



# *The Silver Lining*

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

July 2002

*Sermon by Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart, Champaign, IL*

### **I Kings 19 and Acts 20:18-38**

We have been starkly reminded in God's Word here this morning. I think it's very important that we consider what will be the end. The question I might have to think about, as we were reading through here, if you and I knew that we were in the same position here that the Apostle Paul was in, that he was going to be leaving and it would be his last, and they would see him no more, what would your farewell address be and what would mine be? What would you leave for your family, for your children, your children's children, for your brothers and sisters in the faith and in the flesh? What would you leave for them? What would be helpful to them? How would our farewell parting be?

He called a special group here. He called the elders at that time together. Why? Because he was very concerned about the faith and the church. He wanted it preserved for those that would come. What is the church that he is trying to preserve? Who makes up the church? It is you and it is me, isn't it. It is us as individuals. The Elders have special oversight. I do not understand it totally and I am supposed to be one. We trust by God that we can do what we can, but the church is individuals. It is you and it is me and he wanted them to have a pure heart. He wanted them to be blameless. He wanted them to be prepared, like he was prepared, to go when his life was over.

I have wondered many times, and I did as we read through this. We will go through this verse by verse, but just overall thoughts at the beginning here. I wondered before - if I knew that tomorrow I was going to leave and not return, what would be the message I would write to my family? What would be the message that you would write to yours? Is there any-

thing more precious? Is there anything more important than the salvation of our soul, than the eternal destination of our soul? Is there anything? Of course, the answer is no. Sometimes we get that a little out of balance as we journey through life! And when we do, we do sometimes some foolish things. We make mistakes. Our words don't say what they should say. Why? Because we forget what is most important that he was addressing here in this farewell address. He first set the setting here. He says "And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons," Acts 20:18. He had one purpose, one reason, one goal as he went through life. That was to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. There was not anything that was more important to him. Did he have struggles? Yes, he had struggles. Was it difficult? Yes, it was difficult. We read some of that in the words that were here. Did others have to help him? Yes they did and we even saw that in the last part. Verse 34 says "Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me." Acts 20:34. They did need to help him a little along the way, perhaps with some physical things. He needed a place to stay, something to eat and so on. But he had one mission, he had one goal. That was to serve his Lord and to further the gospel of Jesus Christ. That is why Paul was here. That's why he willingly endured what he had before him. What are you and I willing to give for the Lord?

Verse 19 says, "Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:" Acts 20:19. It was not easy

sailing for him either. But he overcame that with humility of mind. He gave up self. He was humble, he was molded. He was willing to be molded as God would have him to be. I think the attitude was not, why me, Lord? But, what would you have me to do?

He was tempted, we read that

*Sermon continued on page 44*

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

#### **August**

1. Philadelphia, PA
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*Suggested Donation: \$11/subscription*

Next correspondence due:

#### **For August Issue**

*(16 June News - 15 July News)*

**Due: 20 July 2002**

The Silver Lining (Vol. 57, #7)

1389 County Road 1600 N

Roanoke, IL 61561

**USPS 496780**

Published Monthly By The Apostolic  
Christian Church of America

*Counselors:*

*Ervin Knecht, Ron Schambach*

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The Silver Lining

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Roanoke, IL, 61561

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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)*

July 2002

## Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

### Render Unto Caesar

Since the earliest days of Christianity, the followers of Jesus have had concerns about the responsibility of Christians toward governmental authority. How much of a role should government have in our lives and how much of a role should our lives have in government?

Those who lived at the time when Jesus was on earth struggled with this issue. Because the Roman government was oppressive, the children of Israel wanted desperately to be free from Roman rule. It was not popular to support the Roman officials. However, Christ did not involve himself in the political issues of the day even though there were many social injustices such as slavery. In an attempt to cause trouble for Jesus, the Pharisees asked Him if it was lawful to give tribute to Caesar. Jesus simply said "...Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's" (Mt. 22:21).

In America we have a similar concern but from a much different perspective. We do not live under an oppressive government nor are we forbidden to worship the one true God as we believe we are directed by the Holy Bible. We appreciate this privilege and we want to retain it. It is not always easy to know exactly how we should respond to governmental authority. The Bible is very clear on some of the issues of concern, but perhaps not so clear on others.

Clearly a Christian is expected to be honest. This includes paying his share of taxes and being obedient to the law when it is not in conflict with the Bible. Jesus told the Pharisees they should pay tribute where appropriate. He also instructed His disciples to do the same. When Jesus and Peter entered Capernaum, Peter was asked if his Master paid tribute. Jesus instructed Peter to go to the sea, catch a fish and there he would "...find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee" (Mt. 17:27). Since this took place before the Pharisees raised the issue with Jesus, He clearly was not doing it to impress the Pharisees.

Concerning non-resistance, the scripture is equally clear. Jesus said "Ye have heard

that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Mt. 5:43-44).

Jesus also said "...I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also" (Mt. 5:39). If ever there was a time that would seem to us to justify resistance, it would have been at the time of Jesus' arrest. Yet He said to Peter, "...Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword" (Mt. 26:52).

We are instructed about non-resistance in numerous other places in the scripture. John the Baptist told the soldiers, "...Do violence to no man..." (Lk. 3:14). Paul wrote "Recompense to no man evil for evil ... as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men ... Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink..." (Ro. 12:17-20).

The position of the Apostolic Christian Church, from its very beginning, is to refrain from bearing arms with the intent to kill another human being, thereby forever terminating his chance to find salvation.

There are examples in the Old and New Testament in which men of God reacted peaceably in the face of violence. Daniel and his friends did not obey the ungodly orders of kings. Daniel allowed himself to be cast into the den of lions and Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown into the fiery furnace. A number of the Apostles were beaten and imprisoned for their faith and yet they did not react violently to this force.

Over the years, many of our brethren entered the military service as non combatants. They served in the medical field, often facing dangerous situations unarmed as they administered help to those in need.

The government has a significant impact on our lives. It exists to maintain order and to protect its citizens. We need to obey the government as much as we can. "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God" (Ro. 13:1). However, if

government rules contrary to God and we cannot obey God and the government, then we must "...obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

Is there any part of government in which we can safely participate? We can effectively participate in government by being a humble law abiding citizen. There are several ways in which we can participate in local government. Perhaps the best way is to find organizations that exist to help those in need and find a spiritually safe way to contribute.

At the state and national level it gets a bit more difficult. Although we may feel we can safely vote in elections and express our concerns to those who represent us, it is not too likely that we can safely run for office. The pressure to do what is "politically correct" rather than what is morally right can be very difficult to deal with.

There are state and federal programs that we may be able to safely take part in if we are careful. Examples may be agricultural, educational, medical or similar programs. If we do participate in these programs, it is very important that we follow the intent of the law. It is often very easy to find those who would advise us to stretch the law as far as possible. We must not fall into this trap. The Psalmist instructed us that "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful" (Ps. 1:1).

Perhaps the most important way we can participate in government is to remember to pray for those who hold positions of responsibility. They have many weighty decisions to make and they face pressures from many sides. They cannot always do what we would like them to do. We should not expect that everything will go our way. By praying for them we lift them up to a merciful God.

Not only should we pray for those who are in positions of authority, but also pray that we can submit to them as is appropriate. "Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience' sake" (Ro. 13:5). We must be very careful how involved we get in matters of government. If we follow the example of Jesus, we will not be led astray.



## 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

### A Congregation Grows Where our Nation Began

In the 1960s, our only church in the Washington D.C., Philadelphia, and New York City area was Union City, NJ. In 1962, Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman moved out to the Delaware area. In 1964, he was appointed to the ministry in Union City. With additional members and friends relocating to the greater Philadelphia area, informal midweek services were started in 1970. In November 1971, the first formal service was held in Philadelphia at a local school with 8 in attendance. A second formal service was held in April 1972, with 11 attending of which five were children.

### Regular services began

Regular Sunday services started in January 1974, which were held at the Grange Hall (or at homes of the local members). To help out Bro. Ed in the ministry, Bro. Dave Roberts was appointed to ministry in March 1974. Sunday services on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month were started in April 1974.

### Building a new facility

Over the next years, the Lord blessed the efforts and when time came to search for land to build a permanent church, many prayers were answered as the Grange offered to give part of their land for the new church building. Ground breaking occurred in May 1980, with the first services being held on November 2, 1980. Dedication followed shortly thereafter on May 3, 1981, with Elder Bro. Rudy Graf delivering the dedication service.

### As the years went by

Over the years, the congregation has rejoiced as the Lord blessed them with many who have moved to the area. At the same time, others have moved away as well. During this time, the growing church had many baptisms and even a couple of weddings. At this time they are thankful to have five converts, along with the 28 members, 26 Sunday School students, and many friends who make up this thriving congregation. While the members come from over ten different "home" churches, the congregation is thankful that they are now experiencing second generation members who are calling Philadelphia "home".



### Church is not in the city

The physical Church building is not in the city of Philadelphia, but is located in Devault, which is 35 minutes northwest of the city. The brethren hope and trust that their Church is spiritually representative of the church in Philadelphia found in Revelation chapter three.

### Historic area

Over 300 years ago, the British King Charles II gave a little piece of territory between the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers to a Quaker named William Penn. In 1776 the Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia declared that the thirteen colonies were free and independent of British rule, and the war for independence began.

### An interesting area for visitors

Within the city of Philadelphia there are many interesting historical sites that furnish an excellent locale for a family vacation that can also be a learning experience. Many of the original places where our founding fathers gathered remain as a remembrance of their efforts.

Adults and children alike can spend many hours, even days, visiting these historic attractions. Areas to visit would include the Liberty Bell, Ben Franklin Court, Independence Hall and the US Mint. Also close by is the Hershey Chocolate factory.

Between Devault and Philadelphia and ten minutes from church lies Valley Forge National Park, the historic site where General Washington spent a grueling winter with his troops. This is now a National Park with many features of interest to young and old.

Not far from Devault lies the area of Pennsylvania that contains a large number of Amish and Mennonite settlements.

### Supporting our brethren

With all the interesting places to visit, the country has much to offer. The Philadelphia congregation extends to every visitor a warm and hearty invitation to include services in their church as you make vacation plans. As with small congregations everywhere, the visitor is an important part of the church activities.

There are also many places of employment in the Philadelphia area. College graduates or those needing to relocate for their work are encouraged to consider coming to this area to live, fellowship and worship.



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

## USA Board Activities

The Disaster Work Project Committee of the USA Board was appointed at the December 2000 World Relief meeting. The activities of the committee are separated into two different areas, the first response (cleanup) and rebuilding (disaster recovery). A first response truck was donated and equipped, and a disaster equipment trailer and equipment were purchased.



## First Response Projects

The initial first response project began early April 24, 2001, to assist in the cleanup of tornado damage at Hoisington, KS with work teams coming from our Kansas congregations. Brothers from Indiana helped with the cleanup damage from a series of five tornados, which were in the South Bend, IN area, in late October 2001.

In late March 2002, five brothers from Akron and Smithville, OH and two brothers from Illinois joined the flood cleanup project in Harlan, KY. The contents were removed from five flooded houses. A high pressure sprayer was used to clean out the mud and debris. The local people asked if we could help them rebuild later. The request was not considered because of the distance and difficulty to reach the area.

The latest first response project began on April 23, 2002 to assist cleanup after an F-3 tornado which

hit Fairfield, IL at 4:00 PM on April 21. The first day we had two drivers with the First Response vehicle and three from the Tremont congregation as a crew. Several roofs were covered with tarps and one roof was repaired. The second day, eighteen brothers from Cissna Park, Princeville and Bloomington, IL congregations responded and were divided into two teams. The teams moved the debris from one house and several mobile home trailers to the street for pickup. Later that day, one of the teams went to Golden Gate, IL and helped clean up trees and debris from a yard and a farmer's field.

In every project, the recipients are appreciative of the efforts of the volunteers, who also receive the blessed peace of sharing with the unfortunate and those in need.



House in Fairfield before being torn down.

## Projects close to home

This year we have chosen not to establish rebuilding projects in distant states. Instead we are encouraging our congregations to seek out projects in their communities. We have dedicated our tool trailer and our efforts to assist setting up work projects that are more accessible to our brotherhood.

To increase the effectiveness of this commission, the Disaster Work Project Committee membership has been increased from four to nine. We now have representation from

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, and Ohio. This area contains the highest population of our congregations.

## The new committee includes:

Bro. Jerome Witzig, Chairman  
Gridley, IL  
(309) 744-2347

Bro. Virgil Graf, Secretary  
Altadena, CA  
(626) 287-1611

Bro. Arnold Gerst, Treasurer  
Taylor, MO  
(217) 223-8424

Elder Bro. Kent Heimer  
Taylor, MO  
(573) 393-2440

## Area representatives are:

Bro. Marvin Sauder (Illinois)  
Tremont, IL  
(309) 925-4171

Bro. Mike Dubach (Indiana)  
Bluffton, IN  
(260) 565-3454

Bro. Martin Zaugg (Iowa)  
West Bend, IA  
(515) 379-1693

Bro. Paul Kaeb (Kansas)  
Bern, KS  
(785) 284-3261

Bro. Ken Zollinger (Ohio)  
Smithville, OH  
(330) 925-6370



The team helped demo this house in Fairfield. A car had landed in the living room.

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN COUNSELING SERVICES Part VIII - Financial Summary

"And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living."

*Mark 12:41*

All successful charitable work is the result of individual hearts being obedient to God's call. It is easy to think that true charity is the result of those with substantial funds being willing to share them. However, Jesus made it clear that true charity is any amount given in response to God's call. In this article we will present financial information about ACCS. As a mission of the Apostolic Christian Church it is important to be accountable to those we serve and those who support the work. ACCS is a charitable work that depends on the generosity of individuals and churches to provide services to those in need.

As covered in previous articles, there are four parts to the service. Each of them has very different cost and income factors.

The professional counseling part of the work at ACCS is obviously one of the two major costs. This involves a high amount of direct professional time. Clients are charged for the services on a sliding fee scale based on income and family size. Clients are asked to use the

sliding fee scale and determine what they are able to pay. No one is refused service because of inability to pay. Costs are also incurred to pay for rent, utilities and a small part-time office staff.

The Mental Health Hotline has a much lower cost because most of the work is done by volunteers. There are some costs associated with the telephone and beeper system, educational materials and training. There is no charge to callers for this service.

Telephone consultations with the professional counselors at ACCS is the other higher cost part of the center because the services are provided by the professional counselors at ACCS. There is no charge to callers for this service. At times, we are asked why there is no charge for this part of the service when there is substantial cost associated with it. However, these calls are considered "consultations" and not "counseling" because no diagnosis or treatment is provided over the phone. If people are charged for these services, ACCS may then become subject to different licensing laws and regulations across states. Also, there are a variety of circumstances in which people calling ACCS might not call and receive the help that they need because they are concerned about finances.

The last part of the service is the educational component. This has some specific costs associated with it, such as the cost of printed material, the cost of developing material and the staff time to conduct the education. Clients are not charged for the brochures and pamphlets but are asked to pay the cost of more expensive materials if they are able.

In the past year, total expenses were \$91,900. Income from operations was \$20,900 which left an operating deficit of \$71,000. There

were donations from churches and individuals of \$46,500.

The board of directors has received approval to send out a letter to all of the churches sharing information about the services and requesting support. We are thankful for the support and understanding given by the Elder body, the churches and individuals. Often we hear from people in the church that they didn't know that they could support ACCS just like the other missions in the church. If God moves your heart to support the work of ACCS, you can send your donation to the ACCS office at 73 E. Queenwood Road, Morton, IL 61550.

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

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## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Time flies  
Time marches on  
Time is of the essence  
I just don't have time  
When I have time  
Time out

Referrals to time are a part of daily conversation, and in a variety of ways the Word speaks of time.

"For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

*II Cor. 6:2*

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

*Psalms 90:12*

Reflecting back on time God's almighty hand is more clearly evident than looking forward in time. If in time past He has proved His faithfulness, why should we wonder about His provision and presence in the future.

When one goes through a period of illness or injury, the minutes tick away in waiting for and receiving medical or therapeutic care. Those who are giving the care set the pace of a day. This is how a lifetime of minutes is lived by many of our residents. There are many dedicated staff persons, family members and friends who use their time to give value and dignity to the minutes, days, weeks, months and years of the developmentally disabled who live here.

Time in summer can be more easily spent outdoors in the Midwest. Walking around the Timber Ridge grounds or the Morton neighborhoods, bicycling, swimming, horseback riding, and Special Olympics are both helpful for relaxation and therapy.

When the fireworks are viewed on Independence Day from our backyards here at Timber Ridge, Oakwood and Linden, the patriotism in our hearts will beat a little stronger due to a few moments of assault on our beloved country since we last celebrated our country's birthday.

Time will be marked by birthday observances for these people in AUGUST:

Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Road: Eric Ringwald (4), Susie Landis (5), Martha Clymer (6), Nancy Eschmann (12), Shirley Pfeifer (23), Barbara Perkins (30), Christopher Loughe (31).

Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Road: Dan McDonough (2).

1001 E. Idlewood: Wayne Leman (12).

208 S. Indiana: Steven Holmes (18).

## GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

**Heather Merritt**

Well, another school year has come and gone. Things really did fly by fast this year. All of us at the school have been trying to lay down a foundation in the students, and then continuing to build on that brick by brick. The school year may be over, but the summer sessions are just getting ready to begin.

While on the subject of building, Bro. Kirk Plattner and I started a new class this last semester, called Woodshop. While in the class, all the students participated in building a bench/picnic table. Kirk and I think it turned out really nice. We also enjoyed having the students out working "hands on" and figuring out things for themselves (with a little help from us).

This summer, Bro. Kirk is also reviewing and revising a program called Top Quality. Students had to fill out applications and get interviewed for the job. Then during this summer, Kirk and the students will be going on different jobs doing yard maintenance, painting, mulching, etc, out in the community. His experience as a Summer Work Team Coordinator with Gateway Woods Family Services last summer in Illinois really helps.

This year's Coordinators, Bro. Kevin Hodel and Bro. Todd Stoller, are over half way through the 12 planned projects in central Illinois church communities. Thanks to all the volunteers and donors who help to make these happen.

None of this past school year could have been possible without the presence and comfort from God. He instills in us a small voice, and through Him we can figure out how to use it. He is our rock, and it's God's rock, "brick", upon which we try and build the students. I think of Psalm 62:2, "He only is my rock, and my salvation; he is my defense; I shall not be

greatly moved."

Anything is possible through Christ. We just have to make sure we are listening.

Gateway Woods would like to welcome Morris S. to our campus in Leo. We are prayerful that the Lord will touch his life. We would also like to say good-bye to Sharon M. and Jessica B. May the Lord watch and keep them in His hand!

Gateway Woods Foster Care wishes Kodie F. God's blessings. Kodie is being adopted, and the adoptive family would appreciate your prayers.

The Gateway Woods School building is going up rapidly. We are thankful for the support shown us through the Equip-A-Room and Buy-A-Book campaigns. There are still many opportunities to get involved through these activities. Check out the progress of our building at:

[www.gatewaywoods.org](http://www.gatewaywoods.org).

The Auction is rapidly approaching. Please see our article in last month's Silver Lining and our insert in this current issue. We say Thank You in advance for your support and we hope to see you in Leo on August 17!

We would like to welcome Bro. Al and Sis. Judy Langhofer as our new Reps. in Wichita, KS, and Bro. Vince and Sis. Tessa Schlatter as our new Reps. in Milford, IN.

Please continue to pray for this ministry, especially during the summer months. Our Houseparents are under additional strain because the residents are home all day. Also, the summer months see a lot of residents coming and going.

Please pray that God will send the right residents to our home. Finally, please pray that the Lord will lead a set of Alternate Houseparents to Gateway Woods. Please call 888-443-4283 with questions about any of the material contained in this article. Thanks!

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

**Melinda Matuch**

It's summertime at the preschool! With the hot sunny weather comes swimming in the wading pool, lots of sandbox time, and popsicles, too. We've been blessed with quite a number of wonderful summer days already. Enough so that today's rainy day spent indoors was a welcome change of pace. We sang silly songs, played beanbag games, and listened to stories told by our volunteer, Sis. Deb Blunier (Eureka, IL). Thank you for your faithfulness. We are always thrilled to see volunteers come, and the children really miss them when they have gone home again.

This summer we are teaching about different miracles of the Bible each day. We are doing a week at a time on the following themes. For July, they are Fire, Angels, Apostles, War, and the Deaf and Blind. We incorporate the weekly theme into our regular lessons as well as through books, songs, crafts, counting exercises, and papers to color.

Ordinarily, the lighter student count gives time to do spring cleaning, to sort through and spruce up, as well as to make preparations for fall. However, we are currently one teacher short, and we are more dependent than ever on volunteers to get through the summer. Please come visit us for a few days! Just call the preschool at (265) 233-0591. We'll be happy to hear from you. Volunteers may stay at the church during their visit if they choose to.

In Alabama, the public school calendar starts much earlier than in northern states. We will start our fall term in the middle of August. Please, keep us in your prayers and help us find the right person to join us as our preschool

director/teacher in a timely fashion. We need someone with a degree in preschool or elementary education and some teaching experience. Anyone who is interested should contact Bro. Tom Schrenk at (256) 232-0037 (home) or (256) 654-9189 (cell phone). You may also write to him at 15318 Hastings Rd. Athens, AL 35613.

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## ALABAMA, ATHENS

**Louise Hall**

**Joan Reinhard**

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Buddy Lynn and his family as his brother was killed in a motorcycle accident on Thursday, May 23. We pray that the Holy Spirit will comfort as only He can.

We have also been praying for Donna Schrenk (Bro. Joel) as she has had surgery this past month, for Jeff Flanagan (son-in-law of Bro. J.R. and Sis. Louise Hall) who also had surgery, and for Sis. Dessie Siniard who fell, but thankfully did not break any bones. We pray for a speedy recovery for them all and good health in the future.

Memorial Day Weekend was again a blessed time for us here as we helped host the Annual Tennessee Fellowship Area Singing. We had a wonderful time learning about the Latter Days and what the Bible says about them. We want to thank each of the ministers who had a part in the weekend. They were Elder Bros. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), and Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), and Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). We also appreciate the support shown by Bro. Dave Bertsch (Leo, IN) and Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL). We also had a blessed time of singing and fellowship with many brothers and sisters from 30 of our churches. The following churches were represented: Ft. Lauderdale, Ft.

Myers, and Sarasota, FL; Atlanta, GA: Bevidere, Bloomington, Bradford, Fairbury, Goodfield, Gridley, Morton, Peoria, Princeville, Roanoke, and Tremont, IL; Bluffton, Indianapolis, LaCrosse, Leo, Valparaiso, and Wolcott, IN; Bern, and Lamont-Gridley, KS; Alto, MI; Akron, Junction, Latty, Mansfield, and Smithville, OH; and Nashville, TN. We want to thank each one who made the effort to come and a very special thank-you to those from Morton, IL, who were in charge of the meals this year and did a fantastic job. We here in Athens appreciated the break and truly enjoyed the weekend. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year and encourage each one to bring a friend along.

We always enjoy company and look forward to visitors on Sunday. We had visitors from Gridley, Princeville, and Washington, IL, at others times this month, and we thank you for making the effort to come and worship with us.

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## ARIZONA, PHOENIX

**Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you."

*James 4:8*

The above scripture gives much comfort and security (as Psalm 23) in these perilous days we live in. As Bro. Clarence Yackley preached, "God's in charge. He is still on the throne." So yes, dear ones, your floods will cease and our drought will end in His time.

Our last monthly Fellowship Dinner - Singing for the season was May 16. We thank Sis. Wanda Hoerr and her committee for their labor of love this past year. Also, thanks to our brothers for their many jobs to make these occasions so special.



Sunday School classes will end June 16 for the summer.

Vacation Bible School starts June 17 for a week, with the children's program on June 23. Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Bros. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) and Herb Knochel Jr. are the ministers bringing our messages.

Family night for packing health kits for World Relief took place after church on June 12.

A group of brothers from here and the Midwest went on a work project to the Dilkon Indian Reservation from June 6-12.

Our sympathy to Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle on the death of his brother-in-law, Graham Haworth. Bro. Willis flew in from Japan to be with his sister, Caroline. He had the graveside services after a memorial service at Glencraft Retirement Home.

June 16 was a time of thanks as we gathered to partake of Holy Communion as we did "Take, eat, this is my body" (I Cor. 11:24). Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich in serving Communion. What a blessing to be served the Lord's Supper.

Let your light shine, dear ones. Trust me, folks are watching and telling.

After a prayer by Elder Bo. Jon Kokanovich, the committee broke ground for our Apostolic Christian Mountain View Villas. We pray for God's blessings on this project.

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## ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

### Jane Hodges

Some of the volunteers from our churches that are working on completing the building of the "Faith House" in Kilkon (a group dwelling on the Navajo reservation in northern Arizona for abused children) are coming on Sunday to worship with us. We appreciate

their support and fellowship and pray the Lord will richly bless them for their efforts to help others in need.

Many of the celebrations in the Southwest for the 4th of July were scheduled without fireworks due to the extreme fire danger since we are experiencing drought conditions. Many national forests are closed (including Prescott) to any activity including hiking, sightseeing, summer camps, etc. If you are traveling to this area, you need to check for closures. They are issuing tickets with hefty fines.

Our annual corn-on-the-cob picnic is scheduled for August 3. Anyone visiting in the area is welcome to come and can contact someone of the Prescott congregation for more details.

Our ministering brethren this last month included Elder Bros. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Bros. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL), Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH), Herb Knochel Jr., and Jim Meiss (both of Phoenix, AZ). May God richly bless them and their families for their love and support.

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## ARIZONA, TUCSON

### Lisa Knapp

We were visited by two ministers this past month. Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN) both came to offer relief to Bro. Curt Kaufman on the pulpit. Many thanks to them both; may God add His blessing.

Bro. Floyd and Sis. Clara Banwart celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary a few weeks ago in Illinois with many family and friends. We wish them God's richest blessings as they continue their lives together.

As our country celebrated Father's Day this past weekend, we hope there were many prayers ut-

tered for Christian fathers trying to raise their families in a stressful world. We need to remember to pray for the fathers around us and also for those fathers who have been trying to do their jobs without God's love and guidance. We pray they could realize their need for a Saviour and a Heavenly Father to become the best fathers they can be.

We enjoyed our first evening of Vacation Bible School last night. Our theme this year is "In God We Trust". We wanted to somehow tie our theme in with the events of September 11, 2001. We felt focusing on trusting God in everything might reinforce to the children that no matter what extraordinary events take place in their world, we as a church and as individual families are still entrusting each day to God's care.

Our annual business meeting resulted in the following elections: Bro. Don Bauer replaces Bro. Jay Knapp as trustee for a 3 year term and Sis. Sandy Bauer replaces Sis. Lisa Knapp as older elementary teacher for a 2 year term. May God bless you all; your rewards will be heavenly!

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## CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

### Jim Klotzle

You may recall the frivolous claim that something is "to die for". As Christians in this time and place, there seems to be a shortage of worthy causes to die for. However, we don't have to look hard or travel far to find something to die to. Hopefully, we have already died to our old sinful nature. In addition, we are confronted daily with earthly cares, vices, and the wiles of the devil. As spiritual soldiers, we are called to win victories daily and beyond the grave.

"Knowing this, that our old sinful nature is crucified with him,

that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin."

*Romans 6:6-7*

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and ministering Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) visited our congregation this month, assisting our ministers on the pulpit.

We had a great turnout at our annual Sunday School Picnic. We had a barbeque and a time of singing and fellowship. A broad age group participated in the games, including some children from the community.

Our Elder Bro. John Klotzle was unable to take the pulpit earlier in the month due to health difficulties. While he is gaining strength, please continue to hold him and his wife, Sis. Lois, in your prayers.

## CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

### Peggy Jevremov

Our Sunday School year has come to a close. This year for our annual Sunday School trip, the students with their teachers and spouses went on an overnight camping trip. It was a blessed time to share together being in God's beautiful creation.

We were blessed to have ministering Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL) serve us during their visit here.

We had our annual church cleaning on June 1. It is always a blessed day as we work together to clean the house of our Lord.

We rejoiced with Bro. Phillip Petrovic (Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian) and Sis. Tasha Kuenzi (Bro. Robert and Sis. Linda) of the Silverton, OR, congregation as their betrothal was shared with us on June 2. We warmly welcome Sis. Tasha into our little congregation.

## KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

### Nathan Reutter

Greetings brethren in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray the Lord has kept you in His loving care this month. This month we began to see some of our summer visitors start. We pray that many more will consider visiting us. It means a lot to us that people care enough to come meet and visit with us.

We had three visiting ministers this month. The first to come this month was Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN). The second was Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI). The third was Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH). We appreciated their messages and plead that they will come back soon. Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth especially were appreciated since Bro. Mike Ursu and his family (our minister) were gone the weekend he was here. We were thankful for his "not my will, but Thy will be done" attitude.

It really is a blessing for our congregation to have so many visiting ministers. It allows us to hear the Gospel preached from many different perspectives and allows us to get a well rounded picture of God's will. We pray God will continue to provide this minister rotation to continue.

We also did some ministering to people in local nursing homes this past month. The Bible commands us to praise the Lord with singing and it seems to be a beneficial thing to do this among people who are older and lonely. We pray the Lord will be with them in their lonely hours.

We pray that God will bless you as much as He has blessed us and pray that His presence will never leave you. May we all strive to meet in Heaven if we never meet on earth. God bless you all.

## COLORADO, DENVER

### Ann Gonglach

Several years of drought have caused extremely dry conditions in Colorado. In addition to water-use restrictions this summer, wildfires are burning in the mountains. How thankful we are for the living water. "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:14)

Open the wells of grace and salvation,

Pour the rich streams deep into my heart;

Cleanse and refine my tho't and affection,

Seal me and make me pure as Thou art.

*Hymns of Zion #171*

We are joyful that three more souls have answered the call of God to repentance. Joel Leman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb), Ema Gonglach (Bro. Robert and Sis. Ann) and Autumn Hohulin (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sharolyn) have our prayers as they seek the Lord. May many more answer His call!

Caleb Leman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb) has confessed peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing his testimony on July 20.

As always, we are thankful for visitors and visiting ministers who share God's Word with us. On May 26, Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara, Lamont-Gridley, KS) ministered to us.

Thanks to Bro. Chuck Wiegand and Sis. Lanette Meyer for their service as Sunday School teachers. Bro. Larry Steffen and Sis. Sharolyn Hohulin are replacing them for the next term. May the Lord guide and direct our Sunday School teachers as they have the

privilege and responsibility of teaching young souls. Jesus said, "And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me." (Matt. 18:5)

Bro. Mike and Sis. BethAnn Martin have been blessed with a newborn baby girl which the Lord brought into their home to care for with the possibility of adopting. Their children, Benjamin, Joshua and Victoria, helped to welcome little Vanessa. On June 14, a daughter, Annie Lynn, was born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Theresa Katanic. She has two brothers, Jackson and Jed. We rejoice with these two families as the Lord has so richly blessed them. "...thy children (shall be) like olive plants round about thy table." (Psalm 128:3b).

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**CONNECTICUT  
ROCKVILLE  
Cherie Galat**

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

*Genesis 1:27*

Bro. Michael Zahner and Sis. Joy Hany were united as husband and wife on June 2. Parents are Bro. Warren and Sis. Bonnie Zahner and Bro. Richard and Sis. Betsy Hany. May God continue to guide their steps as they walk together as one.

The Single Group was invited to Rittman, OH, for Memorial Day weekend. What a blessing it is to see the evidence of faith working in the lives of our loved ones seeking to do His will! We were encouraged through visiting with our beloved brethren, singing praises unto our Heavenly Father and sitting under the sound of the Word. May we hold these precious memories close in our hearts and minds so that we can reflect upon them often and

thank Him for His rich blessings.

As Independence Day is observed, it can stir many thoughts. Not only was independence of our nation accomplished, but more importantly, there can be freedom from the shackles of sin and Satan made possible through His shed blood. Each and every day we can thank God for His rich mercy for sending His Son that made it possible that we could be reconciled unto Him.

We bid a fond farewell to our Bro. Kirby Reutter (Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay) as he moves to Mexico. We pray that God give him assurance of the true faith that even though we be separated by miles, we are near to one another in spirit. May he feel God's nearness today and in the days ahead.

It is a blessing to have had Bro. Brian Webb (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) in our midst to minister to us out of God's Word. We continue to pray for our dear brethren that labor for us and instruct us as we continue on this pilgrim pathway.

May God lead each one of our loved ones on paths that will draw them close to Him. This year's high school graduates are: Melissa Andrews (Kurt Andrews and Diane Andrews), Kurt Bahler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Carole), Nathan Carlson (Bro. Walter Jr. and Sis. Judy), Annaliese Eleiott (Rich and Sis. Joanne), Kristen Goric (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Lou), Todd Hany (Brian and Sandy), Aaron Hills (Bro. Scott and Sis. Luanne), Bruce Hoffman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella), Kelly Hoffman (Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lynn), Sis. Jayme Lanz (Bro. Barry and Karen), Jonathan Ludwig (Bro. Gerald and Heidi), Luke Luginbuhl (Bro. Keith and Sis. Linda), Ashley Reutter (Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay), Julie and Jason Reutter (Bro. Dean and Sis. Miriam), Kara Ryan (Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl), Christopher Skinner (Everett and Sis.

Sherry), Jonathan Spielman (Sis. Jody Spielman), Sis. Laura Virkler (Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy) and Philip Wagenbach (Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary).

Our prayers arise to God for our loved ones who have undergone surgery in the past days: Sis. Martha Schneider (Bro. Leon) and Sean Crohan (Dan and Sis. Carole). May He watch over each one in the days ahead.

May God console Miranda Jennings and her daughter, Haley, upon the passing of their grandfather and great-grandfather, Gerald Stormer, who resided in Pennsylvania with his wife, Leta. We pray for His nearness to be felt by each member of his family circle.

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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON  
Henrietta Meyer**

We are so thankful many families are including our little congregation in their vacation plans. It is always interesting to come to church on Sunday and see how many congregations are represented. We hope the visitors are as blest by their visit as we are.

This month we welcome Sarah Baer (Bro. Larry and Sis. Vera) from Princeville, IL. She will be working here this summer as a nanny. There are many employment opportunities in this area (many are not downtown, but in the outer suburbs).

Our ministers the past month were Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), and Bros. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN). Other visitors this month were from Bradford and Washington, IL; Lamont, KS; Akron and Rittman, OH; Francesville and Bluffton, IN; Oakville and Elgin, IA; Detroit, MI; and Philadelphia, PA. 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 or Sis. Henrietta Meyer (703) 904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. If you would like to get together on Saturday evening, please let us know that also. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

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### **FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS**

#### **Mary Masters**

The rainy season has begun in the Fort Myers area and we are thankful for the rain after having dry weather for quite some time.

On June 2, we were delighted to have Bro. Roland and Sis. Vi Keller join us for a church barbecue. It was the occasion to bid Bro. Les Meister farewell. We all had a very blessed time together sharing memories.

We also bid farewell to Sis. Leslie Masters who is returning north to her hometown of Bloomington, IL. She has accepted a job as dietician at St. Joseph Hospital in Bloomington. We will miss her, but hope she comes back often to visit.

We are continually thankful to have visitors in our area. With our small congregation, it is a special treat to add to our attendance. No matter how small our group is, God is always faithful to feed us gener-

ously from His Word, through our faithful ministers.

Please pray with us that our number of full time residents would increase our congregation. It is a wonderful area in which to live and many employment opportunities.

“Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

*II Thess. 1:11-12*

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### **FLORIDA, SARASOTA Carol Koehl**

June 9 was a very special day as Sis. Suellen Ott and Bro. Virgil Kaeb were united as one in the Lord. Here for this joyous occasion were Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Bro. Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL).

Sis. Mandy Koehl (Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol) graduated from high school. We pray she will always let the Lord lead her down life's path, as He alone knows what is best.

Our hospital patient this month was Bro. Ron Koehl. We thank the Lord for His merciful healing.

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### **GEORGIA, ATLANTA John Brewer**

Over the years our small flock has grown spiritually by the grace and blessing of our Lord. But by numbers also has our congregation grown as well. We are blessed to have Bro. Darin and Marie Yergler and their two children, Ryan and Grace, who have moved on a job transfer from Gridley, IL. We re-

joice to see our small family grow just a little more.

We were blessed for those who have visited this past month. Visiting ministers for June include Bros. Vernon Wettstein (Sis. Judy, Congerville, IL), Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN) and Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, 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.

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### **ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE**

#### **Sheila McCoy Doreen Moser**

Don't put the "world" over the "Word".

There is only one letter difference, the letter L, between these two words, but, oh, how significant it is! In the word "believe" you will find a 3 letter word. Is Satan causing us to believe a lie? We were thankful for these teachings from Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL). We were also very thankful for our other visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Bros. Virg Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL).

Andrea McCoy (David and Sis. Sheila) and Michael Katz were united in marriage on May 25. We wish them God's blessings in their

life together.

Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) did a Bible study on "The Crisis in the Middle East". We are so grateful to Bro. Ron for this timely biblical history of the Israelites and Palestinians.

Bruce Banwart will be moving to Kansas City. We are grateful for the number of years he was a part of our small congregation and are saddened by this parting. "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." Philippians 1:3

We enjoy this season so much as we listen to the melodies of the birds and look in awe at the beauty of the flowers. But let us remember to glorify God likewise in such ways as being obedient to His Word, lending a helping hand and singing our praises to Him.

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## ILLINOIS

### BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

**Ann Kellenberger  
Rebekah Kaufmann**

Three precious souls were given the grace to answer God's call, and after true repentance and conversion, were able to testify to the church on June 8 of the miracle that Christ had worked in each of their lives. On June 9 we witnessed the baptisms of Adrian and Durelle Rabe (Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie) and Melodee Bachtold (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary, Forrest). May their lives shine forth as a beacon so others may be drawn to that glorious light.

The halls of our Sunday School rang with joy during the week of Vacation Bible School (June 3-7). The theme this year, "Knowing God - The Journey", was focused on better understanding the heart of God. Visiting ministers for the Adult Bible Class were Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), Tim Roecker (Peoria, IL) and Fred

Witzig (Indianapolis, IN). We truly appreciate the efforts these brothers made to bring God's precious Word to our youth.

Our congregation also appreciated several other visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) and Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL). We enjoyed having each one of them and trust that God will bless them.

Our prayers are with Jan Keeley and her two daughters, Anna and Leah, as they recently moved to Phoenix. Our congregation will certainly miss them, but we trust the Lord will bless them in their new home.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Ruth Lowery and Sis. Dorothy Harsh whose brother, Bro. Lynn Rinkenberger (Gridley, IL), passed away recently. May God comfort their family during this time.

We are thankful that Bro. Steve Virgil is recovering so well following a serious automobile accident last month. Our thoughts and prayers have been with Steve and his family during this time. May God continue to provide strength and healing to him.

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## ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

**Chad and LauraLee Plattner**

We would like to welcome Bro. Joe and Sis. Heather Beer to our congregation. They, along with their children, Hannah, Cooper and Conner, have recently moved into the area and are worshipping with us.

We also welcome Emma Lucille Kieser, born June 6, to Bro. Matt and Sis. Tracy Kieser. Siblings are Erika, Erin and Joel, and grandparents are Sis. Gloria White (Princeville, IL), Claude White (Rossville, IN), and Bro. Gerald

and Sis. Wilma Kieser.

Our graduates this year are Daniel Ehnle (Bro. Donn and Sis. Tracy), Phil Endress (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky), Bro. Jeb Joos (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny) and Sis. Joanna Stoller (Bro. Nate and Sis. Sherrill). We pray they will seek God's direction as they make plans for their future.

We appreciate Bros. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Don Manz (Junction, OH) for ministering the Word to us this month.

May God bless each one committed to fulfilling His perfect will in their lives.

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## ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

**Samuel and Pamela Furrer**

"Choose a job you love and you'll never have to work a day in your life."

Checking out and filing herself under "R" for "retired" is what our Sis. Karen Kaiser did as she left 31 years of employment at the University of Illinois Graduate Library. Karen came to C-U for employment shortly after graduating from Illinois State University. Karen's plans are to enjoy life without a job, to do volunteer work and to travel. Always full of energy and quick with a smile and a kind word, Karen will surely be missed by her co-workers. We wish her all the best as she begins a new chapter in her life.

Moving into our community for employment in health care at a local clinic and hospital and recently joining our church family are Sis. Cristela Martinez and her son, Christopher. Although they have been in the community for a while, they had been driving up to Cissna Park for church until Cristela completed her term as Sunday School teacher there. We welcome them to our congregation!

We try our best, but we missed a

couple of people when listing our graduates in last month's article. One of our high school students, Bob Saska, has recently graduated from Champaign's Centennial High School. Bob plans to continue his education in the field of computer technology at Parkland College. Bro. Jeff Sauder graduated from UI and will be working at Diversified Buildings in Morton as a project manager and attending the Tremont church.

Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. of Apostolic Christian Counseling Services was our guest for a presentation on depression. We appreciated the informative material he had to offer on this very important topic.

Our church worked with Gateway Woods to coordinate a work project in our community. The city had notified the owner of the house that she must vacate the house due to major safety concerns with her house's roof. The church work team repaired broken rafters, removed a back porch roof, and made other preparations for a new roof to be installed so the woman could continue to reside in her house.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) and Ken Schneider (Remington, IN). We thank these brothers and their families for coming to visit us.

Just a reminder to those who are coming to C-U for college in the fall: Our annual Student Welcome Picnic will be on the afternoon of Sunday, August 25. All students and their families are encouraged to spend the day with us. Information is mailed to the incoming students we are aware of, but anyone who needs more info could contact our student president, Kevin Hodel at (309) 367-4459.

### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

With the passing of Memorial Day and our Sunday School picnic

on June 9, summer has officially begun. It seems this time of the year is just bursting with activity of one kind or another, but before we take off too quickly, we want to take time to thank Bro. Kim Steffen for his efforts over the last six years as a Sunday School teacher and more recently as the superintendent.

Another thank you we want to remember goes to our visiting ministers, Bros. John Grimm (Columbus, OH) and Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO).

Amidst the summer activity, I need to often remind myself to slow down and double check with the Lord just to be sure that the activity is what He wants me to be spending time and energy upon. I have noticed that as I look over my summer calendar so far, there has been at least one major change to each week's original plan. Some of the changes may have caused some initial disappointment, especially for my children, but as I look back and ponder the impact of the change on the week, I give praise to God for His control and wisdom in the matter.

#### *Take Time to be Holy*

Take time to be holy,  
Let Him be thy Guide,  
And run not before Him,  
Whatever betide;  
In joy or in sorrow,  
Still follow thy Lord,  
And, looking to Jesus,  
Still trust in His Word.

*Hymns of Zion #112, vs. 3*

Should the Lord be guiding you near the Chicago church this summer, please join us for services!

### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Susan Waldbeser

Denise Walder

We want to extend congratula-

tions to our high school graduates. We pray God will direct each one and guide them as they enter the work force or go to college. They are Sis. Stephany Anderson (Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee), Julie Edelman (Urb and Sis. Judy), Sis. Bonnie Frank (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita), Jacob Johnson (Bro. Curt and Sis. Bev Knapp), Sis. Rebekah Laubscher (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria), Sis. Melinda Maul (Mike and Sis. Kathy), Brian Rudin (Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LaNae), Jodi Rudin (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Joan), Sis. Gretchen Steffen (Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth) and Matt Young (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marilyn).

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

*Ephesians 5:31*

We were thankful to have many visitors with us to witness the marriage of Sis. Bethany Frank (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita) to Bro. Monty Van Wyhe of Lester, IA (Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan). We pray God will bless them as they make their home in Lester. We will miss Sis. Bethany, but hope she and Bro. Monty will come home often. We thank visiting ministers who were with us for the weekend. They were Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Roger Aberle (Sabatha, KS), Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) and Rod Bajema (Lester, IA).

Other visiting ministers that were with us this month were Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), and Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN). May God bless each one for coming and sharing the Word of God with us.

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

*Ephesians 6:4*

As we observe Father's Day, we surely are thankful for those that have taught us the ways of the Lord and provided for our earthly needs. More importantly, may we never forget what our Heavenly Father did for us when He sent His only Son to die for each one of us. We thank Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) for bringing us the message on Father's Day.

“For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord;”

*Jeremiah 30:17*

We have had several from our congregation that have had surgery or had tests done. We pray God will provide for each one as they heal from the affliction each one has. They are Sis. Loretta Baumgartner, Bro. Bill Maul (Sis. Wanda), Sis. Em Eisenmann, Sis. Mary Knapp, Sis. Sandy Kaufmann (Bro. Sid), Bro. Gib Stock (Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Jim Walder (Sis. Beth).

After many years in the nursing home, our Sis. Laura Bauer was called to be with the Lord. We are thankful for her faithfulness and thankful she could go to her eternal rest.

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to thank all those who remembered us with cards, gifts, phone calls, visits and most of all prayers while Braden was in the hospital and since coming home. May God richly bless each of you for your kindness and generosity.

Humbly in Christ,

*Matt, Jerilyn and Braden Waldbeser*

### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Arlene Banwart

As Solomon built the temple of yore,  
For Wisdom and guidance his heart did implore.  
So our lives we would consecrate,  
faithful and true;  
Our pledge of devotion we'll gladly renew.

We dedicate, consecrate, all to His name!  
May fond cherished memories ever remain.  
This truth on our hearts be deeply impressed;  
Man buildeth the church – God doeth the rest!  
—Bro. Henry Beer

With thankful hearts we were able to assemble as a congregation in our new edifice on Friday evening, May 17, for a time of singing and orientation.

Sunday, May 19, was our first worship service in our new church. We're thankful the building is on a single level enabling some of our older brethren to assemble with us again. The sanctuary seats 500, the dining room 165 and the Sunday School 200. Our thanks to God who made this building possible. We also thank all those who donated time, talents and earthly possessions. A warm welcome is extended to all to come and worship with us as the Lord opens the way. Our church is located at 306 Sharp Road which is just one block north of Route 150 at the east end of Congerville.

Bros. Ernst Pfister, Elder of Breidenbach and Heinrich Geppert, Schutterzell, Germany, expounded God's Word to our Sunday School and then to our congregation on May 26. We thank

Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) for translating the whole day. Even though many miles separate us and there is a language barrier, we're thankful to feel the same kindred spirit.

May God bless our high school graduates: Sis. Joan Craig (Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol), Rebecca Hoerr (Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne) and Michelle Zimmerman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Maryellen).

Many of our young people learned more of God's ways in Vacation Bible School and ACYF day. Our thanks go to Bros. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL) and Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) for helping teach Vacation Bible School.

June 9 was truly a day of thanksgiving as we dedicated our new building to God's praise and honor, and rededicated our lives anew to God. Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Bob Walder in this dedication service. In the service we learned no one brick stands along in this building. If one is taken out, it would immediately be noticed. All the bricks are surrounded by other bricks and they help to support the building. That's the way we should be in the church, leaning upon each other. We carry part of the weight and rest upon each other's faith and love and encouragement.

Open House was held the Saturday afternoon before dedication.

At the time of this writing, Bro. Duane Steffen is hospitalized and Bro. Ralph Zobrist is assembling with us after a brief hospital stay. May God supply all our need. (Phil. 4:19)

### ILLINOIS, ELGIN Amy Gasser Kay Kellenberger

Peace and love impel the greeting,

Greetings do our love impart;  
Christians greetings are a blessing,  
As a pray'r console the heart.  
There is comfort, peace and blessing,  
Of a greeting in the Lord.

*Hymns of Zion #7, vs. 2*

It is such a blessing to share greetings and fellowship with brethren near and far. The Elgin congregation has been richly blessed through the service of many faithful ministering brothers. May these brothers feel encouraged by the many prayers that have been offered on their behalf: Elder Bros. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), and Bros. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA).

Bro. Norm and Sis. Ginny Schock have a new grandson, Nathan Jordan, born to Jordan and Sherri Vanagas. He is baby brother to Rachel and Gracie.

Lydia Osmun has recently spent time in the hospital. Let's remember to lift her in prayer.

Though partings are hard, we rejoice when a child of God is safe in the arms of Jesus. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Lucy Schultz's family. May they cherish the many memories they have shared.

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

Safe in the arms of Jesus,  
Safe from corroding care,

Safe from the world's temptations,  
Sin cannot find me there.  
Free from the blight of sorrow,  
Free from my doubts and fears;  
Only a few more trials,  
Only a few more tears!...

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

*Hymns of Zion #218, vs. 1-2*

How our hearts rejoice as we welcome new sheep into the fold. It is so uplifting to again be reminded of God's Almighty works.

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

*Isaiah 1:18*

The Elgin congregation shared in the blessing of witnessing the provings and baptisms of four precious souls: Joyce Schifferer and Keith Schambach on May 25-26, and Ben and Stephanie Standish on June 8-9. May we each be encouraged to keep His sweet peace close to our hearts.

I trust Him through faith, by faith  
hold His hand,  
And sometimes my faith is weak,  
And then when I ask Him to take  
command,  
It seems that I hear Him speak.

He speaks in a still, small voice we  
are told,  
A voice that dispels all fear;  
And when I'm in doubt, or troubled  
in soul,  
That still small voice I can hear.

He whispers sweet peace to me,  
He whispers sweet peace to me,  
When I am cast down in spirit and

soul,  
He whispers sweet peace to me.  
*Gospel Hymns #780, vs. 3-4*

## ILLINOIS, EUREKA

### Janet Zimmerman

God has blessed the home of Bro. Rodney and Sis. Cindy Kupferschmid with a new baby, Mahlon Dean. He was born May 24. He is welcomed home by his sisters, Rebecca, Sarah, Naomi, and brothers, Jed and Luke. His grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid and Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl (Roanoke, IL).

We wish to extend our prayers and best wishes to our graduating high school seniors: Matthew Gerber, Michael Hartter, Daniel Martin, Gary Stoller, Bro. Jonathon Wiegand, Bro. Brent Vierling, Bro. Jacob Rocke, Sis. Julie Fehr, Sis. Brenda Carr, Sis. Molly Schmidgall, Sis. Kelli Leman, Trudy Zimmerman, Sis. Stephanie Martin, Kathy Stoller and Jodi Wuethrich.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jake Fehr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy) who was injured in a fall recently, and also Bro. Bob Wiegand (Sis. Helen) who had recent heart surgery.

Sis. Katie Anliker (Bro. Art and Sis. Carol) and Bro. Corbin Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb) of Latty, OH, were united in Holy Matrimony on June 16. Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and our Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht conducted the services. Other visiting ministers with us for this special occasion were Bros. John Laukhuf, Todd Stoller and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin and Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN).



Bro. Sam Schmidgall (Sis. Gladys) had knee surgery recently and is doing well.

Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 3rd. Washington church hosted Vacation Bible School for our Bible Class students the following week.

We appreciated having visiting ministers on recent Wednesday evenings. May God bless the labors of Bros. Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO), Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) and Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) for their recent visits.

*"All Night in Prayer"*

"All night in prayer" – whilst others slept,  
Or, heedless, their wild revels kept,  
In lonely spots, oppressed with care,  
The Saviour spent His nights in prayer.

"All night in prayer" – 'tis joy to know  
I have such comfort in my woe;  
And whilst I watch, His duty share,  
And oft spent like hours in prayer.

"All night in prayer" – I love to think  
His hand doth mix each cup I drink;  
And for my blessing doth prepare  
Each night of weariness and prayer.

"All night in prayer" – O Saviour, Christ,  
My sins deprived Thy life of rest;  
And love for me didst make Thee bear  
The sorrows of those nights of prayer.

"All night in prayer" – soon morn shall come  
A morn whose light shall guide us home;

Its dawn must scatter gloom and care,  
And joy shall crown our nights of prayer.

—*Elizabeth Annable Needham*

**ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY**

**Tammy Hinrichsen**

**Joann Zehr**

Greetings from the brothers and sisters here in Fairbury!

We're thankful that two more souls have found grace to repent. Jason Edelman (Bro. Walter and Sis. Rosetta) and Natasha Knapp (Bro. Kirby and Sis. Gwen) have begun their walk with Christ. May the Lord increase their faith day by day.

Speaking of blessings, babies have been born to three couples in our congregation. On May 23, Andrea Michelle was born to Bro. Ed and Sis. Melanie Teubel. Very happy grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy Schneider and Walter Teubel. On June 5, Bryce Mychal was born to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Jennifer Teubel. He has one brother, Milan. Grandparents of Bryce are Walter Teubel and Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay Steffen. On June 12, Collin Rodell was born to Mike and Tracy Fogarty. He has one sister, Emma. Grandparents of Collin are Bro. Albert and Sis. Karen Steffen and Rod and Kathy Fogarty.

We ask God's healing power for Bro. Carlos Meiss (Sis. Jane) and Sis. Martha Fehr, who have spent time in the hospital.

Now we would like to extend our thanks to all of the visiting ministers who have come to Fairbury: Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) and Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN).

On June 8, Bernard Ifft peacefully passed away. Our sympathies

go out to his family, including Sis. Lola Young (Bro. Norman) and Sis. Mary Ifft (Gilbert Ifft, deceased).

On June 16, our dear Sis. Kathryn Kaisner, 91, could go to her eternal reward. She turned her heart to God in her later years and we are so thankful that she was able to assemble with us for awhile. May God send His love and comfort to her daughter, Carol Vaughan (Jerry), Botkins, OH, and also her 3 grandsons, Eric Vaughan (Carol) of Fairbury, and Brandon and Trevor Vaughan of Botkins. She also had two great-granddaughters, Morgan and Macy Vaughan of Fairbury. May God bless those of Sis. Kathryn's family who rendered many deeds of kindness to her in her last days.

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to our dear relatives and friends who remembered us with cards, visits, food and gifts of love, especially their prayers during my recent illness.

*Sisters Vi and Lavina Moser*

Sis. Dianne and I would like to thank all who have prayed and spent their time on our behalf. The love of the fellowship and love of our Father seems to have no limits. We deeply appreciate all your thoughtfulness.

*Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne Steidinger*

My Outdoor Bible is my friend  
My outdoor Bible is everywhere  
My outdoor Bible so much alive  
My outdoor Bible has much to share  
The clouds do silently drift along  
As waves come rushing up the shore,  
Birds are sweetly singing praises  
Flowers smiling and so much more.

My outdoor Bible, so easy to read  
 Words so simple and very clear,  
 My outdoor Bible is always open  
 I find my Bible most everywhere.  
 Should you seem distraught or  
 weary?

Step outside and look around  
 Very soon you will be reading  
 The outdoor Bible I have found.

—TS

## ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp  
 Linda Anliker**

Greetings be to you, our brethren,  
 To our sisters in the Lord,  
 Here from far and near assembled,  
 Gathered here in one accord.

*Zion's Harp #225*

The Spirit of God could be felt as voices blended together in greeting our brethren from across the seas. We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Ernst Pfister and ministering Bro. Heinrich Geppert from Germany in our midst to share God's Word with us. It is encouraging that although miles and languages may separate us, the kinship of God's Spirit and common doctrine can unite us in heart, depicting God is everywhere. We also thank Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) for spending the evening with us and helping in language translation. May the Lord continue to direct these brothers.

In other occasions, we thank visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) and Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) for words of instruction. Speaking to our Bible Class during Vacation Bible School were Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL). May the Lord bless them.

May the rich stream of grace from our Lord flow in the hearts of our new converts, Dan Banwart, Kevin Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne), Wes Dotterer (Sis. Kathy), and Kurt Bachtold (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary), as they recognize the need of the Saviour.

After having given testimony of her faith in Christ and making her vow in waters of baptism, we welcomed our new Sis. Stephanie Kuntz (Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda). May she continue to strive in love and obedience to God's Word.

As students, Ashley Bachman (Keith and Sis. Tamra), Sis. Shara Dotterer (Sis. Kathy), Theresa Ifft (Bro. Duane and Sis. Mary), Quinn Ifft (Sis. Betty), Jennifer Kerrins (Darren and Peggy), Justin Koehl (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane), Kyle Knapp (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean), Bro. Joe Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy), Joshua Steidinger (James and Sis. Marlene), Sis. Rebekah Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill), Sis. Rhonda Teubel (Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne), Sis. Bethany Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee), Ryan Wenger (Bro. Richard and Sis. Jill), Sis. Tami Young (Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy), Bro. Matthew Zimmerman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeannette), and Stephen Zimmerman (Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta) graduate from high school, may they desire the Lord to order their steps according to His Word.

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

*Psalms 127:3*

Joining the family of Bro. Michael and Sis. Jodi and Collin Stoller is Kyle Chris. Grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay Steffen (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller,

First time parents, Bro. Michael and Sis. Jodi Schneider, are enjoy-

ing their son, Joel David, born May 25. His grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley Ifft and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra Schneider.

Making August wedding plans are Ted Bachtold and Teresa Fehr. Their parents are Ralph and Martha Fehr (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Bachtold.

Also announcing their engagement and upcoming marriage are Theresa Ifft and Derek Sutter. Paul and Luanne Sutter (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Duane and Sis. Mary Ifft are their parents.

Joining their lives in marriage on May 24 were Dana Lanz and Joshua Kafer. Parents of the couple are Richard and Jeannie Kafer (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne Lanz. May these couples find the Lord to be their guiding light in marriage.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Alma Bolliger and family with the recent passing of her father, Paul Ifft (Fairbury, IL). May the Lord provide comfort.

Recent hospital patients were Sis. Alma Jean Schmidgall (Bro. Dave), Sis. Louise Zimmerman (Bro. Les), and Sis. Velma Schladenhauffen. May the Lord grant His healing touch.

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to thank our loved ones for the love, prayers, and many cards received with the death of our father and grandfather.

*Sis. Alma Bolliger*

*Bro. Mark and Sis. Ruby Bolliger*

## ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Heather Hohulin  
 Rita Bauman**

We have enjoyed the Word of Life brought to us recently by willing ministers, including Bros. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Peoria, IL), Kevin Knapp (Sis.

Dixie, Bloomington, IL) and Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL). What a privilege we have to be encouraged, and strengthened by messages from inspired Brothers as we all walk together toward our heavenly goal.

Hospitalized this past month was Mark Wiegand (Sandy) and Sis. Corrine Roth (Roy). We pray that God's healing touch will continue to be upon them and that they may feel His nearness during their recovery.

Chris Knapp and Kathy Paul have announced their engagement. Their parents are David and Sis. Becky Knapp and Joanne and the late Larry Feaster. Also engaged are Mandy Bauman and Kent Berg. Their parents are Bro. Les and Sis. Helen Bauman and Tim and Helen Berg. We wish you God's blessings as you prepare for your special day.

Our congregation was pleased to hear the good news that two dear souls have the faith to believe that they have received the Lord's forgiveness and peace. They are Megan Knapp (Sis. Judy and the late Stan) and Lexy Blunier (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Lucy).

What a blessing it is when God brings two people together. On June 9, we witnessed the marriage of Sis. Diana Schieler and Bro. Tim Currier. Their parents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Teresa Schieler and Art and Sis. Mary Currier. May they serve God and one another faithfully.

Bro. Joseph and Sis. Heather, Hannah, Cooper and Connor Beer plan to make Bradford their church. We thank you for the God given talents you have given our church family. A special thank you, Bro. Joseph, for your dedicated efforts teaching our Sunday School children and for the abundance of time spent with the Jr. Choir. We will miss you deeply, but admire your willingness to go where He

leads. May God bless you for your faith.

### **ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY**

#### **Perry A. Klopfenstein**

The Lord Jesus told His followers they were "the light of the world". As His followers, we are to walk in the light "as He is in the light" And, we, by God's grace, are to let our light shine.

"Walking in the Light" was the theme during Vacation Bible School held on June 10-14. Speakers were Bros. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Jeff Thames and Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) and Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL). VBS coordinators were Bros. Roger Wiegand and Keith Zimmerman

Our witness (light) to the world is very important, both inwardly and outwardly. Our affection is to be on the things above, not on the things below and our conversation (lifestyle) is to reflect our eternal values.

We are thankful that a few souls have started repenting. In God's eyes, one soul is worth more than the whole world. That indicates how much God loves us.

A girl, Ashlyn Nicole, was born on April 12 to Dave and Sheila Mool. She has a sister, Lauryn, 2. Grandparents are Bro. Enid and Sis. Lila Schlipf and Ron and Marcia Mool of El Paso. Great-grandparents are Sis. Vi Hany and Lawrence and Doris Brenneman of El Paso. May God be with this dear couple as they raise this new little girl.

Illness continues as a concern for a few of our dear members. Bro. Floyd Meiss has been sick; also hospitalized were Sis. Esther Kaupp, Bro. Dave Wagner, Bro. Paul Zehr, Sis. Betty Rich and Sis. Stephanie Knapp (Bro. Larry). Bro. Reuben Stoller had pneumonia, but was

not hospitalized.

On Wednesday evening, June 5, we had our annual business meeting. Selected for Sunday School were Bros. Philip Romersberger, John Yoder and Chad Wettstein. Sisters chosen were Sisters Judy Kaeb, Renee Schlipf and Mindy Zehr. Our new songleaders are Bros. Lyle Wettstein and Roger Wiegand. Chosen for the office of trustee was Bro. Ron Romersberger.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Brace Wieland (Leo, IN) and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN).

The marriage of Sis. Candice Stoller to Bro. Michael Dohman took place on June 2. She is the daughter of Bro. Lynn and Sis. Elaine Stoller. He is the son of John and Sis. Judy Dohman. We wish them God's richest blessings as they travel life's journey together.

### **ILLINOIS, MORTON**

#### **Julie Bahr**

#### **Christie Zeller**

Another Christian home has been established with the marriage of Bro. Tim Mueller of Bloomington, IL (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jan, Roanoke, IL) and our Sis. Jessie Kruse (Bro. Doug and Sis. Gerry). May God continually bless their marriage as they continue to do His will.

Bro. Brandon, Sis. Mindy and little Kelly Rinkenberger recently took a job change and have moved to the Phoenix, AZ, area. We miss them but are thankful that God has opened doors for them. May He continue to bless them and guide them according to His will.

"Great is the Lord" was our theme for this year's Vacation Bible School. What a blessed week we had! Our speakers for the week were: Contact - Encounters for our daily life - Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL); Compassion - Kindness will open doors - Bro. Brad

Eisenmann (Chicago, IL); Conviction – There is no side door into Heaven – Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL); Conversation – “I’m doing the best I can.” – Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ); Commandments – “Thou shalt...” – Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN). A special thank you to these brothers for their labors of love.

Other visiting brothers for the month were Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL). Thank you for being willing servants.

A new little bundle of joy has been born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Tasha Steffen named Oliver Keith. Welcoming him home is big brother Noah.

Willis Musselman (Lady Lake, FL) has passed away. He is a brother to our Sis. Grace Ziegler and Sis. Alice Schafer. Sis. Millie Beer (Milford, IN) passed away. She is a cousin to our Sis. Louise Ellen Getz and Bro. Ed Roecker. Bro. Bill Grimm (Sis. Eula) passed away on Father’s Day. May our Heavenly Father comfort each and every one of these dear loved ones in their loss.

Another graduate this year was Sarah Kaiser (Bro. Dave and Sis. Beth). May God be with her as she goes on to higher learning.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

Sis. Marie Hauter wanted to thank all those who prayed and sent cards to her for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **ILLINOIS, PEORIA**

#### **Peter and Mabel Weber**

Hang the sheepskin on the wall. Bro. Mike Rieker addressed our 14 graduating seniors at a breakfast on the lower level of the church on May 19, followed by Bro. Tim Funk’s sermon on II Sam. 23 and Romans 10. David did not trust the small rocks he selected to kill Goli-

ath, but the solid rock, his God. We want to become Christians because of God, not family or friends. Do we surrender all to Jesus day-to-day? We have to be fixed on that goal, otherwise we lose our way. It’s not a great mystery because the path has been trodden. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer: you wonder where your station is going to be. If the Lord opens the door, go through it, and if it isn’t open, don’t force your way through it. Let’s go forth with zeal to be a chosen vessel for Jesus.

The words Jesus spoke Himself bring a little more fear to our hearts and we need to realize that wherever we are, He is there. The disciples asked: “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” (Matt. 18:1). This is not for us to decide; Jesus makes this judgment and looks into our hearts, but we need to ask ourselves whether we are ready to meet our Maker. “Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven” (3). Jesus covers for the children, but once we can comprehend what He has done for us, we become responsible for our sinful deeds. We need to be right in God’s eyes because there are serious consequences if we refuse to turn to Him. Life is so uncertain ... we do not know when Jesus will come again. It is not the will of the Father that one will be lost. Today we have a choice (Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer 5/26).

Elijah had faith that (normally selfish) ravens would feed him and God would work out the details. Then brook Cherith dried up (I Kings 17:7) ... now what are you going to do, Christian? Don’t ask why? Ask what! Elijah’s faith was not shaken when he went to the widow of Zarephath and told her not to fear. After her son died, her faith was weak. God understands, and asks: “Is my hand shortened?” (Is. 50:2) (Bro. Rick Plattner 5/26).

Inside we carry a little troublemaker even though we call ourselves Christians: we want to do it our own way and seek approval from our fellow man, instead of from God. Faith is the basis of salvation, works the result of it. The law was meant to show us how much we need a Saviour, not to save us. We can’t be saved without works. Legalism is “keeping a list”; the opposite is liberty. Everything we have is vulnerable, but the prayer of a righteous soul can move the heart of God. Make your talk your walk. Today is the day of salvation: Jesus and His love is the keyword: the best deal you’ve ever seen – free and paid for. We thank Bro. Rich Sutter (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) for his ministry on June 2.

“The Latter Days” was the theme for the Tennessee Fellowship Singing over Memorial Day and was again well attended by over 20 churches.

On June 4, some 25 would-be and real carpenters from Gridley, Eureka and Peoria put a roof, shingles and outside walls on a small house to increase the living area for a family on the South Side. The structure withstood torrential rain later that afternoon and was another World Relief project with good fellowship for a local community improvement.

Delaney Ann (born 12/19/01 in Korea) was welcomed by Bro. Duane and Sis. Debbie and Dylan Steidinger to their family on May 11. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen Knobloch of Princeville and George Steidinger of Fairbury. What an opportunity to realize that the tree inclines, as the twig is bent.

“Why would a great God allow suffering in our lives today?” Suffering is diverse and cannot be understood, but serves to alert us to the problems of sin, directs us, shapes our temporal body to be more like Jesus, and unites us.

Pain reminds us of underlying problems, that man got disconnected from God, his Creator, by sin and that there is something wrong within us. (I am my own worst enemy). No pain, no gain. God directs us, through pain and suffering, to get a clear view of His pathway for us. He also allows us to suffer to bring another individual to Him. Pain leaves us stronger when it goes. Don't try to figure it out, but look to Jesus. We thank Bro. David and Sis. Lori Marquart (Taylor, MO) for their visit and his ministry for our family night service on June 5. Other speakers for VBS June 3-7 were Bros. Rich Sutter, Ed Sauder, David Zehr and Ken Wuethrich. The theme was "Bearing Fruit for Jesus". May the Lord richly reward them for their service to the church.

On June 9 we were blessed with the visits and ministry of Bros. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) and Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN). The greatest resource we have now is the contents and beauty of the Scriptures. Do we strive for surrogate goals or realize we cannot fail with Him, because "greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world"? We will be tempted but don't need to pitch our tent towards Sodom. Do we hate sin like God does? We are on this earth to glorify God with our lives. Everything is going to be alright for those who love the Lord, whose light is not flickering. We are bought with a price: His life.

The marriage engagement of Bro. Lou Lonteen and Sis. Marjean Lehman was announced on June 9. May the Lord's richest blessings follow as they plan their wedding for September 15.

May the healing mercies of God and the prayers of the brotherhood be felt by our hospital patients: Norm Rocke, Bros. Tom Rieker (Mayo Clinic) and Dave Dunbar, Sisters Amy Ginzle, Susi Herman

and Martha Wagenbach.

We share the deep sorrow of Sis. Janet and Mike Weber, Jake, Chad, Jeff and Angela and the rest of the family in the loss of their son, Tony (22), in a tragic accident in Georgia. Jesus can see every heartache and tear and we need to look to Him for answers. Sis. Lillian Koehl (90) passed away on May 28. What is life about? Faith in God. We rejoice and are sorrowful at the same time. Our sincere condolences to Sis. Judy Woerner, Bonnie Hodel, Rita Carmack, Duane and Bro. Ben Baurer. On May 22, Sis. Bernice Gross (91) went to her rest. She is mourned by her daughters, Shirley Gosnell and Betty Pells, and many nieces and nephews. We express our sincere sympathy to them.

*Note of Thanks:*

I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to my family and many friends who have showered me with cards, flowers, telephone calls, love and prayers during the illness and death of my son, Ronald.

May God love you, bless you and keep you.

*Lydia Hermann*

Note: Todd Wieland's e-mail address was inadvertently left out in the last issues. It is:

todd@virtrain.com

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**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**  
**Phyllis Knobloch**  
**Crystal Streitmatter**

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

*Psalm 51:10*

Our congregation is rejoicing in that Greg Herrmann (Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn) has begun his repentance. We are thankful that

God's call still goes forth across our pulpits, and that we are permitted in this free land of America to worship our God in accord with His Word! It is always our prayer that our freedoms would continue!

We'll never say good-by in heaven,  
 We'll never say good-by,  
 For in that land of joy and song,  
 We'll never say good-by.

*Hymns of Zion #122*

Our sympathy and prayers go out to our Sis. Bertha Kieser and her family in the death of her oldest grandson, Tony Weber, of Peoria, IL, in a tragic accident. We pray for God's comfort and nearness as they struggle to accept this loss in their family.

On June 2, Bro. Joel Gehrig (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Gretchen Knepp (Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise) were united in Holy Matrimony in Roanoke, IL. "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." (Matthew 19:6). May God's blessings be upon them!

Those needing hospital care recently were Sis. Martha Streitmatter (Bro. Burton, deceased), Bro. Leonard Menold (Sis. Marie), Bro. Howard Herrmann (Sis. Mary Ann), Tanya Wagenbach (Curt and Mary Beth) and Myca Steffen (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Deanna). We know that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble", as stated in Psalm 46:1

Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and their wives visited us as part of the "snowbird reunion.". We were blessed by their ministry, and were vividly reminded to be prepared to meet the Lord!

Bro. Erik and Sis. Deb Givens have been blessed with the opportunity to adopt another sweet baby

girl, Lindsey Ann, to join their daughter, Lacey. We rejoice with them and grandmother, Sis. Janet Joos, and pray that God will continue to bless them and provide for them.

*Note of Thanks:*

Our sincere and heartfelt thank you to all for your love, prayers, thoughtful offerings of food, flowers, generous donations and help at this time of bereavement.

*The Bro. Burton Streitmatter family*

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**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**

**Joan Leman  
Jenell Hodel**

Ring the bells of heaven! There is joy today,  
For a soul returning from the wild;  
See! The Father meets him out upon the way,  
Welcoming His weary, wand'ring child.

*Gospel Hymns #622*

We are very thankful to share the news of two souls who have turned their back on the world and come to our Saviour in repentance. They are Jonathan Sauder (Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy) and Kayla Schroeder (Ron and Sis. Peg). May they feel the love and prayers of their church family.

Our prayers are with our loved ones who have spent time in the hospital this past month. They were Sis. Elsie Beer, Sis. Ida Mae Barth (Bro. Morris), and Mike Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Boni). May each one feel the comfort and healing of our Lord.

We pray God's rich blessings on two dear couples who have joined hand and heart. Bro. Nate Sauder (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan) and Sis. Emily Zeltwanger (Bro. Loren and Sis. Rhonda, Goodfield, IL) were

married on May 19. On June 2, Sis. Gretchen Knepp (Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise) and Bro. Joel Gehrig (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Donna, Princeville, IL) were united as one in the Lord.

Tom and Sis. Marsha Durand rejoice in the birth of their son Eli Daniel. Brittney, Brandon, Colton, Rachel, and Seth are happy with their new little brohter, too. Don and Sis. Helen Brown welcome this new grandson to their family.

We appreciate Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL), Bro. Dave Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO), and Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) for sharing God's Word with us this past month. May they ever feel God's love and blessings in their life.

We all enjoyed our week of Vacation Bible School June 3-7. It is a joy to see the 3-year-olds through 6th-graders enjoy their week of learning more about Jesus through song, story, and crafts. Our 7th and 8th grade class spent the week learning about building your house of fatih from the foundation of Jesus Christ through repentance, conversion, etc. They spent part of each night building a playhouse that will be sold for charity.

Our high school and adults enjoyed a blessed week also. Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Peoria, IL) spoke on The Narrow or the Broad Way. Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL) shared with us Choosing a Mate. Recognizing and Defeating Satan was the topic for Bro. Glenn Dill (Sis. Marilyn, Tremont, IL). Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL) spoke on the Myth of Sowing Your Wild Oats vs. Obedience. The last night, Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peggy, Goodfield, IL) talked of our Hope of Eternal Life. May God bless each of these brothers for their service

to us, and may it bring forth good fruit in each of our lives.

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**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**

**Heather Rassi**

**LaVonne Wagenbach**

At the end of another school year, we would like to congratulate all of the graduates. We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they continue on wherever God may lead them.

We are thankful for visiting ministers this month: Bros. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) and John Rowell (Burlington, IA).

We rejoice with Bro. Dave and Sis. Joanna Sauder upon the birth of their son, Nathan David. Big sisters, Heidi and Deboran, welcome him home. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Joanne Sauder and Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann (Princeville, IL).

Our prayers are with hospital patients, Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach (Bro. Bob) and Barb Koch (Galen).

On June 16, we were privileged to witness the marriage of Bro. Landon Rowell (Bro. John and Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) and Sis. Teresa Beutel (Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette). We wish them God's blessings as they start their life together.

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**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**

**Marcia Koch**

**Dianne Wyss**

This past month we were blessed with several visiting ministers. We appreciate their efforts and willingness to be used in this capacity. They were: Bros. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), Tim Funk (Sis. Debbie, Peoria, IL), Marshall Heinold (Sis. Jan, Ixtlan, Mexico), Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI), Keith Beyer (Sis. Alisa, Detroit, MI), Rod

Bajema (Sis. Twyla, Lester, IA) and Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL).

Our children enjoyed a week of Vacation Bible School. Their enthusiasm was evident as they learned about the joys of "stepping in the light". Their donations assisted in paying for tile to be purchased for a deaf children's school in Rio Bravo, Mexico. Many thanks to all who gave of their time and talents. The efforts made on behalf of our children's tender hearts will always be time well spent. May all have a safe and joyous summer!

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**INDIANA, BLUFFTON**  
**Tiffany Aschliman**  
**Elizabeth Aschliman**

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

*III John 1:4*

We rejoice with Bro. Greg and Sis. Joan Gerber and their family as two of their children have begun to seek the Lord in repentance. We pray that Kevin and Amy find peace and joy in serving our Father.

Our congregation has been blessed with several new babies this month. Grace Marie was born to Joe and Cheryl Caffee. Grace's grandparents are Bro. Denny and Sis. Becky Caffee.

Tim and Donna Geisel were blessed with Mark Henry. Mark's grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Luella Geisel.

Rebecca Faye Lynn Bertsch was welcomed by Adam and Amy Jo Bertsch. Rebecca's grandfather is Bro. Alan Bertsch.

Bro. Kurt and Sis. Molli Moser (Bluffton North) added Macey Rose to their family circle. Macey's big brother is Kade. Macey's thankful grandparents are Bro. Dwight and Sis. Pat Moser

(Bluffton North) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Marcene Gilliom.

Alex Harrison Anderson was born to Bro. Harry and Sis. Robin Anderson. Alex is welcomed by his big brother, Tristan. Alex's grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sutter.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. Ken Aschliman, as he has left his earthly home for his eternal reward in Heaven on May 22. Bro. Ken's children are Nick (Houston, TX), Monica Lora (Jay, Willis, TX) and Annie Levy (Robert, Ft. Wayne, IN).

Our prayers are also with Kathy Houser's family, as she was suddenly taken from her family on May 26. Mourning her death are her husband, Shane; her children, Connor and Bailey; and her parents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Marilyn Baumgartner. Kathy's siblings are Sis. Jenny Frauhiger (Bro. Lynn), Deb Fiechter (Rick) and Mark Baumgartner.

We pray God's comforting hand also be with Dave and Nancy Hill as Dave's father, Charles Hill, passed away recently.

Our prayers are with Sis. Lula Baumgartner as she continues with therapy at Meadowvale Health and Rehabilitation Center. Zach Reinhard (Bro. Gene and Sis. Darlene) is recuperating from a leg injury.

Wedding bells were ringing this month as Bro. Kent Rockwell (Kevin and Beth King and Ted Rockwell) took Sis. Brenda Girod (Sis. Carla Girod and Jack and Judy Girod) to be his wife on May 26. We pray for them as they make their church home at Bluffton North.

Bro. Ryan Donaghy (Sharon Donaghy and Tom and Reann Donaghy) and Sis. Bethany Neuenschwander (Bro. Terry and Sis. Jean) were united in marriage on June 9. We wish both of these couples God's richest blessings as

they begin their lives together.

These couples have a great example to follow as three couples in our congregation celebrated 50 years of marriage. Bro. Godfrey and Sis. Anita Bertsch, Bro. Luther and Sis. Sharon Gerber and Bro. Claren and Sis. Joyce Gehring have all celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. We rejoice with them and pray that they will have more joyful years ahead.

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**INDIANA**  
**BLUFFTON NORTH**  
**Tiffani Schladenhauffen**  
**Ann Meyer**

"Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

*Joshua 1:9*

We would like to congratulate our nineteen high school graduates and tell them to "be strong" as they face their futures. They need not be afraid for the Lord has promised to be with them. May they all wisely choose to walk with God.

Our congregation appreciated having the sincere message that Bro. Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn, Junction, OH) shared with us this month.

Our Bible School is a big event for the combined Bluffton churches. It is a tradition that takes months of planning and many helping hands. God's Word was planted in the hearts of 440 students during the two weeks. A big thank you goes to Sis. Jodi Towle as the Director and to all the many teachers, song leaders and helpers.

May 25 was the wedding day uniting Tiffany Cupp and Zack Hoover. May the Lord bless their new life together. Bro. Mick and

Sis. Connie Cupp and Stan and Deb Hoover are their parents.

Bro. Kent Rockwell and Sis. Brenda Girod (Bluffton) were married on May 26. Their parents are Ted Rockwell, Beth King, Sis. Carla Girod and Jack Girod. We wish them a lifetime of joy together in the Lord.

The home of Bro. Kurt and Sis. Molli Moser and son Kade was blessed with the arrival of a precious daughter, Macey Jo, on May 24. Her loving grandparents include Bro. Dwight and Sis. Pat Moser and Bro. Dave and Sis. Marcene Gilliom (Bluffton).

God chose to send a little angel to Bro. Blake and Sis. Fawn Gerber on June 9. Takaylah Grace joins her siblings, Taye, Taryn and Trayton, and grandparents, Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise Gerber and Bro. Wm. Gene and Sis. Edna Moser. Our prayers are with this family that the Lord will supply all their needs.

A daughter joined the family of Bro. Ben and Sis. Jaime Maller and brothers, Grant and Luke. Arriving on June 17 was Breanna Lynne. Her grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda Maller and Bro. Jack and Sis. Diane Schwartz (Bluffton).

Bro. Rich and Sis. Arlene Stoller were blessed with a new granddaughter, Kristyn Mariah. She was born June 12 to Craig and Sherri Stoller.

Our Sis. Dee Steffen went to her Heavenly Home on May 25. Our sympathy goes to her children, Bro. Derrell (Bay City, MI), Bro. Donn (Latty, OH), Bro. Allen (Bluffton) Marcia (Brian) Brewster, and 13 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

May the Lord also comfort the family of Bro. Ben and Sis. Kara Beer in the death of his mother, Sis. Millie Beer (Milford, IN).

We had several loved ones that have spent time in the hospital.

May the Lord continue the healing process for Sis. Becky Bertsch (Bro. Lonnie), Sis. Imogene Aeschliman (Bro. Walt), Charles Shively, and Takaylah and Trayton Gerber.

“...hold fast till I come.”

*Rev. 2:25*

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**INDIANA  
FRANCESVILLE  
Jessica Murray**

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

*Isaiah 26:3*

Personal devotions. I had to stop and think what a great reminder this Bible study topic was for both the newly converted and the seasoned believer. Is my devotion time so much of a habit that I am in a rut? Bro. Will Schieler (Sis. Sue, Milford, IN) talked about five important items of our personal devotion. Read, study, memorize, meditate and pray. As I practice this it makes me feel closer to God and thankful that I have put my trust in Him to do His will. Thank you, Bro. Will.

As May drew to a close, it brought with it the time of year when we see students who have come to an end of an era by completing their high school years. We had the honor of seeing four seniors graduate this year. They were: Adrienne Gutwein, Jason Overmyer, Sis. Erin Ward, and Kara Wuethrich. As they were given a Bible of their own, they were encouraged to read the Word and trust in the Lord. We wish them well in their futures and always welcome them to continue to worship with us.

Joining hands and hearts in marriage this month were Lance Gutwein (Bro. Harv and Sis. Ellen

Gutwein) to Erica Koebecke (Dennis and Phyllis Koebecke) on June 8. On June 9 was the wedding ceremony of Sis. Julie Huber (Bro. John and Sis. Bev) and Bro. Aaron Zeller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny). May the Lord continue to bless their marriage and may they look to him in good and bad times.

We want to extend our sympathy to Sis. Donna Westfall (Bro. Karl) in the passing of her father. As the Bible says, he who believeth on Him shall pass from death unto life.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to the following ministers and their wives who came and shared the Word with us this past month: Bros. Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Phoenix, AZ), Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL), Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL), Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN), Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN), Jim Rinkenberger (Sis. Jeanne, Bluffton, IN), and retired Bro. Elmer Witzig (Sis. Marjorie, Gridley, IL). We wish you all well in your traveling. May God continue to bless you.

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**INDIANA  
INDIANAPOLIS  
Sue Levy  
Sandy Lichtle**

The Indianapolis congregation rejoices as two couples were wed and will establish Christian homes. Bro. Joshua and Sis. Keyna Martinez were married in South Bend, and Bro. Aaron and Sis. Julie Zeller were married in Francesville.

Our seniors and their families enjoyed a delicious breakfast on their behalf on the first Sunday in June. Graduates were Sis. Melanie Levy (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue), Blair Wuethrich (Bro. Blake and Sis. Kim), and Bro. Mark Zeller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny). May the Lord be near them as they make



important decisions about their futures.

The whole church enjoyed a week of VBS the second week in June. Thanks to all who had a part in sharing the good news that Jesus is our friend. These special times draw us closer to the Lord and to the body of Christ.

Special welcome to Bro. Nate and Sis. Sara Huber, Joel Fisher and Stan Katanic, who recently joined us in the Indianapolis area.

### INDIANA, LACROSSE

#### Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold

This past month we had our Vacation Bible School at LaCrosse. Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL) was with us on Monday night and shared with us the prophecies of the Bible and how they pertain to what is happening in the Middle East today. Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) was with us on Wednesday and talked to the Bible class about the call of God and how it comes in so many different ways. On Friday night, Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) shared with us the blessings of an Apostolic Christian marriage. We had a very blessed week and are very thankful for each of these brothers in lending themselves throughout the week. May God bless each of you!

Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) shared the Word with us this past month. We thank Bro. Jim and Sis. Diana for their labors of love!

We had four high school graduates this past month. Sis. Jessica Feller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie), Kayla Heinold (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie), Karla Frank (Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla) and Ben McClanahan (Drue and Diane). We pray that each of our new graduates will look to God for direction in the next steps in their life. We

wish you many blessings in your future.

### INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

We praise the Lord for the miracle Bro. Bill Blunier experienced in an accident while crossing a street in Bluffton, IN. He failed to look and was hit by a truck. According to witnesses, he flew 10 feet into the air, but Bro. Bill said the angels gently brought him down. He had a dislocated shoulder, broken ribs and a bone in his foot. He is still recovering as he smilingly greets us all at church.

“For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.”

*Psalm 91:11-12*

Our prayers are with Tod Klopfenstein and Bro. Shane Stieglitz as they recover from surgery.

We welcomed Bros. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL) and Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) as our guest ministers. The Lord's blessing rest upon you.

June 17 was the start of VBS. The evening adult class is “Discovering God's Will in a Postmodern Culture”. Understanding the times we live in (Rom. 13:11). Understanding cultural influences on ourselves, which we are often not consciously aware, that is what Paul is warning all believers against worldly thinking when seeking to know God's will. (Rom. 12:1-2 and I Thess. 5:21).

We have freedom through Jesus when we obey Him. How thankful we are for the freedom of worship we have in America. We need to be watchful that we do not lose it. Our Father will bless us when we dili-

gently follow His commandments. Love one another.

### *Life ... The Beautiful*

Life is not a treadmill, a jail, or a place of punishment; Life is a beautiful and fascinating field of endeavor and enterprise, with inspiring horizons of newer and greater fields beckoning ever onward ... Work, opportunity, effort, service are blessings to enrich your life, and make it truly worth living ... Blessed is the man who does his work joyfully!

### INDIANA, MILFORD

#### Stacey Feller Paula Haab

We are so thankful to have our Bible Class and teachers back home safely. They, along with South Bend young people, traveled to Juarez, Mexico. It is heartwarming to hear their positive comments on how they were filled with compassion for the needy and were spiritually uplifted.

Bro. Walter and Sis. Dorothy Steffen hosted a reception for their daughter, Marlene, and Alexander Bokholdt who were married one year ago in Ark. They reside in Chicago. They testify that God has been good to them this past year, and we pray He will always be the Unseen Guest in their home.

Bro. Victor and Sis. Dorothy Beer (Ft. Myers) favored us by spending a Sunday “back home” in Milford. His ministry ever tells of his great concern for lost souls and encourages us to hold fast. On another weekend, Bro. Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) brought his wife, Sis. Julie, “home” and was willing to rightly divide the Word with us. We enjoyed these Sundays so much and ask God to bless these brothers always.

Needing to be in the hospital recently were Sis. Kate (Bro. Glenn) Price, Jackie (Leroy) Lehman, and

Kenny Brooks. They continue to need our prayers while recovering at home.

Sis. Ginger (Stanley) Price's father, LeRoy Pippenger, has gone to his eternal reward after enduring many health problems. May God comfort her and her family.

Our elderly retired minister, Bro. Elmer Hartter, has now had to leave his apartment and take residence in Lakeland Health Care Center near our church.

We miss Bro. Rob Schlipf as he has been willing to go to Ixtlan, Mexico, to help with the work there during the summer months.

It is good to have some of those, while enjoying our lake area, assemble with us. We just hope many more will find it worth while to worship in Milford.

While stationed in Florida in the Air Force and raising a family, Tim Troup (Bro. Bill and Sis. Anne) recently received his B.S. degree in Avionics. In May, Crystal Pamer (Bro. Matt and Sis. Karen) graduated from Ivy Tech.

With all of her children and her husband around her, our dear Sis. Millie Beer slipped quietly from time into eternity on June 14. Her "strongest trials now are past, her triumph has begun." Her radiant smile and her helping hands will be sorely missed in our church and in her home. We extend our sympathy to her husband, Bro. Phil, and her children, Teresa and Janet of CO, Peggy of MA, Heather and Phil II of Indianapolis, Ben of Bluffton, Christy, John and Heidi of Milford. She is also survived by three brothers and two sisters. May God fill the void in their lives. One of Sis. Millie's sons, while sitting by her bedside and knowing her days on earth were few, was able to pen a few verses that so adequately tell how we all feel:

Mere words cannot say  
What hearts so heavy feel

All the years come rushing back  
While at your side we kneel.

Each tender moment now so clear  
Each act of love so plain  
Precious memories flood the soul  
And wipe away the pain.

Take courage now, do not despair  
The Lord will not forsake  
Through the darkness of this hour  
His loving hand now take.

Fly home, dear mom, fly home  
On angel wings do soar  
Till at last we meet again  
On heaven's golden shore.

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### INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler  
Rochelle Ward**

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."  
*Proverbs 3:6*

Congratulations to Sis. Andria Bahler and Cheyanne Molter as they have graduated from high school. May the Lord guide them as they search out His will for their lives.

We enjoyed VBS the week of June 3-7. Our topic was "More Than Conquerors". Ministers were Bros. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH), Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN), Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL), Darrin Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) and Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN). A special thank you to each of these brothers for the time and effort they put into helping us have a blessed week. Thank you also to the Sunday School teachers, parents and students for their participation. It takes a lot of people to make a week like this a success, from the kitchen workers to the clean up crew, each person is im-

portant. Thank to all who took part in this wonderful week.

We welcome Sis. Ruth Virkler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth) and Bro. Trent Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynette) into the brotherhood. On the weekend of June 15-16, we were blessed to witness their testimonies of conversion and baptisms in Christ. We appreciated the many visitors and visiting ministers who gave of themselves for the weekend. They were Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Francis, Wolcott, IN), Bros. Darrin Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN), Ken Weerts (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL), Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) and Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Susan, Atlanta, GA). Retired Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Sis. Maxine, Bay City, MI) was also with us for the day.

Bro. Luke Schafer (Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) and Sis. Andria Bahler (Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette) have announced their engagement and are planning a July 21 wedding. Our prayers are with them as they plan for their special day.

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### INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Samantha Schafer  
Kara Beebe**

Love, of all gifts is the greatest  
Which the Spirit does bestow.  
Though I had a voice like angels,  
Lacking love, I truly know  
That I'd be a tinkling cymbal  
Or a wretched sounding brass;  
For although the sound were present,  
Lifeless through this world I'd pass.

*Zion's Harp #37*

Bro. Joshua Martinez and Sis. Keyna Langhofer were united as one on May 26. Bros. Ken

Wuethrich and Fred Witzig (both from Indianapolis, IN) were here to share the Word with us on the wedding day.

Love is of a friendly nature,  
Does no selfish thought possess;  
Love is not a sin partaker,  
And is free from bitterness.  
Love is truthful, not deceitful,  
Does here every burden bear;  
And, enduring, is so fruitful  
In all trials joy to share.

*Zion's Harp #37*

The engagement of Bro. Luke Schafer (Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi) and Sis. Andria Bahler (Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette, Remington, IN) was announced. We, as a congregation, are rejoicing with them and wish them God's greatest blessings!

Several from our congregation had the special opportunity of joining with Milford on a work team to Juarez, Mexico. Many valuable lessons were learned and our hearts were touched as we saw how little they have, and yet how rich they are in Spirit.

"Be ye ready" was the theme of our Vacation Bible School which was held at Milford. Speakers for the week were Bros. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN), Ted Steffen (Alto, MI), Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN) and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL). We are thankful to these brothers for their sacrifice of time to travel and share the Word with us. And we also want to thank the Milford congregation for once again including us in their week.

Signs of the times are everywhere,  
And there's a brand new feeling in  
the air;  
Keep your eyes upon the eastern  
sky,  
Lift up your head, redemption  
draweth nigh.

—Gordon Jensen

### INDIANA, VALPARAISO Darel and Janet Walker

On May 18, the Memorandum was presented kindly and lovingly by Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Elder Bro. Chuck Sauder (Tremont, IL). Bro. Dale and Bro. Chuck also worshipped with us on May 19. We wish to sincerely thank them for letting God use them to serve our church.

On May 21, our church held a surprise Bible study, singing and housewarming at Bro. Bob and Sis. Marguerite Hoerr's new home in New Buffalo, MI. Bro. Bob and Sis. Marguerite were expecting 8-10 people and were quite surprised when nearly our entire congregation showed up. We wish to thank Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) for entertaining us with stories about Bro. Bob and Sis. Marguerite and leading a special Bible study.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Dawn Ailes as she is recovering from surgery. We hope and pray that she will recover completely and be able to rejoin us soon.

We wish to thank Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN) for ministering to us on June 9. Bro. Nile spoke from St. Matthew 25, recounting the parable of the 10 wise and foolish virgins. Bro. Nile explained how the oil is the Holy Spirit and how we must all be in the Spirit when Christ comes. We were reminded of the Sunday School song, "Give me oil in my lamp". Thanks, Bro. Nile, for sharing the message with us.

### INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE Nettie Haab Diana Houston

We are continuing to meet throughout the summer on Thurs-

day evenings for mid-week services. If you are in our area, please stop in and worship with us.

We held our first Vacation Bible School for our children on June 10-12. The high school class did volunteer projects each night. We had many visitors and pray that the seed of God's love was planted in many hearts.

Bro. Les Meister has moved to West Lafayette from Fort Myers, and is making his home with his son and daughter-in-law, Bro. Dick and Sis. Sharon. We know he will be missed in Florida but are very happy to have him in our congregation.

Two Purdue couples exchanged wedding vows recently. Sis. Kayla Wuethrich (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Aaron Kilgus (Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) were married May 19. Also, Sis. Julie Huber (Bro. John and Sis. Bev, Francesville, IN) married Bro. Aaron Zeller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny, Indianapolis, IN) on June 9. Our prayer for them is that they will always keep God as the third partner in their marriages.

Thanks to our many visiting ministers and their wives who come so willingly to share God's Word with us.

They have been Bros. Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise, Bluffton North, IN), Don Sinn (Sis. Linda, Silverton, OR), Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN), Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, LaCrosse, IN) and Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL).

### INDIANA, WOLCOTT Erica Wagenbach

Brad Kyburz (Ron and Donna) and Tanna Patton (Dennis and Darlene, Wheatfield, IN) were united in marriage on May 18. May God richly bless them as they begin to walk life's pathway as one.

Congratulations to Sis. Erica Blume (Bro. Brent) on her recent graduation from college.

We were blessed to have visiting ministering brothers who shared God's Word with us. We thank Bros. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), Scott Schafer (South Bend, IN), Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA) and Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan).

We welcome Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Natalie Freed and their family to our Wolcott congregation. They recently moved from LaCrosse and we are thankful to have them assembling with us.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Jody Bahler are the thankful parents of a baby girl born June 11. Erin Layne is welcomed home by her sisters, Amber, Larissa, Leandra and Kenzie. Rejoicing with them are grandparents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler.

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### **IOWA, BURLINGTON**

**Lana Metzger**

**Brenda Schulz**

Greetings! This month we witnessed the wedding vows of Bro. Aaron and Sis. Nichole Musselman. Their parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy Musselman (Pulaski, IA) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Donna Massner. We pray that they will always keep God foremost in their lives and He will bless them. For this occasion, we had several visiting ministers. They were Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL). May the Lord bless them according to their labors.

We are happy to have Sis. Mayme Gerst assemble with us. She has moved back to her house in Burlington since her husband passed away. We all appreciate her cheerful and meek spirit.

Mark and Jamy Eisenmann are happy to have a new addition to their growing family. Kaley Elisabeth is welcomed by her older brothers, Taylor and Brady. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Elaine Eisenmann.

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### **IOWA, ELGIN** **Gloria Frieden** **Heidi Butikofer**

"And I shall set shepherds over them which shall feed them..."

*Jeremiah 23:4*

Once again, many are making plans to attend the annual Brotherhood Conference which is to take place in Rockville, CT, this year. May we remember our dear shepherds as they come together before the Lord and seek God's direction in the cares and concerns of their flocks. I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul, "...for I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy...that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." I believe this is the desire each of our Elders must have for the churches they shepherd.

We are living in an ever changing time with many pressures toward worldly gain and fame. In Sunday School this morning, we read of a time when Paul was on one of his missionary journeys and happened to be walking around in the city of Athens while waiting for the arrival of Silas and Timothy. As he walked, his spirit was saddened at all the different idols he was seeing. It made me wonder if perhaps when we put more emphasis on worldly pleasures and gain than on our spiritual needs and God's goodness, if we're not just as guilty of idolatry as these people in Athens were. We consider ourselves Christians in a Christian nation but may we make every effort to keep God and His teachings the

priority in our lives.

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### **IOWA, GARDEN GROVE** **Willa Clark**

July, a month for those of us in the United States to celebrate our many freedoms. With all the fireworks, picnics and vacations, is there a quiet moment to consider the greatest freedom we have - that of worshipping our Heavenly Father without fear of persecution? Our intermediate Sunday School class has been studying the lives of the early Christians, as recorded in the book of Acts. They suffered such great trials, and yet thousands daily were added to the faith.

Yet even today we can read of martyrs for the Christian cause in many countries. We who have the freedom to worship in openness sometimes seem to be the least fervent and joyous in our faith. Let us praise the Lord for the freedom He gives us, and entreat Him to strengthen His children worldwide.

We held Vacation Bible School in June. It is always a time of refreshing our spirits, as the children gather each day with all their energy and enthusiasm.

Samantha Funk, 12-year-old daughter of Bro. Tony and Sis. Eileen Funk, has been a hospital patient. She had surgery to correct the effects of scoliosis, and is now recuperating at home.

Ministering brothers who worshipped with us this month have been Elder Bros. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) and Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), who served Holy Communion, and Bros. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Glen Funk (Wichita, KS) and Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA). It is always a blessing to fellowship together and to sit under the sound of God's Word, and we thank these brothers and their families who travel many

miles to serve us.

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**IOWA, IOWA CITY**  
**Diana Butikofer**

We want to thank Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) for visiting us and speaking about God's Word. We always appreciate the brothers who come to help out our own ministers.

Our new Sunday School teachers for the next year will be Sis. Amy Gerst, Sis. Emily Peterson (Bro. Larry) and Bro. Tim Gerst (Sis. Melisa). We wish them God's inspiration and blessings and will support them in prayer. Our outgoing teachers are Sis. Sharon Gerst, Bro. Ben Weyrick (Sis. Wendy) and Bro. Brad Eland (Sis. Joyce). We thank them for their work and dedication to our students.

As we have recently observed Mother's Day and Father's Day, we should also remember the parents and guardians who also have the responsibility to teach our children about our Heavenly Father and the importance of committing our lives to Him.

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

*Romans 10:13-15*

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

We remember in prayer our Elders who will soon gather in

Rockville, CT, for our annual Brotherhood Conference. Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) was recently with us for Sunday services. He reminded us that we should never speak against those who are anointed of God, but how much better it would be for all of us if we would just be obedient to their words of wisdom.

Our surgical patients this past month were Bro. Ezra Knobloch (Sis. Marie), Nancy Metzger (Arlyn), and Sis. Lolli Mogler (Bro. Howard). Hospitalized for other reasons were Sarah Feucht and Sis. Salome Knobloch. Sis. Salome is currently residing at the Tuff Home in Hills, MN. We hope each one will feel renewed strength with each passing day.

Bro. Justin Metzger (Sis. Jodie) recently graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. We are excited that he has found employment in our area!

On June 1, Sadie Rae Feucht was born to our converts, Tim and Carla Feucht. Welcoming her home is a sister, Gabrielle. Sadie's grandmother is Sis. Martha Feucht. May they be blessed with many happy healthy years together.

Bro. Monty and Sis. Bethany Van Wyhe became husband and wife in Cissna Park, IL, on June 2. Parents of this couple are Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Wyhe and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank. Welcome to our congregation, Sis. Bethany! Catherine Leuthold and James VerSteege were united in marriage on June 15. Catherine's parents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki.

The annual Sunday School picnic was held on June 6 to mark the end of another year. Special thanks to all the teachers who helped make it an enjoyable evening for our youth.

Those of us who attended the

Youth Fellowship Weekend (June 8-9) in Morris, MN, found it to be a blessing. We are thankful for the many efforts of their congregation to host this annual event.

Kaylon Joanne Metzger, infant daughter of Clint and April Metzger, was stillborn on May 20. Our hearts go out to this family at this time of grief. We also remember her sister, Chaydon, Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Metzger (grandparents) and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mariann Metzger (great-grandparents). We also extend our sympathy to Jim and Marlene Gerber and family in the death of her father, Ernst Alsgaard.

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**IOWA, OAKVILLE**  
**Melody Steiner**  
**Debra Wagenbach**

Our annual Sunday School election was held June 16. Replacing Bros. Fred Gerst and Troy Massner will be Bros. Mark Schmidgall and Ed Stoller. Sisters Kathy Frank and Denise Lanz will replace Sisters Leanne Siegle and Debra Wagenbach. May God grant wisdom and direction to the new teachers as they have been chosen to teach the precious youth.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Sis. Monica Wagenbach (Bro. Marc) in the death of her father in Ohio. We know that strength and grace can be found in the arms of Jesus. May we trust Him for everything.

Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) spent a Sunday with us recently for which we were very thankful. May God bless him and Sis. Diane for their willingness to serve Him.

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

Bro. Aaron Musselman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Nichole Massner (Bro. Ron and Sis. Donna) were united in mar-

riage on June 2. Our prayers are with them as they begin their life together and set up a Godly household.

We enjoyed many visitors last month. We especially want to thank those who ministered God's Word to us. They were Bros. Jim Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS), Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA), Kim Sutter (Sis. Vonette, Taylor, MO) and Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA).

Derek Wettstein (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol) had surgery. We are thankful he is home from the hospital and feeling better.

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

It is always a blessing when brothers and sisters visit our congregation. On Memorial Day weekend, visiting ministers were Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel) and Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce), both from Morris, MN; and Bro. Darrell Stoller (Sis. Gloria, Bern, KS). Elder Bro. William Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) spent a Thursday evening with us. May God bless these brothers for bringing many good teachings from the Word as directed by the Spirit of Truth.

There are two thankful families in our assembly who have welcomed healthy baby girls into their family circles. Converts Jamie and Sarah Montag and big sister Katelyn were excited with the arrival of Megan Grace on June 5. She has two sets of grandparents: Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie Zaugg and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Montag.

June 12 was the day Briley McKay arrived into the hearts and home of Bro. Marc and Sis. Jami Messner. Her two older sisters, Tayla and Ashlyn, and grandparents, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Audrey Messner and Mr. and Mrs. Don

Banwart, had been eagerly awaiting her arrival also.

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

*Psalm 123:3*

Sis. Edith (Ernest) Kellenberger was hospitalized for several days and is thankful to now be recuperating at home.

Several loved ones feel the recent loss of a parent. Sis. Eula (Bro. Art) Mogler said farewell to her father, Bro. Aaron Heinold, of La-Crosse, IN. Mrs. Dorothy Banwart, mother of Patsy (Fred) Wirtz and Mrs. Frances Vernia, mother of Marlene (Richard) Banwart, passed away suddenly. We extend sympathy to these families in their loss.

As Independence Day approaches and we consider the blessings of freedom and prosperity which is ours in this great land of America, may we never forget Who holds us in the hollow of His hand. This prayer, uttered by Thomas Jefferson, one of the founding fathers of our country, vividly reminds us.

*A National Prayer*

Almighty God, who has given us  
 this good land

For our heritage, we humbly beseech Thee

That we may always prove ourselves a people mindful

Of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will.

Bless our land with honorable industry,

Sound learning, and pure manners.

Save us from violence, discord, and confusion;

From pride and arrogance, and from every evil way.

Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people

The multitude brought hither out

of many kindreds and tongues.  
 Endow with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in Thy Name  
 We entrust the authority of government,  
 That there may be justice and peace at home,  
 And that through obedience to Thy law,  
 We may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the earth.  
 In time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness,  
 And, in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail;  
 All of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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**JAPAN, SHIODA**  
**Toru Saigusa**

Most of the congregation in Shioda are old. We hope they will be able to come to church until the day of our Lord's invitation. Bro. Uchida was in the hospital for a week or so because of tumbling over, but now he is fine. We thank our Lord that he attends morning service with us as before.

Every summer we hold a fellowship meeting with Tokyo church. This summer we are going to hold it on July 26-27 in Kobuchizawa, Yamanashi prefecture. This time Tokyo church is in charge. We are looking forward to seeing many members there.

Tokyo church is now under construction. At the end of September we'll see new dining room, fellowship meeting room and parking lot. We pray for the Lord's blessing on this construction.

On Father's Day we visited our local hot spring hospital. There were about 50 fathers in the hospital and we gave each of them a portion of scripture and a hand towel.

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**JAPAN, TOKYO**  
**Jana Klaus**

We were privileged to have several visitors again this month. Sis. Lois Ehnle came into Tokyo on Sunday, June 2, with her two daughters, Joy Bao and Jewel Maeda and children, David and Emily Bao and Matthew and newly adopted Hien Maeda. Joy and Jewel and children had been to Vietnam together for a couple weeks, having quite the experiences as they waited for all the paper work etc. to work out for little 14 month old Hien's adoption. We will not soon forget his happy little face and clapping hands as we were singing in praise to our Lord. Yes, Jesus loves the little children, all the little children of the world! And then on June 16, Sis. Marie Inoue's nephew, Bro. Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne) who was originally from Francesville, IN, but currently working in France, was able to worship with us as he was on business in Tokyo. It was interesting learning about more places in the world, which our Lord has so creatively fashioned.

We were very happy to welcome our Illinois State University college student, Bro. Kan Umemura, back for a few weeks as he came to attend his sister's wedding. We appreciated his added help and fellowship in church and are thankful to see him growing in the Lord. He is back at ISU for more studying now.

Construction on our new addition is coming along nicely, in spite of quite a few rainy days as we are now in the yearly rainy season. It is exciting to see the progress each Sunday as we come to church, as most of us live too far away to see it during the week. "It's like we are camping out," Sis. Marie explained to the ladies at our ladies meeting this month concerning how we are dealing with many inconveniences during this time of waiting. It is only going to make the finished product even more appreciated!

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

Ring the bells of heaven! There is joy today,

For a soul returning from the wild;

See! The Father meets him, out upon the way,

Welcoming His weary wandering child.

*Tabernacle Hymns #202*

Leann Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie) and Nathan Plattner (Bro. Carroll and Roberta) have left their burdens at the cross and decided to follow Jesus. We continue to pray that God will give them the grace to build a solid foundation in Him.

We rejoice with these four souls, Bros. Anthony and Ashley Esslinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty), Bro. Brian Edelman and Sis. Kristen Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) as they were brought into the fold on the weekend of June 15-16. We pray that they will continue to grow and flourish as they take their place in the body of Christ.

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

*Zion's Harp #237*

Bro. Scott and Sis. Jamie Bahr were united in marriage on May 26. Parents of the couple are Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bro. James and Sis. Lou Menold. We rejoice with them and trust they will continue to seek God's direction in all things, as they walk the narrow path together. They plan to make their home in the Detroit area.

The engagement of Sis. Rhoda Meyer (Earl and Sis. Darlene) to Bro. Brandon Plattner (Bro. Don and Sis. Ada) of the Sabetha congregation was also made known that same Sunday. May they feel God's nearness and direction as they plan for their August wedding.

On June 16, the engagement of Sis. Kim Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan) to Bro. Neil Kellenberger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen) of Kansas City, MO, was announced. Kim is currently attending the Kansas City, MO, church. We likewise pray that they will feel God's nearness and direction as they plan for their wedding.

We appreciate the visiting ministers who willingly stand to proclaim God's Word. Ministering brothers in our midst this month were Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev) and Bro. Keith Beyer (Sis. Alisa) (both of Detroit, MI), Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Sis. Marlene, Bay City, MI), Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS) and Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS).

Spending time in the hospital is Sis. Lila Rokey (Bro. Joe). May we be prayerful for her.

The last day for the Sunday School term this year is July 28. May God bless those who so willingly teach our youth.

There's a work for each of us:

Our Master has taken His journey  
To a country that's far away,  
And has left us the care of the  
vineyard,  
To work for Him day by day.

In this "little while", doth it matter,  
As we work, and we watch, and we wait,

If we're filling the place He assigns  
us,  
Be its service small or great.

Chorus:

There's a work for me and a work  
for you,  
Something for each of us now to  
do;  
Yes, a work for me and a work for  
you,  
Something for each of us now to  
do.

*Gospel Hymns #161*

May we strive each day as God's  
servants to work diligently in His  
vineyard.

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### **KANSAS, FORT SCOTT** **Ruth Bahr**

We felt blessed by the admonishments and encouragements from Bros. Bill Hodel (Sis. Betty, Roanoke, IL), Glenn Dill (Sis. Marilyn, Tremont, IL) and Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzal (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS).

Our Sunday School students were given a week of evening Bible School. On the 16th, an all-church picnic was enjoyed at Gunn Park. The students gave their program of songs and verse outside a shelter house. One class wrote poems pertaining to their lessons. A singing followed the meal and fellowship.

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### **KANSAS, KIOWA** **Laura Wagenbach** **Jennifer Stewart**

We would like to extend our congratulations to the following seniors: Stephanie Bahr (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice), Vandy Frieden (Sis. Millie and Bro. Larry) and Jamie Johnson (Sis. Lynn and Shawn).

Our hospital patients this

month were Sis. Helen Farney and our dear friend, Erlene Farney. Sis. Helen had a nasty spider bite, and Erlene has had heart surgery.

On May 18 we held our Vacation Bible School. The kids couldn't have asked for a nicer day as we held the event at the park. We would like to extend a special thank you to Bro. Rick and Sis. Komari Aberle from the Sabetha congregation for coming and being our teachers.

Our visiting ministers have been Elder Bros. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) who came and read the Memorandum for us.

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

The weekend of June 8-9, our small congregation was blessed with a large group of single brothers and sisters from several congregations. We thank the Lord for the wonderful blessing of fellowship with those of like mind and faith.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch are the grandparents of a new little granddaughter, Erin Layne, born June 11 to Bro. Mike and Sis. Jody Bahler (Wolcott, IN). Erin has four sisters, Amber, Larissa, Leandra and Kenzie, to welcome her. Fraternal grandparents are Bro. Lowell and Sis. Carla Bahler (Wolcott, IN).

As we celebrate Independence Day, let us thank God for our religious freedom in America and may we pray for those that are not so privileged.

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

We extend our congratulations to our high school graduates. May they each look to God for His direc-

tion as they begin a new phase of life. Our high school graduates are Mark Hertzal (Elder Bro. Gerry and Sis. Ellen), Brooke Huber (Bro. Gordon and Sis. Sharlyn), and Erica Wenger (Bro. Marc and Sis. Julie). Bro. Kyle Beyer (Sis. Carrie) graduated from Kansas State University and has found employment in Ft. Worth, Texas. Bro. Kyle's parents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen. We will miss Bro. Kyle and Sis. Carrie but we trust God will provide for them as they relocate and assemble with the San Marcos church. Bro. Brandon Plattner (Bro. Don and Sis. Ada) has completed his education in Veterinary Medicine. We wish Bro. Brandon God's blessings as he begins his work and endeavors in our community.

We're glad to have Sis. Louise Aberle assembling with us again and are thankful she has returned home to her apartment after spending several weeks in our nursing home.

Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) shared God's Word with us this month. We thank him for his efforts in the service of our Lord.

On May 26 we heard of the engagement of Bro. Brandon Plattner (Bro. Don and Sis. Ada) and Sis. Rhoda Meyer (Earl and Sis. Darlene Meyer, Bern, KS). We wish them God's guidance as they look forward to life together as husband and wife.

We thank all of our Sunday School teachers and parents for their efforts in planning our annual Sunday School picnic. What a blessing to have our students and their families together for a special time of fellowship. Many thanks to all the teachers for planting the seeds in these young hearts over the course of the past year.

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### **KANSAS, WICHITA** **Emma Miller**



Bro. Max Reimschisel and I were discussing possible items for the Wichita contribution to the Silver Lining. I mentioned the visiting ministers and Bro. Max agreed and added, "We are thankful for them." I am sure he expressed the feeling of the entire Wichita congregation. Bro. Ben and Sis. Janice Wysong (Sabetha, KS) spent Sunday, May 19, with us and on June 9, Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer (Lamar, MO) were here. We appreciate their willingness to travel the miles on our behalf. May they feel God's blessing as they serve Him.

Sunday afternoon on June 9, a majority of the Wichita congregation came over to El Dorado to minister to the residents at Beverly Health and Rehabilitation Center where Bro. Godfrey Miller resides. Again, they were willing to travel the miles rather than to stay in the comfort of their homes for the afternoon. My husband and I are so fortunate to be a part of this circle of fellowship.

Bro. Milton and Sis. Lillian Bowers will observe their sixty-second wedding anniversary on June 19. Their family of 13 children included two sets of twins born a year apart. They have 32 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren. While they, like so many of us, suffer from infirmities that accompany the aging, they are faithful in their church attendance. Without question, they take seriously the teaching in Matthew 19:6, "What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder." Together, they raised a loving, caring, God-fearing family.

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**KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**  
**Glenda Neukomm**

My country, 'tis of thee  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing:

Land where my fathers died,  
Land of the pilgrims' pride  
From every mountainside  
Let freedom ring.

—*Samuel Frances Smith*  
"America" 1831

As we celebrate July 4th, our Declaration of Independence, it is always a special time when we are thankful to the Lord for the freedom He has allowed our country of America to have. Let us uphold our President and leaders of our country in prayer daily, that they could be given wisdom from God to lead in truth and make wise decisions of high moral standards to lead our country right.

On Saturday evening, June 22, our congregation hosted a potluck. Several were present from the Smithville and Forrest churches. We were so grateful to have our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta) with us, to serve our small congregation Communion that evening. It was a special time for us as we were reminded of our dear Saviour, and His suffering and the awful cost He paid for us. What a responsibility we have to do our part for our dear Lord, until He comes again.

Visiting ministers who brought us the inspired Word of God this past month were Bros. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL), Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL), Walt Steffen (Sis. Dorothy, Milford, IN), Marvin Schmidgall (Sis. Dorothy, Eureka, IL) and our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH).

As many of you may be traveling over the summer months, we extend a welcome to you to visit us in Lexington. Please contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541 or Bro. Jan Neukomm (859) 273-8574.

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**MEXICO, IXTLAN**  
**Gloria Gonzalez**

We thank the Lord for His work here in Ixtlan. We are so thankful that He continues to demonstrate His love through the brothers and sisters that come to help. After a considerable amount of time, the construction of the guest house is completed and is being fully utilized. May God bless each of the brothers and sisters who assisted in this project.

Last month we said good-bye to Sis. Sarah Bollier (Indianapolis, IN). Sarah was working here with us for four months and we will miss her.

We rejoice with Ana Rosa Sanchez Segura in the birth of her first child, Roberto Sanchez, on May 11. Our congratulations and prayers go to both Ana Rosa and Roberto.

Bro. Marshall Heinold's father, Bro. Aaron Heinold (LaCrosse, IN), passed away on May 19. Our prayers are with their family during this time.

Once again we would like to thank Bro. Bryan Stoller (Fairbury, IL) for assisting those in the congregation and community with the eye clinic on June 12-15.

Meet Sister Eloisa Aguilar Ramirez:

I am 65 years old. As a child, I was not taught that the way to salvation was through Jesus Christ; therefore, most of my life I did not have a peace. There were always problems with my family, neighbors and especially my husband. I was looking for peace, but did not find it until someone told me about the love of Christ and His forgiveness. Three years ago I found peace with the Lord and I am very thankful.

I have a large family of twelve children and 60 grandchildren. Only one son, Bro. Jose Magana, and his wife, Sis. Aurora Avina, have experienced the forgiveness

of Jesus Christ. My greatest desire and prayer is that all my family and neighbors can have the peace that only God can offer through the blood of Christ. I was baptized on February 25, 2001.

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### MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Rose Watson**

**Terri Huber**

Visiting ministers in June were Bros. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and John Laukhuf (Latty, OH). We are so thankful they and their wives were able to travel and spend time with us. Bro. Clark and Bro. John spoke during our week of Vacation Bible School and addressed the theme of Wisdom from Proverbs. A strong message of repentance was sent forth, and we ask you to join us in prayer for hearts to be changed. As they noted, there is so much wisdom in the book of Proverbs that the surface can barely be scratched in an hour, or even in a week! However, God enabled us to instruct 46 children for five mornings and we praise Him as we see the kids soaking up wisdom and instruction from the Word.

Danielle Oesch should have been included last month in our list of college program graduates. I also neglected to mention a farewell to Bro. Brian Knudstrup as he is spending the summer as a volunteer liaison at the Leo Children's Home. We did see him again as he returned from a church mission trip to Mexico where he and Bro. Martin Blough accompanied several of our high school Sunday School students. They had a wonderful, eye-opening, trip. An opportunity like this to help the less fortunate is truly a blessing for anyone who can go.

The annual Father-Son Campout was well attended. Through sun and rain, fun and fellowship and food were enjoyed by

all. It is always a treat when the campout is attended by men who have lived in our area in the past. "Make new friends, but keep the old..."

Congratulations are in order for Jamie and Kim (Rengert) Steffen upon their May 25 wedding in the Detroit area. Jamie's parents are Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen. In another spring wedding, Nathan and Sara (Barry) Galusha were united heart to heart.

Rather suddenly and sadly we were asked to bid farewell on earth to Norma Bartz. As a friend and neighbor of Sis. Helen Steffen, she was a frequent visitor and we will miss her cheerful smile.

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### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel**

**Janelle Ramseyer**

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.

*Zion's Harp #163*

The Bay City congregation was blessed to witness the testimony and baptism of our new brother and sister in faith, Bro. Clinton and Sis. Ileen Wackerle. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless them and help them grow in faith towards Him. Our thanks to Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) and Mark Bahr (Sis. Beverly, Detroit, MI) for their labor of love on our behalf.

We pray for Bro. Lee and Sis. Carolyn Schamback as they have relocated to Spring Lake, MI. May God richly bless them and we hope they will come back to visit us often.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Bro. Derrell (Sis. Sue) Steffen and family, and Sis. Maxine (Bro.

Andy) Virkler on the loss of their mother and sister, Sis. Delema Steffen (Bluffton, IN). May God be with them in their time of sorrow.

Several from our congregation have been hospitalized or sick this month. Our thoughts and prayers are with the following brothers and sisters: Sis. Irma Bragiel, Sis. Eileen Knochel, Bro. Norman Knochel (Sis. Leanore), Sis. Leah Ramseyer, Bro. Dave Schlatter (Sis. Margaret) and Sis. Esther Waibel. We pray that the Lord's healing powers will be with each one.

We were blessed to have a visiting minister, Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL), on Father's Day. Our thanks go out to Bro. Dave for his willingness to serve.

As we remember the importance of our earthly fathers, may we also remember to seek the will of our Heavenly Father in whatever situation we may encounter.

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### MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Sarah Beard**

**Holly Barton**

We rejoice with Bro. Scott Bahr (Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn) and Sis. Jamie Menold as they were united in marriage on May 26. May God richly bless them as they make their home in Detroit. We warmly welcome Sis. Jamie.

There are those among us who have recently experienced sorrow in their family circles. Our sympathy and prayers are with Sis. Audrey Hitz (Bro. Leonard) in the loss of her sister, Sis. Dee Steffen (Bluffton, IN). Sis. Krista Wieland (Bro. Andy) recently lost her grandmother, Sis. Bernice Bauman (Smithville, OH). May God be their Comforter.

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**MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS  
Diane Stewart**

Visiting ministers this past month have been our faithful Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN), and Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Sis. Emily, Princeville, IL). We so much appreciate their words of wisdom.

Our sympathy to Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Virkler in the death of Bro. Perry's brother, Jack Virkler, of Eagle River, WI. We know and appreciate that Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol put forth diligent efforts in the care of Jack.

Sis. Bernadine Miller has been hospitalized with pneumonia. We are thankful she now is home and gaining strength.

Congratulations to our graduates: College – Tara Deragisch from the U of MN, Duluth Campus in teaching and Aric Bergstrom from U of MN, Mpls. Campus in chemical engineering.

High School – Carissa and Christa Deragisch and Tyler Bergstrom.

We wish each of these young people God speed in their next step of life's journey.

Little sister, Lucy Pelzel, along with her parents, Jodie and Jamie Pelzel, welcome a new baby, Jack Dennis, into their hearts and home. God bless them.

*Note of Thanks:*

Thanks to each of you who sent cards, gifts, food, prayers, etc. to us while Sis. Bernadine was in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless you.

*Bro. Don and Sis. Bernadine Miller*

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS**

**Katie Messner**

**Cheryl Messner**

On June 4 Anne Marie joined the family of Bro. Eric and Sis. Kim Koehl. Siblings, Benjamin and

Callie, are thrilled to have a little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Karen Koehl and Bro. Wallis and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger. May the Lord grant Godly wisdom as these parents raise their precious family.

Several have spent time in the hospital. They include Howard Gall (Edna), Ryan Ascherman (Tony and Sis. Peggy), Illissa Koehl (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon), Sis. Mabel Schmidgall, Sis. Norene Moser (Bro. Carl), Bro. Randy Fehr (Sis. Lori), Bro. Jerry Wulf (Sis. Linda), Sis. Joyce Moser (Bro. Wm.), and Sis. Marion Moser (Bro. Chris).

Our church hosted the annual Youth Fellowship weekend on June 8-9. The Bible class children from the Lester, West Bend, Minneapolis, Winthrop and Morris congregations are included. Elder Bro. William Schlatter (Junction, OH) gave an interesting message about Christ's Crown of Thorns. Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) helped with this weekend along with our Elder Bro. Art. We hope all received a blessing from this gathering.

“And we beseech you; brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.”

*I Thess. 5:12-13*

*Note of Thanks:*

I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for your many prayers and kind expressions of love and encouragement during my recent illness. It is a real blessing to feel God's healing power and we pray God will abundantly bless each one of you as only He can!

*Harold Gramm*

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**

**Marilyn Messner**

**Ginny Stoll**

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

*Psalms 127:3*

Our local Sunday School had their closing picnic for summer vacation.

The Youth Fellowship, including Lester, Morris, West Bend, Winthrop, Elgin and Minneapolis gathered at Morris for a blessed weekend. Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) was the speaker. We are thankful for the efforts involved.

High School graduates are Laura Miller (Sam and Sandy), Brendon Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda), Lindsay Schmidt and Orea Phillips, an exchange student from Nigeria (Bro. Verl and Sis. Jamie). Orea is returning to his home.

Our sympathy goes to the family of Sis. Rose Alice Howk (Bro. Roy) who departed this life on May 15. May God strengthen them.

Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Sis. Hazel) was our hospital patient this month. God's healing hand is upon him and he's again gathering with us.

Lucy Pelzel announces the birth of a brother, Jack Dennis, on May 16. Parents are Jamie and Jodi Pelzel. Grandparents are Sis. Carol Ann Messner and Jerry Pelzel and Marcia Pelzel of Fairfax.

Bless our fathers as we honor them on their special day.

*Note of Thanks:*

Thank you for remembering me on my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

In Christian love,  
*Marie Messerli*

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**MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**  
**Garry and Marty Rokey**

In the past two or three years, our church has had the privilege of becoming "home" to a number of young single brothers and sisters as well as young converted couples. Some have stayed just a short time but most are still assembling with us. We, as a smaller church, are most thankful for their enthusiastic support and gratefully welcome each of them. Joining us most recently is Bro. Ben Skoglund (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori, West Bend, IA) who has taken a position as a pharmacist in our area.

This past month brought visiting ministers, Bros. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) and Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS) to our pulpit. May God bless them for their labors.

On May 30, we rejoiced with Bro. Ryan and Sis. Becky Weiss in the births of Kenton James and Caitlin Joy. Their grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally Rinkenberger (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen Weiss (Elgin, IL). Sis. Katie Rinkenberger plans to stay here part of the summer to help with her new nephew and niece.

Believing it is God's will that has brought them together, the engagement of Sis. Kim Kaeb to Bro. Neal Kellenberger was announced. Sis. Kim is the daughter of Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan Kaeb (Bern, KS) and Bro. Neal is the son of our ministering Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen Kellenberger. May God richly bless them as they make plans for their future together.

Congratulations to Bro. Mark Miller (Bro. Dennis and Sis. April) upon his graduation from high school. May God richly bless him as he passes this milestone in his life.

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**MISSOURI, LAMAR**  
**Kristen Leman**  
**Becky Marti**

We have enjoyed our many visitors this past month. We thank Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Bros. Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH) and Roy Koehl (Morris, MN) for their willingness to serve us in the ministry. May God bless them.

We rejoice that Katie Frieden (Bro. Rex and Sis. Vera) is seeking the Lord in repentance. May we support her as she follows His will.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Jack Thiebaud who passed away May 22. Our prayers are with his wife, Betty, and daughter, Toni Cattelino.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Wendy Braker welcomed Levi Dan into their home and hearts May 23. May they feel God's direction as they seek to raise him in the fear of the Lord. Thankful grandparents are Eugene and Judy Edelman (Sabetha, KS) and Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller.

Bros. Martin Hohulin and Raymond Braker spent some time in the hospital recently. We are thankful for His healing hand.

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**MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**  
**Betsy Schrenk**

Blest be the tie that binds our  
hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds is  
like to that above.  
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 bade farewell to Jerry and Sis. Cindy Hann and their three sons, Tim, David, and Philip. They are relocating to St. Albans, VT, due to a change in employment. We wish them well in their new home

in the beautiful woods of the Northeast, just east of Lake Champlain and not far from the Canadian border.

Visiting ministers were Bros. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA) and Mike Leman (Sis. Dev. Denver, CO). We are deeply appreciative of their willingness to serve our little congregation.

One Sunday we were warned to remember that Satan is the master of little steps. We know the saying, "The longest journey begins with a single step." It is best to establish our boundaries early and to deliberately set our course on the straight and narrow path to heaven through the mercy and grace of God and the sacrifice of Christ for our sins. Satan would love to lure us off of that path and to entice us to take steps in the wrong direction. It is easier for us to never take that first little step in the wrong direction than to stop and turn around. I am reminded of a saying I heard: "Sin will take you farther than you ever thought you'd go... Sin will keep you longer than you ever thought you'd stay... Sin will cost you more than you ever thought you'd pay." And all the misery starts with that one little step in the wrong direction.

Due to road construction, I will review directions to the St. Louis Church. From I-70 in St. Charles, take Hwy 94 south 3.4 miles to Jung's Station Road. Get in the left hand turn lane and turn left (east) at the light. Go 1.4 miles on Jung's Sta. to Upper Bottom Road and turn left. The sign at that corner is temporarily gone, so clock your distance. Upper Bottom "T's" into Jung's Sta. If you start going uphill after a long hill downward on Jung's Sta., you have gone too far. The church is about ¼ mile on the left—3333 Upper Bottom Road. Watch carefully for the driveway.

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## MISSOURI, TAYLOR

### Susan Haerr

May was a special month for our high school graduates, Caleb Sutter and Lindsey Yackley, and we are thankful that Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) and his wife, Sis. Donnalou, could be in Taylor to share God's Word with us for a special graduation message. God bless you.

On May 31, our Bible class and several adults traveled with the Princeville Bible class to the Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf in Jamaica. Hearts and hands were lent to the Lord that week as we were blessed to work for and with the deaf students on construction projects at the Deaf Village. God is doing an awesome work there and it was such a privilege to be a part of it. May God richly bless all of you who donated time, money and prayers to make that trip possible.

We offer our congratulations and sincere wishes for God's blessings to Josh and Julie (Hartley) Redd as they were married on May 25. Josh is the son of Dean and Gaye Redd.

The week of June 10-17 was Vacation Bible School in Taylor. It was a special week for all who helped as we get to "see" God through our children's eyes and we pray that it was a special blessing for the kids and young adults as well. Thank you to all who organized and helped with that week.

Friday and Saturday of that same week was the Father/Son Campout at Mark Twain Lake. Again, thanks to all who donated time and money to organize the event and to all who traveled to be a part of it. God bless you.

Hospital patients in the last month were Evan Wiegand, Sarah Hastings and Nikki Haerr. May God heal each one.

We rejoice with three new con-

verts here in Taylor as they give their lives to Jesus Christ and start their repentance: Heidi Heimer (Bro. Rod and Sis. Barb), Lindsey Yackley (Bro. Elwood and Sis. Trudie) and Jenae Sutter (Dan and Sis. Tina). We are so thankful that you have made that choice. Know that our prayers are with you at each step.

As always, we welcome all to come visit us here in Taylor if you get the chance. Your visit would be a blessing to us!

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## NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

### Hope Graves

We have been blessed with many visitors this past month. On Wednesday, May 29, we enjoyed fellowshiping at a potluck dinner with a visiting family from Nashville, TN, before worshipping together for our mid-week service. On the weekend of June 8-9 we were blessed to have Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and his wife here with us. We enjoyed another potluck dinner on Saturday evening followed by a church service and a meal put together by our committee Sunday after church. May the Lord richly bless Bro. Art for opening the scriptures to us over the weekend.

O how welcome is the Sabbath.  
Joyous day for all the ransomed!  
Day of peace and day of rest.  
Consecrated to God's blest.  
Hear the words of exhortation  
From the Master of creation.  
We can feel His love for all  
Heed, obey His tender call.

*Zion's Harp #126, vs. 1-2*

We are thankful to have Bro. John and Sis. Esther Rauhe back in our area for a short time. They have been staying with their daughter, Betty, in Rhode Island

and are planning on settling their home here with plans to return to their daughter's permanently.

We wish them the Lord's strength and blessings at this time and look forward to that time when we will all meet together on that heavenly shore to never part again. What a blessing that will be to be made whole and no longer be afflicted with the frailty of our earthly flesh.

What a joy twill be when I wake to see

Him for whom my heart is burn-  
ing!

Never more to sigh, never more to die,

For that day my heart is yearning.  
I'll exchange my cross for a starry crown,

Where the gates swing outward  
never.

At His feet I'll lay every burden  
down

And with Jesus reign forever.

*Hymns of Zion #173*

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## OHIO, AKRON

### Joyce Gasser

Bro. Andy Steidl and Sis. Mary Bauman were united in marriage on Sunday, May 19. Parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl of Akron and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman of Rittman. We are happy for them and wish for them the Lord's continued blessings in their lives.

Sis. Johanna Fortenbacher, who has been teaching at the Heritage Private School, has returned to the home of her parents, Bro. Wladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher, of the Kitchener, Canada, church. We appreciated having Johanna in our community and assembling with our congregation. There were many kind wishes expressed to her Sunday, June 2, as she moves on to the next phase of

her life as the Lord opens the way.

Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl will be having their Silver Anniversary on August 7 as they were married in 1977. May the Lord continue to bless them.

We are sorry for those who had been hospitalized: Sis. Mary Ellen Walker, Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet Graf and Bro. Joe Grossenbacher. Our wish is for their good recoveries.

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## OHIO, COLUMBUS

### Nancy Banks

Once again, we want to express our sincere thanks to the ministering brothers who travel the miles to share God's precious Word with us. Bros. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) visited our Columbus church this month and it was wonderful to see the many family members and friends who accompanied them.

Our college student farewell was held June 5. We wish these young men and women God's richest blessings as they conclude their school careers here in Columbus. We are sad to see them leave but eagerly look forward to meeting the new students who will arrive in the fall.

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## OHIO, JUNCTION

### Cindy Schlatter

We enjoyed having ministering Bro. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA) with us this month. May God richly bless you for your labors.

June 2 was the wedding day for Sis. Jodi Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Trent Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth) of Latty. We trust God will continue to be with you as you journey through life together. We will miss Sis. Jodi and hope you and Bro. Trent will visit us often. Several visiting ministering brothers were with us for this blessed occasion; amongst

them were Bros. Todd Stoller, John Laukhuf and Larry Wenninger from Latty, OH, and also Bro. Doug Harmon from Toledo, OH.

June 2 was also the birth date of two precious little girls that joined the family of Bro. Neil and Sis. Sandy Stoller. Katie Renee and Katrina Ruth were warmly welcomed home by big brothers, Emil and Adam, and big sister, Ellie. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn and Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller, all of Latty, OH. May God be with them and with us all as we daily strive to raise our little ones in His fear and admonition. Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter were thankful for the safe arrival of another little granddaughter into their family. Mark and Melissa Benware became parents on May 31 when Katrina Marie was born. Then on June 12, Jonathan Daniel was welcomed into the family of Doug and Sis. Elizabeth Reinhard. Jonathon's thankful grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. James and Sis. Carolyn Spangler of our congregation.

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## OHIO, LATTY

### Heidi Hackenjoes

### Kathy Sinn

We wish to congratulate our high school graduates: Jenny Evans (Tom and Bonnie), Barry and Benji Grant (Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria), Alisha Rager (Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise), Shannon Schlatter (Gus and Sis. Leann), Jake Sinn (Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn), Joni Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim), Sam Steffen (Bro. Don and Sis. Karen), Nicholas Stoller (Harvey Stoller), and Chet Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce). May the Lord watch over them as they begin a new phase of life.

Sharing the Word with us this past month were Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), and Dale Wulf (Lester, IA). May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

We rejoice with Bro. Trent Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth) and Sis. Jodi Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) as they were united in marriage. We would like to welcome Sis. Jodi to our congregation in Latty.

Bro. Leon and Sis. Deb Klopfenstein welcome home a new baby, Misty Lynn. Her older brothers and sister are Brett, Philip, Ann, Karl, and Colin. Grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Katherine Klopfenstein and Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary Baer (Princeville, IL).

Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee Sinn and Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller are grandparents once again. Bro. Neil and Sis. Sandy Stoller (Junction, OH) welcome twin girls into their family. Emil, Adam, and Ellie are happy for their new little sisters, Katrina Ruth and Katie Renee.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Jim Gerber (Sis. Marge) on the death of his sister, Sis. Bernice Bauman (Rittman, OH). We also extend sympathy to Bro. Don Steffen (Sis. Karen) on the death of his mother, Sis. Dee Steffen (Bluffton, IN).

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## OHIO, MANSFIELD

### John and Marci Pfeiffer

This past month we were blessed to have Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) minister unto us. We thank him for humbly bringing God's message to us on a Wednesday evening.

Farewell, farewell, my morning dawns,

Farewell, my rest I see.  
The strife is o'er, my morning  
dawns,  
The Master calleth me.  
*Hymns of Zion #194*

We bid our final farewell to Sis. Helen Bricker (Bro. Richard) on June 7. May God comfort Bro. Richard, Sue Chester, Betty Squire, Eva Rinehart, Richard (Tammy) Bricker, John Bricker and many others whom she loved.

Bro. Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL) reminded us how Jesus told us in John 14:1, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." We thank Bro. Tom for his labors.

Vacation Bible School was held on June 10-14. Our visiting ministers and subjects were as follows:

Monday: Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH) – Choices and how they affect us

Tuesday: Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) – Maintaining our first love

Wednesday: Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) – Regular church services (II Sam. 12, Luke 10)

Thursday: Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) – The right attitudes

Friday: Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) – Hold fast that which is right

We thank all who made this event possible.

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**OHIO, RITTMAN**  
**Anna Schar**  
**Sandy Zollinger**

I bring to Thee, O Master,  
My burden and my grief;  
I do believe Thy promise,  
Help Thou mine unbelief.  
*Gospel Hymns #512*

We wish upon April Dotterer

(Bro. Bob and Sis. Mardel) much faith and grace as she has begun her repentance.

Sunday, May 19, was a day to rejoice as God added yet another godly couple to our faith. We wish the Father's continued presence and guidance to Bro. Andy Steidl (Bro. Don and Sis. Nan, Akron, OH) and Sis. Mary Bauman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha) and trust they will be a blessing to the Akron congregation.

Also on May 19, the engagement of Bro. Mark Dotterer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn) to Sis. April Miller (Bro. Mervin and Sis. Dawn, Smithville, OH) was made known. May God bless them for seeking first the kingdom of God.

Samuel Jacob Keiper was born to Eric and Michelle Keiper on April 10. He is joining big sister, Madison, as well as adding another grandchild to Bro. Reinhart and Sis. Betty Keiper.

Ministers serving us this past month were Elder Bro. Dave Graf and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI). Their service, with the Spirit's help, was appreciated.

"The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe."

*Proverbs 29:25*

With thanks we report that our three Sisters that were hospitalized have safely returned to their homes and to church. They were Sisters Helen Maibach (the late Bro. Alpha Sr.), Amy Baltic (Bro. Milan) and Margaret Winkler (Bro. Stan).

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**OHIO, SARDIS**  
**Terry Zollinger**

"And it shall come to pass, when

thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers."

*I Chronicles 17:11*

Sympathy is extended to Ruth Gikler of the loss of her dear husband, George, on May 22. Also, sympathy and prayers are for Amanda and Sis. Stephanie Alrutz (Congerville, IL) of the passing of their grandfather, Bill Alrutz, on June 6.

"...Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it."

*Colossians 4:17*

May the Lord bless Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) for serving the Word willingly. Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie, Tokyo, Japan) also visited this past month. Appreciation for our visiting ministers for making the effort to come to Sardis is a blessing for each of us. May the Lord bless each of His servants.

"And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is his treasure."

*Isaiah 33:6*

Graduation breakfast on June 2 to honor Jami Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry) was served so willingly by Sis. Paula Figel (Bro. John). Jami and her family would like to thank Sis. Paula for her kindness. Jami plans to attend college in the fall to further her education.

"Who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases."

*Psalms 103:3*

Hospital patient, Bro. Andrew Figel (Sis. Cyndi), is thankful to be feeling better and is now home and attending church.

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord."

*Proverbs 18:22*

On June 8, Steve Miller (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Doris) and Kati Cook (Bill and Ruth Ann) became one in marriage. The day was beautiful. The little church situated in the hills made the day special. May the Lord bless Steve and Kati.

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

*III John 1:4*

The Sunday School picnic was a blessed event on June 15 for the children of all ages and their families. Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzie, Rittman, OH) was the speaker. Bro. Earl brought out that the children should know that there are consequences to whatever the deeds are. Along with Bro. Earl, visiting minister, Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO), was also on the pulpit on the Sabbath. Sardis was blessed with several visiting ministers this past month and we want to thank each ministering brother that serves the Lord through the Holy Word.

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### OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Edith Miller  
Ruth Gasser**

The promise of true pastors given;  
Hearts like Thine own do Thou in  
them instill.

Thy holy Word was never broken;  
We know that Thou this promise  
wilt fulfill.

The enemies before Thy hand shall  
fall;

Thou art forever King and Lord of  
all.

*Zion's Harp #111*

On June 12, Elder Bros. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and Dave Graf (Akron, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller, as two brothers were selected and ordained to the duties of the ministry. We offered our support to Bros. Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose) and Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie). It was a great encouragement to feel the Lord's direction, trusting that He will continue to inspire His servants. May these brothers and their families be blessed and encouraged in the sacrifices they make.

We bade farewell to a dear loved one as Sis. Berniece Bauman moved on to her heavenly home on May 28, after a brief illness. Our prayers and sympathy are with her husband, Bro. Herbert; and to children, Bro. Steve (Sis. Connie), Bro. Vic (Sis. Brenda), Daryl (Ivy), Bro. Roger (Sis. Jennifer) and Sis. Carol. She also leaves behind three brothers, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and other relatives. We thank Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH), who assisted in the services, and Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) who stayed and ministered the Word on Sunday.

Bro. Mark Dotterer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn, Rittman, OH) and Sis. April Miller (Bro. Max and Sis. Diane) have felt the Lord's leading for life's second most important step. Their engagement was announced on May 19. May they seek the Father's will as they make plans for an August wedding, and for a life together.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Robin Miller were blessed by the arrival of Halle Ann on June 5 to join her sister, Hannah. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth Steiner (Rittman, OH).

*Note of Thanks:*

We want to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all who

remembered us with cards, visits, and especially their prayers during Sis. Berniece's illness and passing. May God richly bless each one for their many deeds of love.

*Bro. Herbert Bauman and family*

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### OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard  
Edie Fetter**

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

*Psalms 127:3*

We join Mark and Melissa Benware in welcoming Katrina Marie to their family. Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Stan and Pam Benware (Maine) are also glad to welcome a new granddaughter.

"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."

*Jeremiah 3:15*

Visiting ministers in the past month were Bros. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL). We appreciate their service and pray that the Word might be fruitful in our lives.

We extend our best wishes to Bro. Wendell Spangler and Sis. Annabell Spangler who will be returning to the Junction congregation. Bro. Wendell has completed his medical degree and residency and has accepted employment near his home.

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### OREGON, PORTLAND

**Louisa Gallup**

"And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good..."

*Genesis 1:31*



As springtime is turning into summer, we are marveling at God's beautiful Creation and are so thankful for it. Again, we have no news this month; however, we most definitely appreciated our visitors! Since this is the time of year during which a lot of families with school age children will travel to see family and friends, we pray for God's protection and hope that every one will return home safely.

Our special gratitude to the following ministering brethren and their families, as they made the extra effort to come our way and share the Word with us: Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bros. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer) and Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), all from Silverton, OR. Thank you and may God bless you richly.

## OREGON, SILVERTON

### Kelsey Kuenzi

This month we had a potluck to honor our graduating seniors. We wish to congratulate these students for their hard work and wish them God's blessings and direction as they choose careers. Our best wishes go to Shannon Dettwyler (Gary and Sis. Tami), Lee Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz), Brad Kuenzi (Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Beth), Sis. Regina Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda), Eric Sprague (Mathew and Kenda) and Kara Walter (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen).

I'm baptized in Christ's name  
And in His death I'm buried;  
How should I further bear  
The load so long I carried?  
Thou, Lord, art He who died  
And who arose again;  
Therefore in holiness  
Through life I will remain.

*Zion's Harp #43*

The weekend of June 2, we rejoiced with Sis. Barb Dragon (Alan), Bro. Pete Schroder, and Sis. Becky Von Flue (Dan) as they shared their testimonies and were baptized. We were thankful to be able to hear about the work God has performed in their lives and greet them as brethren in Christ. A special thanks to Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) for assisting with the labors of the weekend with our Elder Bro. Art Metz.

Love is of a friendly nature,  
Does no selfish thought possess;  
Love is not a sin partaker,  
And is free from bitterness.  
Love is truthful, not deceitful,  
Does here every burden bear;  
And, enduring, is so fruitful  
In all trials joy to share.

*Zion's Harp #37*

Believing that God has directed their lives together, Sis. Tasha Kuenzi (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda) and Bro. Phillip Petrovic of San Diego, CA (Elder Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian) were engaged to be married. We rejoice with them as they plan for their wedding on September 1.

This month, Paul Jensen (Marie) and Bro. Kurt Metzger (Sis. Koreen) were hospitalized. We are thankful that both are at home and on the mend.

We extend our sympathy to Ilijah and Nada Gavrilovic and family in the loss of her father Vojislav (Voja) Vujicic (wife Vera) from California. May God be near them in this time of sorrow. Our prayers are also with Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Bolliger in the loss of her brother, Bernie Ifft (wife Donna) of Fairbury, IL.

This month we were thankful to have several visiting ministers, including Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), El-

der Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barb, Lamont-Gridley, KS).

## PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

### Nathan and MaryElizabeth Gasser

This month we were blessed to welcome a healthy baby boy into our congregation. Yoshi Allen was born to parents, Bob and Rika, and is welcomed by big brother Hira. "Yoshi" means "happy" in Japanese, and he's really living up to his name!

We rejoice with our Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Fehr as their daughter, Dona, has found grace to turn to God in repentance. We wish her the Lord's peace and blessings and encourage her in her new walk in Him.

We were also happy to have visits from both Bro. Everett Gerber and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) who shared the Word with us this month.

## TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

### Mike and Monica Fritz

This past month we have been strengthened and encouraged by the Word shared with us by our visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), and Bros. Todd Feller (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN) and Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS). We have also been strengthened by the fellowship of brethren and friends from Rockville, CT; Champaign, Congerville, Eureka, and Washington, IL; Remington, IN; Detroit, MI; Mansfield and Smithville, OH.

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: La-

Crosse, IN (7/21); Eureka, IL (7/28); Fairbury, IL (8/4); Remington, IN (8/11); Gridley, IL (8/18); and Bay City, MI (8/25). We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service. If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946.

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### TEXAS, SAN MARCOS Dale and Amy Ringger

"God setteth the solitary in families:" (Ps. 68:6). We are glad for the benefits God planned for us in creating families as a foundation for society. We notice that we benefit from the helpfulness of our own family. One family member is good with numbers which helps while shopping, another finds things that are misplaced, and still another does well at growing things. Another child is good at organization and another can figure out how to put things together. Each member of our family has unique talents, which help the rest of us in various ways.

As it is in the family, so it is in the church, which is why we're so thankful that God has blessed us with additional "helpers" by sending Bro. Kyle and Sis. Carrie Beyer from Sabetha. They have moved to the Ft. Worth area. In just a couple of weeks we have already noticed their help in song worship. Welcome to the Beyers!

Bros. Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH), Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ) and Gene Metzger (Sis. Delores, Lester, IA) served us in the pulpit ministry and with fellowship during the last month. Other church visitors this month

were from Francesville, Zapata and Sabetha. We also had some visitors this month from Sardis during the week.

The schedule of ministers for August is the following: 4th - Wolcott, IN; 11th - Winthrop, MN; 18th - Phoenix, AZ; and 25th - Francesville, IN.

We continue to meet for services at the Quality Inn in San Marcos, TX. San Marcos is located on IH-35 approximately 20 minutes south of Austin or about 50 minutes north of downtown San Antonio. Exit at #206 and find the hotel on the southwest side access road.

We extend a welcome for anyone who may be in the area to worship with us. Also, let us know if you would be available for fellowship on Saturday or Sunday evening or during the week. 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.

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### TEXAS, ZAPATA Joyce Nohl

We experienced a beautiful spring and now summer has arrived in full swing. We have enjoyed a few rain showers for which we are thankful, but not enough to help with the drought. We have been dry for several years now and in great need for rain, so we just trust in God, knowing He is in control of all things.

Our sympathy is extended to Rick and Lila (Plattner) La Grange in the passing of Ross La Grange, Rick's father. May they feel God's comforting hand in this time of loss.

Our sympathy is also extended to Bro. Richard Bricker and his family in the passing of his beloved wife and their mother, Sis. Helen. Her suffering is now over and she has gone to her eternal reward. Sis. Helen will be deeply missed in the Zapata congregation.

In sorrow and pain Thy trust do retain

In Jesus the merciful Saviour.

*Zion's Harp #46*

We enjoy having the summer staff from Rio Bravo worship with us. It's heartwarming to see young brothers and sisters using their time and talents to work for the Lord. We enjoy so much the fellowship they bring to our congregation. We had the work team from Rio Bravo visit us this month also and would like to thank them for making the effort to come be with us. Visitors are so special to us in the summer as there are so few permanent residents here and we would like to invite any who are close by to come and worship with us.

I am never weary reading,  
Hearing of His wondrous love;  
How His loving, tender mercy,  
Draws us to His home above.

*Hymns of Zion #75*

If you plan to 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.

*Following is an article written and submitted by Sis. Jennifer Kellenberger:*

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." (Romans 12:5). It is so beautiful to watch the body of Christ working

together for His glory. We praise and thank God for all of the many team members that labor with us each year. Every one of them plays a very special role in this ministry and we are so thankful that God gave us different gifts so that a greater work might be accomplished for His glory.

May 25 marked the arrival of the M CCS summer staff—five willing servants that have come to labor with us for the entire summer. They include Bro. Phil Kellenberger, Bro. Tom Kellenberger, and Sis. Erin Knobloch (all from Washington, IL) and Oliver McLemore (Montgomery, AL) and Zach Fennig (Gulf Shores, AL). We praise God for these young individuals that have dedicated this summer to full-time service for the bettering of His kingdom.

June 1-8 we hosted our smallest team ever, but being small did not keep them from accomplishing a great work. Bro. Harold Steiner (Princeville, IL) led the team and was joined in service by Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (San Marcos, TX), Bro. Daniel Wuthrich (Morton, IL) and Bro. Jeff Sauder (Tremont, IL). The four of them, along with the help of Ron Jobe (general contrac-

tor) and Cruz Esparza (architect) from Chattanooga, TN, were able to put up the second story trusses of the children's dormitory, which had been donated by the Washington Apostolic Christian Church. It truly was a blessing to watch that building go up and we praise the Lord for those six willing servants.

It is so exciting to drive down the dirt road that leads to the school and see that building from afar. Our deaf students know that building is for them and as they watched it go up, their excitement was evident as smiles spread across their faces. One of our 12-year-old girls, Maribel, signed to her 11-year-old friend, Sarahi, "Me and you, sleep up there, bunk beds." What a precious moment. They know that this campus will soon be their home and they are so grateful for all of the volunteers that help make it all possible.

Bro. Jeff Sauder stayed an extra week and labored with us as we hosted a team of 99 people from various churches. We appreciate his willingness to help serve. It was quite a week and they laid a lot of block on that new second story of the dorm. They also worked on Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick's (Washington, IL) future home. We are

hoping to have their home complete before they join us full-time later this year. Everything in His time.

Our summer is off to a wonderful start and God has already done wondrous things. We are excited to see what else He has in store for this summer. Please continue to pray for us and for the ministry of International Christian Centers for the Deaf/Mexico, Centros Cristianos para Sordomudos.

### **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



*Sermon continued from page 2*

here, with many tears, disappointments, and with many temptations. He was not free from temptations either. The devil does not give up on anyone. He tempted Jesus Christ as we read in the gospels. And he came, if he could, to deceive even the Son of man. Would he not then come to your life and mine? Would he not want to discourage us along the way? Would he want us to feel sometimes like Elijah felt back there in the Old Testament, when he said "...the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away." I Kings 19:10.

That is a plea of desperation. That is a plea of almost giving up. But it does not lessen the power of God or the presence of God. That is one thing that we need to take some counsel in and carry with us. We need to remember that God is all powerful, and God is always here. So sometimes, when we're tempted, and things are not going very well, and it seems like we're alone and the only one left, just remember we have a heavenly Father who has promised never, ever to leave us. We have the choice. And should there be a separation of some sort, to some degree or to a greater degree, it would be our choice. But God will not leave us. The scripture makes that very, very clear. He did not leave those of old. He did not leave Elijah there either. He did not leave the Apostle Paul, and He will not leave you and He will not leave me, if we will continue to trust in Him. And that is what Paul said he did, served the Lord. He gave up self to service for the Lord. I am sure he must have had desires also as he went through life. We all do. But number one was to serve "...the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:" Acts 20:19. There were those who

wanted to take his life. There were those who wanted to get rid of him.

The next verse says that he helped them in other ways. He says "And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house," Acts 20:20. He was being very open and honest with them. And we need to be today, too. "...I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you..." Acts 20:20. So he preached to them in his day as the Spirit led him to preach from the Word of God, from the Gospel, from the Bible as we know it today. It maybe was not quite in this form and printed this way, but that is what he used as a basis. And that is what we use today. Why? Because he says I have kept back nothing profitable. He did not always tell them what they wanted to hear. And neither can we today if our goal is to serve God and to preserve our soul for life eternal. Satan would want us to say just whatever we wanted to say. But he said, no, I have kept back nothing that was profitable.

In the very next verse, what did he say? He said, "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 20:21. We pray we preach the same message today that he preached then. It is the message of repentance, of confession, of conversion and walking the sanctified life. It is pretty simple. It is not so difficult to understand. It is a lot more difficult to carry out. It is no different and we would not want to change it. We would not want to change it in the least. He says I've kept back nothing but I have testified of "...repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 20:21. And on that basis he could go forward.

He says, "And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall be-

fall me there:" Acts 20:22. Each of us, as we journey off, do we know what lies before us? We do not know for sure. I do not know for sure. You do not know for sure what tomorrow will bring or even this afternoon. But he says, "...I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:" Acts 20:22. If he takes the Spirit of God with him, he knows that he has this promise for heaven, whatever would befall him or come before him on the earth. (And we wish everyone here the very best.) We would be less bothered and less burdened by the cares of the world, wouldn't we?

We read in another account of the sowing of the seed and the production of fruit, and it says that one of the things that chokes out our hope and our faith is the cares of the world. And aren't they present? Don't they press on every side? The world goes very fast. There are financial pressures, there are time pressures, there are all sorts of things. But we want most of all to take with us the faith in our Savior and to know that He has a promise for you and me, a place called heaven. We read in the Bible, it is not God's will that even one soul would be lost. There is no question about where God wants you to be. It is really up to us.

But Paul was not worried about the future so much. He said, as we read there, "...I go bound in the spirit, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." Acts 20:22-24. That I may finish my course with joy. We have talked a lot this morning already about what his goal was. It was to be

in heaven. But notice how it is stated here; that I would finish my course with joy. Coming back again to the thought of what would you write if this was your last day? That I could finish my course with joy: and what is joy? What is this true joy that he is referring to here? It is not measured with dollar signs. It is not measured with his home or car. It is not measured with the clothes. He talked about that later on.

He used these words "I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel." Acts 20:33. I have not wished for something that was not mine. But the joy he is talking about is a peace with God. We can not describe it! I have said before and will say again this morning, if we could really describe what true joy means, a peace with God, wouldn't there be more that would seek it? We live in a world that is searching somehow for joy, for contentment, for satisfaction. It is only found in a peaceful relationship with God. It is only found when sin is removed from our lives and we know that we harbor the hope for heaven, for eternity. That is true joy. That is what he found. That is what he wished for the elders and for the church. That is what he wished for the leadership at that time and that's what he wished for every individual follower. And that is what we wish for today.

To "...finish my course with joy..." Acts 20:24. A lot of things we can not predict in life. We do not know what is coming. But one thing we do know and I think that there would be no one here this morning that would argue otherwise - we will not live forever. It is a finite time. It might be tomorrow. It might be many years. I do not know. You do not know. We got a phone call this week of the young woman in Peoria that died, our sister in faith. Same age as my oldest daughter, about, and we wonder, we don't know. But one thing we do

know. Life is finite. It is short. It may be twenty or thirty years. It might be sixty or one hundred. But that is short. It is not very long. And that is the preparation time that you and I have for what will be beyond that. And can we and will we finish our course with joy, as the Apostle Paul was looking forward to here?

It says in verse 25, "And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more. Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men." Acts 20:25,26. Wouldn't that be what we would desire also? That we would be pure from the blood of all men? The record was clear, as much as Paul could make it. He had taken care, if we can use that terminology, taken care of what needed to be taken care of while he walked here. He trusted in God. He prayed to God. Did he ever make mistakes? I am sure he did. I know he did. We can read those. He had a very different life in the beginning. We can read about that also. He persecuted the Christians. He took their lives. But he took those sinful things to God in prayer and the shed blood of Jesus removed those sins. Then he attempted to keep himself pure from the blood of all men. It was more than just his relationship with God. It was also pure from the blood of all men.

"For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." Acts 20:27. So he says, I have done what I can, in putting it just in plain words. Have you done what you can? Have I done what I can? I am sure he is encouraging us here. He is saying we want to think about the fact that this life is short. I consider life to be this little window of opportunity. Maybe a few years, as I said, maybe many years. But it is this little window of opportunity, however many years it is. And what will we do with that? Will we keep our record that we

would be pure from the blood of all men?

There is a record, you know. In Matthew's gospel, I think, you can read probably in the tenth chapter or so. But it says "...there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed;..." St. Matthew 10:26. Nothing. God has a record. You can not follow me every day of my life and I do not follow you every day of your life, but God has a record. There is nothing hid that will not be revealed in that day. And will it reveal a record of a heart pure from the blood of all men? Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, but then kept pure as we walk along. And that is what he was talking about here. He was talking to the church. He was very thankful for this church. But he wanted to keep it pure if he could.

And he says, I know there is trouble coming. "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers,..." Acts 20:28. Remember again as I said earlier, he is speaking here to the elders, to the overseers. It is a tremendous responsibility. Can we do it? No. Can the grace of God help it to be accomplished? Yes. What does it take? It takes an attitude like Paul had, but more than that. It takes a congregation. It takes followers that are willing to stand and support. That are willing to listen, that are willing to help. Because the church is you. And if we are not willing, the elder can not do it all. That is what Elijah was feeling. That is what Paul was feeling here. And he is encouraging these people "...to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." Acts 20:28. That is why sometimes we come a little heavy. That is why sometimes we spend some time also in prayer. Sometimes like the Apostle Paul, with tears and temptations. We need your prayers, your support and your help. We rec-

*Sermon continued on next page...*

*Sermon continued from page 45*

ognize that only God is all powerful. But we need every brother and sister and friend for support, to preserve this joy, to preserve this faith. To make our course to be able to be finished somehow with joy.

He says I know what is going to happen. "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves (this is not talking only about the pressures from outside, but also within) shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." Acts 20:29,30. The enemy is not weak and the enemy is not ashamed to come even amongst the household of God. That is what we are reading here. That is what he is warning them against. He is asking them to be strong and he is asking them to be careful.

Careful - verse 31. "Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears." Acts 20:31. And then he goes on to say what we all have to say, whether we are speaking to the church, to our family, or to our friends. Verse 32, "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." Acts 20:32. He said I turn it over to God's work. If we think that by our power we can convert a soul, we are mistaken. If we think, by our power alone, we can preserve a soul, we are mistaken. That does not remove us from the great obligation we have to be the best example we can possibly be. And that does not exempt us from doing everything we possibly can to help someone along the way. But we have to remember it is the Lord's work. We have to trust in the Lord. We can make it very difficult. And we can cause great harm and

trouble. But we have to remember it is the Lord's work. That is why he commends it to God and to the word of His grace. Something that goes beyond what we can do. Something that goes beyond what we deserve. But it is the grace of God that brought the Apostle Paul to repentance, the grace of God that brought each one of us. It is the grace of God that allows us to have this joy in our hearts. We never want to forget it.

I mentioned here he was also able to say that he did not really covet man's silver and gold and apparel, the things that were not really his. The philosophy, it seems to me, in the society we live in today is that we deserve it. If someone else has it, we deserve it too. That is not what he is talking about here. He says I did not covet, I did not wish for something that was not mine. I have not asked or even desired, I did not even desire to have another man's silver or gold or apparel. He said I am thankful that you have provided for me a little, when I really needed the necessities of the lifetime.

Just a thought, and probably I have gone a little too long here. Forgive me for that. When I was fairly young, I remember some of the older brothers, especially, it seems like in their prayers would pray for the necessities of this life. And I don't know, I hope that is not entirely lost. But it seems like it is almost that we expect the excess of this life. That is the culture we are in. They asked for the necessities of this life. My grandfather went from different places back when there was not the kinds of transportations or the ability to do so at all. From Minnesota to Ft. Scott, Kansas, maybe other places, I don't know. But I know at least those two places. He prayed for the necessities. He did not take along with them silver and gold. They did not go in an air conditioned car. It was dry in Kansas and the crops did not al-

ways come. He prayed for the necessities of this lifetime and was satisfied when he had food to feed his children. It is just a reminder to me especially, because sometimes my expectations are much greater than that. God does not owe us the excesses of this life. We pray for the necessities and we should have thankful hearts if we have them.

The only words that are in red letters in this Bible I am reading here are in verse 35. Just a comment about those. He said, "I have shewed you in all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35. It is more blessed to give than to receive. If we have an opportunity, it is to give. That is an opportunity. To give of our time? To give of our prayers? To give of our financial mean: if we have some? Perhaps. But I think more than that, it is an opportunity to give of self, as the Apostle Paul did. It is probably the hardest thing we have to give up - our self, our will. We can write a check sometimes for a good cause or maybe we can give a little time. And we should and there is a blessing there if we do it in the right spirit, for sure. But to give up self - that is the most difficult part. And the Apostle Paul here gave up self. What did he gain for it? I know we have said it already. I will just repeat it one more time. What he gained from that was something more precious, far more precious than silver or gold or apparel. He gained joy, a peace with God. And he knew that if he did not return when this journey was over, he was going to a better place, to be there forever.

## CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2002, 2003

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

HAITI						
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY	PERCENT FILLED
Palm Grove	Oct 4-12, '02	Puit Sales	(*) Phil Isabel	Grade School	11	60%
JAMAICA						
CCCD	July 6-13, '02	Knockpatrick	(3) Mansfield Bible Class	Deaf School	40	100%
CCCD	(*) Jan 2-11, '03	Montego Bay	Mark Criss	Deaf School	50/60	0%
CCCD	(*) Mar 7-15, '03	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40	0%
CCCD	Mar 14-22, '03	Deaf Village	Kevin Sauder	Work Place	40	0%
CCCD	(*) May 23-31, '03	Deaf Village	Kevin Sauder	Work Place	40	0%
CCCD	(*) Jun 28 - Jul 5, '03	Deaf Village	(1) Smithville, Akron, Rittman BC	Work Place	70	0%

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(4) Jon Schwab	219-261-2935		<a href="mailto:jschwab@ind-pallet-corp.com">jschwab@ind-pallet-corp.com</a>
Tim Lehman	913-648-3069		<a href="mailto:tlehman99@yahoo.com">tlehman99@yahoo.com</a>

**CCCD** = Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf  
**MEBSH** = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti  
**Palm Grove** = Mission of Haiti  
**S.E.E.D.** = An Agricultural School & Extension Service  
**TBA** = To Be Announced  
**Palm Grove** = Mission of Haiti

**A.W.A. - B.** = Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton  
**A.W.A. - FRW** = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville, Remington, Wolcott  
**A.W.A. - T** = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont  
**(\*)** = Changes or additions since last issue  
**(\*\*)** = Spring Break Timeframe

**Attention: Sunday School Superintendents:** Now is the time to reserve your place for a 2003 Sunday School work project at the Caribbean Christian Center of the Deaf in Jamaica, which is already filling its 2003 project calendar. We do not want you to be disappointed by not getting the schedule date you want. All interested in scheduling a project should feel free to contact Bro. Kevin Sauder, PO Box 354, Tremont, IL 61568-0345. Phone/Fax (309) 925-2409 or e-mail: [ksss@dpc.net](mailto:ksss@dpc.net).

## - NOTICE -

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## **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

*May God bless you for your support!*



## **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 Presentations
- 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](mailto:bibledist@parlorcity.com)



## Volunteer Needs For the Navajo Project

There is an immediate need for installers for floor tile, kitchen cabinetry, and bathroom components. Finish carpenters are also needed. Please contact: Bro. Arnold Gerst, 1107 Madonna Dr., Quincy, IL 62305-7149, phone 217-223-8424, or via e-mail: agerst@rnet.com.

### Mexico Work Teams 2002 - 2003

Location	Date	Project	Coordinator	Phone & (e-mail)
Juarez or Copper Canyon	October 23-31, '02	Medical	Cheryl Herman	309-385-1082 <a href="mailto:cherylh@mtco.com">cherylh@mtco.com</a>
Juarez	Nov. 9-16, '02	Construction	Bruce Aschliman	260-824-5160 <a href="mailto:aschliman@onlyinternet.net">aschliman@onlyinternet.net</a>
Juarez	Dec. 27 - Jan. 3, '03	Construction	Doug Schock	641-929-3377 <a href="mailto:dcschock@juno.com">dcschock@juno.com</a>
Juarez	Mar. 8 - 15, '03	Construction	Kurt Ifer	260-824-2829 <a href="mailto:kurt@stevesconstruction.com">kurt@stevesconstruction.com</a>
Imuris	Mar. 8 - 15, '03	Construction	Jerry Tooley	480-460-4531 <a href="mailto:jtooley@mcdavisco.com">jtooley@mcdavisco.com</a>
Agua Prieta	Mar. 8 - 15, '03	Construction	Wayne Lehman	574-773-4373 <a href="mailto:socks@bnin.net">socks@bnin.net</a>
Juarez	Mar. 15 - 22, '03	Construction	Rick Yergler	260-824-4513 <a href="mailto:ryergler@yahoo.com">ryergler@yahoo.com</a>
Agua Prieta	Mar. 15 - 22, '03	Construction	Wayne Lehman	574-773-4373 <a href="mailto:socks@bnin.net">socks@bnin.net</a>
Rio Bravo	Mar. 15 - 22, '03	Construction	Joe Maller	260-565-3211 <a href="mailto:jmaller@adamswells.com">jmaller@adamswells.com</a>
Juarez	Mar. 20 - 27, '03	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann	309-385-1082 <a href="mailto:cherylh@mtco.com">cherylh@mtco.com</a>
Imuris	Mar. 22 - 29, '03	Construction	Jerry Tooley	480-460-4531 <a href="mailto:jtooley@mcdavisco.com">jtooley@mcdavisco.com</a>
Rio Bravo	Mar. 22 - 29, '03	Construction	Joe Maller	260-565-3211 <a href="mailto:jmaller@adamswells.com">jmaller@adamswells.com</a>
Rio Bravo	Jun. 14 - 21, '03	Construction	Joe Maller	260-565-3211 <a href="mailto:jmaller@adamswells.com">jmaller@adamswells.com</a>

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

## We are searching for a Director of Nursing

*Qualifications: Current Illinois RN license, experience helpful.*

If you have a love for the elderly and would like to join us in our mission of caring, contact Rick Plattner, Administrator

 **Fairview Haven**

605 N. FOURTH, FAIRBURY  
(815) 692-2572

Fax your resume to: 815-692-4257 or  
e-mail to: [fairview@Route24.net](mailto:fairview@Route24.net)

### 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 an article about Elder Peter Virkler who was instrumental in helping to establish our American Church. Much of the data below was taken from "Marching To Zion".*

### **Peter Virkler**

Peter Virkler served as the second Elder of the New York churches. He was born in Alsace-Lorraine July 23, 1829, and died in New Bremen, NY, December 14, 1889. He was the younger brother of that church's first Elder, Joseph Virkler.

He was the son of Rudolph Virkler, a former Mennonite bishop, and came to America when he was a small boy of five. His early upbringing was rooted in an old order Mennonite lifestyle which, with modifications, was an influence he and his family (and others) brought into early church life here in America.

In 1853 he married Anna Farney, daughter of Peter and Mary Schertz Farney. She was born September 19, 1829, in Alsace-Lorraine. This union bore no offspring. This couple, however, acted as foster parents to many children. They took both the young and the old into their home. Not having children of their own allowed them to devote a great deal of time to activities associated with the church, and he as a minister did not hesitate when the Lord called him to do special tasks for the church.

### **Ordination**

Peter Virkler was ordained Elder in 1867, thirteen years after being installed as minister. He traveled widely in the furtherance of the gospel. He traveled to the Midwestern states and eventually to Oregon and is

credited with assisting the formation of the first church in that state. He and his wife traveled extensively in Europe in 1871, probably visiting their ancestral homeland and relatives they had heard their parents mention.

### **Ingathering**

Virkler presided over one of the greatest "in-gatherings" in the church's history in the summer of 1881 when 139 persons were baptized during thirteen successive Sundays and one three weeks later for a total of 140 converts. God worked miraculously in the hearts of these souls, and also through Peter Virkler who was noted for his powerful oratory on behalf of the Lord. He was a large man physically and had a forceful personality.

In 1879 Peter Virkler traveled to Oregon at the request of Swiss immigrants who were living in that area. Some were originally from New York. Included in this group was the Mathys family from Beaver Falls, NY.

### **Trip to Oregon**

Bro. Virkler took the train to Oregon. He was accompanied by Gottlieb Maibach, 26, who later served as Elder at Pulaski, IA. From Portland they rode on horseback to Pratum (near Silvertown) led by an Indian guide.

### **Zeal for God**

Friends and believers in the Portland and Silvertown area were typical of the many persons of German and Swiss Anabaptist background in the nineteenth century who had come to America and were unfulfilled (in a re-

ligious sense) and were seeking a more secure spiritual habitation. Visiting ministers and pastors were usually enthusiastically welcomed in these places. These people were not exposed, as society is today, to the mass media and did not have vast amounts of leisure time to occupy themselves. Their lives were often lonely and somewhat barren. Thus, they were extremely receptive to forceful and gifted speakers who brought the truth to them.

Many of these immigrants, scattered in remote outposts, had heard of Samuel Froehlich and his movement in Europe and were glad to hear and receive pastors bearing such truth laden messages. This is why Peter Virkler and others had continuing successes in preaching the gospel. It was in such a context that Peter Virkler helped to establish a beginning in Oregon.

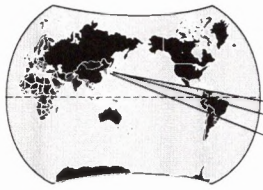
### **Early Travelers**

Making long trips to faraway outposts was typical of the early days. Seeds were planted and tiring efforts were made. That is why we have an American church today. Similar work by ministers today will perpetuate growth in the future, if the Lord tarries.

*By: Perry Klopfenstein*

### Next Issue:

The Life of John Krienbill



# The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

## 希望の光



### “Hid Treasures”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

We are presently reading in both the Old and New Testaments at the breakfast table each morning. Especially when reading in the Old Testament, I sometimes wonder why we have to go over so much scripture before coming to something that seems to be relevant to our daily lives. It may be that my spiritual eyes are weak and I can't see the connection between what is written and our daily lives. However, I am encouraged to think that God set it up that way, so that we must seek after the hid treasures of His Word. Proverbs 2:4-5 reads, "If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then thou shalt understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God." Also, from the standpoint of verifying the accuracy of the scriptures, all this history and details about the tabernacle, etc., may be very important. Not being a Bible scholar in that sense, I want to know what pertains to

my daily life. How can I live better and do better? That is the question which concerns me.

There is also the truth that if we have to work hard for something and dig for it, we appreciate it more. When we have everything, almost without effort, we tend to appreciate nothing. Therefore, it is a comfort to me to think that God has purposely set up His Word so that we often have to do a little digging to find the treasures that are there.

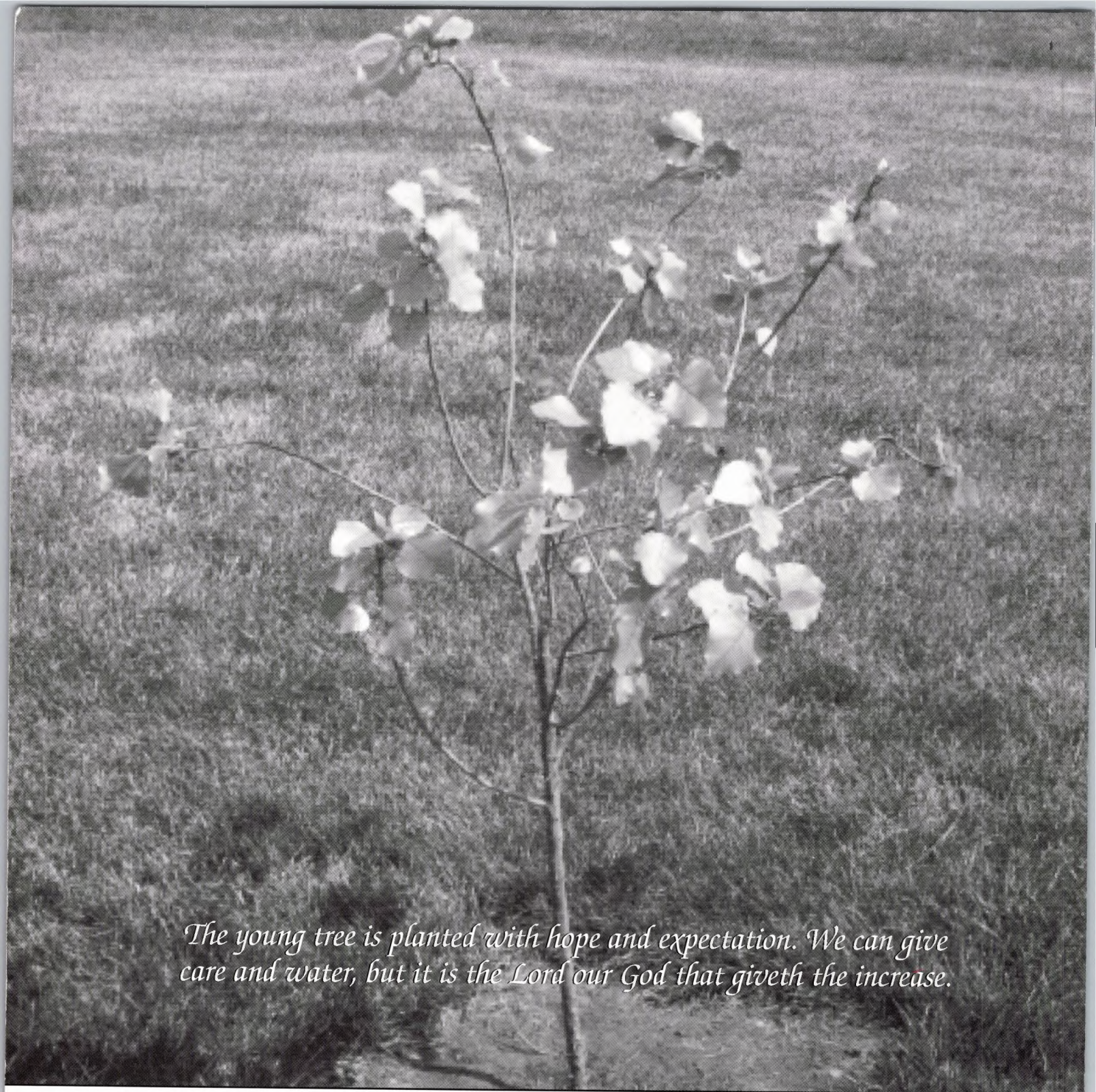
Jesus said in Matthew 13:44, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field." Why is the treasure always hidden? Clearly, God wants us to go looking for it. Salvation is "the gift of God," Ephesians 2:8, but we have to put forth considerable effort to surrender to God in order to receive the gift. Jesus teaches us to "count the cost." Luke 14:28. It also takes effort to live for God.

This business of praying every day and reading the Bible every

day may seem to some as a waste of time. As one of my Japanese friends told me recently, "God knows my needs without me telling Him. He should give me what I need without me telling him all about it." This gentleman is mistaken. God expects him to put forth some effort, and for one thing, learn to be more content in whatsoever state he finds himself. The Apostle Paul wrote, "For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Phil. 4:11.

God could have made the Bible a lot shorter and more to the point, just like a child's story book, but then there would, no doubt, be something missing. So we keep digging and looking for that treasure. It is a good exercise. Yes. Let's keep looking for those golden nuggets in the scriptures. Those are "hid treasures" which enable us to understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

# 希望の光



*The young tree is planted with hope and expectation. We can give care and water, but it is the Lord our God that giveth the increase.*

THE SILVER LINING  
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