession.

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

It is with joy we share the news of Jeff Knobloch's (Keri) repentance. May God's grace and guidance be with him as he begins his walk with the Lord. Jeff's parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie Knobloch.

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

Psalms 127:3

Three precious boys were born this past month. Jaxon Nicolas was born to Jerry and Teena Hogan and big brother Riley on April 19. Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy Metzger (West Bend, IA) are the grandparents. Bro. Jerome and Sis. Jana Metzger along with Kayla, Grant, Brady and Austin welcomed Addison Ray into their family on May 6. His grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Dolores Metzger and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Mary Massner (Burlington, IA). Sis. Donna Metzger is a great-grandmother. Chad and Sandi TerWee were blessed with their first

child on May 17. Helping them welcome Chase Arthur into their lives are grandparents, Jerry and Mary TerWee and Bro. George Meyer. Bro. Art and Sis. Emily Leuthold and Sis. Emma Meyer are Chase's great-grandparents.

Recent surgical patients have been Bro. Tom Metzger (Sis. Deb), Maranda Oleson (Kevin and Janet), Sis. Elaine Kellenberger and Bro. Paul Leuthold (Sis. Betty). We pray that God's Healing Hand will be upon them as they recover.

On April 28, the betrothal of Sis. Jane Knobloch (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Darren Freidinger (Goodfield, IL) was shared with us. May the Lord be near this couple as they prepare for Holy Matrimony. Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie Knobloch and Bro. Duane and Sis. Vermeda Freidinger (Goodfield, IL) are the parents.

Bro. Harlan Wulf and Sis. Betty Klopfenstein (Latty, OH) were united in marriage on May 5. We congratulate them and welcome Sis. Betty into our fold. Bro. Jake and Sis. Alice Wulf and Bro. Raymond and Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein are the parents of this couple.

At this time of the year we want to remember our graduates. We congratulate each one and wish God's direction upon them as they plan for their futures. High school graduates are Joe Barber (Mike and Sis. Donna), Craig Bosch (Bro. Tony and Sis. Pam), Eric Hartter (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gail), Casey Heyer (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean), Chris Knobloch (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Coralee), Trisha Larson (Tedd and Sis. Diane), Jamie Leuthold (Carl and Deb), Sis. Rachel Messner (Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene), Sis. Abby Metzger (Bro. Mark and Sis. Audrey), Evan Metzger (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joleen), James Metzger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois), Glen Meyer (Bro. George) and Colin Moser (Bro. Rick and Sis. Lori). College graduates are Troy Metzger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte), Mary Moser (Jim), Scott Metzger (Bro. Mark and Sis.

Audrey), Sis. JoAnn Meyer (Bro. Ray and Sis. Twyla), Trixie Moser (Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther), Sis. Amber Metzger (Bro. Harv and Sis. Mary) and Treela Knobloch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet).

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

We were blessed to have Bro. Perry Klopfenstein and his family with us for the weekend. Bro. Perry shared with us much of the history and basis for the doctrine of our faith. May the Lord ever continue to bless him for all the labors he does for our precious Church.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Edith Schrock (Bro. Bob) in the passing of her brother, Bro. Ben Hodel (Roanoke, IL). Also, we want to remember Sis. Monica Wagenbach (Bro. Marc) in the passing of her father. May these dear ones feel the many thoughts and prayers on their behalf.

We also have been blessed with two more precious bundles from Heaven. Bro. Dave and Sis. Stefanie Stoller welcome into their hearts and home their second sweet little daughter, Noelle Marie. Big sister, Torri, is happy for a new little playmate. Also thankful for her safe arrival are her grandparents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Patty Stoller and Bro. Ervin and Sis. Teresa Marti.

Bo Charles is the firstborn son of Bro. Todd and Sis. Kim Massner. His grandparents, Bro. Virgil and Sis. Barbara Massner and Bro. Al and Sis. Lucy Knobloch (Lester, IA), are also rejoicing in his birth.

May the Lord bless these dear families and the little ones He's entrusted to their care.

We want to thank Bros. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) for ministering to us this past month. May the Lord continue to bless them and their families for being so willing to be used in

the Lord's service.

IOWA, PULASKI
Katrina Knobloch

"Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 5:1

Kristin Wuthrich (Bro. Ken and Lori) has professed peace with God. We look forward to her testimony and baptism next month.

We wish our graduating high school seniors, Adam Townsend (Danny and Sis. Lynn) and Kristin Wuthrich, God's fullest blessings and guidance in their lives.

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

Proverbs 4:1

As Father's Day approaches, we want to remember our fathers. They have had much responsibility, not only for our physical needs, but more importantly, our spiritual needs.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Lori Skoglund
Berniece Banwart

What a blessing it was when we recently were able to partake of Communion with our dear brothers and sisters in faith. We appreciated the willingness of Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN) to come and assist in this special service. On a Thursday eve service we were able to assemble and hear Words of Truth brought to us by Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer, Silverton, OR).

Traveling to be here with family on Mother's Day were Bro. Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO). We appreciate all of the efforts of each of our ministers.

May 16 was the date chosen by Amy Wirtz (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan) and Mike Van Wyhe (Mr. And Mrs. Gary Van Wyhe) of Rock Rapids, IA, to exchange wedding vows. May they always strive for the welfare of each other, so their love can continue to grow.

We are thankful that our hospital patients can be at home again. Sis. Sharon (Bro. Jim) Fehr underwent major surgery and Sis. Edna M. Banwart, Sis. Doris Banwart, and Loren Fehr (Bro. Matt and Sis. Rachel) spent a few days in hospitals for medical care.

"Now therefore hearken unto me, ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and refuse it not."

Proverbs 8:32-33

We have a large group of seniors graduating from high school this year. We wish them God's blessings as they enter the work force or go on to college. May they always take the teachings they have learned at home and Sunday School with them, so they can make right choices wherever they go. Those graduating are: Gina Bruellman (Bro. Dave and Sis. Yvonne), Wes Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene), Kipp Fehr (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Charlotte), Luann Gerber (Bro. Manuel and Sis. Mary), Missy Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee), Tyler Metzger (Jerry and Joy), Brea Mogler (Eric and Diana), Brandi Schmidt (Jamie and Linda), Brian Schneider (David), Robert Schneider (Louis and Joni), Jeremy Schultz (Don and Deb), and Bethany Wirtz (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan).

Our nation has set aside a day in June to remember our fathers. Many of us remember grandfathers and fathers who contended for the faith that we find precious to us. May the fathers who are raising families today find grace to teach their children the Truth.

"Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, wait-

ing at the posts of my doors. For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord."

Proverbs 8:34-35

A Tribute to Fathers

He lived a very humble life,
Content with what he had!
I never knew him to complain,
This man who was my Dad.
He farmed the land most of his
life,
And planted seeds in season.
The seed he sowed the deepest,
Grow in my heart and reason.
He gave me many gifts in life
That money cannot buy,
The gifts of honesty and truth,
I treasure very high.
He taught me to be thankful to our
God

For whatever things we had,
Respect and love for our Lord
And Saviour, Jesus Christ.
But most of all I'm thankful
That I had him for my Dad.

—Vest Clark

JAPAN, TOKYO

Jana Klaus

"Time flies like an arrow" — one of my former English class ladies always liked to say. That English idiom stuck in her mind, which I thought was pretty impressive, but she sure remembered a truth, didn't she? The older I get, the more I understand the verse written in the Bible how our lives are "but a vapor". That's hard for a young person to understand, especially a child, but it is probably good to remind them of that once in a while.

We have very wonderful, blessed news to report this month! That being, our dear young working friend, Ikumi Watanabe, has begun on the road to repentance and conversion to a life of following her Saviour Jesus and her true and living God, the Father! She has been faithfully assembling with us since last summer and is truly a blessing to our little

church in many, many ways. Please pray for her and her family as the teachings of the Bible are quite new to them. But what an encouragement to see her submissive and open heart to the Truth!

We've had a lot of good-sized gatherings lately at our church, for which we are very thankful. Our noon table is "bursting at the seams" since we only have the one room to eat in now, and it has never been a custom at Tokyo to have more than one sitting for lunch. Especially in this land, it would be very hard for a person to go ahead of another, I think! It just makes us even more thankful that construction has begun on our new addition.

In addition to regular brother, sister and friend attendees, we have also had quite a few visitors in the last month, which is always a joy. Bro. Rob Honegger, son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary (Bluffton North, IN) who is doing his medical internship in Columbus, OH, stopped by to visit his relative, Sis. Marie Inoue and family, for a few days and was able to worship with us on April 28. He was on his way to Thailand where he would do a one month intern at a rural hospital. We enjoyed learning from him, and also appreciated his afternoon Bible lesson on the first part of chapter 2 in Philippians, where we are exhorted to take on the mind of Christ Jesus, who became a very humble servant here on this earth. Bro. Andrew Klaus' two sisters, Sisters Faith and Melody Klaus (Washington, IL), were also there that day, visiting Bro. Andrew and family before heading on to Malaysia for a vacation with their parents, John and Betty Klaus, who had been there since January. It was a pleasure to have Sis. Ayako Inoue spend the day with us, too, as she was back visiting from her internship several hours up north. And Bro. Akihiro Itoh (Shioda) also assembled with us before he headed off to Springfield, IL, USA, to do his medical internship. It was probably the first time we ever had three interning doctors

in our midst! Several of us enjoyed supper out together that evening for more time of fellowship.

At the end of April and beginning of May, there are several national holidays all in a row, so we have what is called the "Golden Week Holidays" since many people just take off the whole week. We, as a church, were blessed to spend one of those holidays together, April 29, on a hiking and picnic trip to the mountains. The above mentioned guests could all join in and the whole day was truly blessed. The weather was perfect, the scenery absolutely gorgeous, fellowship encouraging, and of course, exercise plentiful!

As you can see, we have had many, many blessings in the last month, for which we praise and thank God, but we also cannot overlook that many in our congregation are going through tough trials right now, either they themselves, or their extended families, concerning health especially, so please do pray that we as a church will do what we can to help one another and that all of us will continue to "fight the good fight of faith" until the end. May this be for each one of you also.

KANSAS, BERN

Sally Strahm

Lori Baumgartner

An account that I recently read was a sober reminder that our attitude toward life not only affects us personally but our own offspring and the generations that follow. The account went as follows: there was a man, four generations ago, who couldn't get along with his brother. Hatred and jealousy infested his life. This same bitter attitude became evident in the hearts of each of his three sons. One son had thirteen children and that same bitter thread continued in many of them. There were only a few, that by God's saving grace were cleansed of this attitude. One of those thirteen had twelve children of his own and sadly, none of those have peaceful attitudes to-

ward other family members. Rather, they spend their time bickering and quarreling at many family gatherings. How tragic it is to see how all of this bitterness, envy, and strife was started by one individual four generations ago.

A PIECE OF CLAY

I took a piece of plastic clay
And gently fashioned it one day;
And as my fingers pressed it still
It moved and yielded at my will.

I came again when days were past,
The bit of clay was hard at last;
The form I gave it still it bore,
But I could change that form no
more.

I took a piece of living clay
And gently formed it day by day;
And molded with my power and
art
A young child's soft and yielding
heart.

I came again when days were gone,
It was a man I looked upon;
He still that early impress wore,
And I could change it nevermore.

—*Author unknown*

This poem touched my heart as it reminded me of the great responsibility that lays on each and every parent. With Father's Day being this month, may we thank our fathers for the godly examples they have been to us. Let us remember to pray for them as we are aware that their godly influence can have far reaching effects: even unto the third and fourth generations.

"Peace I leave 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

Four converts have allowed the Lord to work in their hearts and

have found that "peace" that the world cannot give. We rejoice with Anthony and Ashley Esslinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty) and Brian and Kristin Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda). We look forward to hearing their testimonies the weekend of June 15 and 16.

We rejoice when we see evidence of the Lord working in the hearts of loved ones. The engagement of Sis. Edie Fetter (Toledo, OH) and Bro. Richard Strahm was made known unto us recently. Sis. Edie's parents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Marilyn Fetter (Toledo, OH). May they feel the Lord's guiding hand in all of their plans and decisions.

We pray for God's blessings on Bro. Steven Edelman and Sis. Kelly Hartter (Sabetha, KS) who were joined in Holy Matrimony on April 28 in the Sabetha congregation. We rejoice with this dear couple, as well as their parents, Eugene and Judy Edelman and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter. Our prayers go with them as they plan to make Sabetha their home church.

The weekend of April 28, our Sunday School enjoyed hosting a group of 6th-8th grade youth from Lamar and Kansas City, MO; Denver, CO and the Kansas churches. We express a special thank you to ministering Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristin, Alto, MI) for speaking to the Sunday School students and bringing forth God's Word on that weekend. May the Lord bless him for his labors on our behalf.

On May 6, a daughter, Amber Leigh Menold, was welcomed into the hearts and home of Bro. Dayton and Sis. Wanda Menold. Amber's grandparents are Bro. James and Sis. Louise Menold and Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene Grimm (Sabetha, KS). We rejoice with their family.

Requiring hospitalization during the past month were Sis. Linda Esslinger, Bro. Reuben Moser (Sis. Stella) and Sis. Lila Rokey (Bro. Joe). We are thankful for our Father's healing hand.

REMINDER: Our Silver Lining Collection is scheduled to take place in June.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Ruth Bahr

Ministers visiting us this month were Bros. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), David Obergfel (Sis. Kathy, Peoria, IL), Darrel Stoller (Sis. Gloria, Bern, KS), and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL). Their work performed in God's name is never in vain.

Kendra Rose, the new arrival to this family, came May 15. She has two siblings, Heather and Austin. Parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Julie Bahr. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth Bahr and Sis. Martha Feucht (Lester, IA).

KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY Sarah Somerhalder

Congratulations to our graduates! Cheri Adams (Tim) (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Debbie Frieden) graduated from Southwestern College in Winfield, KS; Stacie Zimmerman (ministering Bro. Tim and Sis. Barbara) graduated from Washburn University in Topeka, KS; and Jacob Knoblock (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri) graduated from Allen County Community College in Iola, KS. High school graduates are Sis. Andrea Luthi (Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane) and Heidi Zimmerman (ministering Bro. Tim and Sis. Barbara). We pray that each will seek God's direction in their plans for the future.

This time of year as we remember our mothers and fathers, we want to thank the Lord for their prayers and for teaching us to love and serve the Lord.

Stacie Zimmerman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Barbara) has accepted employment in Salem, OR, as a physical therapist assistant. We will miss her assembling with us, but wish her the Lord's blessings as she pursues her

career.

**KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger
Jeanelle Plattner**

Search me, O Lord. We were kindly exhorted on preparations for Holy Communion by Elder Bros. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) and John Lehman (Bern, KS).

It was a blessing to hear the testimony of Heidi Hartter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Charlene) and witness her baptism. Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Art Metz (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) were with us for this joyous occasion.

Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) were here for the wedding of Sis. Kelly Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene) and Bro. Steven Edelman (Eugene and Judy) on April 28. May God bless their union. We welcome them as a part of our congregation.

We thank the Bern church for hosting the Kansas Sunday School classes. It helps put many precious memories in the hearts of our youth.

Communion was held on May 4. Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) assisted in this work. We read that we have no life in us unless we partake in the emblems of His suffering.

There is reason for rejoicing in the lives of Bro. Troy Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon) and Sis. Dawn Grimm (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA), whose engagement was announced. Their wedding is planned for August 4.

We are thankful that prayers have been answered for Sis. Sharon Strahm (Bro. Carl). She has been able to return home and attend church. May God continue to strengthen her.

Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) was also welcomed as a visiting minister this month.

It was a very special Mother's Day for first-time parents, Bro. Dayton and Sis. Wanda Menold (Bern, KS).

God blessed them with a daughter, Amber Leigh, on May 6. Thankful grandparents among us are Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene Grimm and great-grandmother Sis. Lois Grimm.

Note of Thanks:

We are humbled and deeply thankful for the outpouring of love and prayers from many brethren with my surgery. Our heartfelt thank-you for the many kind gifts. God has been good to us. May He bless each of you.

Sis. Sharon and Bro. Carl Strahm and family

**KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller**

Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) ministered to us on April 28. We appreciated his ministry and enjoyed the fellowship with him and his wife, Sis. Marjorie.

Elder Bro. Jay Luthi spent May 5 with us and was present for the annual business meeting. We can only praise God that we have brothers and sisters who will accept responsibility for the various positions needed to insure prudent functioning within our congregation.

Another visiting minister, Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), was in our vicinity on business and assembled with us in Wichita on a recent Wednesday evening.

I recently read a devotional in which the writer quoted Psalm 62:8: "Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us." She developed the thought that in addition to our appointed times of prayer, we have need of momentary prayer as we progress through the day; for example, beginning a task, encountering others, leaving the house, speaking foolishly, feeling vain, etc. She concluded that we should meet these failures with a momentary uplifting of the heart to God so He can mold our character according to His pattern, "He who thinks much of God

will daily think less of himself." The above was taken from a piece written by Henrietta L.S. Lear (1824-1896).

**KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Glenda Neukomm**

"For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee."

Psalm 84:11-12

We rejoice with Kyle and Philip Germann (Bro. Doug and Sis. Rebecca) who have found peace with God and man. On May 18-19, it was a very special and blessed weekend when we witnessed their testimonies and baptisms. We thank Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) and Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA) who were here to carry out this important work of the Lord. May the Lord richly bless them.

Also we appreciated visiting ministers who took part in the services: Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL), Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL), Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park, IL), Kenneth Knapp (Sis. Phyllis, Taylor, MO) and Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH). There were approximately 24 churches represented: Eureka, Forrest, Congerville, Chicago, Cissna Park, Champaign, Morton, Roanoke, Wolcott, LaCrosse, Milford, South Bend, Bluffton, Taylor, Kansas City, Atlanta, San Diego, Rockville, Junction, Toledo, Latty, Columbus, Mansfield, Smithville and Rittman.

On Memorial Day weekend we appreciated ministering Bro. Kenneth Indermuhle and his wife, Sis. Linda, from Sardis, OH, coming to bring us the Word. May the Lord bless them for coming to share the day with us.

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
Gloria Gonzalez

Mother,
God told you when I was born:
I will loan a son of mine to you for
a time,
For you to love while he lives,
It could be for 10, 20 or 40 years
Until I call him home.
Could you take care of him?
I want him to learn to live and I
have sought out a teacher,
And I have chosen you.
Will you teach him?
I can't assure you that he will stay
with you,
I only loan him to you,
Because what returns to the earth
returns to me.
He will give you his affection, joy,
and all the beauty of his innocence,
The day that I call him, don't cry,
and don't begrudge me for taking
him home.
You will have many happy memories
to make his absence more bearable,
And you will say with thankful
humility, "I have finished my
work, Lord."

—Anon.

Love your children, because they are only on loan to you. I came across this poem and found it a good expression of the important role of our Godly mothers in our lives. How thankful we can be for each one!

Meet Sis. Bertha Carrillo de Gonzalez:

I am 44 years old and the mother of Sisters Rosario, Claudia, and Gloria. I grew up in a Catholic home, but was in darkness and never knew the Truth until I came to this church

about six years ago. There were baptisms and I wanted to hear the sermon but the church (house) was full and I couldn't get inside and wasn't able to hear much. I always wanted to know more about God and His will. I desired to feel His peace and His joy because I knew I could not deal with all the problems without His help.

I felt I was one of the worst sinners but confessed all my sins and knew God forgave me. Now that I have given my life to Jesus Christ, I feel joy and know He is helping me. Without His help I would be lost forever. He came to die for me and for all mankind.

When my two sisters drowned several years ago, it affected me very much. I felt anger towards God but that was because I didn't understand how much He loves us. I questioned why He let this happen. Later I could understand and asked God to forgive me for questioning Him. I was blind and didn't know His Word and was like the sheep that had gone astray, but He was the Good Shepherd and found me. Later when my father died and I was now converted, I could feel this was the will of God and was just thankful my father had the opportunity to repent before he died (see the Feb. 2001 issue of the Silver Lining). He was at peace with God. Through his intense suffering, God was strengthening him.

I feel very thankful that the Lord has touched my heart and also that of my family. In spite of the fact that my husband, Javier, is sick, I have felt that God is helping me very much because he is determined to go forward in seeking his salvation. Jesus Christ came to rescue us so that we wouldn't be lost eternally. I have faith and the hope that the Lord will also touch the hearts of our other two children, Carlos and Margarita, but this is also my desire for all mankind.

Now I understand what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross. All I have, my life, my husband, and my children, are all on loan to me from

the Father.

I was baptized on February 25, 2001.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Rose Watson
Terri Huber

It is the season for graduations! Our high school graduates include Lisa Zaagman, Adam Rairigh, Brad Abel, Bobbi Jean Meyer, Ernie Blough, Eric Blough, Melissa Wingeier, Bro. Jon Gerst, Amy Oesch, Laura Horsley, and Destini Sanders. Graduating from college this year is Sis. Sarah Gerst. May God guide and direct their paths as the future branches out before them.

Successful surgeries were performed on Bro. Denny Koehl, who had a hip replacement, and Sis. Christine Wingeier, who had a knee replacement. By God's grace, they are both feeling well, undergoing therapy, and looking forward to returning home. Also hospitalized was Cassy Sanders.

The annual Ladies Spring Luncheon was enjoyed by over 120 souls. We were taken back to the spirit of the pioneer women of the old west and reminded of Jabez's prayer to "enlarge my territory".

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."

Psalms 19:1

God's wonderful creation is very evident as spring unfolds before us again this year.

Jeremy and Natalie Henderson were blessed with a new baby girl, Jaden Michelle. Big sister, Janessia, is excited to have a new playmate. Thankful grandparents are John and Sis. Winifred Gorney.

We rejoice with our converts, Clinton and Ileen Wackerle, as they have professed peace with God and man. We look forward to their testimonies and baptisms.

Our high school graduates are: Ann Jacobs (Girard and Sis. Diana), Jennifer Knochel (Bro. Jack and Sis. Debbie), convert Nathan Knochel (Bro. Bob and Sis. Rhonda), Jeff McNally (Gerard and Joyce), Carmen Sochacki (Jim and Sis. Cindy), Rebekah Ruegsegger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Maria), and Mollee Wackerle (Randy and Jane).

College graduates are Sis. Jenay Knochel, Sis. Sarah Knochel (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kay), and Sis. Janelle Ramseyer (Bro. Neil and Sis. Sharon). We pray that God's blessings will be with each one as they enter schools of higher learning or pursue an occupation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Alice Eisenman at the passing of her sister, Irene.

Hospitalized this month were Fred (Helen) Knochel, Sis. Leah Ramseyer and Sis. Esther Waibel. We trust that God's healing power will be with these individuals.

Several from our congregation have experienced milestones in their lives. Bro. Winsor Mosher celebrated his 90th birthday. Bro. Winsor and Sis. Loretta also celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary. Our retired Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Maxine Virkler celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May each of these couples have many more blessed years together.

Note of Thanks:

Thanks for all the wonderful cards and letters we received for our anniversary and birthday. Winsor received 105 cards and we received 76 cards. God bless each one.

Bro. Winsor and Sis. Loretta Mosher

May God grant His grace to each one in the coming days.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Sarah Beard

Holly Barton

Our first annual Mother-Daughter Tea was held April 27. It was very much enjoyed by my many mothers, daughters, grandmothers, sisters, and granddaughters! It was a very special occasion to reflect on and be thankful for these bonds—and for all our sisters-in-Christ. We particularly thank those who worked hard to make this an enjoyable occasion, and we look forward to making this a yearly tradition.

June offers an opportunity to show our appreciation for our earthly fathers. Fathers have great responsibility for their families, and we are so thankful for those who point their children to the Heavenly Father.

After seeking God's will for their future, Bro. Justin Ooms and Sis. Sarah Gerst (Alto, MI) have announced their engagement. We pray for the Lord's continued guidance and blessings as they look forward to a July 21 wedding. Bro. Justin's parents are Linda and the late Val Janschütz (Houston, TX) and Robert and Diane Ooms (San Francisco, CA). Sis. Sarah is the daughter of Bro. Wally and Sis. Donna Gerst (Alto, MI).

We welcome Sam Frank (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan, LaCrosse, IN) here for the summer. Sam is interning at Daimler Chrysler.

Prayers are with Sis. Maria Sabados, who has been hospitalized. We are thankful for Bro. Ben Maibach's recovery from recent surgery.

It was nice to have Michael Peterson (son of Diane Peterson) with us again after an extended tour with the Armed Forces. We were reminded to keep in our prayers all who are serving our country.

Congratulations to Trisha Hitz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy), who is graduation from high school, and Bro. Scott Bahr (Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn), who has received a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engi-

neering from Kansas State University. As he returns from Kansas to the Detroit area, Trisha plans to leave Detroit to pursue her education at Kansas State. We pray for God's blessings and leading for both of them as well as for all graduates.

Heartfelt thanks go to our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI), and Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), who was with us for our monthly service at Woodhaven.

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS

Diane Stewart

We always appreciate our Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN) coming to visit for a Sunday. Also recently we were privileged to have Bro. Paul Butikofer (Sis. Millie, Elgin, IA) here with us for a Sunday. They always bring us kind, loving words of wisdom.

Let us never take for granted our home ministers who so faithfully serve us on the pulpit. It is such a rich blessing to spend a Sunday in our home church, fellowshiping and prayerfully doing our own church duties while appreciating God's precious Spirit encompassing us all. We are so thankful for this!

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Cheryl Messner

Katie Messner

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

II Timothy 4:2

We were blessed with ministering Bros. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA), and Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN). We thank them for their labors and pray that God will be their rich rewarder.

Recent hospital patients have been Bro. John Schaefer, Bro. Gene Schmidgall (Sis. Dorothy), Sis. Virginia Schmidgall (Bro. Don), Bro. Harold Gramm (Sis. Ila), Amanda Fehr (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy), Bro. Gary Domnick (Sis. Velma), Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger (Bro. Wally), Sis. Vi Wulf (Bro. Leonard), and Bro. John Zeltwanger (Sis. Mabel). We pray God will heal where it is His will.

We wish God's blessing on the following high school graduates: Benjamin Furrer (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jill), Taylor Gramm (Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen), Michael Joos (Bro. Harv and Sis. Deb), Andrea Koehl (Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley), Gwen Koehl (Bro. Arnold and Sis. Sharon), Sis. Hannah Koehl (Bro. Guy and Sis. Lynnette), Jonathan Messner (Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy), Nick Messner (Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce), Todd Nohl (Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie), Heather Sauder (Bro. Verle and Sis. Christa), Jeffrey Schaefer (Bro. Stan and Sis. Bev), and Brent Wulf (Bro. Dave and Sis. Nancy).

The following four are graduating from higher schools of learning: Sis. Rhonda Wulf (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda), Sis. Emily Koehl (Bro. Arnold and Sis. Sharon), Sis. Hannah Koehl (Bro. Guy and Sis. Lynnette), and Amy Fehr (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy). May they look to God for further direction in their lives.

We are thankful for our fathers and the faith that they have preserved, and we pray that God will continue to give them grace and strength to hold fast to that which remains.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Marilyn Messner
Ginny Stoll

Our single members hosted a weekend get-together with Morris, Lester, Minneapolis and West Bend. A blessed weekend was had by all.

"...and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children."

Deut. 6:14

The results of our Sunday School voting were as follows: Bro. Verl Schmidt, Bro. Dick Van Deest, Sis. Joleen Elder (Bro. John) and Sis. Lindsay Schmidt as substitute. May they look to the Lord for direction. Sis. Ginny Stoll will assist with the Silver Lining, replacing Sis. Carol Ann Messner.

Our sympathy goes to the family of Clarence Solomonson, father of Sis. JoAnn Messner (Elder Bro. Leroy). They wish to thank everyone for kind deeds and prayers extended.

Bro. Ed Stoll wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and kind deeds during his recuperation from recent surgery.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Garry and Marty Rokey

Though merit and strength
 We do not possess,
 And honor and wealth
 Our souls would distress;
 In Thy name, Lord Jesus,
 We'll ever abide,
 And thus we say: "Amen",
 The Lord will provide!

Zion's Harp #86 vs. 6

We rejoice with Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Fehr (Philadelphia, PA) and family and with Bro. Tom Fehr as we witnessed his testimony and baptism on May 4. Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) assisted our Elder Bro. Don Braker in the labor of love. Welcoming Bro. Tom to our congregation are his brothers and sisters who assemble with us: Bro. Joe and Sis. Joan Fehr, Mike and Patty Fehr, Sis. Tina Fehr, and Dona Fehr.

We would like to thank the following brothers for allowing the Lord to use them in His service: Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA), Bro. Roger Aberle

(Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), and Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA).

Notes of Thanks:

We thank all our loved ones who remembered us in prayer, cards, and gifts during and following my recent stroke and heart surgery. We felt the prayers, love, and concern many times and in many ways. May God continue to support and bless our unity in Him.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen Kellenberger

I would like to thank everyone for their many deeds of kindness during my recent hospital stay after a mild stroke. The many prayers, visits, phone calls, gifts, and words of encouragement by my church family were greatly appreciated. I am still recovering and could use your continuing prayers. The Lord has His way to tell us to slow down with the things of this world and concentrate more on our treasure in heaven.

Bro. Garry Rokey

"Praise ye the lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise him in the heights. Praise ye Him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him all ye stars of light. Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heaven. Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded, and they were created."

Psalms 148:1-5

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Becky Marti
Kristin Braker

Our congregation had the blessing of partaking of Holy Communion on April 21. Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) was here to assist in this work. May he feel the Lord's blessings for his many labors on our behalf.

Sis. Mindy Braker (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol) and Keith

Kellenberger (Bro. Curt and Sis. Martha) graduated from high school this year. May they seek the Lord's guidance as they begin a new stage in life.

Alex Marti (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kathy) spent some time in the hospital this past month. We are thankful he seems to be doing well. Betty Thiebaud (Jack) was also a recent hospital patient. Her husband Jack is yet currently in the hospital. May we keep them in our prayers.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS Betsy Schrenk

We felt joy and thankfulness, mixed with sadness, the last weekend of April, as our retiring Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Sis. Dona) and our new Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan) shared the duties here in St. Louis of serving us Holy Communion, attending our annual business meeting, and reading the Memorandum. Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona have been through "thick and thin" with us these last 16 years: having Communion in one of our homes when we still had services in a motel; going through our church building project, culminating with the dedication of our church to the worship of God in 1993; buying the house and land next to the church; building Sunday School rooms in the church basement. Many people have come and gone in this time. We've been blessed to have people repent and be baptized. The Grimms have always been so loving and supportive, giving us good advice and cheering us on. We pray that God will be their rich Rewarder for their faithful service. Our congregation loves and appreciates them. And we welcome Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan. They have shown us much love, and we hope they always feel welcome here in St. Louis.

We celebrated three graduations this spring. Tim Hann (Jerry and Sis. Cindy) graduated from high school in April, and in May, Matthew Schrenk graduated from high school and Peter Schrenk (both sons of Bro.

Loren and Sis. Betsy) graduated from the University of Illinois in Urbana/Champaign.

Visiting ministers in May were Bros. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN), Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN). Bros. Jeff and Frank were on the pulpit alone as we were gone the first two Sundays. We thank them for the "double duty" they performed here that allowed us to be away.

We welcome for the summer Bro. Dave Roberts, in St. Louis for an internship in a law firm, and Trent Steidinger, doing research at Washington University.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Peg Haerr

On Saturday, May 11, we heard the message of the Memorandum given to us by our Elder Bro. Kent and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Pulaski, IA). May we all look at ourselves and see where we can lead holier lives. Also ministering to us this month was Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL). May these brothers who travel these many miles be richly blessed!

We are happy to announce that Robey Shuck has been announced for peace. We look forward to his baptism.

Our high school graduates this year are Caleb Sutter (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kay) and Lindsey Yackley (Bro. Elwood and Sis. Trudie). We pray for God's direction and protection of them along life's paths.

Sis. Judy Huber (Vernon) is back assembling with us after a short stay in the hospital. Let us not take God's healing mercies for granted.

With mixed emotions we heard that Sis. Jan Heimer's father, Bro. Ben Hodel (Roanoke, IL) had died. We will all miss him, but we can't help but smile when we think of him walking upon those streets of gold! Our sympathy, though, goes to Elder Bro. Kent, Sis. Jan, and their family.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

This past month our prayers have been with Sis. Anna Mellnitz and Gertrude Herzig. Both have met with hospitalization and are home recuperating.

How sweet the privilege of prayer,
When we our cares and sorrows
share

With Him who understands,
With Him who understands.
Our Father's house has large supplies.

He owns and rules the earth and
skies

And bounteous are His hands,
And bounteous are His hands.
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 His alter prayers are laid,
He'll send the soul relief,
He'll send the soul relief.

Hymns of Zion #205

We were blessed to have a visiting minister and his wife in our midst on Wednesday evening, May 8. May the Lord richly bless Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) for sharing God's Word with us.

We share in Terry and Tracy Farney's joy in the safe arrival of their daughter, Maggie Mae, on April 26. Rejoicing with them are grandparents, Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney and Walter and Kathy Sitko. Maggie will join her excited sister, Cassie, and brother, Skyler, at home. May the Lord grant them wisdom in the raising up of this precious little one.

OHIO, AKRON**Joyce Gasser**

We rejoice that Elizabeth Steidl has turned to the Lord in repentance. She is the daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl. We pray for her to continue to grow in grace.

Bro. Eric and Sis. Stephanie Maibach were blessed with a baby girl, born April 23, and they named her Kylee Marie. She has a sister Karissa. Grandparents are Bro. Clair and Sis. Beverly Keever (Mansfield, OH) and Jeff and Elsie Maibach (Rittman, OH).

Bro. Rudy and Sis. Katie Wiegand were blessed with a baby girl, born April 23, and they named her Rachel Hope. She has a sister Carolyn. Grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rosemary Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Don and Barbara Williams of Wadsworth.

Lisa Spangler (Bro. Ned and Sis. Gail) was married to Joseph Pallini on Sunday, May 5. We wish the newlyweds continued happiness.

Christine Demrovsky had been hospitalized, and we are glad she has recovered and is back assembling with us again.

Sunday School students treated mothers and all in taking care of the lunch at church on Mother's Day.

We were privileged and blessed in partaking of Holy Communion, and Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Dave Graf.

We appreciated Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and his family visiting us and Bro. Wayne's message to us.

OHIO, COLUMBUS**Nancy Banks**

"His mercy is still available. His grace is still sufficient. He promised His Son He would come and collect His own. Are we ready?"

We are so thankful for the ministers who visit us in Columbus. This loving admonition was brought to us

this month and is a gentle but firm reminder to those who yet stand outside the door. This month we welcomed Bros. Doyle and Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and their wives and families and were reminded that we are living "in a momentous time and we need to be faithful!" We also enjoyed the time spent with Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake (Sardis, OH) and their children. That same weekend we had spring cleaning of the church, and many adults and children alike worked together to clean God's house.

April 27 was the evening set aside for Holy Communion. Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Dave Graf (Akron, OH) faithfully labored to serve our congregation the Communion Supper. It turned out to be a very special weekend indeed for our church as a special engagement announcement was made known to our congregation. Our love and wishes for God's blessings go out to Bro. Andy and Sis. Sara (Adam) Hunyady, whose marriage took place in the Columbus church on Wednesday evening, May 15.

Loving prayers were sent for our dear friend, Danielle Sauder, as a breakfast was held May 19 for our graduating senior. Danielle is the daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder. We pray for her safekeeping as she enters Ohio State University in the fall.

OHIO, JUNCTION**Cindy Schlatter**

Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) was with us on a recent Sunday. We enjoyed his visit and trust God will bless him for his labors of love.

There was great rejoicing in our congregation as we heard the news of two souls answering God's call. Tim Manz (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra) and Justin Gherian (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon) have decided to give their lives to the Lord. "...Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at

hand." (Matthew 4:17)

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone..."

Genesis 2:18

Believing that God has directed them, the wedding engagement of Bro. Sam Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie) and Sis. Shelby Sinn (Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee) of Latty was made known. We trust that our Heavenly Father will continue to be with them as they make plans for their future lives together.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Emily Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill) in the passing of her dad, Bro. Aaron Heinold, of the La-Crosse, IN, congregation. On this earth we feel sorrow when a loved one passes on, but we have the faith to believe that in Heaven there is great rejoicing as another soul has gained his eternal reward.

Another school year has so swiftly passed by, at least to those of us who are no longer in school. Our graduates are: Erica Bauer (Deb Densmore), Kevin Manz (Bro. Les and Sis. Karen), Klint Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy), Kyle Schlatter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila) and Sis. Patricia Manz (Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera). We hope and pray that each of you will feel God's guidance in your future plans.

OHIO, LATTY**Kathy Sinn****Heidi Hackenjoss**

We rejoice with two souls who have turned to the Lord in repentance. Kallie Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. Joanne) and Cassie Greutman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kristy) are these precious lambs. We pray for them as they strive to attain peace with God and all men. May our words and actions be comforting and strengthening for them.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Doug and Annette Nygaard at the death of his sister, Susan. God's

presence will comfort and console during this time of loss.

Our prayers of healing are also for Sis. Lorene Hackenjós (Bro. Myron), Bro. Charles Dunham, and Brooke Sinn (Duane and Carrie). Each one has experienced a hospital stay during the past month. We are thankful that Bro. Charles and Brooke are able to assemble with us again. Hopefully Sis. Lorene will also be able to in the near future.

The engagement of Sis. Shelby Sinn (Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee) and Bro. Sam Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie) from Junction, OH, was made known during the past month. We trust that this couple will feel the Lord's direction and guidance as they make plans for the future as they become husband and wife in the Lord.

May 5 was the wedding of Sis. Betty Klopfenstein (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Catherine) and Bro. Harlan Wulf (Bro. Jake and Sis. Alice, Lester, IA). We will certainly miss Sis. Betty, but realize that she is following the Lord's will. We look forward to their visits to our congregation in the future.

Mother's Day, the May 5 wedding, and other events brought several visiting ministers to our congregation. We thank Bro. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN), and Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) for their visit. May we always uplift the ministering brothers in pray and ask for God's blessings upon them and their families.

Father's Day will soon be approaching as we read this news. As we remember our earthly dads with gifts of love and indebtedness, let us do so much more for our Heavenly Father as we live our lives each day.

In many of our homes, children's voices will become more frequent as school lets out for the summer. May many hours of the summer months be spent with these children, shar-

ing the truths of God's word through our actions, songs, and words.

OHIO, MANSFIELD John and Marci Pfeiffer

And ye, the Church's members,
truly
Are folded in my heart's embrace!
In Christ ye are my brethren duly;
We share salvation through His
grace.
We drink one cup; we break one
bread;
One Saviour suffered for our
stead.

Zion's Harp # 25

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Charles Hemmer (Peoria, IL) in our midst as we remembered the Lord's Supper on Saturday, April 20. Bro. Charles also shared the Word with us on Sunday.

Kylee Marie was born to Bro. Eric and Sis. Stephany Maibach on April 23. Karissa is happy to have a little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev Keever and Jeff and Elsie Maibach (Rittman, OH).

Bro. Jared, Sis. Stephanie, and Alaina Hill welcomed Aubrey Lanae into their hearts and home. She was born on May 6. Her grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Ann Domka and Bro. Chip and Sis. Sieda Hill.

A new little boy has joined the family of Sam and Angel Sauder. Christian Orion was born on May 13. His big sister LaCrisha is excited along with grandparents Rick and Debbie Prince and retired Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue Sauder.

Our best wishes and prayers are extended to those who will be graduating from high school this year. The seniors are Ryan Domka (Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie), Jesse Dotterer (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Betty), Kimberly Hill (Bro. Mick and Sis. Delores), and Tecca Keever (Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev). May they look to the Lord for help and

strength as they make plans for their future.

OHIO, RITTMAN Anna Schar Sandy Zollinger

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;"

Ecclesiastes 12:1

This is the time of year when we remember those who are graduating. There are many changes for these young adults, and we hope and pray that, with the help of the Lord, they make sound decisions to help them through. The high school graduates for 2002 include David Arnold (Robert Arnold and Deanna Brown) Emil Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty, Lexington, KY), Abigail Beery (Bro. Stan and Sis. Karen), Katie Beery (Bro. Earl and Sis. Suzy), Jeremy Calame (Bro. John and Sis. Jody), Bethany Dotterer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mardel), David Gasser (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois), Heidi Gasser (Bro. Dale and Janet), Tyler Gerber (Ricky Gerber of Smithville, and John Gerber), Kesia Hartzler (Bro. Dave and Sis. Linda), Michael Hartzler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Bev), Bro. Shane Hartzler (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan), Daniel Hilty (Frank and Ginny), Michael Plahuta (Dave and Sue), Abram Rufener (Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori), Todd Rufener (Bro. Jim and Sis. Pat), Anna Rupp (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon) Ethan Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy), Amy Steele (Bro. Ken and Sis. Martha), Marcia Steiner (Don and Sis. Debbie), Mary Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail), Nicholas Steiner (Mark and Sis. Debbie), Dean Stoller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian), Troy Stoller (Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne), Sarah Teich (Greg and Sis. Peggy), Robert Widmer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Virginia), and Steven Widmer (Bro. Darrell and

Sis. Alice).

"Repent ye therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

Acts 3:19

We are thankful to hear that Kevin and Carolyn Kieper and Joy Ingold (Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie) have begun in their repentance. We pray the Lord will convert their hearts and minds as only He can do.

We would like to announce the birth of two precious babies. Ian Marcus was born to Greg and Brenda Trent. I'm sure Emily and Alan love having a new little brother. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn Trent. Also, Bro. Eric and Sis. Stephanie Maibach (Akron, OH) have another baby girl, Kylee Marie. Karissa will enjoy being a big sister. Grandparents are Jeff and Elsie Maibach and Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev Keever (Mansfield, OH).

Bro. Ken Steel (Sis. Martha) and Sis. Pat Rufener (Bro. Jim) had surgery this month. Many prayers have been answered, as they are both doing well and are once again able to assemble with us. How thankful we can be for His healing touch in our lives.

OHIO, SARDIS Terry Zollinger

"Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare."

Psalms 75:1

Prayers have been answered in regards to young Bailee Figel (Bro. Andy and Sis. Cyndi) having to visit the ER after an unfortunate accident and had to have surgery to repair her finger. The Lord blessed Bailee with His healing powers and she is now doing fine.

"Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord."

1 Cor. 11:27

The brethren were blessed to be served Holy Communion on May 4. Elder Bros. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and Ken Indermuhle humbly served the wine, representing the Lord's shed blood, and the bread, representing the Lord's body. May we be ever so thankful for what Jesus did for each of us by dying so cruelly on the cross.

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

Psalms 128:3

The mothers would like to thank the Sunday School children, teachers and single children for providing and serving the lunch and cleaning up afterwards on Mother's Day. May the Lord bless you for your kindness.

"For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it."

Eccles. 7:12

Graduate Jami Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry) plans to graduate from high school on May 24 and Craig Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry) will finish grade school and graduate on May 28. Jami plans to attend college for higher education and Craig will attend high school. May the Lord be with both of these students as they continue their education. May they also look to God for guidance and direction.

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

Proverbs 4:1

May the fathers be blessed as we celebrate upcoming Father's Day. Let us thank our fathers for being a pillar in our children's lives. Let us thank the Father, up above, for all things!

"Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation."

Joel 1:3

New Martinsville, WV, special services will be on June 29-30. Many generations have attended this special little church in the hills over the years past. Everyone is welcome to come if you plan to be in the area. Saturday evening service is at the Sardis church at 7:30. On Sunday, no services will be in Sardis due to services in New Martinsville. Morning song service will start at 10:30 with lunch break following, then afternoon service beginning at 1:00. If you have any questions, contact Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle at (740) 483-1593, Bro. Bill Brake at (740) 483-2353 or Bro. Mark Ramsier at (740) 483-1806.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Ruth Gasser Edith Miller

My Lord, an offering do I bring;
My heart I give to Thee.
I gladly give this heart of mine,
Which Thou dost ask of me.

O now, my Saviour, do Thou take
My heart and make it Thine;
I'll follow Thee, a servant true,
Within Thy fold divine.

Zion's Harp #163

Four precious souls were welcomed into our brotherhood on April 21 as we witnessed their baptism, having heard their testimonies the previous evening. Our new brothers and sisters are Katie Fetzer (Bro. Andy and Sis. Eliza-

beth), Diane Maletich (Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie), and Cody and Kara Stoller (Sis. Irma Stoller of Latty, OH, and Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman). May God continue to grant grace sufficient to meet the needs of each day.

A sweet little boy has been welcomed and adopted into the family of Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Shelly Beery. Andrew Mark was born on April 18 and is also welcomed by Sharnise, Dorrice, Mariah, Katrina, and Heather, as well as grandparents Art and Eileen Beery and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Lou Riggenbach. We trust God will bless this home and grant wisdom to parents to train up their children in the fear of the Lord.

We thank the ministers who have visited recently to share the Word of God with us. May God bless the efforts of Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Merle Hartzler, and Bros. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH), Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), and John Grimm (Columbus, OH).

Those who have needed hospitalization during the past month have been Sis. Elizabeth Fetzter (Bro. Andy) and Bro. Chuck Winkler. May God grant healing and comfort to those in need.

We extend our sympathy to Tug Maibach (Sis. Alma) on the death of his brother, Ed Maibach.

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

May this be the goal of each of our high school graduates as they continue on through this journey of life. Those who have reached this milestone are Dawna Beery (Art and Eileen), Bro. Andrew Dotterer (Dale and Sis. Elaine), Dustin Hartzler (Ron and Candy), Jerry Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane), Kyle Indermuhle (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shari), Paul Klotzle (Bro. Bob and

Sis. Shirley), Joel Landis (Bro. Harvey and Stephanie), Bro. Garth Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois), Bro. Samuel Maibach (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary), Sis. Diane Maletich (Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie), Jared Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Janice), Sis. Kristin Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Emily), Sharla Steiner (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue), and Tim Zollinger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky).

OHIO, TOLEDO Rebecca Beard Edie Fetter

“And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.”

Isaiah 30:21

What a blessing it is when we can feel God’s guiding hand, and be certain of His leading in our lives. Two couples have recently found God’s direction to them to include marriage. The engagement of Sis. Edie Fetter (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Marilyn) to Bro. Richard Strahm (Bern, KS) was announced April 28. The engagement of Bro. Joel Beard (Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee) to Sis. Heidi Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL) was announced May 12. May God’s blessings and guidance continue with them as they make plans for new lives together in Him.

We were blessed to partake of Holy Communion and to remember the sacrifice that paid for our redemption. We appreciate the service of Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), not only in the Communion service, but also in the ministry. May God bless the Word to bring forth fruit to His glory.

Congratulations to the college students who have completed degrees at the University of Toledo. They are Bro. Joel Beard, Sis. Jodi Manz, Nick Sancraint, and Kent Schlatter. As they seek employment, we wish them God’s blessings

and direction.

OREGON, PORTLAND Louisa Gallup

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

Proverbs 4:1

As Mother’s Day recently passed and Father’s Day will be here soon, we are reminded of our parents and what they have taught us. May we always appreciate how the faith was passed on down through the generations.

We have no news this month, but wish to thank all visitors who came to worship with us. We appreciate especially the ministering brethren and their families who blessed us with their presence and support. Our thanks to Bros. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer), Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele) and Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), all from Silverton, OR. May the Lord bless you all for your willingness to serve and give of yourselves for the benefit of our small flock.

OREGON, SILVERTON Kelsey Kuenzi

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

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

Zion’s Harp #79

May 5 was the wedding day for Bro. Christopher Kuenzi (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marilyn) and Sis. Mary Metz (Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty). Our prayers are with them, believing that God will be the foundation of their lives and marriage.

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

I Cor. 13:13

On May 11, Andy Bolliger (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn) and Carol Metzger (Mark and Kay) joined heart and hand in marriage. Their wedding was in Eugene, OR. We wish them God's blessings and guidance.

We share joy in the engagement of Jon Dettwyler (Bernie and Margaret) and Katie Andreas (Rod and Laurie). They are planning their wedding to be on October 26. We pray that the Lord will guide them as they prepare for marriage.

This past month, Alice Gehring was hospitalized for surgery. We're thankful that she is home now and is on the mend.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Nathan and MaryElizabeth Gasser

This month we had a special opportunity to remember our mothers (and wives and grandmothers) and how much they mean to us. May we remember often to thank the Lord for faithful, loving mothers, and strive to treat them as if every day were Mother's Day. In addition, we were able to gather together on a Friday evening and have a Bible Study on "Spiritual Growth". We appreciated the opportunity for fellowship, and were each one encouraged to a closer walk with the Lord.

We enjoyed receiving many visitors this month, including a number of families traveling to the east coast exploring the area's history with their children. We also were blessed to have Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) share God's Word with us.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

We were privileged this past month to enjoy the fellowship of a large number of brothers, sisters and friends from the Chicago, IL, congregation, as we were on the receiving end of their annual bus trip to support a smaller congregation. As a small church, we certainly do appreciate their support, as we appreciate the support, love and prayers of our brethren across the land.

In this past month, the Living Word was mightily brought forth to us by our visiting ministers: Bros. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy) and Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget), both from Chicago, IL, and Bros. Fred Eberhardt (Sis. Kathy, Burlington, IA), Tom Schrenk (Sis. Joan, Athens, AL) and Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL).

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Congerville, IL (6/23); Francesville, IN (6/30); Latty, OH (7/7); Champaign, IL (7/14); LaCrosse, IN (7/21); and Eureka, IL (7/28). 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 Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946.

TEXAS, SAN MARCOS

Dale and Amy Ringger

Fellowship of faith is so important to us. Bro. Samuel Froehlich expressed it well in Old Testament Meditations. Here are some thoughts on Gen. 2:17 from that book: "The Lord also saw that it was not good for Adam to be alone, because a full heart must communicate with others to be truly blessed. A child of God cannot remain alone. It must battle and pray for witnesses

until someone likeminded is with him, with whom he can unite to the praise of God."

Eric Zimmerman (Bro. Joe and Sis. Barb) from Morton is here for the summer interning in Austin. Welcome, Eric!

Bros. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL), Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN), Jim Koehl (Sis. Hildy, San Diego, CA) and Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL) and Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) were here to serve in the pulpit ministry during the last month. We were blessed with visitors this month from various places: Mansfield, Fairbury, Lamar, and Morton.

The schedule of ministers for July is the following: 7th - Latty, OH; 14th - Sabetha, KS; 21st - Eureka, IL; and 28th - Elgin, IL.

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. Please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch and other activities. 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

Faith of our fathers! We will love
Both friend and foe in all our
strife:

And preach thee, too, as love
 knows how,
 By kindly words and virtuous life:
 Faith of our fathers! Holy faith!
 We will be true to thee till death!
Hymns of Zion #85

As Father's Day is approaching, let us give God thanks for our earthly fathers who so kindly and lovingly brought us up to know Him, our Lord and Saviour. We are also thankful for the fathers that have long gone before us and preserved this precious faith for us. There have been times in my life that I have taken this faith for granted but realize how fortunate and blessed we were. I pray that there will always be Godly fathers that will hold strong to this faith so that generations after us will have the same strong foundations and traditions that we were taught.

If anyone plans to come visit us this summer for Sunday worship, please contact Bro. Leland Plattner at (956) 765-5612 or Bro. Lloyd Nohl at (956) 581-8266. The location for Sunday worship may vary for the summer months.

The following was written and submitted by Sis. Jennifer Kellenberger:

The past month has been a busy

USED EYEGLASSES ARE NEEDED FOR FREE IXTLAN CLINIC

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

Bryan Stoller
 817 S. Locust
 Pontiac, IL 61764

one down here in Rio Bravo, Mexico, as we have been making many preparations for the summer. We enjoyed the company of two work teams during the month of May that so willingly helped us prepare for the summer months. The summer is our busiest time since that is when the majority of our large work teams come. It is always such a blessing to have work teams here and we always look forward to the summer months. It is incredible to watch God work on a daily basis in the lives of so many people.

May 25 marked the arrival of our five full-time summer staffers, three of which came from my home church: Bro. Phil Kellenberger, Bro. Tom Kellenberger and Sis. Erin Knobloch, all from the Washington, IL, congregation. Zach Fennig (Gulf Shores, AL) and Oliver McLemore (Montgomery, AL) have also willingly joined our staff for the summer. We praise God for these willing servants who have given up their summer to serve on staff with Mexico, Centros Cristianos para Sordomudos (MCCS). We trust that the Lord will bless them for their efforts.

Lord willing, June will bring with it two AC teams. The first one will be here June 1-8 and will be led by Bro. Harold Steiner (Princeville, IL). We hope to put up the trusses of the second story of the children's dormitory that week, which will get our summer off to a great start. Then the second team plans to be here June 22-29, and Bro. Joe Maller (Bluffton, IN) plans to lead the team. Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise Maller's daughter, Jacki Maller, hopes to spend two weeks with us serving as a short-term summer staffer. We look forward to having her here with us.

Our students are learning at a

rapid pace ever since the arrival of our teacher, Corry Moore. It is so encouraging to watch our students communicating with one another. We thank God that they are learning and we continue to pray that they may learn enough sign so that they may understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We trust that in time this message will be able to be taught to them and our prayer would be that all of them would come to know Jesus as their Saviour.

God's Word tell us to pray, and that is something that we want to pass on to our deaf students. At this point, their language skills are very limited and we are unsure as to how much of the Gospel message they really grasp. The following story is an example of the lessons they are learning from our example, even if they do not fully understand.

A few weeks ago I went to visit Lucha, the mother of Antonio, one of our 12-year-old students. While I was visiting with Lucha, she told me that every time they sit down to eat that Antonio folds his hands and looks up to the sky as if he is praying to God. (The deaf pray with their eyes open so that they may see what is being signed.) She said he then looks at her and at his father, brother and sister and frowns at them as if to tell them that they too need to pray. Lucha shared with me that she had not taught Antonio how to pray and that she thanked us for teaching that to him. She also thanked God that He was using Antonio as a reminder to her of what is important in this life. We pray that all of our students, as Antonio, will have praying hands and will share the beauty of prayer with their families. What an encouraging story and what a great reminder as to why we are here, so that the deaf may know Christ.



Sermon continued from page 2

He has promised us that He will shepherd us and He will keep us against that day if we will trust in Him, if that will be our first and highest priority in life; this day Lord, I will walk with Thee.

He said, "And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd." Ezekiel 34:23. There was going to be one that was going to come from the lineage of David, our dear Savior. Does He care? Does He understand? "Oh yes, He cares, I know He cares..." That's just the way the hymn-writer penned those words. Jesus cares and He understands.

He says "And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the Lord have spoken it." Ezekiel 34:24. And how many times we have to sit back in awe and amazement at the speaking of the Lord! How does He speak to us? How does He work amongst us? We just turn to the second reading and we see an individual that God used to speak to His people. Was it the way that the Apostle Paul thought it should be? We just have to retreat back to the time in the Apostle's life, I think it is in the Corinthians there, where it had been revealed unto him that glorious sight in heaven (II Corinthians 12:2-4). Perhaps enough to give the Apostle a little courage to go on.

When he started thinking and pondering over this situation, he told the Lord, but there is this thorn in my flesh. There is this

thing that keeps goading me a little in life. It's something I have a hard time dealing with. Can we relate to that? Something in our life that we have a hard time dealing with?

As we get a little older in life, we start perhaps to be able to reflect back on the pathway of life. We start to realize there is a pattern in our lives. We also realize that as we have these experiences in life, and some of them come through temptations and tribulations, as we have those experiences then, the Lord grants us that patience and that understanding that we really never gained in a natural sense. But He reveals it unto us. And we see here the Apostle Paul, the one who had asked if that thorn could be removed from his life, became one that, just as the Lord spoke to him, He says "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness..." II Corinthians 12:9.

So we go on in faith, don't we dear brothers and sisters, dear friends of the truth. It is to encourage you, there is a way beyond this life's maze, beyond the clouds in this life. By faith we walk. We can somewhat justify ourselves. But the Bible tells us we can only be justified by faith. By faith we will walk. And then by grace we can overcome. Until we can come to the time in our lives as some of our dear converts have come - to the point that we realize that we are not going to make it on our own.

Yes, heaven is over there, hell is beneath. In between we walk,

making our choices in this life. But are we yielding ourselves to the way of the Lord? Are we willing to forsake the world, to forsake the pleasures of sin for a season, as the hymn-writer writes, that we might have a home in that beautiful shore above?

That, dear ones, is what the Apostle Paul saw as needful in his life, that he would walk in a way that he could be a useful vessel for the Lord. Now how does the Lord get our attention in life? How did He get the Apostle Paul's attention? It wasn't the way the Apostle Paul thought it was going to be. We find him in the courts there before Stephen, holding the clothes of those that were stoning Stephen. And immediately after that scene, he goes out to Damascus with letters to get more of them. Round them up! Bring them in! Persecute these Christians! But somebody saw him, didn't He? Somebody knew his heart. Somebody talked to him on the Damascus way.

I'm just wondering in this morning hour, if there aren't some of our dear friends that haven't been talked to on their way in the past week. I don't believe the Lord is faithless in that duty in life. He talks with us, He walks with us. But oh how our eyes are blinded. How we become sometimes as these fat cattle, doing okay, getting along, justifying ourselves, not caring for the Lord. And it was our sins that put Him out there on Calvary. Our sins! And there He died. No defense of self, that the sting of

sin, that death, could be taken from us. And the grave could have no victory over us.

Dear ones, it is a blessed opportunity when we can have the mission even as the Apostle Paul had here in this life. All of us are ministers, each and every one of us, in our own special place. There is a purpose for each soul that is gathered here in this morning hour. And friends, whether you know it or not, or whether you felt that, there is a purpose. But we have to yield in faith. And He will grant grace for the overcoming.

He says "For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain: But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention." I Thessalonians 2:1,2. The Apostle Paul tells them here, the message wasn't appreciated. The messenger was beaten. The messenger was shamefully entreated. God in His Spirit speaks unto us today. How do we receive the message? Are we willing to yield ourselves to Him? Are we willing to lend ourselves? He created us. He knows us and there is a time appointed for us to give an account. And when we stop to look back on it, and some of you friends have grown older in life, as you stop to look back, it doesn't take long, does it, to get where you are today. How are we going to justify ourselves before an all-knowing God unless we

become as the Apostle here, willing to say, yes, Lord, what must I do to be saved?

The Lord had a specific instruction for him and the church provides that avenue here on this side of the grave. That we can have those that will walk with us, those that will help us through a true repentance. That they might be able, and that we were able in times past, to be nourished along by the prayers of Christ's brothers and sisters.

The church is still praying today. And it isn't all over that that is happening. We see the storm clouds on the horizon and we wonder about the Old Testament chapter. We wonder about the situation as we hear it and see it in the Middle East. And then we look at our beloved country, and we wonder, is it in God we really trust as a nation? Where is our trust? The fat cattle in the Old Testament chapter certainly were not trusting in God. They could not see the plight of their dear neighbors or their dear brethren. We would almost have to say brethren. But they didn't act in a brotherly way. And that above all things, dear brothers and sisters, is our calling, that we would respond in a brotherly way.

The Apostle Paul saw that his response to the church there at Thessalonica, to the church at Philippi, was to suffer that they might be able to gain. He says, "For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the

gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness." I Thessalonians 2:3-5. He yielded himself to the point that God used him. And we see that many times in his life he was sent here or there, in the life he lived, not willingly, but in bonds. We can think of going to Rome. We can think in Athens when he was beaten, and how he just barely escaped death.

He says, "Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ." I Thessalonians 2:6. And as we go through this chapter, we can see that it wasn't the Apostle's desire in this life to receive glory of men. But as we finished this chapter, we could see that all things that redounded with any good in them, that the glory and the honor, the joy was given to God.

And that's the joy, dear converts, that we have today. We don't know the valley you are walking through. We can't understand it. We walked it once too. But it was made just right for me and for you. And God is going to walk with you, He is going to provide for you the grace to overcome sin and evil, if we'll let Him. The Apostle Paul had to come to those terms with God too, that he might be able to have the confidence in this life. The more he yielded himself, the

Sermon continued on next page...

Sermon continued from page 45

more God was glorified in his labors.

He says, "But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us." I Thessalonians 2:7,8. And dear brothers and sisters, I believe we can't help but say each one of our dear friends, each one of our brothers and sisters, really are dear to us. And they are in various states and conditions in this life. There are various crosses the Lord has asked us to bear in this life. And not one of us has anything over the other in this life. But we're all going to go to the point where, even as the psalmist of old as we sang in that beautiful hymn (The 23rd Psalm, Zion's Harp #212), we're going to walk down through the shadow of the valley of death. And the Apostle Paul was able to

say, when he finished his course, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished..." II Timothy 4:7. And therefore he had the faith to believe in heaven was laid up for him a crown.

In this world we live in, there comes a thought that the Lord Jesus died and all we have to do is accept Him. But the Bible doesn't bear that out. The Bible says we live for Him. We become Christ-like in our nature. The Apostle Paul found that. Peter found that. The Lord Jesus said "...Feed my sheep" (St. John

21:16), after He told him to feed the lambs. And He told him again, "...Feed my sheep" (St. John 21:17), and they will take you and you won't have an easy end.

The Apostle Paul had to endure many hardships but he said "For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God." I Thessalonians 2:9. That becomes our duty. That was the duty of brethren before us. To preach the word of God, in season and out of season.

We prefaced our remarks this morning about the rocks crying out. (...We as His servants certainly feel our nothingness. We're just a little higher than the rocks. The Lord Jesus said the rocks would cry out if men would not...) The Lord Jesus, when He came into Jerusalem, looked over that city. And He talked about that. And He would love even as a mother hen to gather her chicks together. That becomes our duty. Are we too busy for that? Do we forget? And there are times we just can't always be there. But let's never forget our prayer duty in this life.

"For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail ...Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his chil-

dren, That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory." I Thessalonians 2:9-12. Always an encouragement, maybe a chastisement for us to step back into the center of the way and not walk on the fringes of life. The pathway is narrow, the gate is narrow. But the way leads to heaven.

"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe." I Thessalonians 2:13. We don't glory in men, do we, but God. The power, the glory and the honor goes to God. The one who can take a lump of clay, an imperfect lump of clay, and make a vessel. "Oh, to be nothing, nothing. Just made meet for the Master's use." That's our calling in this life. But just stop and think what it's going to be when the time comes and the reaper comes and puts in his scythe. Is our life going to have the fruits? Yes, fruits that He is going to be desiring. Or are those sheaths of grain going to be empty? We have the opportunity today.

Yes, there are a lot of things that sometimes we have to deal with in this life. But may it be leading our life, may it be directing itself through the power and the grace that God will give us when we by faith look to Him, that we'll have a fruitful end.

He says, "...not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe." I Thessalonians 2:13. And we rejoice. We rejoice with each faithful brother and sister, old and young alike, that have this established in their heart, a trust in the foundation of God. A little building that they are erecting in their lives that is growing into the glory and honor of God.

"For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things, of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews: Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost." II Thessalonians 14-16. So dear ones, perhaps the Christian's walk will not always be one that is going to be easy.

We know that. There is a spiri-

tual conflict, isn't there? Satan is not sleeping. Satan isn't satisfied. And who knows who of us are asked to be a Job in this life? Let us carry the cross willingly. Let us bear it without sighing. "But we brethren being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire." I Thessalonians 2:17. I think all we have to do from time to time, is visit those that are shut in. Those that are not able to go in and out and see the joy that comes to them when someone comes and prays with them. We hardly can find words and yet in the Spirit God can encourage.

"Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us." I Thessalonians 2:18. Don't we in life have some intentions? Today we should do this or that. We know it's our duty. And then Satan hinders us. Sometimes we're bound by our own earthly endeavors, that we don't occupy our time such as we should. But the Apostle Paul had a different situation here. He was taken to

other places in chains. And yet he wrote and he sent others. I just wonder today if there aren't some yet that are willing, that will be willing; yes Lord, send me. Help me. Continue to call. Let's not be almost persuaded but altogether. "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy." I Thessalonians 2:19,20. As we would just try to suppose what it means to the Lord who came here and suffered, the One who created us, the One who has been faithful to us as brothers and sisters in this life, and the time comes when we leave this earth and we're called home, the rejoicing that the angels in heaven have for each faithful servant that can find their way home! And we would not want anyone to miss that glad reunion over there.



- NOTICE -

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

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

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

Books are mainly distributed to
India, Philippines, and Africa.

Jerry and Arlene Banwart
307 First St
Congerville, IL 61729
(309) 448-2416

Apostolic Christian Counseling Services

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

877-370-9988 (toll free)

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

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

What is the Gateway Woods Benefit Auction all about?

The Gateway Woods Auction is our biggest fund-raiser, accounting for a significant percentage of our budget. It is an extremely important source of funds, and anyone donating or purchasing an item has richly blessed us! Donations made this year will be especially appreciated, as operating expenses have increased (due to health care costs). We are also constructing a new school building that will deplete our Expansion Fund. However, the Auction is about far more than just finances.

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

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

If you've never been to an Auction, please Come and See what God is doing with this ministry of the Apostolic Christian Church. Bring a van load or several cars, and bless us with your attendance on August 17! It will be day of blessing for everyone including:

- * Items for auction such as quilts, toys, antiques, tools, lawn equipment, and vacation packages
- * Great food and activities for the kids
- * Fellowship with brothers and sisters from around the nation



Events

Saturday, August 17, 2002

Don't eat breakfast on your own!

7:30 a.m. Hot breakfast begins
(breakfast sandwiches, fruit, rolls,
coffee)

7:30 a.m. Pre-priced crafts begin

7:30 a.m. Bake Sale begins

8:30 a.m. Gateway Woods Presenta-
tions

9:00 a.m. Auctions begin

12:00 p.m. Specialty Items auction

*** Hart-hat tours of our new school
building will be available throughout the
day. Come and see!*

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

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

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

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

*To order, contact,
Apostolic Christian Church*

Bible Distribution

PO Box 30

1254 S. Main Street

Bluffton, IN 46714

Phone and Fax 219/824-5587

E-mail: bibledist@parlorcity.com

**Gateway Woods School
Financial News
5/20/02**

As wise stewards we have grown our Expansion Fund (building fund) through saving for over 14 years simply by spending less than we made. (We kept expenses below revenues.) Now, as we construct our new school, that fund, which has also provided interest income for on-going services, will be depleted as our school building is completed this fall.

With the school, our biggest project ever, we now have on-going concerns that without the Expansion Fund the interest income will not be there for funding various services and our ability to grow and build again will be delayed. It is our hope to add another residential unit to our campus in the near future.

We are ever so thankful for all of the wonderful support we have had over the years as our ministry has grown. We now have various avenues that directly or indirectly financially bless our school. These include the "Equip-a-Room" and "Buy-a-Book" campaigns. As individuals, congregations, Sunday Schools, and Vacation Bible Schools please consider the following three benefits to our program when you donate or take collections. Your donation will:

- 1) Defray the cost of building, furnishing and equipping the school.
- 2) Grow our Expansion Fund in order to expand further sooner.
- 3) Grow our Endowment Fund which through interest can provide on-going funding for various services.

Mexico Work Teams 2002

Location	Date	Project	Coordinator	Phone & (e-mail)
Rio Bravo	June 22-29, '02	Construction	Joe Maller	260-565-3211 jmaller@adamswells.com
Juarez or Copper Canyon	October 23-31, '02	Medical	Cheryl Herman	309-385-1082 cherylh@mtco.com
Juarez	Nov. 9-16, '02	Construction	Bruce Aschliman	260-824-5160 aschliman@onlyinternet.net

If anyone would desire to go to Imuris at a time not listed on the schedule, please contact Bro. Jerry Tooley



Alternate Houseparents Needed

Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessing of being fully staffed with Houseparents. At this time, however, we are experiencing a staff opening. Bro. Andy and Sis. Jill Lehman (Bloomington, IL) are planning to leave Gateway Woods in late summer or early fall. This offers an opportunity for a couple, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time on going ministry at Gateway Woods. This position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a common mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore these possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Ed Graf
Child Care Supervisor
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
1-888-443-4283

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
260-657-1033



Teaching Position Available

Gateway Woods is excited to announce an opening for a teacher position at Gateway Woods School. Sis. Laura Stieglitz will be leaving Gateway Woods School in order to stay home with her first child, expected this year. The School is a fully accredited educational facility serving students who are having difficulty being successful in public school. Qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree in Education and work experience in the education field. Special Education Certification would be especially useful. If you hold these qualifications and have a heart for children, please ask the Lord if this is the position He has in mind for you. For more information, please contact one of the brothers listed below.

Jeff Schumacher
Residential Program Director
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
1-888-443-4283

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
260-657-1033

Preschool Coordinator Needed

The Apostolic Christian Preschool in Athens, AL, has an immediate need for a coordinator/teacher. The position is open the first of June and needs to be filled by the middle of August, for the school year. We would ask a brother or sister with a degree in early childhood education or a degree in another type of education (elementary, secondary, etc.) to prayerfully consider this position. If you have questions or an interest in this position, please contact the preschool at (256) 233-0591 or Bro. Tom Schrenk (Administrator) at (256) 233-0037.





This is the last of a series of articles about Elder Bro. Joseph Bella, an early American Elder, who helped establish our American church.

The life and spiritual work of Bro. Joseph Bella is an irony. While he traveled extensively to establish many of our churches, and was notable and well known among the early American brethren, he is little known today.

Bro. Bella was a single man; he had no family here in the United States. He is buried in the South Side Cemetery southeast of Fairbury, IL. His remains lie in obscurity, but his earthly life remains forever etched in the mind of God.

A Hungarian

Previous to coming to America, he was among the early converts in Hungary and had been influenced and nurtured by Bro. Samuel Froehlich. He had endured the rigors of walking and traveling throughout Europe, working as a locksmith; and as one who promoted the Faith.

A Single Man

His remaining single is an interesting story. Elder Bro. Rudolph Graf, Akron, OH, related this true account in the early 1980's: Back in Europe, as a young man, Bro. Bella had a great burden. For some reason, he prayed that if God removed the burden, he would never marry.

Over time the burden was lifted. As life progressed, he felt moved to take a wife and intended to do so. His previous promise to God apparently became clouded. Some brothers in faith reminded him of his previous vow,

and subsequently he held to it. He did, however, send alms to this sister in Hungary.

His singleness allowed him to devote himself almost exclusively to God's work. Although having the oversight of many new congregations, he did not settle at one.

A Roving Elder

He was known as a "roving" Elder because he traveled so much; and gave guidance to several newly established churches.

His base was at Sardis, OH, the second of our churches in America (established in 1848). He shared duties with Elder Isaac Gehring. Bro. Bella lived in a small dwelling consisting of a woodshed "lean-to" on one side and a two-room, two-story section on the other. He repaired watches for his livelihood in one room and lived in the other part.

Bluffton, Indiana

When serving at Sardis with Bro. Gehring, he helped instruct two Mennonite boys from Bluffton, IN, who came to inquire about the new faith. They were Ulrich Kipfer and Matthias Strahm. These boys were converted and walked back to Bluffton and told about their new faith.

In time, Bro. Bella traveled to Bluffton and 18 souls were ready for baptism. They were baptized in a pond caused by heavy rains the previous evening. This was the start of the Bluffton Apostolic Christian community which now has two churches numbering 1,340 members (re. 2002 Ministers Book).

Leo, Indiana

Joseph Bella was also instrumental in helping nurture the believers at Leo, IN. When Elder Henry Geistlich of Switzerland visited in 1866, a brother meeting was held at Leo. Bro. Bella was present.

Mansfield, Ohio

He was active in initiating the Mansfield, OH, church. During his tenure there he made his home with Sis. Mimm Yoder. This, according to Sis. Christine Engwiler (Marching to Zion, page 97).

Rittman, Ohio

When visiting at Rittman, OH, Bro. Bella often stayed in the home of Bro. Daniel M. Steiner. The family had a special bedroom always ready for him. It was called the Bella Stubbe.

The South Side

In his declining years, he lived in the home of Elder Christian Gerber, who served the South Side Church (south of Fairbury, IL). He had become quite feeble due to a stroke and could not walk without assistance. He lived to be 89.

His life was one of devotion to the Lord, and to His holy church. Bro. Bella served a glorious cause.

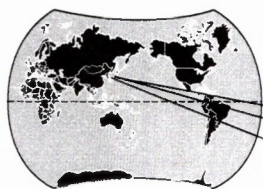
By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

The life of Elder Peter Virkler

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



希望の光

“A Feeling of Well-Being”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Recently I have been thinking about a feeling of well-being. Usually I have it but if I lose it, I am not as cheerful as I should be. Jesus said, “In the world ye shall have tribulation; but I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

This phrase is usually associated with having good health, but I believe it entails much more than that. Certainly it also has to do with our spiritual condition. If something we have said or done bothers us, we lose our feeling of well-being. Therefore we have to trust Christ, and others, too, to forgive us where we have made unintentional errors. Satan would have even small errors bother us and destroy us with discouragement. “But according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost.” (Titus 3:5). I like that word “renewing” which indicates that the Holy Spirit is constantly being renewed within us.

We must cultivate a feeling of well-being. Since our health is a

factor, we should do what we can to maintain our health, or to regain it if we are sick. By God’s grace it may be possible to have a feeling of well-being even when we are sick, or weak from old age. It’s a feeling that everything is serene and tranquil, even though there may be some things which we wish were different.

Good human relations are important for having a feeling of well-being, although it is one of the most difficult tasks we face in life. Criticizing others makes us feel bad. We are to reason with others in a loving way how they might do better, after first examining ourselves. Criticism which insinuates that we are better than the other person is counter-productive and destroys our own feeling of well-being. Jesus said, “Judge not that ye be not judged.” (Matthew 7:1). Certainly He is not talking about us judging whether someone should go to heaven or hell, but He must be talking about our judging someone by criticizing

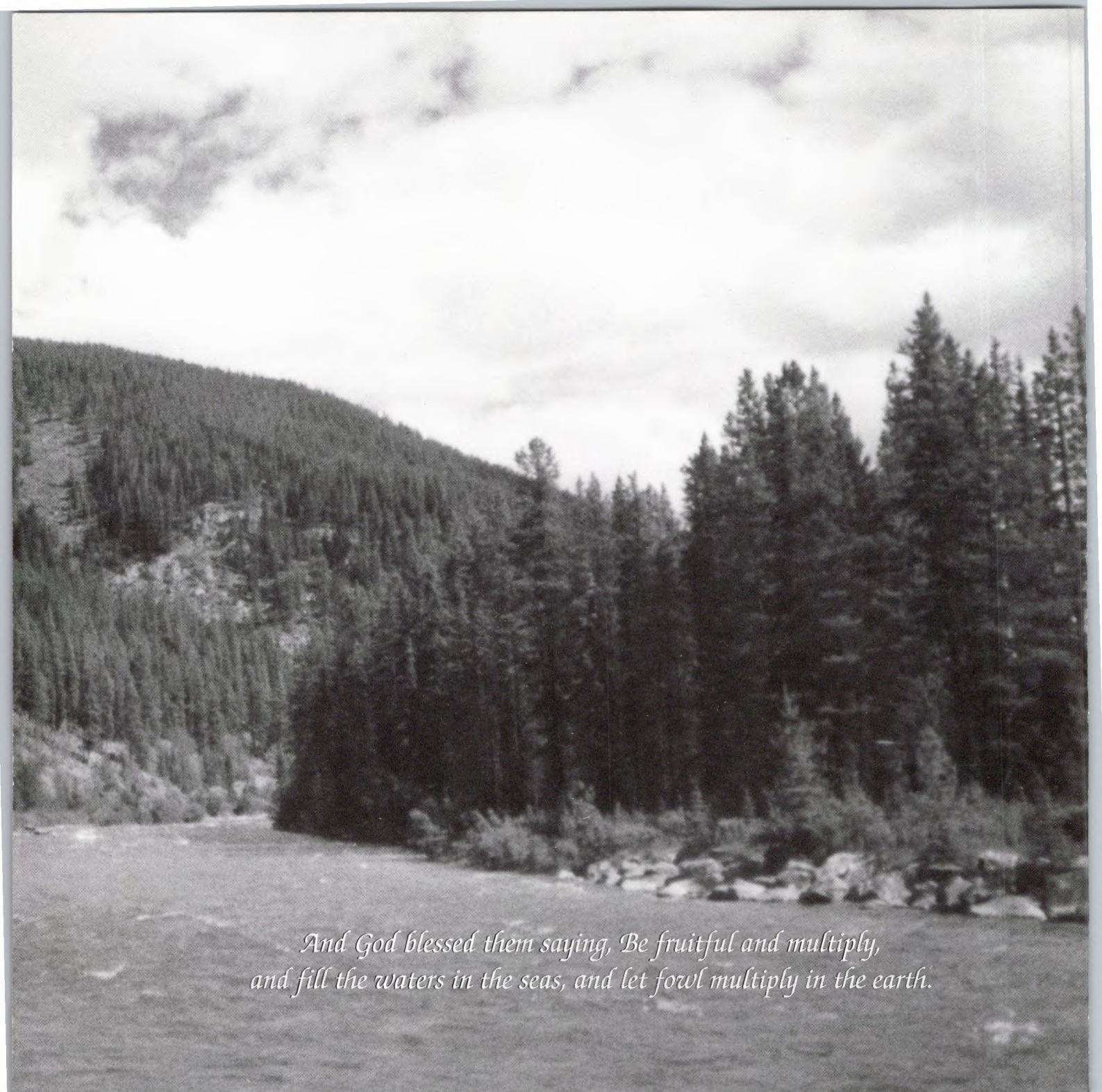
him or her. It is better to praise the other person for all of his or her good points. Everyone has many good points.

If we cannot pay our bills because of unemployment or for some other reason, it may not be possible to have a feeling of well-being. Those of us who can pay our bills and who have many things going our way, should try to have a feeling of well-being. It is a wonderful feeling that is very comforting and consoling. With that kind of a feeling, maybe we can help others who are having more difficulties than we are having.

Today’s world condition is a cause of concern, so much so that one wonders if a feeling of well-being is possible. Yet we must continue to try to cultivate a feeling of well-being. We can see, we can hear, and we can think.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “If there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” (Phil. 4:8). I long to maintain a feeling of well-being.

希望の光



*And God blessed them saying, Be fruitful and multiply,
and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.*

THE SILVER LINING
1389 County Road 1600 N, Roanoke, IL 61561



*****CAR-RT LOT**R001 - 2002 20

S16 P1

LK

MRS. CHARLES WALDER

533 N 3RD ST

CISSNA PARK IL 60924-9782