


The Silver Lining



*The fox doth watch silently for whom he may prey upon, even as
Satan doth watch for whom he may tempt.*

August 2002

Sermon by Bro. Joseph Gerst, Iowa City, IA

Psalm 145 and Galatians 1

In many ways, the scriptures this morning seemed to pour out the praise of Almighty God. And truly we want to praise Him. And we want to thank Him. For we have many reasons to praise and thank Him.

In the book of Psalms we read, "I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever." Psalm 145:1. There is only one way that we can bless His name for ever and ever. That is to follow Him on this earth that we might be with Him for ever and ever. Or else we can praise Him ever so much in this life, but if we are not following Him we will not be with Him in eternity and there will be no praising Him from our lips forever and ever. God has told us that we must follow Him and we must come in through Him, the door. We must pick up His cross and follow Him. It is not something where we can simply say, I am going to praise Him today and therefore He will hear me and I will be blessed by Him. But we recognize that we must come by the way of the cross.

I believe we can make the assumption, at least we hope we can, that everyone who is gathered here, at least in minimum, believes that Jesus is God's Son. We believe that this is the true Word of God. I am not sure why we would even bother to come if we did not believe some of these things. But the Word goes on and it tells us we need to believe unto salvation. When we believe unto salvation, it means we not only believe the Word but we act upon it. And God's Word gives us instructions, things that we must do if we hope to be in Heaven.

When there were those who

looked at other people and derided them, the Lord turned to them and he told them "...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." St. Luke 13:3. We gain nothing by looking at someone else to see their faults. We only gain something when we look at our self in the mirror of God's Word and we see our faults. How many times did we consult with a physical mirror this morning to make sure that we were presentable to come to church? And when we did and we saw something out of place, we tried to make a correction. That is what God expects. If we see that is something that we should do in a physical way, surely He can expect us to do the same when we look into His Word and we see that we have a need, that something is out of place. That we need to adjust our life. That we need to be obedient to the Word of God.

The Lord told us in His Word, if ye love me, keep my commandments. And He also told us that His commandments are not grievous. He told us to take His yoke upon us, to learn of Him for He is meek and lowly of heart. If we want the proud way, if we want the arrogant way, if we want the honor and glory of people, then we will not follow our Lord and Savior. We will follow the world. But is it the things of the world that we really desire in the end? I don't think so. It is the things of God.

What is it that people really seek in the world? Oh, they maybe would say they are after a goal. Maybe it is a certain level of income. Maybe it is a certain level of respect and honor, a certain position in a company, a certain amount of land. And they could maybe name you a goal. But what do they hope from that goal?

And we need to ask ourself the question, if we have these kind of goals, what is it that we expect when we reach that goal? What are we going to have? What are we really seeking? To have a certain level in our bank account? To have a certain kind of a car or home or land or position in life is nothing but head-

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

September

1. Forrest, IL
2. LaCrosse, IN
3. Leo, IN
4. Kitchener, Ontario, Canada
5. Oakville, IA
6. Fort Scott, KS
7. Chicago, IL

Suggested Donation: \$11/subscription

Next correspondence due:
For September Issue
(16 July News - 15 August News)
Due: 20 August 2002

The Silver Lining (Vol. 57, #8)

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)*

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

August 2002

Seizing the Opportunity

We sing in one of our hymns "Ready to go, ready to stay, Ready my place to fill; Ready for service, lowly or great, Ready to do His will" ("Ready", Hymns of Zion, p. 124). The hymn is beautiful, encouraging, and sobering. Are we really ready to do His will regardless of the task?

Jesus encouraged His followers to be ready. "Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come" (Mt. 24:42). Preparation and readiness for the coming of the Lord is so important that we cannot overemphasize it.

We normally associate the need to be ready with Christ's second coming and with the need to be prepared to give an account of our lives at any time because "...in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (Mt. 24:44). Certainly being prepared for Christ's second coming and for the day we will give an account of our lives are the most important preparations anyone can make. Being prepared involves so much more than simply overcoming temptations and having a sin free life. We understand that the only way to salvation, is through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Although we can never do enough good deeds to earn our way into heaven, part of getting ready for the second coming of Christ involves being ready to respond to opportunities to serve God in this life.

There are many examples in the scripture that tell about individuals who had a special opportunity to serve. They had opportunities which, if ignored, may have cost them a great deal. Some were willing to seize the opportunity while, sadly, others allowed the opportunity to pass by without responding.

Lot, his wife, and their two daughters were warned that Sodom and Gomorrah were going to be destroyed. They were given the opportunity to save themselves if they were willing to obey God and move quickly. Lot and his two daughters were obedient but "...his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt" (Gen. 19:26). Her heart was with those things she should have left behind,

and, by not seizing the opportunity that God gave her, she lost her life.

Abraham was told to sacrifice his son Isaac. Although it must have been a long, difficult journey to the place God appointed for the sacrifice, Abraham obeyed. It was only at the last possible moment that God told Abraham that he should not harm his son. Abraham was clearly ready to listen to the voice of God and to obey it even if he didn't fully understand God's plan. If Abraham would not have been ready to obey God's voice without a long period of time to think about it, the results would have been tragic. The Lord only spoke two words to get Abraham's attention: "...Abraham, Abraham:..." (Gen. 22:11) and Abraham answered "...Here am I" (Gen. 22:11). His faithfulness and readiness to respond were rewarded immediately.

We do not always get a quick answer. Joseph had to endure years of difficulty as he was being prepared to fulfill the role God had for him. Finally, he was in a position where he had the power and the opportunity to make his brothers pay for what they had done to him. He was also in a position that would allow him to destroy them. By the grace of God he was able to seize the opportunity presented by God to unite his family rather than destroy it.

Two disciples on the road to Emmaus were given the opportunity to visit with their risen Savior. As they walked and talked with Jesus, they didn't recognize Him. They did, however, recognize an opportunity to do a kind deed by inviting Him to abide with them. It was only after Jesus "...took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them" (Lk. 24:30) that they knew it was Jesus.

Many other examples could be cited in which God presented His people with an opportunity to serve Him and their response proved to be a blessing for many who came after them. The Apostle Paul wrote many letters while in prison for his faith. John was exiled to an island where he was inspired to write the book of the Revelation. They could have complained about their treatment but they willingly did God's

will. Many generations have benefited from their willingness to make the best of what looked like an unreasonable situation.

How does this apply to our lives? What opportunities do we have? There are almost limitless opportunities to serve God. In nearly every congregation there are brethren or friends who would appreciate a helping hand or a friendly smile. A visit or a brief note to a dear soul who cannot get out might give them a bright spot in their day.

Many times there are opportunities in our communities to help those in need. Shut ins would appreciate a meal or a few groceries brought to their home. A child who has no stability in his home may be in desperate need of an adult to give a steady hand. Nursing homes have residents who almost never have visitors. We can not always tell the impact that a visit or reading a scripture passage to them may have.

We are fortunate to have a well organized World Relief program in our brotherhood. Some are able to travel hundreds of miles to help those in need. Others can do small projects at home.

Understandably, there are times in our lives when we may not be able to reach out very far to help others. Families with several young children may neither have the time, energy nor resources to do much for others at that time. Taking care of their children and nurturing them in the ways of the Lord is an important work. Other opportunities will come to faithful families when the children are older.

The most important task we will ever have is to prepare ourselves, by God's grace, to give an account of our lives. This involves, first and foremost, the need to be at peace with God and man. We must repent, be converted, submit to God's will and remain faithful. We also must seize the opportunity to fill our lives with "...the fruit of the Spirit ...love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance:..." (Gal. 5:22-23). By allowing God to fill our lives with these important virtues we can be useful in His vineyard.



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

The Congregation In Atlanta

In the fall of 1980 two families started holding church services in their homes in the Atlanta area. They were Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda Stoller and Sonny and Esther Sazdanoff from the Church of Nazarene (sister church) along with a few others. As others moved to the area, the larger group met in a Ramada Inn until 1986 with ministers visiting twice monthly. At this time there were three members, seven friends, and nine children. Bros. Alfred Bahler and Wendell Gudeman served as counseling elders.

Changing locations

The next meeting place was at the Bradbury Suites in Smyrna where they met for about a year. After that the meeting place was Don Sellers' pest control business for about six months. In the fall of 1988 the group began to meet at the Renaissance hotel near the airport and the minister rotation was switched to the first, third, and fifth Sundays. The group met there for eight years until the summer of 1996.

The first minister

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lynne Streitmatter moved from Sarasota, Florida to Charleston, South Carolina in the winter of 1994. They made Atlanta their church and he was the first ministering brother local to Atlanta. In October of 1996, Bro. Jeff's work assignment came to an end and he and Sis. Lynne moved back to Sarasota.

Looking for a church

In 1995 there were four families, twelve members, and ten children.

There was a desire by all to have a place of worship of their own, and with that in mind, the brethren started praying and searching for a building.

The search started around the airport since it was the central location. Property in that area was found to be very expensive or undesirable, so the search expanded further out. In the spring of 1996 the current property was found for sale.



Purchase and dedication

After much prayer and consultation with the Building Advisory Committee and others, it was decided to proceed. Some obstacles arose, but finally the group was able to acquire a building. A contract was offered and the 2,596 square foot building and 3.31 acres were purchased. It was originally a house, which was built in 1950 and remodeled in 1992.

The closing on the building was November 14, 1996. Chairs from the Morton Fellowship Hall, on their way to Haiti, were borrowed and used for seating. The first church service in the new building was held on November 17, 1996. Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman and Bud Klopfenstein were present the first Sunday. They also shared Holy Communion with the congregation.

A new minister

As events unfolded, there was a desire by the elders and the congregation to have a local

minister. After much prayer, Bro. Tom Waldbeser was put into the ministry on March 16, 1997.

Remodeling the facility

Since the building was quite functional, it was decided to wait for a period of time to determine the type of remodeling that needed to be done. With the help of the Building Advisory Committee and others, plans were drawn up. During the winter of 1997 the remodeling work started.

Bro. Orin Rufener, Rittman, Ohio, was willing to lead the project. Many volunteers assisted Bro. Orin and the local congregation, resulting in the completion of the work in the fall of 1998.

Weather and vacations

Weather conditions are usually nice in this southern city. Extremes in temperature seldom occur. Many interesting vacation spots can be found in the area. These are historical, cultural, and recreational. The little group of believers there extends a hearty welcome to anyone who can visit their area.

Employment opportunities

The Atlanta area has many opportunities for employment with large corporations, health care facilities as well as firms devoted to scientific research. There are approximately 4 million people living in the area. The busy airport is a major factor in the economy with large airlines using it as a hub.

Several colleges and universities have campuses in the region. College graduates or those needing to relocate for their work are encouraged to consider coming to the Atlanta 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

A New Distribution Center in Romania

For many years World Relief has been sending food packages from our Bluffton Distribution Center to Romania. The contents of these packages continue to change, but the work of feeding our needy brethren goes on. In support of this goal, the European Board has purchased a building in Arad, Romania in which items can be handled and distributed.

Strategic location

Some years ago the Mission Committee financed construction of a new church in this city, strategically located for travel in and out of Eastern Europe. Arad, a city of around 200,000, is located about 40 minutes from the Hungarian border, one hour from the Yugoslavian border, and about 10 hours from Ukraine on major highways.

This location provides a very convenient place for a distribution center. An old building still stands adjacent to the new church and has been used as a distribution point. At the time the new church was built, it was agreed that the old building was unsafe and needed to be taken down. The old building awaits demolition.

Cooperation with Breidenbach

For about ten years our brethren have worked together with the church in Breidenbach, Germany to bring aid to the needy in Eastern Europe. Numerous truck loads of goods have originated in Breidenbach since many of their members have roots in Romania, Yugoslavia, and Hungary. They have a heart to help their brethren, and continue to do so in a very positive way.

A major link in the system has been missing. There has not been an ideal place to unload the trucks as well as to sort and hold items for distribution to several families. This has been a problem that brethren have discussed often.

Team of brothers visits the area

In February of this year a team of German and American brothers visited Arad and explored the possibilities of improving the means to supply the needs of our brethren. They spent one week in the city and investigated numerous situations, later reporting in detail to the entire European Board. They had discovered a facility that seems to meet both present and future needs.

Buying a compound

Upon further investigation of the property for sale, numerous questions arose. Our German brethren made a special trip back to Arad to get answers to these questions.

The facility consists of three buildings, one of which is only about five years old. It was built and used by a German who had a small furniture factory there. However, due to his age he wanted to sell the property.

Often it is possible to get large quantities of items, but there was no place to store goods. The main building has a cellar that can serve very well as long term storage of stable items. The ground floor provides a place where racks for clothing are being installed similar to the methods used in the U.S. The needy brethren and friends from all across Eastern Europe can come here and find necessary items. The Germans assemble large quantities of clothes twice a year for this

purpose. This also provides a center for distribution of Bibles, hymn-books, and other items of spiritual value.

Food package center

The last two shipments from BDC have been unloaded at this location instead of in the unsafe and inadequate building formerly used. As time goes by we hope to find additional ways to make the cost of providing food to the hungry more efficient and practical as the Lord leads us step by step.

House for caretaker

A substantial small Romanian house completes the compound. With only minor adaptations this can be used for a couple or even two single Romanian sisters who can act as caretakers for the entire complex. The whole lot is enclosed by a wall, with a gate opening to the street.

Sleeping rooms for visitors

Arad is only 40 minutes away from an International airport, and brethren have found that they can fly instead of drive into Romania, which helps a lot in scheduling trips. Many times brethren do not have enough time to address all the needs, and it appears this is a way to save time. We hope these changes will help us in the work. The main building has sleeping rooms and bathrooms for visitors.

Costs have been shared

The cost of this complex was \$95,000, shared by World Relief, the Mission Committee, and the Breidenbach congregation. We ask sincerely for your prayers in this endeavor. Thank you for your contributions which have made this purchase possible.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
COUNSELING SERVICES**
Article X
Feedback Process

“Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.”

Proverbs 11:14

Each of us needs to be careful to not be overconfident of our own knowledge, abilities or opinions. It is important that we seek counsel of others. In this article we will review how ACCS gets direction and feedback about the services that we offer.

First, the staff of ACCS gets direction and feedback from our Board of Directors and Counseling Elders. The current Board of Directors is comprised of Bros. Dick Kilgus (Elgin, IL), Jerry Christensen (Gridley), Dennis Virkler (Congerville), Bill Leman (Roanoke) and Keith Hermann (Princeville). Each member is on the board for a term of 5 years. The Counseling Elders are Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont), Charles Hemmer (Peoria) and Everett Hari (Bloomington). The board meets at least four times per year to review the operations and to determine the ongoing direction of services for ACCS.

Another way we try to get feedback is to ask for it from the people who are served by ACCS. When people come to the center for professional counseling, they may be seen once or several times. When a case is closed, the client receives a feedback form that covers several areas, including: the ease of use of the phone system, privacy in the office and

usefulness of the counseling. It is important to know if the counseling helped the person to understand better what they were dealing with and to find effective strategies for addressing the problem. The most important information and feedback we can get is whether the services were helpful to the person in growing spiritually or overcoming issues that were interfering with their relationship with the Lord. All of the feedback we receive from clients is compiled and reviewed by the Board of Directors and the Counseling Elders.

When people call the Mental Health Hotline at ACCS, they talk with the nurse on call. Often callers want to remain as anonymous as possible, so feedback in these cases is quite limited. However, whenever possible, we ask callers to complete a feedback form about the phone services and whether the phone contact was helpful in understanding their needs and in finding appropriate help.

We receive a significant number of calls from Elders and Ministers who are in need of assistance in working with converts or counseling with others. It is very important to us to know if these services have been helpful in assisting struggling individuals. We use the information gained from the feedback to understand how to provide better services to our church leaders and congregations.

We want to maintain a commitment to be open, accountable and committed to providing high quality and Godly services. We appreciate the support we receive in delivering these services.

We also appreciate the comments and feedback we get. This information helps us to be sure that we answer the Lord's call to serve in the best way we can.

**GATEWAY WOODS
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
CHILDREN'S HOME**

Kurt and Kristen Slagel

The evidence of God's existence is everywhere about us. The warm rays from the sun that is perfectly placed in space. The long summer days that remind us that the earth works in perfect harmony with the sun. And, most importantly, the Sonshine of Jesus' love and perfect peace that can be felt year-round and anywhere on earth!

Let's not let the cares of this life scorch out time spent in quietness, marveling at God's beautiful creation and great love for us as His children of faith. What better time to explore God's creation than summer! The Houseparents and their "families" each have vacationed and enjoyed new scenery during the last month both in state and out-of-state. We're glad they had a nice time and have arrived back on campus safely.

Summertime is a great window of opportunity for Houseparents to work alongside the residents. There have been several different "crews" that have gone berry picking and took part in preparing the fruit for freezing. Many hands make light work!

A select few residents have been hard at work doing landscaping off campus and building picnic tables in the Gateway

Woods shop under the supervision of Bro. Kirk Plattner. "Top Quality" is a great business and learning experience for these residents.

We are excited with the response by volunteers to the opportunities available as our Summer Work Projects Coordinators have collaborated with local brethren to facilitate 12 different repair projects in Apostolic Christian communities in central Illinois. These have been a great witness to the local communities and outreach to those in need.

Gateway Woods is all about "Turning Lives Around", and we are thankful for God's grace in Bro. Dan and Sis. Susan Meister's lives as they were faithful in this service as Houseparents in the New House for two years. Sis. Becky Stoller has also moved on from serving at Gateway as an Assistant Houseparent in the West House for over two years. May God's peace surround you all as you continue to live for Him in your new surroundings. You will be missed by all!

Many of you may not be aware that we are in need of an Alternate Houseparent couple. We trust that God is working in the hearts of just the right couple to fill this position. Whoever you are, remember to "Have faith in God ... whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith" (Mark 11:22-23).

Let's give a hearty welcome to the new faces on campus: Joy K. and Kayla K. in the Wiegand

House, Sescirly A. in the Plattner House and John P. in the Lehman House. Gateway Woods said farewell to Tim W. from the Wiegand House as he has moved on to foster care. Also, Derrick K. from the Lehman House has returned home to his parents. Praise God for His hand in touching these souls' lives forever!

Finally, please don't forget about our annual Auction here at Gateway Woods. We depend on the generosity of others to have a successful Auction. We so appreciate your contributions, participation and prayers as we prepare for this blessed event on Saturday, August 17. We hope to see you here and invite you to "Come and See" what is happening with our new school building, too.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Melinda Matuch**

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

Proverbs 22:6

As we begin a new school year here in Athens, we are reminded that it is our blessed responsibility to teach our little ones to know and love Jesus. Our hope is that we can plant the seeds of faith that will bear fruit all through their lives. While we teach them letters, numbers, shapes and good manners, we must not lose sight of our primary goal. Our hope and prayer is that the message is getting through.

For example, one of our three-year-old boys was reciting his memory verse, which should

have been "Cast thy net on the right side of the ship and ye shall find" (John 21:6). What he said was "Cast your net on the other side and you'll catch a lot of fish." Close enough, we decided.

We wish to take the opportunity to thank our volunteers who came and spent a week with us recently. Diane Tanner, Amy Stephens and Brittany Kaiser (Morton, IL) and Heather Messner (Washington, IL) worked very hard while they were here on a lot of busy jobs that there just isn't time for us to do while we teach and care for the children. They also were able to attend a field trip with us to a local park for playtime and a picnic. We are so thankful that they shared their time and talents with us.

PLEASE PRAY FOR US. Our need for a teacher is very great. The current opening is for someone with a degree in education, either preschool or elementary, to teach and serve as the director, so some teaching experience is desirable. If you are at all interested, please contact Bro. Tom Schrenk. His address is 15318 Hastings Road, Athens, AL, 35613. You may reach him by telephone at (256) 232-0037.

We welcome volunteers at any time of the year. There is always something to do. If you would like to visit, please contact the preschool at (256) 233-0591 between 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (CST) Monday through Friday.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall
Joan Reinhard**

We are rejoicing with two sets of grandparents as new grandchildren have been born.

Hannah Nicole Lynn was born on June 14. She is welcomed at home by her two sisters, Meghan and Haley, and her parents, Buddy and Jessica Lynn, and grandparents, Bro. Alvie (Buddy) and Sis. Clarann Lynn and John and Dianne Haynes. Ronald Gray Haggemaker was born on July 2 to Jim and Bessie Haggemaker. His grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Louise Haggemaker and Curtis and Rancel Rhodes.

June 20-22 we had a work team here from Indianapolis, IN. We cannot thank them enough for all the effort put forth on our behalf. Work was done here at our church and also at the Tennessee Fellowship Area and there was a tremendous amount accomplished. This has become somewhat of an annual trip for them with their young people and we really look forward to them coming year after year. May God reward them for their efforts.

We appreciated having our Bro. Josh Johnson home from Wolcott, IN, for a short visit and we appreciate each of our visitors that stopped in to worship with us. We had visitors from Bloomington, Goodfield, Gridley, and Morton, IL. As you travel, please keep us in mind for a visit. We do appreciate the fellowship that we have one with another.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr

"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."

Psalm 118:8

Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Herb Knochel and Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) were our preacher/teacher for Vacation Bible School June 17-21.

"Stepping Up Your Level of Commitment" was the theme. The one question "Who are we in God's eyes?" can encourage each of us to take our first step now.

Many thanks to everyone who helped fill every task for such a great week. God knows, He doesn't forget. Let's keep stepping up.

We enjoyed our children's VBS program June 23. Thanks for sharing.

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Bros. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Chris Huber (Francesville, IN) and Craig Martin (Princeville, IL). Our thanks to each of you. God bless you and do come back.

We need your prayers as our list of sick and surgeries grows. Bro. Dick Beery had surgery, Sis. Elva Wuthrich had out-patient studies, Bro. Dan and Sis. Patti Roth were in a serious car accident, Sis. Barbara Schupbach and Herb Knochel Sr. were in the hospital.

"Where He leads me I will follow." Sis. Barbara Schupbach is moving to Morton, IL, and her address is as follows: Apostolic Christian Restmor, 935 E. Jefferson St., Morton, IL 61550.

We were all delighted to hear of the birth on July 5 of Briana Lyn Maurer to Bro. Shawn and Sis. Shelly Maurer. Nicholas and Matthew are her brothers.

Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson and Bro. Howard and Sis. Eileen Maurer. Baby Briana's early arrival had a prayer of Romans 8:28 on our lips and in our hearts. She is doing fine on July 16.

May the Lord be with us!

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Jane Hodges

Our annual business meeting was held the end of June and the following members were elected: Bro. Ed Schambach - trustee; Bro. Tim Furrer - song leader; Sis. Rowena Furrer - kitchen coordinator; and Bro. Dan Dubach and Sis. Janon Furrer - Sunday School teachers.

The ministering brothers who served us since the last reporting include Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) and Bros. James Kaeb (Bern, KS), Craig Martin (Princeville, IL) and Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ). We thank them, their families and the other visiting brethren for supporting and fellowshiping with us this summer.

ARIZONA, TUCSON
Lisa Knapp

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA). Many thanks to these brothers for their labor on the pulpit but especially for their willingness to travel to Tucson, particularly in June and July!

Brent Haas (Kim), son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Carole Haas, was hospitalized recently. He is

home and feeling better. We ask God to add His perfect measure of healing and recovery for Brent.

Many prayers have been answered as God has opened the heavens and sent the monsoon rains many of us thought might never come this year. Tucson (and a lot of the western United States) is experiencing a severe drought. We desperately needed rain and are now enjoying our afternoon monsoon storms. With sunshine and clear skies so much of the time, we tend to get a little excited when we get to experience a thunderstorm and good rain. We're pretty easy to please!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
John Klotzle

August; toward the end of summer; the earth bringing forth the fruits of the season; so many objects of God's creation to enjoy! How has our fruit production fared? "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." (Psalm 1:3) Are we situated near to the living river of waters, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ? Each day of our lives is an opportunity to drink deeply from this river and then allowing the Spirit of God to bring forth His fruits: "...love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance..." (Gal. 5:22-23). Let's check our fruit harvest baskets and hopefully be able to share generously with others.

A new lamb has been added to our fold. Ingrid Steiner shared

the testimony of her conversion with the members and was baptized into Christ Jesus. We welcome her into our brotherhood. Elder Bros. Peter Petrovic and John Klotzle officiated at this solemn ceremony. Retired Elder Bro. Eugene Marti was with us as well as visiting ministers, Bros. Randy Mogler and Chuck Kellenberger. Later in the month, Bro. Jim Rinkenberger served us. We always welcome all of our visitors.

Bro. Glenn Hackenjos was hospitalized for several days having been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. He is recovering at home and is thankful for the many prayers uttered on his behalf.

We welcome Bro. Bryan and Sis. Milena Suster and their four daughters from Silverton, OR, into our congregation. We pray that the special blessings of God will be showered upon them.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Peggy Jevremov

At our recent business meeting, we held elections to replace the following brothers and sister whose terms were expiring: Bro. Phillip Petrovic, trustee; Bro. Denes Fulop, Sunday School superintendent and Bible class teacher; and Sis. Peggy Jevremov, grades 3-6. Those elected were as follows: Bro. Victor Jevremov, trustee; Bro. Phillip Petrovic, Sunday School superintendent and Bible class teacher; and Sis. Rachel Petrovic, grades 3-6. Sis. Hildy Koehl was re-elected for Pre-school - 2nd grade. We want to thank those who have given of themselves in fulfilling their

terms and extend our prayerful support to those taking on these new responsibilities.

We were blessed to have visitors again this past month. Among them were Bros. Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise, Bluffton North, IN) and Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). May the Lord bless all our dear ministering brothers who give of themselves each Sunday and midweek service.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA

Nathan Reutter

Greetings, brethren, in the Lord's name. Once again the Lord God has blessed us on our way. We pray that He has seen you through, too. This month has been slow. We had a visiting minister and we sang at a nursing home. We are also thankful for the visitors that came to visit us, even the unexpected ones.

Our visiting minister this month was Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI). We are very thankful he was willing to spend a weekend with us to preach the Word of God. We pray God's blessings upon him for the labor and effort he put out for our spiritual edification. We are thankful for ministers who are willing to help us build our house of faith out of gold, silver and precious stones instead of wood, hay or stubble. What kind of house of faith we build will be revealed by fire I Corinthians 3:12-13 says, and we need to be sure our house will stand in these fiery trials.

We also sang at a nursing home this month. The singing elicited a few tears and some smiles. We hoped it was a blessing to those who heard. One resi-

dent asked of our purpose in coming. I tried to explain that we are trying to give comfort to people who must often feel lonely. By seeing the smiles and tears, it was evident that our purpose was realized.

We are also very thankful for visitors that came for no other reason but to fellowship with believers of like faith and mind. We truly appreciate this and hope you come back soon. We also encourage others to do likewise. This kind of visiting between brethren of different congregations seems to fulfill so many scriptures about fellowship. A few are "Love the brotherhood." (I Peter 2:17, Colossians 3:16, Colossians 2:2).

Lastly, brethren, we thank God upon every remembrance of you for your fellowship in the gospel and pray that your conversation will remain as it becometh the gospel of Christ, that whether we come and see you or else be absent, we may hear of your affairs, that ye stand in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel. (Phil. 1:3,5,27)

COLORADO, DENVER **Ann Gonglach**

This summer we've been blessed with many visitors, including ministering brothers. On June 23, Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL) shared God's Word with us. Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) ministered to us on July 14. Bro. Ed and Sis. Jeni, along with a few from here, went down to Colorado Springs and had a short Communion Service with Sis. Elizabeth Sheaffer at the IHS

Pike's Peak Nursing Home. Sis. Elizabeth is originally from Bluffton.

The weekend of July 20-21 was a special one as we witnessed the testimony and baptism of Caleb Leman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb, grandson of Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Leman and Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorene Hodel of Roanoke, IL). We are thankful for Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) and all who could come and share this blessed event with us.

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

1 John 1:7

We ask for prayers as we trust the Lord's leading in carrying out our decision to purchase land with the intention of building a new church building.

CONNECTICUT **ROCKVILLE** **Cherie Galat**

Two dear families have been blessed with precious children. Ethan David was born June 26 to Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Angela Moser. Grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna Moser and Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori Scheitlin (Remington, IN). Tiffany Ann, born on July 10, joins the family of Bro. Steve and Sis. Shannan LaPlante and her sister, Marissa. Grandparents are Bro. Leo and Sis. Sherri LaPlante and Carlo Bocchino and Sherrie Bocchino.

The engagement of Andrew Kinsey and Sarah Aeschleman was made known. Sarah's

mother is Sis. Nancy (Aeschleman) Gerber (Bro. Everett). May they consider God's direction as they plan for their wedding.

Bro. Kirby Reutter and Sis. Areli Sibaja were married July 14 in Ixtlan, Mexico. Parents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay Reutter and Felix and Sis. Lourdes Sibaja. May He lovingly provide for their needs as husband and wife.

We welcome Bro. Aaron Stoller (Latty, OH) as he moves here to the Northeast. It is our hope that he can feel the love of the Rockville brethren as he fellowships with us.

It was a blessing to have heard God's Word proclaimed by our visiting brethren who labored for us on the pulpit. May God continue to give utterance to Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL).

Our prayers arise for loved ones who have been sick or have undergone surgery in past days. May He heal according to His will our Sis. Margaret Capello.

May God provide comfort for dear families who have lost loved ones in death. Fred "Fritz" Limberger leaves his wife, Marj; cousins, Henry and Agnes Limberger, Sis. Anna Thompson and Bro. Walter and Sis. Charlotte Limberger and other family. May He also be with the family of Bro. Keven Grasso (Sis. Sara) on the passing of his grandmother, Marie Adele Grasso. We lift these dear ones up in prayer to our Heavenly Father.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON

Henrietta Meyer

"...Count your many blessings, name them one by one."
(Hymns of Zion #116)

As I thought about the events this month, I had to count our blessings. We are allowed to worship unmolested and we have ministers that speak the truth. We are able to travel without restrictions and have the means (vehicles and finances) to do so.

We had a goodly number (large for our congregation) of visitors from Francesville, IN. We had a dinner and singing on Saturday evening. We thank the visitors for the blessings they brought us. The weekend also included a trolley bus tour of Washington on Sunday afternoon.

Our ministers the past month were Bros. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA), Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) and Ed Strahm (Bern, KS). We realize coming to serve us doesn't always come at the best time, at least the way we mortals look at things. There could be field work or other projects at home that need to be done or in the case of Bro. Shawn, a broken bone in his foot. May he receive a special blessing for standing to preach two services. Besides all our Francesville visitors, we also had visitors from West Lafayette and Indianapolis, IN; Peoria and Morton, IL; Philadelphia, PA; Junction, OH; and Rockville, CT. Many thanks for all our visitors.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Ken and Roberta Belsley. Ken had surgery and has been in and out (mostly in) of the

hospital for over a month now. Roberta has also had a few short stays in the hospital (different hospital).

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.

FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS

Mary Masters

We have not had any visiting ministers this month, but have enjoyed several visitors each Sunday, which we so appreciate.

We are so thankful to have Andy and Sarah Hunyady join our congregation as full time residents. They have purchased a place at Seven Lakes community in Fort Myers. We heartily welcome them to our congregation and pray they will feel our love and thankfulness for them. Bro. Andy is retired from the ministry at Columbus, OH, and he and Sis. Sarah have been married less than a year. We wish for them much joy living in this

beautiful area of the country.

We are reminded through the psalmist that God's Word is a light to our feet and a lamp to our path. We need the light of God's Word each and every day. Are we developing the habit of reading it regularly? Good advice would be to open the Word prayerfully, read it carefully, and obey it joyfully.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Carol Koehl

We wish to thank Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) for so willingly ministering to us this past month.

On July 4-7, our Sunday School families enjoyed a relaxing weekend at Anglers Villa on Lake Okeechobee, fishing, tubing, swimming, canoeing, singing, fellowshiping and playing with the baby bunnies. It was a very special time.

I apologize for failing to report another blessed weekend enjoyed by many from here. Sarasota took a bus to the annual Alabama-Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend on May 24-27. Many thanks are due to those who plan and organize these trips.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

John Brewer

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Phil. 4:13

Our theme verse for Vacation Bible School this year ties well with the theme itself, "Be All You Can Be". The students and the

teachers as well had a blessed time as the lessons were learned, crafts put together and fellowship shared between young and old. As we conducted VBS on July 22-25, we were reminded of the many blessings and freedoms that we have in America. We are blessed with God-given talents that can be used in our homes, workplace, school or any part of our daily walk of life, thus the theme, "Be all you can be". We can do all things, but only through Christ and our willingness to follow after His will can that be accomplished.

We were blessed this summer with many visitors stopping at our small congregation. We are thankful for visitors who stay for the summer. Bro. Clint Bahler (Remington, IN) and Bro. Grant Heinold (Cissna Park, IL) have worshipped with us because of summer internships just across the border in South Carolina. To have these young brothers attending with us this summer has increased our fellowship and making our summer just a little more memorable.

Among the many visitors that have attended, we are thankful for the visiting ministers who shared the Word of God with us. In July, Bro. Robert Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI) blessed us with their time and love.

If you 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 pm. 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 more information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Doreen Moser

Shelia McCoy

"Seeds of goodness we are sowing in the hearts of man today." The week of June 17-21 many seeds of goodness were sowed in the hearts of our Sunday School children and spilled over into the hearts of the teachers, ministers and all who spent an evening gathered together. The theme this year was sowing and reaping. Our time here on earth can be over in an instant as was stressed in one of the evening sessions and we need to be ready. Sowing to the flesh brings eternal damnation while sowing to the Spirit brings life eternal. May God bless Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and all the teachers who spent time preparing and sowing good seeds. "Bless it Lord, that it may prosper, and bear fruit for harvest day."

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

Hymns of Zion #46

How thankful we are for the ministers that hasten gladly to the labor in exhorting the Word

Sunday after Sunday. Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL), their spouses and families gathered with our Belvidere church this past month. To each and every one of you, may God bless you richly. We appreciate you all. Thanks to all of our many visitors that come through our area over the summer. We so much appreciate your fellowship, your love and voices blended in song.

Why not now, Why not now,
Why not come to Jesus now?

This is a prayer uttered on many a bended knee of parents and grandparents and all who love the Lord for those outside of the fold. Oh, if they only knew they have so much more to gain from following the Lord than following the devil. As the school year will be starting soon, may we continue to pray for our precious children that they may choose to come to Jesus and turn their backs on the world.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Rebekah Kaufmann

Ann Kellenberger

We were thankful for visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) and Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL) this past month.

Our congregation rejoiced with three couples who were married this past month! On June 23, Sis. Diann Kieser was married to Bro. Marc Grim. Sis. Diann is the daughter of Bro. David and Sis. Wilma Kieser. Bro.

Marc is the son of Earl and Jan Grim of the Bloomington area.

June 30 was the wedding day of Sis. Jen Hohulin (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Brett Heiniger. Sis. Jen is the daughter of Bro. Tim and Sis. Cathy (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Brett is the son of Bro. Ron and Sis. Kayleen.

On July 7, Sis. Jessica Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Neal Beer exchanged their vows. Sis. Jessica is the daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Linda (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Neal is the son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb (Milford, IN). We pray God's rich blessings upon each couple as they begin this new life together!

On July 7, our church family shared in the joy of yet another couple! Bro. Ed Hohulin, who has recently moved to the Chicago area, and Sis. Marilyn Walder announced their engagement to be married! May God continue to bless and lead them through this new step in their lives.

We extend our sympathy to our dear Sis. Lenora Sorg on the recent passing of her brother, Harold Stieglitz. May the Lord comfort, as only He is able in time of loss.

Once again, on June 30, God blessed the annual Sunday School picnic with warm, sunny weather.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Chad and LauraLee Plattner

We are thankful to report that Chad Joos (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny) began his repentance this month. May God give him the grace as he begins to live an overcoming life.

We thank Bro. Jon Zeller

(Morton, IL) for ministering the Word to us this month. May God bless him for his willingness to serve.

Our sympathy is with Sis. Esther Streitmatter (Bro. LeRoy) and Bro. Ben Ehnle (Sis. Audrey) as they laid to rest their brother-in-law, Graham Hayworth. May God comfort them in their time of sadness.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Lucille Endress (Bro. John), Bro. Robert Joos (Sis. Becky), Sis. Lucille Kieser and Sis. Esther Streitmatter (Bro. LeRoy). Our prayers are with them as they recover.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Bonnie Buehrer have recently began worshipping with us since they have moved from Peoria, IL, towards our direction. We welcome them and their family.

ILLINOIS

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Samuel and Pamela Furrer

Oops. Just to keep us humble and remind us of our human failings, we have a second month of corrections (additions) to our listing of college graduates. Adding to our list of spring grads from U of I, we have Bro. Adam Hermann of Morton. He is a graduate of the College of Law. He has accepted employment with Washington, D.C. office of the Winston and Strawn firm where he will be working in either international or legislative and governmental law. We wish Adam all the best as he makes this big move in his life.

During the summer our church is generally quite a bit smaller in numbers, with most students gone and many families

traveling a lot. However, we have had some special events this summer. There was a good turnout for our "invite a guest" Sunday which had an afternoon picnic at Hessel Park. Following a Wednesday evening service, we had a little retirement reception for Sis. Karen Kaiser. We also had a series of three Monday evening Bible studies on II Thessalonians.

Our Sunday School children enjoyed a week of Vacation Bible School the week of June 17. Several of the college-aged folks helped out, as did some parents and some retired individuals. It is great to see the different ages all working together in the Lord's service. A couple of the activities most enjoyed by the students were the assembling of coloring kits and hair kits for World Relief and helping make crafts to be sold at the Gateway Woods auction. Many thanks go to those who organized and assisted with the week's activities.

Bro. Art Walder had surgery on a knee and now must use crutches to get around until he can have another surgery to replace the cartilage that was removed in the first surgery. Art is not one to slow down much, and we pray for a speedy process for his knee to be restored.

Reminder: 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.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

This has been an active month

for the Chicago congregation. Some of the activity has been things we usually do this time of year, whereas we have some items that are extra special to report.

June 22 was an extra special day for Renae Metzger (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Mary) and Bruce Bergman (Jerry and Pam) as they exchanged wedding vows under a bright and sunny sky. We pray that God will bless this couple through the sunny days as well as any stormy days that may lie ahead.

We congratulate Bro. Justin Moser (Sis. Robin) on the completion of his Master's degree and pray that God will direct him in his future plans.

June 24-28 was our annual Vacation Bible School week. Our theme was "The Sermon on the Mount" from which were taken the topics for each evening. This week always takes extra effort for the church, but the blessings seem to reverberate in infinite proportions. Many thanks are in order for all who participated in this effort, but especially the coordinators, teachers and visiting ministers: Bros. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI), Walt Rager (Toledo, OH), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Alan Schambach (Remington, IN).

On June 30, we as a church set aside some time after our regular Sunday services to celebrate 50 years of marriage of Chuck and Ella Mae Stoller. What a joyful event to attend in a world where there are so many troubled and broken marriages. We congratulate and appreciate the efforts of this dear couple and their commitment to their marriage vows.

More congratulations are in

order for a couple who is just beginning their lives together. Bro. Ed Hohulin and Sis. Marilyn Walder (Bloomington, IL) announced their engagement. We look forward to getting to know this new couple better as they prepare for their wedding day.

It seems often that when we welcome a new couple or individual, we wave good-bye to another which is the case with Bro. Kory and Sis. Megan Kaeb. We have enjoyed having Bro. Kory and Sis. Megan here while they attended school, established their marriage, finished school and began employment, but we wish them God's blessings as they move on to the Bloomington, IL, congregation and hope they come back to visit!

July 2 was an extra-special day for Greg and Rachel Carder as they became first-time parents to twin girls, Katherine Alexis and Sierra Dawn. The babies are joyfully welcomed by grandparents, Mike and Anna Downey and Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi.

July 14 was another special day for our congregation as we commemorated 30 years in our current church building by having a memorial service at the previous gathering place known as the "Sunnyside church". Many former attendees of the Sunnyside church attended and after an afternoon service, many memories were shared as well as some of the history of the church. Although I personally never attended the Sunnyside church until this memorial, I felt as though I was able to take a step into the past. Several visiting ministers shared in the day and we want to express our thanks to

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Bros. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL).

**ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Denise Walder
Susan Waldbeser**

The weeks of June 10-21 our children gathered for Vacation Bible School to learn more about the wonderful teachings of Jesus. The Bible Class and Single Group met four evenings during this time to listen to Topical Bible Studies. We want to thank the brothers that came and lent themselves for our precious young people. The brothers and their topics were as follows: Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL)—Power of God vs. Power of Satan; Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL)—Idols of Today; Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL)—Good and Bad Examples of the Old Testament, using King David as the focus; and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN)—Authority of the Church.

We also would like to thank Bro. Ken Schneider for bringing the Word to us this past month along with our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler, who came on a Wednesday night to encourage and exhort us.

Those among us who have spent some time in the hospital recently and need our prayers are Sis. Jean Knapp and Sis. Sal Markwalder.

We would like to extend our sympathy to Bro. Roland and Sis. MaryAnn Young on the loss of Sis. MaryAnn's brother, Bernhard Ifft.

On July 7, we heard the en-

gagement of Sis. Marilyn Walder (Bloomington, IL) to Bro. Ed Hohulin (Goodfield, IL). Bro. Dale and Sis. Dorothy Walder (Cissna Park) and Bro. Wes and Sis. Joyce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) are their parents. We wish this dear couple many years of happiness together.

On July 14, we had the blessed opportunity of gathering together for our annual all-church picnic at the park in Cissna Park.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Arlene Banwart

The peace with God—O priceless gift,
By faith in Jesus given,
Is but a foretaste of the joy
We shall receive in heaven.
(In Repentance by Bro. Henry Beer)

With joy we heard that Jay Hartman (Sis. Carrie and the late Bro. Gene) has repented and found peace with God and man. May his faith continue to grow as he waits to give his testimony.

In the past month we were blessed with God's Word brought by the following visiting ministers: Bros. Gary Anliker and David Steffen (Elgin, IL), Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA), Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Canada), Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), and Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL).

One ministering brother told about an older brother in the nursing home who was sick and thought he was dying. He wanted to die and was really looking forward to it. But, he did

not die then. He told the ministering brother, "I will just have to be patient." It was quite a lesson to learn of these words of preparation and yet contentment. (Philippians 4:11).

June 30, Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bro. Denny and Sis. Gay) and Sis. Cari Leuthold (Bro. Charles and Sis. Vicki) were united in marriage at Lester, IA. We welcome Sis. Cari to our congregation.

The annual Sunday School picnic was enjoyed by our whole congregation. Presently there are 122 students enrolled in Sunday School.

Our prayers are with our Elders as they meet and also with Bro. Walt Miller who is presently hospitalized.

We continue to extend a warm welcome to all to visit and worship God in our new church building.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Amy Gasser
Kay Kellenberger

We had one visiting minister this month. We thank Bro. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) for bringing forth God's Word in truth and spirit.

Scott Krueger (Jim and Mary) was a surgical patient recently. We hope he's feeling much better!

Micah Bachtold (Bro. Sam and Sis. Betty) and Dawn Edwards were united in marriage on June 22 in California. On July 6, Bethany Bachtold (Bro. Sam and Sis. Betty) was married to Ron Malloy. We wish both couples God's blessings in their lives together.

Waiting is to be our earthly schooling
Which here with our first breath
takes its start,
Never ending till by God's own ruling
Our faint spirit shall in peace depart.

Few fruits ripen from the
spring-time sunshine;
Not till autumn is abundance
shown;
Without waiting we ne'er feel the
rapture
Of a precious, bounteous harvest
grown.

God oft gave beyond all expectation
More than heart had wished for to behold;
Should not this give us new inspiration
To await what His Word has foretold?
Zion's Harp #244, vs. 1,5,6

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Janet Zimmerman

Bro. Nate and Sis. Tammy Bradle were blessed by the arrival of Naomi Lynn on July 17. She is lovingly welcomed home by her big sister, Esther. Her grandparents are Bro. Charlie and Sis. Karen Sinn and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle.

Bro. Darrin and Sis. Tami Kupferschmid were also blessed with their second child, Garret Matthew, who was born July 6. Big brother, Caleb, is happy for a new playmate. Grandparents are Glen and Sis. Becky Bauman and Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held Sunday, June 30, at the 4-H Park. Even though it

was a rather warm day, we all enjoyed being together for the pot-luck meal. We are fortunate to have a beautiful park with nice shade trees and a comfortable shelter.

We have four converts who have peace and have expressed their desire to give their testimony of faith and be baptized. We are thankful for Amanda and Marissa Hoerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Connie) and Pete and Wade Wettstein (Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary).

Two couples recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We wish God's richest blessings to Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Knapp and Bro. Nelson and Sis. MaryEllen Martin.

Bro. Maury Crawford (Sis. Joyce), Sis. Melba Mangold, and Sis. Rebecca Braker (Bro. Phil) have all been hospitalized recently. We are thankful they are recovering well. Sis. Charlene Schumacher (Bro. Bob) also had back surgery recently.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Ed Meiss (Sis. Barb) on the death of his youngest brother, Bro. Floyd Meiss, of Gridley, IL. He died Friday, July 19.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL). May God richly bless these dear ministers who speak the Word in truth and sincerity. We can truly say our cups have been filled to overflowing and we are a blessed people.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Elder brethren who will be meeting in a couple of weeks. We pray for God's grace to be with each of them and His Holy

Spirit to guide them as they discuss many important matters that concern our very precious faith.

Draw in spirit ever nigh;
Pray within your chambers;
Lifting holy hands on high
Holy keep your members.
Holy be Ev'ry plea
That to God is springing,
Strength and blessing bringing!

O the strength and might unknown
Of the Christians' praying!
Without this could not be done
All they are essaying;
Thus alone There is won
Vict'ry o'er deceivers,
Triumph for believers!

Zion's Harp #174, vs. 8-9

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank each one who remembered me with cards on my 90th birthday. May God bless you.

Sis. Edna Fehr

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

Our congregation had a blessed evening together as we partook of Holy Communion and remembered our dear Saviour's suffering and going to the cross and shedding His innocent blood for each of us. A special thanks to Elder Bros. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) who assisted our Elder Bro. Art Bahler. May we strive to remember each day what a great sacrifice Jesus made for us.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held on June 30 and we appreciate everyone's attendance. This is always a special time to spend with our children

and youth. Bro. Ivan Fehr (Sis. Cinda) has completed his term in Sunday School and Bro. Kevin Moser (Sis. Kara) is our new teacher. May God bless each of these brothers for their efforts.

We always want to remember those who have spent time in the hospital and wish God's healing mercies to Sis. Betty Bittner and little Justus Bazzell (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tania).

Bradley Steidinger and Jennifer Hinz were married on June 29. Their parents are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Darlene Steidinger and Thomas and Karen Hinz of Pontiac.

God has directed the lives of Bro. Chad Welborn (Bro. Don and Sis. Phyllis) and Sis. Lori Edelman (Bro. Walt and Sis. Rosie) as they have announced their engagement and are making wedding plans.

May God bless each of these couples as they establish their homes together.

A special thanks to Bros. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) for spending a Sunday with us and bringing us God's Holy Word.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our dear Elders as they are planning to meet at the summer Elder Conference. Might they feel the prayers of each of us and God's guidance and love.

ILLINOIS, FORREST **Jean Knapp** **Linda Anliker**

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

Genesis 2:18

Two couples took vows to join them as husband and wife and to help each other to strive for Heaven. On July 7, Bro. Emery Gal (Akron, OH) and Sis. Erika Schlatter were united in Holy Matrimony. Their parents are Eugene and Helen Gal of North Port, FL, and Sis. Sherri Schlatter. Bro. Joel Beard (Toledo, OH) and Sis. Heidi Stoller became husband and wife on July 14. Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee Beard (Toledo, OH) and Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller are their parents.

We were privileged to have many visiting ministers here for various occasions to share our pulpit and God's Word with us. We thank Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Dave Graf (Akron, OH), and Bros. Sam Schlatter and Don Manz (Junction, OH), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Joe Dotterer (Smithville, OH), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Chris Wuethrich (LaCrosse, IN), Dale Stoller and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), John Stoller (Leo, IN), Walter Rager and Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH).

Children are a gift from God. First-time parents, Eric and Rita Eisenmann, are enjoying their new daughter, Emma Rose. Rejoicing with them are grandparents, Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall (Morris, MN) and Bro. John and Sis. Beverly Eisenmann.

May God grant healing to Sis. Irene (Bro. Ben) Traub as she had surgery this past month.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Rita Bauman
Heather Hohulin**

We rejoice with Bro. Luke, Sis. Jill and Caleb Rocke as they welcome home Wyatt Mark. Grandparents are Mark and Connie Rocke and Dean and Sis. Inge Zimmerman. May God be with them.

Also cause for rejoicing was the engagement announcement of Bro. Ed Hohulin and Sis. Marilyn Walder. Parents are Bro. Wes and Sis. Joyce Hohulin and Bro. Dale and Sis. Dorothy Walder (Cissna Park, IL). We pray that God will be with this couple as they plan a new life together.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Inge Zimmerman (Dean) in the loss of her mother, Clara Wacker. May she feel peace and comfort from above, as well as the love of her church family.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

In hearing a brother pray recently, I was inspired by his comments. He thanked God for the day — not so much for its beauty — but because it was another day when salvation was available; and that God had stayed His coming for yet another day. We have no promise of tomorrow. May God grant grace to lost souls — so they can truly repent before it is forever too late.

Our dear loved one, Bro. Floyd Meiss, 74, passed away on July 19, after a nine-year battle with bone cancer. He endured this long siege without complaint. On learning of this disease, medical treatment allowed him to have many quality years. I visited with him about one year ago and

inquired if the end would come if he could face it calmly. He said he could, and that he was thankful for the long life he was granted.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Sis. Marge (Stoller). Three children: Bro. David (Sis. Debbie), Sis. Linda (Bro. Keith) Zimmerman and Sis. Peggy (Dave) Poppin, all of Gridley. Two brothers, Bro. Elmer Meiss, Gridley, and Ed Meiss, Eureka. Three sisters, Carolyn Aeschleman, Highland; Sis. Viola McKinley and Sis. Alyce Rose Gilmore, Gridley. And nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Although somewhat on the reserved side, Bro. Floyd had an inviting presence, and was a joy to commune with during the noon hour at church. He was congenial, and had a unique smile. It seemed he smiled as much with his eyes as with his mouth. He was a very common sense type of person, and had the respect of the brethren and the community. At the funeral a beautiful song was sung, "Safe In The Arms Of Jesus," and how wonderful it is to entertain the hope of salvation. The family and all of us can surely find solace in this!

Bro. Mark Knapp was married to Sis. Kathy Bradle on July 21 at Roanoke. She is the daughter of Bro. Robert and Sis. Mary Bradle, Roanoke; and his parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Stephanie Knapp, and the late Sis. Rosella. We rejoice with this dear young couple, and wish them God's richest blessings on their mutual pathway.

A son was born to Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Ashley (Romersberger) Baner on June 30. Their first child, he was

named Graham Martin Baner. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Gail Romersberger, and ministering Bro. Steve and Sis. Donnalou Baner. Great-grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Lucille Romersberger, Elder Bro. Wes and Sis. Mildred Knapp (Goodfield, IL), Betty Hari (Cissna Park, IL), and Richard and Janet Baner (Eureka). Great-great-grandparents are Esther Eastman (Eureka), Sis. Sarah Frank (Morton, IL) and Charles and Mary Baner (Westfield, WI). May God grant much grace to this dear couple in training up this youngster in the way he should go.

There is a fair amount of illness among us. Bro. Alvin Ringger and Sis. Dorothy Witzig were hospitalized. Sis. Bonnie Funk is expecting twins and is bedfast. Sis. Betty Rich and Sis. Vyra Stoller are in poor health. Surely good health is an earthly treasure. Let us pray for those who suffer that God, according to His will, can grant restored health.

In our sojourn on earth may our quest be to find wisdom and understanding. Proverbs tells us, "For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold." (3:14).

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Julie Bahr
Christie Zeller**

A new little bundle of joy, precious Ava Marie, has blessed the home of our Bro. Jeff and Sis. Abby Kaufman on June 19. Grandparents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Rhonda Kaufman and Bro. Keith and Sis. Cathy Steffen

(Washington, IL). May God continue to bless their growing little family.

Our Sunday School year has come to a close, and we all enjoyed a wonderful evening of food, fellowship, and activities for the children on Sunday, June 23.

Bro. Ralph Garber had our family worship on Wednesday, July 3, on "Apostasy"—walking away from Christ. This is a very sobering and thought-provoking topic for us all.

Our visiting ministers for the month were Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridgette, Chicago, IL) on June 30 and Bro. Roger Sauder (Sis. Judy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL) on July 7. May our Heavenly Father forever bless these dear loved ones for their labors.

Sis. Erma Feucht is moving to Georgia to live with her daughter. We will miss her in our fellowship, but wish her God's blessings.

Let us all remember our dear Elders from across the land as well as our Rockville, CT, church in prayer in the next month as they come together to bring us the General Conference. May God continue to give our brothers the wisdom that is needful.

What is "coincidence"? It is God working anonymously!

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

Jacob, one of the father-images portrayed in the Scriptures, was handed Joseph's coat, dipped in animal blood, after he was tossed into the pit at 17. At 42 he was the main man in Egypt and said to his visiting brethren: I'm Joseph, your

brother, whom ye sold into Egypt (Gen. 45:4). Jacob was a deceiver himself but taught his sons the ways of God and was able to experience a reunion with Joseph. On the way down to Egypt, at Bersheeba, he sacrificed and heard from God: "Fear not to go down to Egypt, I will go down with thee" (46:3-4). Seventy went to Egypt and, 400 years later, two million returned. We can't provide everything for our children and grandchildren, but commit them to God and teach them His ways, looking to God for our strength and guidance. Jacob had his reunion on earth, we look forward to it in Heaven (Bro. Mike Rieker). When David was on his deathbed, he told Solomon to fear God and keep His commandments (I Kings 2:3). Today, whether we are mazedull or mazedull, God will take care of us as we walk the maze of life (Bro. Tim Funk, Father's Day 6/16).

Do you really know Jesus? "I and my father are one" (John 10:30). If Jesus is just a teacher, everything is in vain. This is what Satan tells us, and that we should take care of ourselves. Jesus is the door and death is separation, not extinction. Let's know Him, not just of Him. Speaking to the Jews, He says we are the other sheep (16), but there shall be one fold and one shepherd. He has the power to lay down His life and raise it again. Where else can we go, who else can we trust? The Shepherd, Who came alongside of us. Open your heart to Him; He demands your life. We are prisoners of hope. If we are not committing ourselves to Him, we are missing the main part of life (Bro. Tim

Roecker). According to I Peter 1, we are scattered strangers, yet elect of God, loved by Him, known by our name, with a living hope because He lives and holds the future ... an inheritance, incorruptible, undefiled, reserved in Heaven. God's love means good times as well as struggles (Bro. Ken Hoerr 6/30).

The annual Sunday School picnic on June 30 at the Fellowship Hall delighted young and old and marked the end of the current school year. Thanks to the staff for its dedication, the students for their interest and cooperation and the parents for their support.

Mathilda Binkele and Chuck Faughn graduated from Manual High School in 1935 and hadn't seen each other until their 65th class reunion ... it led to their marriage on 10/28/00. Chuck (84) passed away June 18 after this short period of happiness and we express our sincere condolences to both families. Harry Brustin (58), son of Sis. Elma Brustin, was called out of this life on June 27. Our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Elma and his family. Sis. Persida Eberhardt (92) went to her reward on July 8 ... the memory of the just is blessed. May the Lord comfort Sis. Karen Dunbar, Pat Dobbins, Delbert and their families. You can't talk to mom anymore, but can speak to your Heavenly Father.

Often thoughts cross our minds of "Why do bad things happen to good people and God doesn't seem to make sense?" We thank Bro. Dave Obergefel for this topic for our family night service on July 3: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways"

(Is. 55:8). God is not obligated to explain His actions to us. He is best suited to run our lives; we are single-cell organism compared to Him. When things don't add up, Satan says: God does not care. We may go through spiritual no-man's land, but God is there. Elijah, Stephen, Paul never got explanations. Our perception is misleading. God shall supply all our needs. "Trust the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding" (Prov. 3:5). Even if God doesn't deliver us, our faith shall survive. He doesn't want us to be satisfied on this earth, but long for Heaven. Many are the afflictions and we cannot understand all that happens, but if our trust is there, we can get through everything. Plan on trials and pain to come and lean forward into them. Pray that confidence will not erode and feel God's presence. "The fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is" (I Cor. 3:13). It doesn't matter what the future brings, now is the time for faith - not fear. "Cast not away your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward" (Heb. 10:35). "To suffer makes us pure, each trial we endure does good to us impart." (Zion's Harp #156 vs. 3)

We thank Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman (Bern, KS) for their visit on July 7 and his ministry. Are we and our house serving the Lord? As children of God we will gravitate towards the images of the world. Satan likes to chip away at our time, but we need to come to church, not with an attitude of "same old sermon/song/prayer" but of receiving a blessing. Can we see where we are with God, our best

and truest friend... true as the sky is blue? May we be strengthened with the might of His Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus, and not let Satan kink the hose which brings us the living water. God knows our needs and takes our hand to be a productive and useful vessel to the Lord, a prisoner of Him (Eph. 3), not with shackles, but hands folded in prayer.

A special prayer for Sis. Martha Wagenbach. She has returned to the Skylines and is making progress in speech and mobility. May the many expressions of love and concern give her comfort and strength to continue her rehab. Norm Rocke was at Proctor Hospital again and also returned to the Skylines. We continue to pray for his spiritual and physical welfare. Bro. Dave Dunbar had valve replacement surgery on July 9 at the VA hospital in Indianapolis, IN. He's doing well and we pray for his speedy recovery and return home. Sincere thanks to Bro. Ken Wuethrich and others who have visited him in the hospital. Abraham Lincoln said correctly that the best thing about the future is that it only comes one day at a time.

We wish Luke Gangloff (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jill) and Amanda Harris (David and Julie) the blessings of the Lord for their walk together. They were united in marriage on June 15 by Bro. Ken Hoerr. Luke is completing his computer studies at Bradley and works part time at Caterpillar Inc. and Amanda graduated from ISU and is substitute teaching at Dunlap. They have been assembling with us for several years.

A farewell singing for Bro.

Rick, Sis. Mary Ann and son, Bro. Joel, Plattner on July 14 at the Fellowship Hall was a blessing to all. Bro. Mike Rieker expressed thanks and appreciation for his light, example and hard work for almost 15 years for the Peoria congregation. They have moved to Fairbury, IL, and we wish them well on their future pathways.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Phyllis Knobloch
Crystal Streitmatter

Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
 God will take care of you.
Hymns of Zion #138

Our prayers go out to the dear ones with health problems. They include: Sis. Mary Lou Streitmatter (Bro. Don), Sis. Shirley Kieser, and Bro. Reuben Feucht. Also Sis. Cindy Aupperle (Bro. Dennis) had the misfortune of breaking her arm. Sis. Betty Herrmann (Bro. Eugene) also has a back injury. May God grant them courage for each day ahead!

Our visiting minister on June 23, Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine, Burlington, IA), was much appreciated. Other visiting ministers who so willingly proclaimed the Word to us were: Bro. Brace Wieland (Sis. Brenda, Leo, IN) and Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) on June 30.

Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL) proclaimed to us God's Word on "Purity" at a Bible Study on June 28. How good it is to assemble with other believers and listen to what God has to say to us

through His servants.

On June 5, Brad and Chantel Bowdoin welcomed their first child, Alexandra Adrian. Her happy grandparents are Henry and Benola Bowdoin and great-grandmother, Sis. Alvina Streitmatter. A child is one of the miracles of God! We pray that God will be their guide as they are blessed with this sweet little girl.

My Lord an offering do I bring;
 My heart I give to thee."
Zion's Harp #163

Our hearts rejoice as we added three new sisters to our fold on July 7. They are Sis. Amanda Kieser (Bro. Randy and Sis. Brenda), Sis. Cindy Myers (Richard and Arlene) and Kristen Regier (Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay). We were overwhelmed with the joy and peace that radiated from each one! Visiting Elders for this occasion were Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA), Chuck Hemmer (Sis. Marian, Peoria, IL), and Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL). We thank them for assisting our dear Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Sis. Emily). Also visiting ministers who were so deeply appreciated were Bros. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Peoria, IL) and Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL).

"Let brotherly love continue."
Hebrews 13:1

May we continue to pray for one another!

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Jenell Hodel
Joan Leman

Give faithful servants ever
 Who have but one endeavor,
 Thy Gospel to proclaim;
 Thy Spirit holy
 Who heed Thy Spirit holy
 And strive and labor solely,
 O, Lord, to glorify thy name.
Zion's Harp #207, vs. 8

We sincerely thank our visiting ministers this past month who were willing to be used of God in sharing His Word with us. They were Bros. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL), Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN), Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN), Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL) and Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA). May God bless them for their ministry.

This union of our hearts
 Shall stand through grace in Jesus;
 We walk the path of life,
 While cheer and trust increases,
 Where God in truth abides,
 Where two join hand and heart,
 We find a three-fold cord,
 Not lightly rent apart.
Zion's Harp #79, vs. 3

Four new homes have been established as four couples have been united in marriage. Mary Beth Knapp (Bro. Dave and Sis. Carol) and George Garza (George and Kelly Garza) were married on May 24. Dan Magnuson (Dan and Judy) and Jayme Zeman (Bill and Melinda) were married on June 22. Sis. Jenny Hohulin (Bro. Tim and Sis. Cathy) and Bro. Brett Heiniger (Bro. Ron and Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL) were married on June 30. Sis. Jessica

Hodel (Bro. John and Sis. Linda) and Bro. Neil Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) were married on July 7. We wish these couples God's richest blessings as they walk hand in hand through this life.

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life..."

John 14:6

We are thankful that God is still calling souls to repentance. We rejoice with Samuel Sauder (Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary) and Bethany Lemman (Bro. Clark and Sis. Lisa) as they have answered God's call in their youth. May God grant them grace to build a firm foundation upon the Solid Rock.

We rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Eric and Sis. Jodi Hoffman, as God has blessed them with a son, Ethan Lee. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann Hoffman and Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock.

Bro. Brad and Sis. April Hartter also have been blessed with the arrival of a little boy. Gabe Andrew is welcomed home by big brother, Clayton. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Chris Hartter and Bro. Doug and Sis. Gerry Kruse.

"...I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee."

Isaiah 41:13

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Sarah Diggle (Bro. John) and Jason Tibbs (Jim and Julie) as they have been hospitalized. May they each feel God's

healing touch.

A Christian's demise
Leads to Paradise.

After days of tribulation
He will find his full salvation,
Death the way supplies
Unto Paradise.

Hymns of Zion #248, vs. 4

Sis. Emma Zimmerman, age 99, was called Home on July 11 to be forever with the Lord. Because of ill health, she had been unable to assemble with us for a number of years. Our sympathy and prayers are with her sister, Sis. Elsie Zimmerman. May the Lord richly bless Sis. Elsie for her many labors of love in caring for her sister. Other survivors include a sister and two brothers.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Heather Rassi
LaVonne Wagenbach

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

Hymns of Zion #7

What a blessing we receive each Sunday when visitors assemble with us due to travel plans, invites, or baptisms. We are especially thankful for ministers and their families. With us recently were Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) and Virgil Kaeb (Sarasota, FL). May God grant them extra blessings for laboring from the pulpit.

Upon hearing their testimony of faith and witnessing their baptism, we welcome Bro. Galen

Rocke and Sis. Janet Rocke (Sis. Kathy Rocke) into the family of God. How thankful we are that God is still touching souls with His merciful hand.

God has blessed Larry and Inga Simms with another little boy. Caiden Paul was welcomed home by his siblings, Patrick, Laurence, Alainna, and Naulon. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid Buster (Burlington, IA).

Recently assembling with us is Bro. Akihiro Ito from Shioda, Japan. We welcome him to Tremont.

We bid farewell to Sis. Kathy Martin who has been attending our congregation for some time. May God bless her future as she returns to Princeville.

We are thankful to know that the health of Bro. John Buster (Sis. Ingrid) was stabilized enough to return to his home congregation in Burlington, IA. We enjoyed his presence while here and pray continued strength be granted unto him.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for the cards, food, gifts, visits and prayers during Ryan's illness and his passing on May 6. May God bless each one of you for your kindness.

Betty Hild and Family

Correction: Hospitalization in the month of May included Levi Kaiser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth).

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Marcia Koch
Dianne Wyss

"Lo, children are an heritage

of the Lord..." Our church is delighted to hear those little newborn squeaks...fresh from heaven. Bro. Keith and Sis. Cathy Steffen have double reason to rejoice this month. They have been blessed with two new grandbabies: Oliver Keith Steffen, son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Tasha, and Ava Marie Kauffman, daughter of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Abby.

Alec Michael Friederich is the first son of Scott and Lisa. Bro. Harvey and Sis. Sharon Martin are thankful for another grandchild.

Bro. Eric and Sis. Gina Hodel, along with big brother Ethan, welcome the arrival of Tara Marie. Happy grandparents from our congregation are Kent and Janet Hodel.

Evan Scott Schick has also entered the hearts and home of Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn, Jenna, Jamie, and Eric. Grandmother Sis. Dolly Schick has another grandchild to love.

Our Bro. Rich Dreeste spent time in the hospital this past month. We pray for the Lord's nearness and healing.

We thank Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) for the inspiring Bible Study presented to us.

July 14 was the last day for this Sunday School season. We heartily thank the brothers and sisters who gave of themselves to teach our children. Much effort has gone into the past year. The church enjoyed a picnic at the 4-H park that evening.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON **Tiffany Aeschliman** **Elizabeth Aeschliman**

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."

Romans 5:6

The call of the Lord has continued to go out, and four souls have answered and begun repenting. Tyler Earney (Bro. Todd and Sis. Teresa), Brad Leman (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Val), Lyndon Kaehr (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lou), and Hannah Kaehr (Bro. Jon and Sis. Juli) have all started their walk with the Lord.

Our prayers are with Sis. Alice Geisel and Steve Stump (Sis. Arlene) as they spent time in the hospital this month.

Our congregation has been blessed with several new babies recently. Dane Matthew was born on April 29 to Mike and Kristi Harshman. Dane's grandparents are Bro. Jack and Sis. Diane Schwartz.

Marcus Todd Kaehr arrived on May 14. His parents are Bro. Jon and Sis. Juli. Marcus joins Sis. Sarah, Bro. Jesse, Hannah, Lydia, Esther, Samuel, Luke, Anna, and Abigail at home. His grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Carolyn Isch and Sis. Pat Kaehr.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Jaime Maller (Bluffton North, IN) are the parents of Breanna Lynne, born on June 17. Brant and Luke are her big brothers. Breanna's grandparents are Bro. Jack and Sis. Diane Schwartz and Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda Maller (Bluffton North, IN).

Bro. Mike and Sis. Becky Leyse welcomed another grand-

daughter on June 18. Rachel Lynn Leyse was born to Jon and Angie. Rachel's big sister is Samantha.

Reuben David joined Bro. David and Sis. Sheri Moser's family. Olivia and Gretchen welcomed their little brother on June 22. Reuben's grandparents are Sis. Dina Fae Moser and Wally and Marilyn Leman.

Nathanial David was born on June 23 to Trent and Teresa Reimschisel. His grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Elaine Reimschisel and Charles and Beverly Knecht. He joins Camrenn at home.

Zane Thomas Schaden was born on June 29. His parents are Jeff and Kim. Zane's grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean Steffen.

Rod and Connie Bucher are the parents of Benjamin Nile, born on July 14. Benjamin joins brothers Brock and Brody and sisters Brooke and Brittany at home. His grandparents are Carl and Betty Macklin and Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis Bucher (Bluffton North, IN).

Our prayers are with Bro. Jeff Reinhard as he spends time in Silverton, OR, and with Bro. Jeff Moser as he spends a few months in Australia.

We were saddened at the death of Amelia Baine on June 17. Mourning her loss are her brothers, Bro. Elmer Isch and Bro. Harold Isch, and her sister, Sis. Dorothy Frank.

Bro. Roy Aeschliman passed away on July 9. Our prayers are with his wife, Sis. Ida, and his sister, Sis. Dora Aeschliman. Bro. Roy's children are Delilah Biberstein (Stan), Bro. Ralph (Sis. Rosie), David (Linda), and

Sis. Arlene Stump (Steve).

We are very thankful for the four visiting ministers this month. Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI), Roger Sauder (Sis. Judy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL), and John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) graciously shared the Word with us this month.

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) assisted Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz in the reading of the Memorandum. We are thankful for these faithful brothers as they help guide us in the ways of the Lord.

“Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make the way straight before my face.”

Psalms 5:8

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Ann Meyer
Tiffani Schladenhauffen**

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Matthew 6:33

Our congregation rejoiced this month as three new souls put Christ first in their lives. They are Preston Kaehr (Bro. Doug and Sis. Tami), Jessica Yergler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg), and Sherry Lister, who has been worshipping with us for the past few months. We wish them God's grace in their new walk with the Lord.

Big brother James helped his parents, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Heather Drayer, welcome their

new baby girl, Dayla Grace, into this world. Dayla's happy grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois Drayer and Jim and Karen Brudi.

Bro. Jim Moser completed his walk with the Lord on this earth and went Home to his Heavenly Father this month. Our deepest sympathies go to his brother, Bro. Tom (Sis. Jan), and sister, Sis. Bernice Troxel (Bro. Bill, Bluffton, IN). We are also prayerful for our Sis. Eleanor Strahm in the loss of her brother, Harold Stieglitz.

We enjoyed having Jim and Vicki Brooks, missionaries to Jamaica, share with us at Christian Care about the work that is being done down there. May God continue to bless the work being done in Jamaica.

Bro. Max Steffen (Sis. Eunice) spent some time in the hospital this month, but we were glad to see him back with us in church. Sis. Vi Isch (Bro. Roger) is spending some time in the hospital, but with hopes of returning home soon. Our prayers are with Sis. Becky Bertsch (Bro. Lonnie) that she may feel God's healing touch. Facing new uncertainties is our Sis. Clarice Isch (Bro. Harry). Our thoughts and prayers are with her as she begins her treatments.

We can be so thankful that the Lord is the One that is in control.

“Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself.”

Matthew 6:34

**INDIANA
FRANCESVILLE
Pam Huber**

“...Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”

Jeremiah 31:3

“The Wonderful Story of Love” was our theme for Vacation Bible School this year. It was a very blessed time and we pray we keep the lessons we've learned in our hearts and apply them in our lives. Our many thanks to the following visiting ministers who joined us for the week: Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL), Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN) and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL). Thanks as well to all the teachers, assistants, baby sitters, singing groups and those who invited guests. Because of your effort, love and sacrifice, it was a blessing to all who attended.

We pray God's grace and joy to Bro. Lon Vogt (Bro. Ron and Sis. Dianne) and Sis. Sarah Bollier (Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie) at the announcement of their engagement. May you understand a little more of God's great love as you prepare for your wedding.

A heartfelt thanks to Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) who has refreshed us this past month with God's Word. We are always blessed!

Note of Thanks:

To my dear family, my dear church family, relatives, neighbors and all who so kindly re-

membered me on my birthday.
God bless you.

Humbly,
Sis. Minerva Wuethrich

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

**Sue Levy
Sandy Lichtle**

On June 20-22, a group of Sunday School students went with Bro. Matt and Sis. Missy Ackerman, Bro. Phil and Sis. Judy Schlatter, Bro. Joe and Sis. Tara Sprunger and Bro. Greg and Sis. Lisa Stieglitz to Athens, AL, for a work project.

On June 30, the engagement of Sis. Sarah Bollier (Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie) and Bro. Lon Vogt (Bro. Ron and Sis. Dianne, Francesville, IN) was announced. We rejoice with them and pray for the Lord's continued guidance and blessings as they prepare for their wedding. Our appreciation and thanks goes to Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN) for sharing with us at our monthly Bible study. Bro. Mark's topic was "Biblical Financial Principles".

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Mark and Michael Zeller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny) and their family. They were in a car accident on July 9. Bro. Mark is doing well, and Michael is recovering in the hospital with a broken nose, pelvis, foot, and ankle and is expected to go home soon. May the Lord continue to bless them with His healing mercies.

We want to sincerely welcome Bro. Lance Pfeifer, Bro. Nate and Sis. Sara Huber and Bro. Lee and Sis. Shalome Hoffman to our congregation. At the same time, we bid farewell to Bro. Phil and

Sis. Judy Schlatter and their sons, Andrew and Simon, who are moving to Leo, IN; Brad and Gina Senkowski who are moving to Alpena, MI; Sis. Melinda Vogt who is moving to Wheaton, IL; and Bryce Guingrich who is moving to Orlando, FL. Our loss is truly others' gain! We will miss those moving away and pray for God's blessings and direction in their lives.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold

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 bid farewell this past month to Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Natalie Freed and their two boys, Kyle and Tyler. They have moved to a new home and will be attending the Wolcott congregation. We pray that God will bless them and watch over them!

Sis. Lucille Nuest has been very ill this past month and was in the hospital. May God comfort her and her sister, Sis. Pearl Nuest, who cares for her as she begins the road to recovery.

Retired Elder Bro. Ed Frank has not been well this past month. He is in a lot of pain and needs many prayers.

We were thankful to have Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN) share the Gospel with us this past month.

Our new Sunday School teachers are Sis. Bobbi Ann Heinold and Bros. Ben Stoller and Owen Gudeman. May they be granted much wisdom from above as they teach our children. We thank Sis. Evie Heinold and Bros. Steve Stoller and Joe Feller for their years of service in Sunday School.

INDIANA, LEO

Ethelyn Schlatter

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

II Tim. 4:2

Our Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz and Bro. John Stoller truly fulfilled this command of Paul one Sunday as the Spirit directed them through the words of Isaiah 30:1-3, 31:1, Col. 1 and Rev. 21.

I was impressed with the thought that we made no investment in the inheritance we will share with our Lord Jesus.. (Rom. 8:16-17)

Don and Janet Schlatter, missionaries in Thailand over 40 years and formerly of the Leo congregation, visited on this Sunday.

Bro. Bill Blunier had surgery on his shoulder. The damage from the accident was greater than expected and recovery will be long, but he was back fellowshiping with us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Elder brothers as they meet in Conference to share their concerns for the Church. Elder Bro. William Schlatter (Junction, OH) was host of the

regional meeting on July 11, which was held at the Leo church building, a more central location for all.

The Church

"...I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matt. 16:18b)

"...Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it; ... That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." (Eph. 5:25b, 27)

Some say that today the church
has failed God;
But He says that the church shall
abide
To welcome His coming – perhaps
very soon.
O let us this truth never hide!

God's church is the channel He is
using today
To bring blessings He'd send from
above
To show broken lives how to live a
new life
Because of His undying love.

God's asking the church to be eyes
that can see
The needs of the burdened and
lost,
And like Him to go in search of His
sheep,
And never to count dear the cost.

God's asking the church that she
shall today
Have also the mind of the Lord:
He sought out the sick and the sin-
ful always
With love that the world won't af-
ford.

So let us e'er watch for His coming
again;

O let us be channels today
Of love like His love, a mind like
His own,
To lead men to walk in His way.
—*Nellie B. Weber*

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Paula Haab
Stacey Feller**

Our congregation, along with our neighboring South Bend brethren, enjoyed VBS the week of June 17-21. The theme for the week was "Be Ye Ready!" and we were blessed with topics presented to us by ministering Bros. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN), Ted Steffen (Alto, MI), Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN) and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL). A special thank you to these brothers and their families as well as the Bluffton and Remington/Wolcott song groups who favored us with their selections singing praises to the Lord.

We also appreciated the ministering of our Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN) who so willingly visited us recently.

Many of our congregation attended Roanoke, IL, the weekend of July 7 to witness the marriage vows of our Bro. Neal Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) who resides in Illinois to Sis. Jessica Hodel of Roanoke (Bro. John and Sis. Linda). The weekend following, we celebrated in West Lafayette, IN, with our Bro. Troy Wuthrich (Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Briana Furrer (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene) as they were joined as one. May the Lord pour out His blessing upon these two new couples and the homes they establish.

We extend congratulations to

Mary Cockburn (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue) who graduates this summer from Indiana University with degrees in Psychology and Biology. May the Lord bless and direct her as she looks to the future.

Our hearts and prayers go out to Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy Beer and their young son, Drew, as they recently experienced a very severe house fire. We trust the Lord will provide special grace and sustenance as they spend their days sorting through the aftermath of this misfortune.

We are sorry that Sis. Eleanor Beer (Bro. Howard) is experiencing health difficulties again and is facing surgery. May the Lord bless and keep them as they walk through these valleys together.

As our school and college students head back to their studies for another year, we entreat the Lord's special hedge of protection around each one spiritually and physically.

"He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler."

Psalms 91:4

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler
Rochelle Ward**

Hayley Blair entered the lives of Alan and Erica Craig on July 17. Her big brother, Bryce, along with grandparents, Bro. Rex and Sis. Tammy Clauss, welcome her into the family.

Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) ministered to us on June 30. He challenged us to ponder this question: Who are we after all our props (titles, awards, titles,

roles, talents, etc.) are taken away from us? What is left in our hearts?

How Blessed Are You?

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation ... you are ahead of 500 million people in this world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death ... you are fortunate as more than three billion people in the world can't.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep ... you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet and spare change in a dish someplace ... you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are still alive and still married ... you are very rare, even in the United States.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can but most do not.

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder ... you are blessed because you can offer a healing touch.

If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all.

Have a blessed day since counting your blessings.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Samantha Schafer
Kara Beebe

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

Zion's Harp #79

Bro. Luke Schafer (Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi) and Sis. Andria Bahler (Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette, Remington, IN) became one in the Lord on July 21. May your lights shine even brighter as you serve Him together.

We were blessed to have Bros. Steve Frauhiger and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) share the Word with us this month.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Darel and Janet Walker

We rejoice at the birth of Anna Hope Bucher to Bro. Lance and Sis. Hope Bucher on June 20. Anna joins her brothers, Joshua and Seth. It is nice to see our little church growing again.

We congratulate our recent high school graduates, Tiffany Miller and Casey Bucher. Tiffany, the daughter of Bro. Jeff and Janet Miller, will be enrolling next fall at Purdue North Central. Casey is the son of Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie Bucher. We pray that the Lord will lead, guide and direct them as they move on to college.

Sis. Aldene Frieden (Bro. Roy) suffered a fall and was in the hos-

pital last month. We pray for God's healing hand to restore her health. Our prayers are with her husband, and her son, Bro. Byron (Sis. Sue). We pray she will be able to rejoin us soon.

Visiting us this month were Bro. Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Todd Feller (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN). Bro. Herb reminded us how important it is to make God's Word our delight. We appreciate our fellow brothers who are willing to let the Lord use them to bring us the Word every Sunday. Special thanks again to Bro. Todd for serving our church when our ministers are away.

With thankful hearts we report that Edward Lester, Jr. (Bro. Ed and Sis. Caroline) and Shawn Ames (Bro. Tim and Joyce) have found peace with God and man and hope to be baptized in September. May God grant them grace and wisdom as they prepare their hearts to serve our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Nettie Haab
Diana Houston

On June 22-23, we had a blessed weekend witnessing the testimony and baptism of Sis. Olivia Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie). We thank Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN). We appreciate them carrying out the work of the Lord along with ministering Bros. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN) and Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN).

July 14 was certainly a special and most blessed occasion for all celebrating the wedding day of Sis. Briana Furrer and Bro. Troy Wuthrich (Milford, IN) who were united in marriage. We wish them God's many blessings as they start a new life together as one, loving and serving the Lord. Parents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene Furrer and Bro. Stan and Linda Wuthrich (Milford, IN).

Visiting ministers have been Bros. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), John Stoller (Sis. Patsy, Leo, IN), Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN), Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN), and Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN).

We very much enjoyed our first VBS here; there were over 50 children who came. Thanks to all who helped make it a special event.

Note of Thanks:

A special thanks to the VBS class and the teachers that were so willing to organize a project to clean up tall weeds, brush, etc. along the edge of our back yard, and thanks to all for bringing the equipment to do it with. May God bless each and every one of you for your kind deed and thoughtfulness and hard work.

Sis. Diana Houston

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Erica Wagenbach

Luann Gerber

We had a blessed weekend of fellowship when we had our invite a friend weekend. We thank Bros. Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois,

Valparaiso, IN) and Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA) for sharing God's Word with us.

We have many who are enjoying the summer with their families and are taking vacations. May God keep them safe as they travel and bring them all home safely.

We also pray that God will be near our dear Elder brethren as they come together this month in Rockville. We know they are concerned for the welfare of the brethren and we pray that God will bless their efforts to keep us united and on the right path that leads to Heaven.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Brenda Schulz

Lana Metzger

We welcome back Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid Buster to our congregation. Bro. John had been a hospital patient for a year while recovering from heart surgery. Bro. John and his family have been through many physical and spiritual ups and downs during his time away from home. May the Lord continue to give him and others peace and spiritual strength while they recuperate.

Our congregation welcomed Hallie Nichole Kuntz into the lives of first-time parents, Bro. Chad and Sis. Natalie Kuntz, on June 7. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Edra Kuntz and Bro. Brian and Sis. Cindy Wiegand. We bless them as they start their family with the Lord's guidance.

The visiting minister this month was Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL). We are thankful that Bro. Clark was able to minister to us God's divine inspira-

tion. We pray he will be blessed for his efforts.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

We are going down the valley one by one,
When the labors of the weary day are done;
One by one the cares of earth forever past,
We shall stand upon the riverbank at last.

Our love and sympathy is extended to two families who have recently lost a loved one. On July 4, Laverne Schneider passed from this life into eternity. Our prayers are with his wife, Kathryn, and his children and their families: Lawrence (Marie), Bro. Charles (Sis. Sue), Shirley, Leslie, Sharon, Sheryl Halverson (Mike), Sharlene Halverson (Roger), and Milton (Jo); step children, Janice, Skip, Kitty, Carolyn, and John; and his surviving siblings, Robert, Jacob, Sis. Ruth Metzger, and Betty Curtis.

On July 9, Anna Metzger (the late Rueben Metzger) passed away. May her children, Larry, Ruann, Marcia, Steven, Marene, and Kathy, and their families feel God's nearness and be comforted, along with her surviving sister, Sis. Edna Banwart (the late Bro. Earl) of West Bend, IA.

July 6 was the wedding day for Kent Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet) and Kati Rekow (Brad and Peggy). We trust they have sought God's direction in this important step and will continue to seek His will in all things.

June 30 was the date of our an-

nual Sunday School picnic. As usual, many attended and it was a special time of fellowship by young and old.

A special thank-you to Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Kevin Banwart (both of West Bend, IA) for sharing God's Word with us this past month.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Willa Clark

We are saddened by the death of Dr. David Funk of Dunlap, IA. He was a brother to several in our congregation and a friend to everyone. He will be sorely missed by his wife, Ly-Lee, in Dunlap, and his family here in Garden Grove. David drowned in a farm pond, when he swam out to rescue a blind calf. He gently herded the calf toward shore, swimming after it and speaking to it. In saving the calf, he lost his life. Bro. Wayne Grimm of West Bend paralleled this with our lives. We are all hopelessly lost in the huge pond of life, just as the blind calf was futilely swimming in circles in the farm pond. Our Saviour gently guides us to the shores of Heaven, if we obey His voice. Just as David lost his life to save the calf, our Saviour gave His life that we might live in eternity. We must obey His voice.

Brothers ministering to us this month have been Elder Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), and Bros. Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Pat Zaugg and Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA) and Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA). We are grateful to each for their services.

Generous brethren from the

Pulaski congregation spent several days helping remove old carpet and vinyl floor covering from our church, and re-installing benches, pulpit furniture and bathroom fixtures when the new floor coverings were in place. Their work is so much appreciated, especially because the church was in quite a mess when we received the call about the death of our brother.

From the family of David Funk:

Words alone cannot express our deep gratitude to each one who helped us in any way during this time of great sorrow in our lives. To those who offered prayers for our consolation and our traveling safety, those who sent cards, flowers, food, money, and those who came to mourn with us. To the singers from West Bend, Pulaski, and Burlington, to the entire Pulaski congregation who did everything from working on the church floors to providing and serving the meal, bringing extra tables and chairs from your church, and especially to the several brothers who participated in the services at the funeral in Dunlap and the graveside in Garden Grove, we cannot thank you enough. God bless you for your service to us.

Ly-Lee Funk, Rachel Smith, Tony Funk, Willa Clark, Brad Funk, April Parmer and families

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Diana Butikofer

It seems we wait for months for summer to arrive, and here it is, half gone already! I am often amazed at how quickly time passes, children grow up, and the

phases of our lives pass. It's a vivid reminder that our life is just a vapor compared to God's timetable.

We were blessed when Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) and family returned for a weekend and as he willingly shared God's Word with us. It's always a joy to have visitors in our little church.

IOWA, LESTER

Dawn Knobloch

Dawn Metzger

We have enjoyed having many visitors worship with us this past month. We want to thank the ministering brethren that have been with us and willingly shared God's Word. They were Bros. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA).

On June 22, Wayne Meyer and Angie Osterday were united in marriage. Sis. Kari Leuthold and Bro. Kevin Knapp were joined in marriage on June 30. May God bless and direct these couples as they begin their married life. Parents of these couples are Bro. George Meyer, Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vickie Leuthold and Bro. Denny and Sis. Gay Knapp (Congerville, IL).

Recent hospital patients were Bro. Mychal Van Wyhe (Sis. Dawn) and Sis. Emma Gerber. Our thoughts are with them and we pray good health will be restored to them.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Hana Hartter became first-time parents on July 9 with the arrival of

Dustin Alan. Also first-time grandparents are Tedd and Sis. Diane Larson and Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gail Hartter. Great-grandmothers are Sis. Zelma Knoblock and Sis. Esty Metzger of our congregation. We wish God's grace and guidance to them as they train up their son.

The new Sunday School teachers for the upcoming year were announced recently. The responsibilities for superintendent were placed upon Bro. Gary Heyer. Teaching our children will be Bro. Rodney Metzger, Bro. Brad Moser, Bro. Brian Mogler, Sis. Angie Kupferschmid, Sis. Jill Meyer and Sis. Julie Metzger. May each one be blessed with God's Holy Spirit as they teach the children of God's way. We thank those whose terms have expired and have willingly served in this important endeavor.

We are sad to bid farewell to Bro. Monty and Sis. Bethany Van Wyhe. Shortly after they were married, we heard they felt it was God's will for them to establish their home in the Cissna Park, IL, area. We pray God's blessings will go with them and trust they will feel welcomed in the Cissna Park congregation.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

We welcome Bro. Mitchel Schulz (Bro. Roger and Sis. June) as a new lamb to the fold. What a blessing to hear his testimony and then to greet him as a dear brother in faith. We are so thankful that he has made such a good recovery and his life has been spared. Mitchel shared how

he knows the rest of his life he owes to the Lord.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Bros. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) and Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL). We want to thank each of them for their labors on our behalf. May the Lord bless each of them and their families.

Our dear Bro. Robby Lanz (Sis. Kris) has had a serious 3-wheeler accident. At this time he is in a coma with serious brain and spine injuries. We just ask for your sincere prayers of healing for this dear couple and their four young children, Kaylyn, Logan, Keegan and Denalyn, as well as their extended family that stands so faithfully by. We know Bro. Robby is in the Lord's hands and may His perfect will be done.

IOWA, PULASKI
Katrina Knobloch

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you,"
St. John 14:27

We rejoice with Robert Wuthrich as he has received peace and is awaiting baptism.

We welcomed our new sister in faith, Sis. Kristin Wuthrich (Bro. Ken and Lora), into the fold. What a blessing it was to hear her testimony and witness her baptism.

Danny and Sis. Lynn Townsend welcomed a new granddaughter, Jaycee Elizabeth. Josh and Tara Townsend are her parents.

Our thanks go to Bro. Brad

Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA) for sharing God's Word with us this month.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Berniece Banwart
Lori Skoglund

Hopefully our hearts were prepared to receive the message brought to us on Father's Day by Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN). We thank him for his efforts and may these words not have been spoken in vain.

Jeff and Jeni Hanselman are happy first-time parents of a baby girl, Jorja Mae, born on June 14. She has two sets of grandparents; first-time grandparents, Joel and Teresa Kellenberger, along with Mr. And Mrs. Donald Hanselman. What joy a precious baby brings into so many lives.

"...be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."

II Peter 3:14

Once again there is joy over the announcement that dear ones seeking repentance have been granted peace. Jeff and LaRae Montag and Madeline Banwart (the late Bro. Art) are at peace and we look forward to hearing their testimonies soon.

David Schneider and Lauri Nelson were married at the Little Brown Church on June 27. We wish them many years of happiness together.

We extend sympathy to many from our congregation who have lost loved ones recently. Sis. Frances Zaugg (along with many nieces, nephews and cousins)

mourns the death of a dear sister, Sis. Evelyn Steiner (the late Bro. Noah) of Sabetha, KS. Sis. Evelyn lived in West Bend many years while married to the late Bro. Joe Benninger and was special to many of us. Anna Metzger (the late Reuben) of Marion, IA, passed away on July 9 with burial at Elgin, IA. She is survived by her sister, Sis. Edna I. Banwart, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins from our area.

Several have been in hospitals recently. Irene Banwart, Bro. Eugene Bruellman, and Bro. Denton Knobloch have all been released and continue to recover at home.

When listing our high school graduates we inadvertently omitted our dear Bro. Isaac Mogler (Bro. Charles and Sis. Beth). Along with his scholastic achievements, we are happy that he chose the better part when he gave his life to the Saviour in his youth.

Soon many children will be returning to schools, but may we never be counted slack in the education that continues to be the responsibility of the parents in the home.

America Begins at Home

America begins at home
With every child's need
For guidance and direction
In establishing a creed.

The roots that shape America
Are formed more surely where
A child spends the vital years
Within his parents' care.

Perhaps the close-knit family
Where each one has a task
Does more to aid America
Than anyone could ask.

Responsibilities at home
Build roots both firm and strong,
To guide our future leaders
In whatever comes along.

To work and strive is no disgrace,
Instead it is a joy
To build a great America
That cannot be destroyed.

This beautiful America,
So blessed with liberty,
Begins at home ... its true success
Depends on you and me.

JAPAN, TOKYO **Jana Klaus**

Greetings from hot and humid Tokyo! The rainy season has passed and summer weather has set in. As of July 20, schools have just started their 6 weeks of summer break. We do pray for a safe and blessed summer for all. As far as I know, no one from Tokyo congregation plans to travel to the US this summer; however, a nephew of our Sis. Haruyo Onoda is planning to make a 2 week visit to Gateway Woods in Indiana for volunteering. A thank you in advance to all who may be involved in his time there.

Many in our congregation are still struggling with health problems and/or various burdens. Sis. Onoda's husband was recently hospitalized for testing on his fast heartbeat. He has been sent home with medications and a strict diet to follow. Sis. Urushino's grandson is scheduled once again for surgery on his cleft pallet, which had been cancelled several times in the past. Sis. Yoshiko Sakuta spent time in the hospital. All would appreciate prayers lifted up to our liv-

ing Lord for healing, strength and a drawing closer to the God who created them.

Construction on our new addition is coming along very nicely, for which we thank the Lord. Everything looks beautiful and so spacious! We deeply appreciate all, in Japan and America, who have given so generously for it, and for the many prayers on our behalf through it all.

We appreciated a visit from Sis. Vicki Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Sis. Eiko Nozawa (Shioda) on July 14. Sis. Vicki was staying with Sis. Eiko for a few weeks to encourage her as Sis. Eiko has been going through a trial with her sister being diagnosed with cancer back in February. We always enjoy Sis. Vicki's good cheer! The same Sunday, we were thankful to have Bro. Akihiro Itoh worship with us as he is back for a month or so from his interning in Springfield, IL. He plans to attend our summer fellowship meeting in our usual place—the mountains of Kobuchizawa, July 26 and 27. More should be reported on that next month.

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

We are experiencing a drought in our area. We observe the crops struggling to make grain with very little moisture, and realize that the harvest will not be very plentiful. So it is in our spiritual lives: without receiving the "living water" from Jesus Christ, we struggle to bear fruit. When our life is over, we will be found lacking spiritual fruit if we haven't allowed Christ

to cleanse our lives and provide that living water to sustain us to the end.

“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

We are rejoicing that another soul has taken advantage of Christ’s “living water”. Austin Esslinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty) has made a beginning in repentance. We pray that through God’s grace he may build a firm foundation.

We are happy to report the engagement of Sis. Kendra Meyer and Bro. Jason Rokey. Sis. Kendra’s parents are Earl and Sis. Darlene Meyer and Jason’s parents are Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy Rokey. May they feel God’s guidance as they make plans for their future together.

Also announcing their engagement are Melinda Harwood of McLouth, KS, and Mark Esslinger (Waymer and Pauline). We wish them much happiness and the Lord’s nearness in their lives.

We express our sympathy to Sis. Mamie Strahm (Bro. Alpha) and Sis. Lucy Rokey in the death of Sis. Evelyn Steiner who passed from this life on July 5. We pray that God will help fill in the void left by the parting of their sister.

Hospitalized at the time of this writing are Pauline Esslinger (Waymer) and Nathan Plattner (Bro. Carroll and Roberta). We pray that the Lord will provide healing according to His will. We are thankful that

Sis. Lila Rokey (Bro. Joe) is out of the hospital after a lengthy stay. She is now residing at our Apostolic Christian Care Home.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held on July 9. We thank the teachers who helped organize this enjoyable evening. We know that our Sunday School youth always look forward to this annual event.

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to those Sunday School teachers who have fulfilled their terms: Bro. Todd Rokey (Sis. Sheila), Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori), Sis. Ellen Strahm (Bro. Curt), Sis. Donna Edelman (Bro. Earl), and Sis. Carla Meyer. We offer our prayerful support to those who will be replacing these teachers. They are Bro. Larry Meyer (Sis. Jill), Bro. Curt Strahm (Sis. Ellen), Sis. Kim Baumgartner (Bro. Jeff), Sis. Lisa Strahm, and Sis. Rhoda Meyer.

We remember in prayer our Elder body as they meet in Rockville, CT, for the General Brotherhood Conference. May they feel the Lord’s guidance and direction.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT **Ruth Bahr**

Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO), Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL) served us in the pulpit ministry this past month. We greatly appreciated their visits.

After many years of faithfulness, our oldest member, Sis. Ruth Sinn, age 91, passed away July 7, at Fort Scott Medi-

calodge. She leaves five sons, Ronald (Peoria, IL), Leon (Fort Scott), Gerald (Larkspur, CO), Larry (Greer, SC) and Thomas (Simpsonville, SC). Also two sisters, Sis. Esther Koehl and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall (both of Morris, MN), and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews. On most Sundays, after church services, a various group went to sing for Sis. Ruth. Their labor of love will be remembered by many.

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

Once again summer is coming to a close and school is just around the corner. It is always such a joy to me to have the children home for summer break. Not only do we get more time together as a family, but also we have time away from all the influences we can sometimes find at school. It is wonderful to reinforce God’s love and teachings through daily activities and chores for the children. We can encourage them to “take time to be holy and speak oft with thy Lord...” (Hymns of Zion #112), while helping them realize how special they are in His sight.

We have one dear friend, Erlene Farney, who is now home and still recovering. She has our prayers for a continued blessing of God’s holy touch.

Many of our congregation have been gone on summer vacations, but it is always a blessing to have visitors coming to share their Sunday with our congregation. The invitation is always open and we hope you will come

visit us, too!

**KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Sarah Somerhalder**

This past month our congregation was blessed with many visitors. Thanks to visiting ministering Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA), and Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) for bringing God's precious Word to us.

Congratulations and best wishes to two couples that have announced their engagements and will be having October weddings. Justin Isch (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) is engaged to Liz Kassler (Madison, KS), daughter of Marjorie Haas. Crystal Burdick (Bro. Rick and Sis. Mary Anliker) is engaged to Stephen Mitchell (Dr. Stephen and Diana Mitchell, Fort Scott, KS).

We rejoice with Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene Metzger, who recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Their children hosted a dinner and reception for them. May the Lord continue to bless their union together.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Jill Luthi, who has been under the care of physicians and underwent surgery at Mayo's.

A daughter, Aleah Inez, was born July 8 to first-time parents, Tony and Dora Hines. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Mara Jean Edelman and paternal grandparents are Ron and Judy Hines (Emporia, KS).

**KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger
Jeanelle Plattner
Bro. Loren and Sis. Jeanne**

Edelman are rejoicing as the parents of a daughter, Deborah Lynn, born on June 16. She is welcomed home by her sister, Laura, age 3 ½, and brother, Tristan, age 1 ½. Thankful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia Aberle and Sis. Marjorie Edelman.

Joshua Krogmann (Frank and Sis. Julie) and Diane Wiens (Don and Doris, Kensington, KS) were united in marriage on June 22 in Kensington. They are making their home near Sabetha. May God bless their lives together.

Sis. Ruth (Bro. Frank) Hertzler was in the hospital. God has blessed her with a return of health so she can be back among us. Bro. Andrew Lehman (Sis. Irene) has been hospitalized and is presently in a Topeka hospital where he had surgery. Our thoughts and prayers are also with others that have need for our prayers and concerns.

Sis. Evelyn Steiner passed away on July 5. Our sympathy is extended to her brother, Bro. Eugene Marti, and sisters, Sis. Lucy Rokey and Sis. Mamie Strahm (Bern, KS), and Sis. Francis Zaugg (West Bend, IA).

Our new Sunday School teachers elected are Sis. Dawn Grimm, Sis. Sharlyn Huber (Bro. Gordon), Bro. Don Plattner (Sis. Ada) and Bro. Art Kellenberger (Sis. Kathy). Substituting will be Bro. Rod Grimm (Sis. Arlene), Bro. Rick and Sis. Komari Aberle, and Sis. Beth (Bro. Dennis) Hartter.

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not
dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still
give thee aid.

I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and
cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipo-
tent hand.

Hymns of Zion #11

**KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller**

Sunday, June 30, was a special day for the Wichita congregation. Elder Bro. Ted Witzig and Sis. Cindy (Morton, IL) worshipped with us. They were en route home after visiting relatives in Oklahoma. We appreciate the fact they would include Wichita in their itinerary and that Bro. Ted would allow himself to be used by the Lord to proclaim the gospel message.

Then July 14 was another special day as our Elder Bro. Jay Luthi, Sis. Jane, and their family (Lamont-Gridley, KS) worshipped with us. We appreciate the sacrifice of personal time that Bro. Jay makes on our behalf.

Sis. Ann Farney has reached another milestone in her life. After living in her home on South Broadway since 1941 when she and Bro. Harve moved there from Kiowa, KS, she has sold the property and has moved into a new residence to be nearer to her daughters. Bro. Harve was called to his eternal reward in 1995. He and Sis. Ann were hospitable people and I personally have fond memories of the times we fellowshipped with them in their home. I am reminded of Romans 12:13 where Christians are exhorted to pursue hospitality. Sis. Ann's new address is 9791 SW Sante Fe Lake Road, Augusta, KS, 67010. It is a comfort to all of us who know Sis. Ann to see how

the Lord directed her to make this change in her residence.

MEXICO, IXTLAN
Gloria Gonzalez

“The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?”

Psalm 27:1

Truly our strengths come from our dear Lord who helps and guides us in our daily walk.

This summer three sisters completed additional schooling. Sis. Ana Cervantes and Sis. Rosario Gonzalez are now trained as secretaries and Sis. Areli Sibaja as an elementary school teacher. Our prayer is that God will guide them and be with them as they seek God's will for the future.

Bro. Kirby Reutter (Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT) and Sis. Areli Sibaja (Felix Sibaja and Sis. Lourdes, Ixtlan) were married on July 14. Special thanks to Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) for having the wedding service and sharing the weekend with us. We enjoyed the time of fellowship with many brethren from various churches. We rejoice with this couple and pray the Lord's blessings on them as they begin their married life together.

“Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.”

Ephesians 6:24

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Terri Huber
Rose Watson

Our congregation has so much to be thankful for this month. We are praising God for calling three souls to repentance this month: Carrie Steffen (Bro. Terry and Sis. Laurie), Gina Blough (Bro. Martin and Sis. Michele) and Sheryl Huber (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Terri). May God give His grace as they begin their journeys.

We were delighted to witness the marriage of Sis. Sarah Gerst (Bro. Wally and Sis. Donna) and Bro. Justin Ooms from Detroit, MI. Justin's parents are Linda Janschütz from Houston, TX, and Robert and Diane Ooms from San Francisco, CA. May God richly bless them and guide them as they start their new lives together. We are also pleased that they will be residing here with us at Alto. We heard services from Bros. Brace Wieland (Leo, IN) and Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL). The ceremony was performed by our Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen. Other visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Mark Bahr and Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Bill Waibel and John Jackson (Bay City, MI).

We would like to welcome the birth of Ella Marie Byam to Fritz and Kim Byam. Carly and Christine are happy to have a new little sister to play with (grandchildren of Doug and Marilyn Byam).

Our sympathy and prayers go out to Rob and Rachel Cadwallader on the unexpected death of Rob's mother, Kathy Klein. Rachel is the daughter of Bro. Duane and Sis. Cathy Schrenk.

We also remember Doug and

Marilyn Byam in the passing of Doug's mother, Millie Clark.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

II Timothy 3:15

This past month the Bay City congregation was able to witness this in action through our Vacation Bible School program. This year our theme was “Matters of the Heart”. It was truly a blessing to watch the younger children learn and grow in the Lord. We were also blessed to have a visiting minister each evening to speak on a topic. On Monday, Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) spoke to us about “Making Sin-Sick Hearts Well” (Repent and Be Baptized). Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH) expounded to us on Tuesday about “Rejoicing in a Healed Heart” (Peace with God, your Family and Friends). On Wednesday, Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS) talked about “Working with Other Sick Hearts” (Charity – Love in Action). Bro. Bob Pflederer (Sis. Eleanor, Morton, IL) spoke to us on Thursday about “Keeping Hearts Spiritually Healthy” (Thou Shalt Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself). Bro. Max Reimschisel (Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS) closed out the week with the topic “Maintaining Peace in Your Heart” (Forgive Like Jesus Forgave). We thank each of these

brothers for their willingness to be used. It was a blessed week for the Bay City congregation.

As Vacation Bible School came to a close, we were thankful that Bro. Max and Bro. Galen were able to spend the following Sunday with us.

Our congregation is truly enjoying the blessings of the summer as we have had several visitors pass through our area. Included with these guests were ministering Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI), Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ), Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH) and Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN). We are so blessed to have the privilege of meeting many brothers and sisters from near and far.

Jennifer Curtis (Jim and Laurel) endured surgery this past month. We are thankful that she is once again able to assemble with our congregation. May God be her constant provider.

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you...”

John 14:27

Pierre and Moonlight Szabo (Bro. Frank and Sis. Gail) have professed peace with God and man. May God grant them much grace as they await baptism. We rejoice that the Lord is still calling new souls to seek Him in repentance. Christy Jackson (Bro. Don and Sis. Tina) and Mike and Nancy Ruegsegger have recently turned to the Lord in repentance. May we continue to pray for each of them as they continue to grow in faith.

It is with saddened hearts that our congregation has bade fare-

well to Bro. Mike and Sis. Valerie Howell.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Sarah Beard

Holly Barton

We had a busy and blessed Vacation Bible School week in June. With the theme of “Whom Say Ye That I Am?”, each day the students studied a different name of Jesus. At the picnic at the week’s end, they sang and told us about Jesus as the Bread, Life, Lion of Judah, Vine, and Door. On Saturday, we were privileged to have Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) speak further on the names of Jesus. We want to thank all who worked so hard to coordinate this effort, particularly the VBS committee: Sis. Charlotte Barton, Bro. Tom Hitz, Bro. Dana Knochel, Sis. Kelley Ramseyer, Sis. Kristine Krieger, Sis. Pam Gleichman, and Sis. Amy Hodel. We know the students enjoyed the many activities, and we trust that the teachings they learned will remain with them.

The 14th Annual Woodhaven Choir Benefit Dinner was well attended. The singing by the choir and other groups truly was a blessing, and the funds raised will benefit our retirement and assisted living facilities. Many people put in hours of time and effort to make this event a blessed one, and we greatly appreciate them for this.

Our Sunday School students have some new teachers, as we recently held elections. We pray for Bro. Lucas Frank and Sis. Pam Gleichman, as they assume this responsibility, and also for the substitutes, Bros. Jesse

Bedolla and Scott Bahr and Sisters Krista Wieland and Crystal Frank. Also, Bro. Mike Reinhard was elected as a trustee.

We express our sympathy to Sis. Judy Aberle on the passing of her brother-in-law, Robert Crider (Esther, Palestine, TX), on June 21.

We had a number of visiting ministers this month. Thanks to Bros. Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Ontario), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Jim Ramseyer and Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Howard Plattner (Alto, MI), and Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) for bringing the Word to us.

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS

Diane Stewart

Our church was privileged to each reflect on what God has done in our personal lives as we witnessed the testimony and baptism of Meg Dill (Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae) on July 13-14. How we rejoice with her as do the angels in Heaven. On hand to help our Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN) was Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL). Other visiting ministers present were Bros. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL), Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse, IN), Al Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN) and Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN). Sis. Meg is now a child of God, with Jesus as her Brother – how awesome!

Other visiting ministers have been Bros. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA) and Myron Knobloch (Sis. Beth,

Lester, IA).

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Cheryl Messner
Katie Messner**

We were blessed to have Bro. Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IL), and Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Francesville, IN) share God's Word with us this past month.

A Christian now baptized,
To me much grace is given.
Why was this granted me?
That I with Christ am risen!
This is the holy aim;
He who does this neglect
Cannot in truth proclaim,
"I'm one of God's elect."

Zion's Harp #43

We are thankful that two more souls were brought into the fold: Bro. Greg Reuter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn) and Sis. Myra Wulf (Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce).

Believing it is God's will, the engagement of Bro. Paul Wulf (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy) to Sis. Heidi Messner (Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce) was made known to us. May God bless them as they continue to seek His will in their lives.

Also believing it is God's will, the engagement of Bro. Quinn Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl) to Sis. Kristi Koehl (Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn) was announced. May they continue to look to God for further guidance in their lives.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Beth Koehl (Lane), as she had surgery, and Bro. Paul Fehr (Sis. Anna) and Sis. Corrine Schmidgall (Bro. Richard), as

they were hospitalized.

We are very thankful that Kevin Nohl (Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice) and Brent Wulf (Bro. Dave and Sis. Nancy) have turned their backs to the world and are seeking the Lord in repentance.

Our prayers are with the Elder brothers as they meet together and discuss the matters concerning our precious faith. May God give them the grace to sound the trumpet loud and clear, that it may be well for all of us at the end of the way.

Note of Thanks:

A heartfelt thanks to each who remembered us during Marion's surgeries. Also, thanks to everyone for their cards, gifts, and best wishes on our 50th wedding anniversary. We appreciate your love and kindness.

Bro. Chris and Sis. Marion Moser

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Marilyn Messner
Ginny Stoll**

As I leave my correspondent position, I would like to thank each and every one who contributes and volunteers their time to the S.L. The correspondents spend many volunteer hours of preparation in writing the news and articles. God bless all of you for your tireless efforts.

Sis. Carol Ann Messner

Sis. Delores Messerli was our hospital patient. She is recuperating at home. May God restore her strength.

Our visiting minister this month was Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington,

IL). The families were here to celebrate his parents, Bro. Leo and Sis. Georgia Messners' 50th wedding anniversary.

Notes of Thanks:

The family of RoseAlice Howk wishes to thank everyone for their kindness, expressions of sympathy, memorials, flowers, food and help at the time of Rosie's passing away.

In loving memory of RoseAlice Howk who passed away May 15, 2002:

When tomorrow starts without
me,
And I'm not there to see;
If the sun should rise and find
your eyes
All filled with tears for me;
I wish so much you wouldn't cry
The way you did today,
While thinking of the many things
We didn't get to say.
I know how much you love me,
As much as I love you,
And each time that you think of
me,
I know you'll miss me, too;
But when tomorrow starts without
me,
Please try to understand,
That an angel came and called my
name,
And took me by the hand,
And said my place was ready,
In heaven far above,
And that I'd have to leave behind
All those I dearly love.

Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Sis. Hazel) wishes to thank those who remembered him with prayers, cards and visits during his recent illness.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Garry and Marty Rokey

We are rejoicing in Kansas City as our dear friend, Dona Fehr (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb, Philadelphia, PA), has come to the foot of the Cross in repentance. Dona has been attending Kansas State University this last semester and is usually in Kansas City during the weekends. We wish her God's grace as she begins this most important journey.

There was much joy the weekend of July 6-7 as our dear friend Kenton Snyder gave his testimony, was baptized and became our brother in Christ. Bro. Kenton's parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara. Assisting our Elder Bro. Don Braker was Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO). We were also privileged to have ministering Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL) on the pulpit on Sunday as well. Our church was filled to overflowing with many visitors. We thank Elder Bro. Kent and Bro. Ted for their willingness to stand before us.

"For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are tempo-

ral; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

II Cor. 4:15-18

MISSOURI, LAMAR Becky Marti Kristen Leman

We have been blessed to hear God's Word proclaimed to us in truth and sincerity. We appreciate the labors of Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and ministering Bros. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Jim Koehl (San Diego, CA) in this work. May the Lord bless them richly.

Sis. Bonnie Braker (Bro. Leonard) spent some time in the hospital this past month. We are thankful she seems to be doing well.

Bro. Tyler Joos (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny) has returned to his home in Bradford, IL, after finishing his schooling here. We have appreciated assembling with him here over the past few months and wish him the Lord's blessings each step of the way.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS Betsy Schrenk

Bro. Walter and Sis. Betty Herrmann (Princeville, IL) visited St. Louis on their 45th anniversary on June 23, along with all of their children and grandchildren. God has richly blessed them and their visit blessed our congregation. Thank you, Bro. Walt, for lending yourself in the Lord's service on the pulpit.

We heard so much of light and love that day. The blind cannot lead the blind. In the darkness, we ALL are blind. We have sight only when we are in the light. A

Christian's light can help many find their way in this dark world.

Elder Bros. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL) and Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN) also brought God's Word to St. Louis. We appreciate the efforts of visiting ministers, their wives, and those who travel with them so very much.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Susan Haerr

We are praising the Lord as we have been privileged to witness Ted Hoerr (Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma) committing his heart and life to Jesus Christ in repentance. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Ted!

June 12 was a special day for the family of Bro. Michael and Sis. Lori Stratton and Colin as their new little daughter and sister, Haley Ann, was born. Haley's paternal grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Stratton. Paternal great-grandmothers are Sis. Loida Hodeland and Pansy Stratton. Maternal grandparents to little Haley are Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa Martin (Princeville, IL). Maternal great-grandmother is Sis. Martha Streitmatter, also of Princeville.

June 20 was a special day for Stephanie, Kyle and Brittany Grimm as their little sister, Kaitlin Nicole, was born to Bro. Don and Sis. Tricia Grimm. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona Grimm, and great-grandmother is Sis. Edna Feller (Fairbury, IL). Maternal grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marian Pflum and

great-grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Bernice Frank (Oakville, IA).

We feel so blessed to have these two great blessings added to our congregation and we pray that we can be a blessing to them as they grow and learn about God and His awesome plan of salvation.

The weekend of June 22-23 was another awesome blessing for us as we were able to listen to the proving of Bro. Robey Shuck and witness his baptism. It was incredible to hear how God has worked and is continuing to work in his heart and life. Thanks for blessing us, Robey!

We were thankful that the Peoria single group took time out of their busy schedules to pay us a visit. A special thanks to Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol) and Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debra) for making the journey with them and sharing God's Word with us. We would love to have you back any time!

Steve Riney spent time under medical care in the last month and we pray that God will heal and bless him.

July is the month set aside for Wednesday night Bible Studies here in Taylor. This year's theme is the Book of Philippians. We have been blessed thus far by Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) who shared the first chapter of the book and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL) who shared with us the second chapter. May God richly bless you for both your physical labor in traveling here mid-week and also for your spiritual labors. We were so blessed by your messages.

Our thoughts and prayers go

with our Elders as they prepare for this year's Brotherhood Conference. May God's presence be with you in a mighty way.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

The Lord provided us with a beautiful evening on Monday, June 24, for our annual Sunday School hot dog roast. We gathered together at the Croghan Recreation Park and many hot dogs were roasted and enjoyed by children and adults alike. We were thankful to see so many in attendance and thank the Lord for this reminder of how important it is for us to always keep our light shining where others can see it.

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick: and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16

We were blessed to have Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) with us for the last weekend in June. We shared a potluck dinner together on Sunday, June 30, followed by a church service. May the Lord richly bless these brothers for their many labors of love on our behalf.

Then onward, sister, brother;
Let us go hand in hand.
With joy in one another,

In this bewildered land.
Oh, let us childlike be;
Let here no strife divide us!
The angels walk beside us,
God's children, they and we.
Zion's Harp #185, vs. 13

Our prayers went out to Sis. Linda Graves (Bro. Floyd Jr.) as she underwent surgery on July 1. We are thankful the Lord has extended His healing hand upon her and know she looks forward to again being able to sing with us in church.

We enjoyed having ministering Bro. Everett Gerber and his wife, Sis. Nancy (Rockville, CT), with us on Wednesday evening, July 17. May the Lord be with them and bless Bro. Everett for opening God's Word to us.

As Conference time is once again fast approaching, we extend our prayers to the many Elder brethren that will meet together and then exhort us on their cares and concerns for the church. May the Lord be with them and each one that makes their journey to Rockville, CT, for this special time of renewing our spiritual minds.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

Bro. Emery Gal (Eugene and Helen) and Sis. Erika Schlatter (Sis. Sherri Schlatter, Forrest, IL) were united in Holy Matrimony on Sunday, July 7, at the Forrest, IL, church. We welcome Sis. Erika to our Akron congregation and wish God's continued blessings in their lives together.

Sis. Louise Graf was hospitalized and has now returned to our nursing home, where she resides. Bro. Robert Graf was also

hospitalized and is now assembling with us again.

Brigitte Heib, daughter of Bro. Leo Heib, has returned from residing in Florida, and we welcome her back to our congregation. She was hospitalized, and we are glad she is able to assemble with us again.

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan Stieglitz (Leo, IN) were with us on Sunday, June 23, and we appreciated Bro. Marvin's inspiring messages.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

Our congregation has been blessed with many visiting ministers this summer. We were pleased to see Bros. Mike Baumann and Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH), Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT). Bro. Warren and his family came with several other brothers and sisters who were members of a Mexican work team for a reunion in Columbus.

We extend our love and best wishes to Bro. Matt and Sis. Wendy Miller following their wedding June 30. We are so pleased that they will continue their schooling in the Columbus area.

A farewell dinner was held for Bro. Neil and Sis. June Knobloch and their sons, Grant and Nelson, on July 21. It is never easy to say good-bye, but we wish them God's richest blessings as they relocate in Illinois and Bro. Neil begins his new job with the University of Illinois.

The lack of rain continues to plague our area, as lawns, gar-

dens, and crops begin to die out. However, we trust the Lord is in control and He will provide our every need if He sees fit.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

June 30 was the wedding day chosen by Bro. Matt Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Kay) of the Latty congregation and Sis. Wendy Manz (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra). It was a very blessed weekend that we were able to enjoy together with many visitors. Among those visitors were ministering Bros. Dwight Stoller, John Laukhuf and Larry Wenninger (all from Latty, OH), Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) and Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH). We trust the Lord will open the way for each one to come visit us again.

With thankful hearts, we are able to again tell of two more souls who have surrendered their lives to the Lord. William Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) and Kurt Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) started repenting this past month. We will certainly keep these two dear souls in our prayers and continue to pray that more will heed the call, while the day of grace is still with us.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn

Bonny Wenninger

Our children enjoyed a week of Bible School which ended with a program on Friday p.m. We wish to thank the many who helped make the week a blessing for the children. Hopefully the teachings will guide the children

as they reach the age of accountability and then lead them to the paths of repentance.

Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN) expounded the Truth of the Word to us during the month. May God continue to strengthen all of our ministers. We pray especially for the Elder Brothers and the Rockville congregation as they all plan for the days of the Brotherhood Conference. May God's will be carried out as decisions are made and direction is pleaded for.

We extend sympathy to the family of Bro. Oliver and Sis. Emma Jean Stieglitz for the death of Bro. Oliver's brother, Harold.

Several of our brethren have been hospitalized during the past month. They include Bro. Charles Dunham, Bro. Don Stoller (Gail), Bro. Ralph Stoller, and Sis. Sally Stoller (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Esther). We pray for God's healing hand and that soon they will again be able to assemble with us.

Our prayers also go with Bro. Aaron Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Tam) as he relocates in the Rockville, CT, area. May he continue to feel God's leading and guiding as he assembles with the Rockville congregation and finds employment in their area.

Our congregation welcomed two new sisters into our midst during the past month. Sis. Wendy Manz (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra, Junction, OH) married Bro. Matt Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Kay). Also, Sis. Katie Anliker (Bro. Art and Sis. Carol, Eureka, IL) married Bro. Corbin Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb). May these sisters feel a warm welcome and "at home" in our

congregation.

Bro. Kurt and Sis. Lisa Sinn welcome home another baby girl, Tiffany Anne. She is welcomed home by sister, Chelsea; grandparents, Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn and Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky Wulf (Lester, IA); and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

As you read this issue, school-aged children will soon again be returning to school and college. In all of the preparation, remember to send them with love and prayers each morning. The school personnel could use those same thoughts and prayers also.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

John and Marci Pfeiffer

A precious daughter was born to Bro. Ed and Sis. Judy Dawson on June 17. Emily Ella was welcomed home by Marjorie, Jonathan, Matthew, Elizabeth and Peter. Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue Beer are her grandparents.

A Christian, now baptized,
To me much grace is given.
Why was this granted me?
That I with Christ am risen!
This is the holy aim;
He who does this neglect
Cannot in truth proclaim;
"I'm one of God's elect."

Zion's Harp #43

We were encouraged as we listened to the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of two dear souls the weekend of June 29-30. We welcome Sis. Kristan and Sis. Tecca Keever (Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev) into our brotherhood! Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) kindly shared the labors with our Elder Bro. Mark Masters on that

blessed weekend.

We appreciated the visit and ministry of Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) on July 3. May the Lord richly bless him.

Our Mansfield work team enjoyed their trip to Jamaica (School for the Deaf) July 6-13. We are thankful for their safe return home.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held at the home of Sis. Caroline Sauder on July 14. We thank Sis. Caroline and her family, Bro. Mike Jr. and Sis. Lilly Baumann, Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Sauder, the Sunday School teachers and many others who made this event possible.

God has blessed the family of Bruce and Denise Sauder with another daughter. Elayn Grace was born on July 16. Her siblings are Jordan, Lauren, Colin and Madelyn. Elayn's grandparents are John and Kathy Besenti, Tom and Linda McFarland, and Sis. Caroline Sauder.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Anna Schar Sandy Zollinger

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

Isaiah 40:8

We are thankful to Bro. Fred Knapp (Sis. Marjorie, Congerville, IL) for sharing the Word with us in June.

We extend our love and sympathy to those who have lost loved ones this past month. Sis. Pearl Breece is now relieved of her earthly trials but will be greatly missed by her brothers,

Bro. Roy (Sis. Mabel), Bro. Jack (Sis. Delores) and Bro. Andy (Sis. Lillian) Maibach, and sisters, Sis. Lillian (Bro. Ken) Rupp and Sis. Martha Walder.

Sis. Caroline Emch also went to be with the Lord; she was 97. Stepchildren, Bro. Dave (Sis. Eileen) Emch and Mary Jane (Glenn) Winkler, will greatly miss her, along with her many, many step-grandchildren.

Our prayers are also extended to Bro. Ernest and Sis. Rowene Howell as their son-in-law, Melvin Thompson Jr. (Deanna), was called from life to eternity.

Bro. George Schuster (Sis. Carol), Bro. Jack Maibach (Delores) and Sis. Martha Walder were hospitalized this past month and we are thankful they can once again assemble with us.

Adam and Jody Aubrey are first-time parents. They had a baby boy, Jacob Allan. Grandparents are Dick and Sis. Karen Hartzler and Allan and Ruth Aubrey.

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Linda Schar also have another baby boy, Christopher John. I'm sure April and Jeremy love helping their little brother. Grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terri Ramsier and Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar.

Joining the Riggensbach family is Jevan Robert. His parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Lori and siblings are Joshua, Crystal, Cymbal, Charity, Jacob, Jeriah and Carissa. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Anita Riggensbach and Boyd and Barbara Acker. I'm sure Jevan will not lack attention.

As a congregation, we rejoice with Bro. Ken and Sis. Lori

Stoller, as their daughter, Julie, is seeking the Lord in repentance.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good work, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

OHIO, SARDIS
Terry Zollinger

“We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us what work thou didst in their days, in the times of old. How thou didst drive out the heathen with thy hand, and plantedst them; how thou didst afflict the people, and cast them out. For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them; but thy right hand, and thine arm and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst favour unto them.”

Psalms 44:1-3

June 29-30 was a blessed weekend for all regarding the New Martinsville Memorial service. Ministering Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) served us the Word on Saturday evening. Ministering Bros. Jerry Bauman and Art Ingold (both of Rittman, OH) willingly spoke to us on Sunday through the Holy Spirit of the precious heritage that has been given to each of us and passed through several generations who attended the little church that is situated in the hills of West Virginia. Bless these servants for their work in the Lord.

“So we built the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.”

Nehemiah 4:6

Some of our Sunday School students had the opportunity to go on a work team to Jamaica to help at the Deaf Village. They are Jami and Sis. Charla Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry), Sis. Kristy Miller (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Doris) and Doug Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam). We are thankful, as parents, that our children could be a witness to others in the words they speak and the deeds they perform with their working hands to help others that are not as blest as we.

“For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

Isaiah 55:10-11

The congregation was fed the Bread of Life this month by visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH). May the Lord bless these brethren for their efforts.

“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God:

whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.”

Hebrews 13:7

May we send unending prayers to the Lord above as the brethren attend the General Conference in August. Our dear Elders have topics to discuss and decisions to make that are surely difficult. May we support the church doctrine and obey the words of the Holy Bible.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Ruth Gasser
Edith Miller

Follow me, the Saviour calleth;
Come to me, I am the way!
What is lacking I will give you;
Trust in me and watch and pray!
Follow me in true submission;
I have borne all your transgressions;

Learn of me, both great and small,
Meekly, humbly hear my call.

We are thankful to report that Jeni Klotzle (Bro. Robert and Sis. Shirley) has chosen to heed the Saviour's call. May He grant her much grace as she seeks to build a firm foundation.

We are thankful that Bros. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) and Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT) were willing to be used of the Lord by ministering the Word to us. May God bless them for their service.

Although the death of Sis. Caroline Emch (Rittman, OH) brought sadness to the hearts of her grandchildren, Bro. Craig Emch (Sis. Gail), Bro. Chuck (Pat) Winkler and Sis. Charlene Winkler, we trust that God will provide His comfort to them.

May God continue to grant

His healing power to Bro. Bill Hartzler (Sis. Pam), who was recently hospitalized.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter**

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers in the past month. Bros. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) served us from God's Word. We appreciate their labors and pray that God will bless the Word to bring forth fruit to His praise.

Aaron Beard (Sandy) underwent foot surgery due to an accident. Dave Sancraint (Sis. Connie) was also hospitalized. We pray that they can both feel God's healing hand in their lives.

Many of our congregation were blessed to be able to travel to Forrest, IL, for the wedding of Bro. Joel Beard (Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee) and Sis. Heidi Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL). We wish God's blessings on their marriage as they establish their home in Forrest.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup

Greetings from the Pacific Northwest!

We have been blessed with some fine summer weather this past month, which makes us even more appreciative of the Lord's handiwork all around us. We have had the pleasure of a good number of visitors from both near and far. We thank you for coming to worship with us. It is such a blessing to our small congregation here to have extra voices to sing and to have the

added fellowship.

We are particularly thankful to the following ministering brethren for sharing the Scriptures with us: Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda), and Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer), all from Silverton, OR, and Bro. Kenneth Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford, IL); and for several weeks we enjoyed having retired Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen with us from Elgin, IL. May the Lord bless these faithful servants and their families. We do thank them all.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Kelsey Kuenzi

The weekend of June 21-23 was our Bible Class Weekend. A special thanks to Bro. John and Sis. Julie Grimm (Columbus, OH) and their family for coming and taking part in this weekend. Bro. John reminded the high school age students on Saturday evening of the choices they have to make in life. The weekend was concluded with an all-church potluck on Sunday evening.

The potluck was additionally a farewell dinner for Bro. Brian and Sis. Milena Suster and their family. We will miss them and wish them God's nearness as they make their home in California.

Love of all gifts is the greatest
Which the spirit does bestow.

Zion's Harp #37

We rejoice with Craig Walter (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen) and Kristine Gengler (Joe Gengler and Jan Long) as they joined hearts and lives in marriage on June 29 at the Oregon coast.

May they feel God's direction upon their lives.

Sometimes when misgivings
darken the day,
And faith's light I cannot see;
I ask my dear Lord to brighten the
way,
He whispers sweet peace to me...
When I am cast down in spirit and
soul,
He whispers sweet peace to me.
Gospel Hymns #780

We are thankful for four souls who have found peace with the Lord and are preparing for baptism. We rejoice with Marvin and Lana Kuenzi, Tennille Kuenzi (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda), and Zack Kuenzi (Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane).

This month Violet Kuenzi (Cliff) was hospitalized for testing. She has returned home, but will need additional medical testing and possibly surgery at a later date. She expressed her thanks for all the cards and prayers.

During the summer months, we've been blest with many visitors. We were thankful to have visiting ministers, including Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL), Retired Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Sis. Marilyn, Elgin, IL), and Bro. Kenny Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford, IL).

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

**Nathan and
MaryElizabeth Gasser**

We were pleased this month to have visitors from our congregation in Tokyo, Japan. We often remark on the blessings of trav-

eling a few hundred miles and finding brethren of like mind and faith, but how wonderful to find that Christ's message is the same thousands of miles away, across national and cultural boundaries. Whether in Philadelphia or Japan, Illinois or Mexico, in our church, work, school, or neighborhood, let us each remember to carry the love and message of Christ to everyone we encounter.

We were reminded of the importance of prayer this month, and of the value of praying fervently for our family, friends, our fellow believers, our church, our leaders, and all those who need God's special touch in whatever situation life finds them. When we find our own strength exhausted and our abilities fall short, God is able to provide if we bring our cares to Him.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Mike and Monica Fritz

Recently we have been blessed as our visiting ministering brothers have brought God's Living Word so mightily to us: Bros. Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL), and Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), and Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN). We have also enjoyed and been encouraged by the loving fellowship of brethren and friends from Congerville, Forrest, Gridley and Roanoke, IL; Remington and Wolcott, IN; Latty and Rittman, 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: Francesville, IN (8/25); Princeville, IL (9/1); Rittman,

OH (9/8); Congerville, IL (9/15); Taylor, MO (9/22); and Morton, IL (9/29). We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service. If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946.

TEXAS, SAN MARCOS
Dale and Amy Ringger

Holy Communion was held here on July 7. We were thankful to have our Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) here to serve us. What a blessing it is to remember the Lord's suffering and death for us.

Bros. Dave Zehr (Sis. Vicki, Gridley, IL), Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) and Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene, Goodfield, IL) served us in the pulpit ministry and with fellowship during the last month. Other church visitors this month were from Lamont-Gridley, KS; Sabetha, KS; Peoria, IL; Mansfield, OH; and Francesville, IN.

The schedule of ministers for September is the following: Champaign - 1st; Elgin, IA - 8th; Morris - 15th; Washington - 22nd; and Peoria - 29th.

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

side access road.

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

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Joyce Nohl

July was our month for vacation. We made lots of plans, visited many family and friends and all too soon it was over. This was our granddaughter's first visit "up north" and she was in awe at the beautiful scenery! She loved the green trees and the hills and the valleys. It is quite a contrast to what she is familiar with. We thank God for His protection as we traveled the busy highways hurrying from one place to another.

We welcome visitors at any time but they are especially appreciated in the summer for there are so few of us during the summer time. If you plan to come visit us this summer for Sunday worship, please contact Bro. Leland Plattner at (956) 765-5612 or Bro. Lloyd Nohl at (956) 581-8266. The location for Sunday worship may vary for the summer months.

The following was written

and submitted by Sis. Jennifer Kellenberger:

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Savior." (Isaiah 43:2-3a).

What a beautiful promise from our Lord and Saviour. How precious it is to know that He is with us at all times, no matter what circumstances we may be experiencing. He is faithful.

The summer is passing quickly and will be over before we know it, but what a blessing it has been for all of the staff here at MCCS. The Lord truly blessed us with wonderful young believers to serve with us this summer. We have enjoyed them all and it has been a delight working with each of them. Bro. Phil Kellenberger, Bro. Tom Kellenberger and Sis. Erin Knobloch, all from the Washington, IL, congregation have been here this summer laboring with us, along with Oliver McLemore from Montgomery, AL, and Zach Fennig from Gulf Shores, AL. May the Lord bless them all for giving of their time to come work with Mexico,

Centros Cristianos para Sordomudos so that the deaf may know Christ. It is evident that God has worked in each of their lives and we praise Him for that.

The months of June and July have been busy ones and we have enjoyed the presence of many work teams. The main focuses on the construction site this summer have been the children's dormitory and the Schick's house. The children's dormitory will some day be home to 150 deaf children and we hope to have it completed this year. Lord willing, Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick (Washington, IL) and 5 of their children will be joining our staff full-time next March and so we are working hard at completing their home so that they can move right in. We look forward to their arrival, as well as the arrival of Sis. Kim Kaiser (Morton, IL) who hopes to be here by January 2003, if the Lord wills it.

On June 22 we enjoyed the arrival of our fourth AC team of the year. It was led by Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise Maller of the Bluffton, IN, congregation. They brought with them 41 willing servants who worked hard on the children's dormitory and the Schick's house. They laid a lot of

concrete block on both buildings and they poured a large slab of concrete so that we can extend our volunteer dining hall. We are so appreciative to Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise and the other team members for their willingness to serve. We also enjoyed having Joe and Denise's daughter, Jacki, working with us for two weeks, along with Katie Reynolds, a young lady from Knoxville, TN.

Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) served as the team minister. He touched all of our hearts as he shared the work that God has done in his life this past year during his wife's battle against cancer. The Lord called her Home, but as Bro. Wayne reminded us, "Everything is gonna be alright." And "Peace be still". Precious promises that all of us that know Jesus as our Saviour can hang on to. Thanks again to all of you that have been a part of this ministry, either through taking part on a work team, sending financial support or other donations, or most importantly, by lifting the ministry and all of the staff and students up in prayer. May the Lord bless you all.



Sermon continued from page 2

aches.

So what is it that we are seeking from these things as people? I think we can say that really we are seeking happiness. We are seeking contentment. But we will never ever find them in things because things hold out nothing of happiness and contentment. Only an obedient walk with our Lord will yield to us contentment. Contentment is happiness with what we have, not happiness with a goal in mind. If we have contentment, we are happy with what we have. And I believe God wants us to go a little beyond just simple contentment. He speaks to us of sharing within His word. And I think through sharing of what we have is one of the ways to happiness. To knowing that my Redeemer liveth, and that someday He will come back to this earth to redeem His own, of which we hope to be a part, who have been called and who have followed His bidding. This gives to us happiness. When we can have happiness and contentment in our life, dear ones, from it should spring the things of which we have read this morning. That we want to extol the name of Almighty God. And we have to recognize that He is a great God. He is greatly to be praised. His greatness is unsearchable.

How many generations of people have stood in the pulpit, have sat in the pews, have listened to the Word of God, have read the Word of God, have come up because God has revealed certain things about Him? And dear ones, all together collectively we know very little about God as far as His greatness is concerned.

Sometimes I find joy, if it is late at night and we are coming back in the house maybe from some chores, to look up into a clear night sky and see the stars. To realize, because sci-

entists tell us, they are not simply little twinkling lights far, far up there in the sky. But they are huge suns that burn brighter, many of them, than our sun. And it only tells me that our God is greater than anything we can imagine. Far greater than what we can imagine. When I look out into that night sky and realize that He made all these things, I know that I can trust my eternity into the hands of such a God. He can care for all of His creation. He can care for me. He can care for each one of us. But we must come to Him.

What more is there of God that we can learn? It says, "The Lord is gracious ..." Psalm 145:8. Sometimes we maybe have the idea that God sits in heaven and He looks down and He is waiting to see who He can punish. But we read here something different, don't we? We read, "The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works." Psalm 145:8, 9. We read in another place, "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not." Lamentations 3:22. Oh, if we got what we deserved dear ones, we would have been consumed by the wrath and the anger and the judgment of an almighty and a holy God long ago. He looked down upon this world with His compassion and His mercy.

We read, "... mercy rejoiceth against judgment." James 2:13. It balances it out. If God was only a God of judgment, we would be lost. There would be no hope. There would be nothing that we could do to please Him enough. We cannot work our way to heaven singly. We cannot live good enough by ourselves to get to heaven. If that is in our heart and our mind, we should

remove it because we will never make it. We will never make it. But because of His compassions and because of His mercy, He sent His Son Jesus Christ. That, dear ones, should show to us the depth of the mercy of Almighty God. He did not send His Son to be a king, to be president, to be a great ruler and leader of the land. He sent His Son to be a sacrifice.

Which one of you, having a son, would give him to some neighbor who has been cruel to you, who has taken advantage of you, who cannot stand you, and say, do with him as seems good in your eyes? Such was the love of God for His creation. And we did, as the human race, what we saw was good. We nailed Him to a cross. We poked thorns in His brow. We spit upon Him. We hit Him after we blindfolded Him, taunting Him, telling Him, who hit You? We were cruel. In the face of compassion and mercy and the love of God, we were cruel and despicable and mean.

Did God end His mercy there? Did He say it is enough, I cannot take this anymore? No. He allowed His Son to give His life. Because God is God. We read in His Word, that He did not destroy His children because He was God. God is telling us He is above us. He is far above us. He is so far above us He cannot only see what we have done wrong, but He can see beyond it. He can see that with a converted heart, those same evil souls can be made clean and pure and holy, to love Him and to praise Him and to worship Him.

"All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom." Psalm 145:10, 11, 12. And throughout this

day we want to worship and to praise our God. For we have many reasons to do so. We want to speak of His wondrous works, for He has many.

In the beginning of the New Testament chapter that we read it says, "Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:" Galatians 1:3, 4. And again he goes back to the thought, "To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." Galatians 1:5. In a way it would have been nice to have been able to stop right there. But the scripture went on with a warning. A warning that I believe probably fits the church today maybe better than any time in history.

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ." Galatians 1:6, 7.

That would pervert the gospel of Christ; that means to take the Word of God and to twist it and to change it and to make it something that is not of God any more. And if it is not of God dear ones, it is of the devil.

We need to have our thinking very clear. We cannot go through life with something mushy in our mind, thinking that well, a little of this and a little of that, that is fine. It is all good and well. It sounds kind of good so it must be all right. That is the world, dear ones. That is the world in which we live. It is what is being taught in this world. It is what you will hear everywhere. Do not take things so seriously. Just go with the flow. It is the world's message. We need to see things black

and white, right and wrong. Is it of God or is it of the devil? Where does it come from? Those are the terms in which we need to see our life. Those are the terms in which we need to examine our life daily. To see if what we are doing, what we are thinking, where we are going, the decisions we are making are of God or are they of the devil?

None of us want to make some decision based on some temptation the devil has placed before us and not upon the Word of God and the Spirit of Almighty God. There are so many things out there in this world today dear ones, to teach us this other gospel. Which the Word of God tells us is not another gospel. It does not matter how good it sounds or how tickling it is to our ears. It is not the truth.

We could spend a lot of time on the New Age movement. We could spend a lot of time on the television. We could spend a lot of time on the magazines. We could spend a lot of time on the radio. We could spend a lot of time on these subjects, but if they are sin, let them be sin and let them not be a part of our life.

We often hear warnings about the television dear ones, but if we turn on the radio and it is filthy language and it is lustful songs and it is all these things of the world, then turn it off! Turn it off! If we pick up a magazine or a newspaper or whatever, and our eyes fall upon an article that is not right, throw it away! You do not need to give it to your neighbor or your children or someone else. Throw it away!

If you have paid a lot of money for a book and you open it up and it has false doctrine in it, throw it in the trash! Throw it away. What did they do with evil books in the New Testament time when it was revealed unto them the truth of Almighty

God? It says they "...brought their books together, and burned them before all men; and they counted the price of them." Acts 19:19. And I do not remember how much it was. We maybe would not even understand what it meant in today's terms. But we have an understanding that it was of a great value monetarily. Do not let what you paid for something stop you from throwing it away if it hinders your spiritual life. It is not worth it. Throw it away. Throw it away.

The scripture, in uncharacteristic form of the scripture, repeats itself one verse after another and it says this, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Galatians 1:8. And then it repeats itself. Why? Because it is so important. It is deception and that is what you and I face, probably more today than anything else. Deception! Something that looks good, sounds good, and the world would say feels good. What is the world's message? Well, get involved then! And we are told, No, by God's Spirit. Examine it deeper than that. Is it right? Is it right? We have to ask ourself, is it right? Is it something God would approve of?

I do not know if there are any brothers and sisters in here who have a television. I hope not. What a poor example to your children or grandchildren! Or anyone else, your neighbors, for that matter. You should be ashamed of yourself! But there is a solution. That is to repent! Throw it away! Throw it away! Don't give it away! Throw it away! How can we say this so certainly? Because it is based on the Word of God. It is based on the Word of God. What does the Word of God say? "I

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will set no wicked thing before mine eyes..." Psalm 101:3.

Do we desire lustful things and bad language and sinful acts and violence, when we are called to a walk of life with God of peace and sobriety? Where are we today? It is time, dear ones, we wake up and we stand! And we stand upon the Word of Almighty God! We lean not to our own understanding anymore!

We walk with Him hand in hand along the pathway of life.

"But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man." Galatians 1:11. We know that the Apostle Paul for a time persecuted the church of God. He hated them! He was what we would call deceived. He thought he was doing God service. He was doing it in the name of Almighty God! And he thought he was doing the right thing.

Oh, he was trying! He was sincere. He was as sincere as any person could be. If we would cause someone to be put to death, we would have to be very convinced that what we were doing was right. He was sincere. Sincerely wrong. Totally wrong. He came to understand that when Jesus Christ revealed Himself to him along the road. He was taught it by the revelation of Jesus Christ. We know the story of how the Lord struck him

down and He caused him to be turned completely around.

Sometimes maybe, dear friend, you wait for that kind of a thing to happen. But I dare say you look around this room and it has happened over and over again. It is not that we were struck down physically. But that within our life that was wrong and deceived and evil was struck down, was crucified with Christ that we might live! And it can happen with you as well.

God wants men everywhere to repent. God is not looking to have you lose your soul in eternity. Not when He paid the price of your soul's redemption with the blood of His Son. He paid it! It is not waiting to be paid, He paid it!

Will you accept the payment? Will you come and accept the payment by coming before Him and repenting of your life, recognizing you need to be sorry for what you have done? So sorry you do not want to do it anymore. That you are willing to follow Him, to confess your sins as He has commanded. And by the way, it is not so hard when your sins well up before you and you can no longer stand them. You want to get rid of them! Confession suddenly becomes a way out! Not a horrible mountain but a relief to be able to set them aside. Then the Lord will convert you. He will reveal, as He did there

to Saul who became Paul, to you of His ways.

Oh, you will come to church and you will sit and you will listen. But I dare say that you will pick up much, much more if you are faithful in your home and you pick up the Word of Life and you read it. God will speak to you and He will teach you. He will reveal to you the true way. It will be encouraging to you that as you come together then around the Word of Life, that what you see here is what God will have revealed to you already. It will not contradict. It will support each other.

"But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen..." Galatians 1:15, 16. Dear ones, God is yet holding out that desire. He wants to convert those who stand without. He wants to sustain those of us who are His children. He wants to encourage us to more faithfulness, to a closer walk of life. Not that He would deprive us but that He would add joy upon joy. That He would encourage us more and more, that we might worship Him and praise Him and extol Him more and more.



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. For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-925-2409 or E-mail ksss@dpc.net.

HAITI						
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY	PERCENT FILLED
Palm Grove	Oct 4-12, '02	Puit Sales	Phil Isabel	Grade School	11	60%
JAMAICA						
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	Ted Hirstein / Kevin Sauder	Work Place	40	0%
CCCD	Jun 28 - Jul 5, '03	Deaf Village	(1) Smithville, Akron, Rittman BC	Work Place	70	0%

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
Bob Beebe	574-291-2158	574-299-8173	rbeebe@surfpure.com
Kevin Fisher	309-923-7684		
Kent Heimer	573-393-2440	573-769-5516	janheimer@hotmail.com
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	734-454-9259	thitzhome@juno.com
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885	
Jon Knapp	309-359-4213		jkplan@hotmail.com
Mark Criss	309-693-2532		redemed1@aol.com
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	330-939-4591	
Terry Miller	309-923-9154 or 941-485-4302	309-923-9154	tbmiller@mymailstation.com
Dean Pashak	517-662-7685	517-662-7099	
Bill Rager	419-263-2989		
Derek Sauder	309-925-7502		
Kevin Sauder	309-925-2409	309-925-2409	ksss@dpc.net
Duane Schieler	765-567-2922	765-567-2922	
Jim Walter	815-692-3158	815-692-2851	
(3) Pete Webel	419-756-2587	815-692-2851	
Nate Wiegand	309-645-1104		NATEWIEG@hotmail.com
(4) Jon Schwab	219-261-2935		jschwab@ind-pallet-corp.com
Tim Lehman	913-648-3069		tlehman99@yahoo.com

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.

- NOTICE -

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(309) 448-2416

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Morton, IL 61550
309-263-5536 (local#)
309-263-6841 (fax)

877-370-9988 (toll free)

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Bryan Stoller
817 S. Locust
Pontiac, IL 61764



BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

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

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Bible Distribution
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Bluffton, IN 46714
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E-mail: bibledist@parlorcity.com

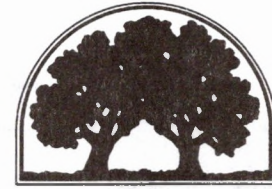
Volunteer Needs For the Navajo Project

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 cherylh@mtco.com
Juarez	Nov. 9-16, '02	Construction	Bruce Aschliman	260-824-5160 aschliman@onlyinternet.net
Juarez	Dec. 27 - Jan. 3, '03	Construction	Doug Schock	641-929-3377 dcschock@uno.com
Juarez	Mar. 8 - 15, '03	Construction	Kurt Ifer	260-824-2829 kurt@stevesconstruction.com
Imuris	Mar. 8 - 15, '03	Construction	Jerry Tooley	480-460-4531 jtooley@mcdavisco.com
Agua Prieta	Mar. 8 - 15, '03	Construction	Wayne Lehman	574-773-4373 socks@bnin.net
Juarez	Mar. 15 - 22, '03	Construction	Rick Yergler	260-824-4513 ryergler@yahoo.com
Agua Prieta	Mar. 15 - 22, '03	Construction	Wayne Lehman	574-773-4373 socks@bnin.net
Rio Bravo	Mar. 15 - 22, '03	Construction	Joe Maller	260-565-3211 jmaller@adamswells.com
Juarez	Mar. 20 - 27, '03	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann	309-385-1082 cherylh@mtco.com
Imuris	Mar. 22 - 29, '03	Construction	Jerry Tooley	480-460-4531 jtooley@mcdavisco.com
Rio Bravo	Mar. 22 - 29, '03	Construction	Joe Maller	260-565-3211 jmaller@adamswells.com
Rio Bravo	Jun. 14 - 21, '03	Construction	Joe Maller	260-565-3211 jmaller@adamswells.com

If anyone would desire to go to Mexico at a time not listed on the schedule, please contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or e-mail: mfiechter@parlorcity.com



Assistant Houseparent Needed

Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessing of being fully staffed with Houseparents for some time now. Sis. Chelby Kaeb (Bloomington, IL) will be leaving Gateway Woods in Summer 2002 so we will have an opening for a single sister, led of the Lord, to work in a full-time ministry with troubled children. The assistant Houseparent position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below:

Ed Graf
Childcare Supervisor
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
260-627-2159
888-443-4283

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
260-657-1033 (home)

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

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 continues the series on early leaders in the American church. Men of dedication to God, and enormous energy personified the early brethren who came to America. This is the story of Bro. John Kreinbill who was virtually untiring in helping the early brethren in the United States.

John Kreinbill

A significant church leader very active in the 1850's and 1860's, but who is virtually unknown because none of his descendants are in the church today, was John Kreinbill. This name has several variant spellings such as Graybill, Krayenbuhl, and Grabill, etc.

He was born in 1803 and died August 14, 1887, at the age of 84. It is interesting to note that he was born in Strasbourg, the city that Froehlich adopted after being deported as a sectarian from Switzerland. By the time Kreinbill left Europe in approximately 1836 (at age 33), the Froehlich movement was in its initial stages. There is no known evidence that suggests these two men were acquainted, although Kreinbill may have known of Froehlich since the latter's reputation as a minister was widely known in various Swiss and German areas.

He was married to Jacobena Gehring who was born in approximately 1807 in Alsace, France. She died of a blood clot in 1885.

An Immigrant

Kreinbill emigrated to America in 1836. He was from a well-known Mennonite family. He and his family first settled in Titusville, PA. He later lived in Ohio, and subsequently moved to Illinois.

His first home in Peoria, which he purchased June 11, 1847, was a log cabin at the foot of Munson and Sanford Streets.

There was a cluster of log cabins at this site, and Kreinbill occupied one of them. He would take his cow up the hill to graze (possibly in the area between Main and High Streets).

John Kreinbill is thought to be the first convert of the Apostolic Christian Church in Illinois. His conversion was apparently due to the efforts of Benedict Weyeneth.

Kreinbill was soon selected as a minister, and by 1852 he held services in the Sommer home across the Illinois River from Peoria on Metamora Road. Although considered for the Eldership, he was never ordained as Elder.

Helping Others

He was very active in helping establish the new church denomination in America. He traveled by buggy to many areas to spread the gospel. His improvised suitcase was a large handkerchief tied to a stick.

He also traveled to Canada to preach and seek converts. A diary entry by his daughter, Catherine Hofstetter, on November 15, 1876, states, "Father starts for Canada from Gridley." An entry of May 5, 1877, says, "Father came home." Thus, it appears the trip to Canada lasted from November to May.

Kreinbill is noted, too, for traveling to the east coast and picking up newly-arrived emigrants who had just come from Europe. He helped them adjust to their new country. No doubt he felt inclined to tell them about this new church of which he was a part.

Traveled Widely

From Peoria, he later moved to Partridge Prairie near Metamora. His daughter's diary indicates he worked diligently in central Illinois, preaching in all of the churches which existed at that time.

Henry Geistlich, when visiting America in 1866, mentioned in his diary on June 10 (at New Bremen, NY) that he met John Kreinbill from Illinois: "He was on his way to Canada. Earlier he was born in Alsace, but this has been his country for about 30 years. He is now a minister in our church. He is a lovable brother, being a real example to the unbelievers and unfaithful. He offers almost his entire life to the work of the Lord."

Pulaski, Iowa

Kreinbill was instrumental in the formation of the Apostolic Christian Church in Pulaski, IA. In the winter of 1864-1865 he traveled from the Peoria, IL, area to Pulaski. Local history has it that he traveled by train to Ottumwa, IA, and walked

the remaining 25 miles to Pulaski.

He went to the Mennonite Church located about two miles southwest of Pulaski where he conducted a series of meetings. The mode of baptism was a major point of discussion. The Mennonites had always baptized by pouring instead of by immersion. Kreinbill emphasized this was inadequate and not patterned after the New Testament example. About half the membership of the Mennonite Church were convinced he was right and followed him. This was the beginning of the Apostolic Christian Church in Pulaski.

Wide Influence

The May, 1968, issue of the Silver Lining indicates that along with Elder Benedict Weyeneth, Kreinbill helped to establish the Mansfield, OH, church early in the decade of 1850.

Some historical sources indicate that in 1862 Kreinbill traveled to Butler County, OH, and founded a church. This is the area north of Cincinnati. Today, there is no Apostolic Christian Church in that area. There was, however, an Amish settlement in Butler County as early as the decade of 1830, and perhaps Kreinbill, in his far-flung travels, visited some of his former Amish friends in that area and attempted to establish a church.

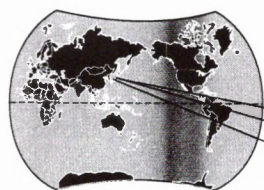
In 1877 Kreinbill published a pamphlet concerning the condition of the church entitled, *From the Beginning to the Present as a Voice of Warning and Judgment*. It is written in German and is difficult to understand. At the time it was published, he lived at Metamora, IL.

In later years he lost his eyesight but continued preaching. He was well versed in the Scriptures and was able to correctly refer to many passages. Those who followed the reading with their own Bibles would testify that his references or quotations were correct. His grandchildren used to lead him around the barnyard and to the well after he lost his sight.

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

Elder Benedict Weyeneth



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“It’s Up To You”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Recently I seem to hear an inaudible voice say, “It’s up to you,” when I am struggling with an issue. How much of our joy or sorrow in life is up to us? Maybe more than we realize.

In John 6:67 we read, “Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?” Peter responded with the words, “To whom shall we go?” It’s true, no one else even claims to be the Son of God, nor does anyone else claim to be our Saviour. They only claim to be prophets and the like.

In effect, Jesus told His disciples “It’s up to you. If you want to go chasing around looking for God and the meaning of life some place else, you’re free to go.” We conclude, then, that whether or not we repent and follow Christ, is up to us; it’s not compulsory. But when you look at all religions and what they offer, it’s the only reasonable choice. It’s up to you.

Suppose I am terminally ill. Depression and discouragement

crowds in upon me. Am I going to give in to this temptation or will I proclaim victory for eternity — it’s up to me. Will I complain to God or will I thank Him over and over for all the blessings He has given me in years gone by? It’s up to me.

Another Bible verse pertaining to spiritual things reads, “And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” Rev. 22:17. No doubt about it, the Bible teaches, that, in regard to salvation and spiritual blessings, it’s up to us. However, this principle applies to many facets of our lives.

Am I going to be grouchy or am I going to be pleasant? If I am mentally or emotionally ill, I may not be able to decide, my body may be out of my control. But for most of us, it is a matter of how badly we want to be pleasant. If someone would offer us a huge sum of money if we would be pleasant for a one year period, there would probably be a lot of

smiling, kind comments, and downright cheerfulness for at least one year. By then, we will have gained so much from it ourselves that it becomes a permanent part of our personalities. We get not only the money, but a new personality. It’s up to us.

How are you doing? Do you have the power from God to rise above difficulties? There have always been sorrows on this earth. Some survive and some don’t. You and I are still alive. By God’s grace we can have courage and joy enough to help others. It’s up to you and it’s up to me.

Concerning the good Samaritan, we read in Luke 10:33, “And when he saw him, he had compassion on him.” You can go by on the other side, or you can forget self and have compassion on those in need. It’s up to you. So very much is up to you.

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*In stillness the pheasant waits, knowing that a moment
of carelessness may cost him his life.*

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