

# *The Silver Lining*



*God's blessings are abundant and His creation diverse.*

September 2002

*Sermon by Elder Brother Kevin Ryan, Rockville, CT*

## II Samuel 24 and Ephesians 2

Just thinking back, this chapter in the Old Testament that we read of, we mentioned the key of David in our opening remarks. We think about the life of David and contrast that with the life of Saul. In many respects when Saul was rejected for being king over Israel, I would dare say that we have no evidence in the scripture in the life of Saul that he engaged in some of the base things, the immoral things — if we would use that term, scripture doesn't really use that term — those things which are carnal, and sensual, to the degree that David did. David was captivated many times by those things and encaptured by them. Saul of course, did also in his day and time fall into sin and David likewise in his time. If you think about it loved ones, the key of David gives us some thought and consideration. What was the difference between those two men?

In the times where Saul was in difficulty, and of course it really arose there when the time came that he went and he sought counsel of Samuel. Now that in and of itself was a good idea, wasn't it? The problem was Samuel at that time was dead. So rather than falling upon his knees and going to the living God which he could have confessed with his own mouth, who was filled with mercy and power and might to deliver, he went to a witch at Endor. Now there are a couple of things about that. First of all, let us never become so sleepy in our day and time to think that there is not something to the danger, there is something real and seriously dangerous about dabbling with those extra-spiritual things, those things of the occult. This is something that probably we as parents ought to talk to our children more often than we do. I say that to my own criticism, not to yours.

Sometimes a person comes repenting, and we go through as we mentioned this morning some of those things in the Galatians, which I am sure your brother does to, just to stir the mind there a little bit. What is it that is the sin

of life? We get to the sin of witchcraft. We think about it this way — they say well no witchcraft, never been involved — and I say now wait a minute, let me ask you a question. Do you have a habit of reading the horoscope in the daily paper? That is witchcraft. Because superstition enters in. And there is some kind of confidence set upon those things. Or we ask young people if they have ever been in some kind of game — and they might think it is childish-game or on a Ouija board and all that kind of thing. But those are where the beginning of those things start.

We live in a day and time where people talk about being spiritual. They talk about the Navajo Indians out in the West and they talk about this one being spiritual and they think about all those people in far places like China and India and they give credibility to those things. Let us remember some of the root of those things is witchcraft loved ones. Let us never forget that. That is one of the things that became destructive in Saul's life. He gave some credibility to the witch at Endor. Well she really was a witch. And there really was a spiritual world and Samuel really did come up. And she really did cry out when she realized what was going on. She was blinded and yet she had some powers of a witch. We need to be careful that we, in our day and time where people think they are so sophisticated and educated and all the things that go along with that, that we start to just think it does not really mean anything. It means a lot.

Thinking about the key of David, the other thing that Saul did not do is that he never humbled himself. Think about the time with the slaughter of Amalek the king. When finally Samuel did come to him and he revealed to him and said what is the bleating of this sheep, what did Saul say? The people. You. The people were getting restless. You did not come. You were late. And the finger pointing and accusation went out, didn't it?

Contrast that loved ones, with the time where David committed that sin with the wife of Uriah the Hittite. And the prophet came to him likewise, in that case it was Nathan, and said I have a parable. He told the parable of that poor man that had that one little lamb. It was like a daughter to him. He nursed it and he cherished it. The rich man came because he had a guest and that lamb was just ready for the slaughter and he took it from him. Oh, and Da-

*Sermon continued on page 42*

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

## Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

September 2002

### Weights I

On the surface it would appear that being a child of God in the United States in the early part of the 21st century should be much easier than it is in other parts of the world. Also, it appears that it should be much easier now than it was at other times throughout history.

Few of us in America have ever experienced either harsh or lengthy persecution. Few of us have ever faced the possibility of death, serious injury, severe hardship or even significant inconvenience for taking a firm stand for our faith in God. We rarely hear of Christians in America who have lost their jobs, their homes or other possessions as a result of serving God as they feel instructed to do so in His Word.

We can freely assemble around His Word as often as we wish; we can openly fellowship with those of like-mind and faith; and we can publicly express our views about the one true God with no fear of serious reprisal. We can dress modestly, we are rarely required to go places where a child of God ought not to be and the atmosphere of our homes can reflect our faithfulness to God. We are not required to take an oath of allegiance to a government official nor to an idol.

In spite of all of these blessings, Satan seems to be as effective in America as he is elsewhere in thwarting the Word of God and causing souls to stray from the straight and narrow way.

Although there are undoubtedly many factors which contribute to Satan's success, it would appear that one of the important tools that he uses to accomplish his evil purpose is to bring "weights" to our lives. If Satan can overload us with obstacles that hinder our service to God, he can reduce our effectiveness as children of God.

The Apostle Paul warned us to "...lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1). Paul recognized that in addition to easily recognizable sins, there are other tools that Satan uses to hinder a child of God from being faithful and from winning the race to receive

our heavenly prize. Paul recognized that as Satan adds "weights" to our lives, he hinders our progress.

Perhaps we could define a weight as anything which hinders our service to God or slows us down in our effort to draw closer to God. Since Paul wrote of weights and sins, we can understand that weights are not necessarily evil. It is possible that an activity which is good could become a weight. Weights are issues over which we do have some control and we could therefore, remove most if not all of them from our lives.

What are the weights that we need to avoid? How can we keep them out of our lives or at least keep them from putting our salvation in jeopardy?

There are many activities which, in isolation, may not cause us to lose our salvation. However, these activities may divert our attention, waste our energy, blur our vision, put a barrier between us and God, or draw us farther from God, thereby making us more vulnerable to Satan's tactics.

When Jesus visited the home of Mary and Martha, Mary left the greater share of the work of serving to Martha. When Martha asked Jesus to tell Mary to help her with the work, Jesus said "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful; and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her" (Lk. 10:41-42).

Certainly Jesus did not say it was wrong for us to serve our guests. He did say that we should not be so particular about details that we allow these things to keep us from worshipping God as we should. Too much energy used on unimportant detail turned hospitality into a weight.

We must also be careful that we do not allow situations outside of our home to weigh us down. The social, political and economic systems under which we live bring us into contact with many people. Most of us live and work in situations that expose us to significant diversity in culture, family structure, values and religious beliefs. These areas of diversity are promoted by our govern-

ment as being wonderful attributes for our communities and nation. Perhaps this is true in a political atmosphere in which globalism is promoted as the solution to world conflict.

However, from a spiritual point of view, diversity is potentially a great danger. Many of the people from diverse cultures and religions are nice people and make wonderful neighbors and co-workers. But do they draw us closer to God or do they draw us away from Him? We must be careful that we do not make the same mistake that the children of Israel made as they allowed diversity to significantly impact their lives.

Solomon was deceived by having a close association with heathen people. He married "strange women" - those of ungodly people - and "...it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart ...and Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord" (I Kings 11:4-6). Even a man as wise as Solomon could not associate with evil without having his faith weakened.

There are many other examples that could be cited in which the children of Israel allowed themselves to become allied with ungodly people and it cost them dearly. David recognized this danger and wrote "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful" (Ps. 1:1). The Psalmist cautioned us that this situation gets progressively more serious. First we walk with them, then we stand with them and finally we sit with them.

If our acquaintances do not draw us closer to God, we must be careful. Perhaps it is not possible to avoid working with, or living by, unbelievers. We can, however, avoid becoming involved in their activities which may lead us to spiritual shipwreck. Their kindness and friendly personalities may cause us to unwisely expose ourselves to false doctrines.

This topic will be continued in the next month's "Light From the Word".



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**

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

## Distribution Centers and Material Aid Coordinators

**G**reetings to all in the precious name of Jesus. The Distribution Center Coordinators' Board (DCCB) would like to thank you for giving your time, talents, and tithes to Apostolic Christian World Relief. We are thankful for the privilege of serving this present world with the gifts that you share.

### About the DCCB

The Board is made up of the Coordinators from most of our World Relief Centers plus a counseling elder from the National World Relief Committee. Duties of these brethren are to coordinate the efforts of the three international shipping centers, the three support centers, and the two local centers.

The coordinators of various products such as soap, meat, grain, kits, and beans also channel their efforts through this board.

Another duty of the DCCB is to be responsible for fulfilling the regional aid coordinators' requests for items going to Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, and Europe.

### If you would like to help

Anyone who would like to become involved in the ongoing activities at a center near you may talk to the coordinator of the center or someone who regularly volunteers.

They are always looking for workers and will be glad to share with you the exact local, national and international needs. The Lord has opened many doors of opportunity to serve at these centers, and you will be richly blessed as you share of yourself and become involved.

### Policies under review

Although we have had such centers for a number of years, the work is a continual learning process. The duties of the board are to seek areas where assistance is needed and to try to meet those needs using the assets and opportunities available to us. We covet your patience and prayers as we continually refine our procedures.

### World Relief Review

An annual World Relief Review program is scheduled each year. By decision of the World Relief Committee some time ago, the nation is divided into an east and a west region. Each region has a day set aside, normally a Saturday, where brethren can gather and be informed of the ongoing efforts.

### New distribution center

The newest facility added to our chain of distribution centers is near the city of Arad, Romania. This past spring the European Board arranged for purchase of this facility, located on a main highway in the small suburban village of Vladimirescu. There are several buildings on this property with the entire complex surrounded by a wall, which is normal in Eastern Europe.

The property is already serving as a reception and distribution center for the food packages sent monthly from Bluffton to Romania. There is a house in good condition that will probably be used to accommodate brethren who will serve as caretakers.

Since there are areas of the work in Eastern Europe involving the Mission Committee, they paid \$20,000 toward the purchase price of about \$95,000. The congregation at Breidenbach, Germany is also

closely connected with this ongoing work, and are sharing costs as well as providing some necessary labor.

### Distribution Center Coordinators

Bay City – Kurt Munsel  
Phone & Fax: 989/671-2109  
Work: 989/686-5681

Bluffton – Gerald Fiechter  
Phone & Fax: 260/597-7494

Fairbury – Jeff Zimmerman  
Phone: 815/657-8412  
Work: 815/657-8311

Goodfield – Marvin Wagenbach  
Phone: 309/925-5628

### Regional Aid Coordinators

Haiti – Bob Honegger  
Phone: 260/622-4186  
Fax: 260/622-4183

Jamaica – Kurt Munsel  
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Mexico – Cheryl Hermann  
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### Item Coordinators

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

Kits – Les Fehr  
Phone: 815/646-4536

Soap – Jeff Zimmerman  
Phone: 815/657-8412  
Work: 815/657-8311

Soup – Bob Steffen  
Phone: 260/565-3383

*Blessed is he that considereth the poor:  
the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.*

PSALM 41:1



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

### Presenting the Gospel Message

The Mission Committee is the arm of the Church with the responsibility of carrying out the goals and purposes of spreading the gospel. Having experienced the blessings of the love of God and fellowship within our brotherhood, we extend our hands of love and mercy toward all mankind in fulfillment of the Scripture.

The Mission Committee works in cooperation with the World Relief Committee to meet spiritual and humanitarian needs around the world. Presently the Mission Committee is actively working in Canada, Central America, Europe, India, Japan, Mexico, South America and the USA. Following is the purpose, the Scriptural foundation and the objectives for these labors of love.

### PURPOSE

To present to the lost the Gospel message of salvation based on faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and a true repentance and conversion. (Acts 3:19; Eph. 2:8) This includes the nurturing and instructing of the believers in the truths of God's Word (Eph. 4:12; Col. 1:28) and the preserving of sound doctrine by "earnestly contending for the faith."

(Jude 3; Acts 20:27)

### FOUNDATION

The Holy Scriptures, which command that God's Word be shared by teaching, preaching and example, with Jesus Christ as the Head and the church as His Body, through which His work may be carried out here on earth. (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Col. 1:18)

### OBJECTIVES

#### To share the Word

We encourage the sharing of God's Word by all brethren with anyone who has an interest in receiving it. This may include distribution of the entire Bible, the New Testament or small portions of the Bible as well as personal sharing of our eternal hope. (1 Pet. 3:15)

#### To invite to worship

We encourage all brethren to invite their friends, neighbors and associates to worship with us. There is potential for a great spiritual harvest all around us. (Matt. 9:37-38)

#### To support small churches

We encourage brethren to consider moving to communities with small Apostolic Christian churches to support their growth and stability. (1 Thess. 3:12-13)

#### To establish churches in the USA

We encourage working with the Mission Committee to establish churches in new areas in the U.S. where there is a nucleus of brethren and friends. All churches must be based on the Word of God and its directives as outlined in our Statement of Faith. (Matt. 18:20; 2 Tim. 3:14-17)

#### To establish churches outside the USA

We encourage the establishment of churches in new areas in foreign countries with the same conditions as establishing churches in the USA. Individuals who assist in these efforts must be directed by the Holy Spirit into this work and be of good report. When this is confirmed and adherence to the guidelines listed below is assured, such individuals

will be sent by the church on specific assignments to a particular area of need. (Acts 11:22; 15:22)

This process is carried out by the Mission Committee with the support of the individual's local elder and church. (Acts 11:22-24; 13:1-3; 2 Tim. 2:2)

*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

*Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.* MATTHEW 28:10-20

### The Mission Committee Supports...

- Mission programs in the U.S. and other countries.
- Bible Distribution throughout the world.
- Hymn Book translation and dispersion.
- Printing and distribution of sermons and other materials.
- Establishing and aiding new congregations.
- Church building construction.
- Supplementing printing costs of the *Silver Lining*.
- Recording and distribution of sermons on cassette tape.

### How it's Funded

The mission fund is dependent upon contributions from Apostolic Christian congregations as well as other generous individuals. The Mission Committee counsels together as often as necessary, discusses requests and projects, and appropriates the funds.

Opportunities for spreading the gospel message are rapidly increasing. We trust the Lord will provide the needed resources.

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who dwell in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters."

*Psalm 24:1-2*

It is such a beautiful and comforting thought to sense our great God holding us in the palm of His strong hand as our residents and staff go through many activities each day. Many times we are aware of His intervention in our lives and we are thankful.

Small groups from the group homes have had wonderful mini-vacations to St Louis and Hannibal, MO; Indianapolis, IN; Arcola, St. Charles and the Peoria area. Other groups are planning a weekend in Iowa to visit some church families, a day to Dixon Mounds, and a train trip to Springfield. At Timber Ridge some people have enjoyed swimming each week at the Easter Seals pool. A group went to Six Flags Park in Missouri for a vacation time. Fireworks occurred just adjacent to the home which made viewing a possibility for most everyone. A smaller group went elsewhere to view fireworks another evening. The horseback riders have competed in several shows and highly anticipate these events. The Special Olympics bowling tournament is planned for August 24. Regularly scheduled summer evening outings include attending Peoria Chiefs games, Lakeview museum events and eating out.

SEPTEMBER birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Rd.,

Morton, IL 61550 are: Ed Green (3), Judy Vivic (3), Marta Graber (9), Mike Culkin (10), Richard Harvey (14), Janet Christensen (16), Glenn Getz (20), Cindy Sigulas (22), Mike Bedford (26), Ethel Borinstein (29). At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550: Nancy Theis (25). At Linden Estate, 1000 Linden St., Morton, IL 61550: Kristy Dotterer (1), Dave Taylor (13), Jim Maupin (24), Brent Rebeck (24), Doug Steffen (26). At 652 Detroit, Morton, IL 61550: Angie Massner (9). At 241 Minnesota, Morton, IL 61550: Janet Schweigert (10). At 208 S. Indiana, Morton, IL 61550: David Maupin (20).

OCTOBER birthdays at Timber Ridge are: Tricia O'Donnell (1), Carol Fahrni (5), Mark Mulnix (6), Emma Walker (15), Curt Jewett (24). At Oakwood Estate: Lois Baumgartner (4). At Linden Estate: Kent Knobloch (14). At 652 Detroit: Anita Schuon (13). At 1001 E. Idlewood: Chad Gerber (9). At 208 S. Indiana: Bryan Tiezzi (30).

## GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

**Andy and Jill Lehman**

As we thought about what to write for this month's Silver Lining, we thought about our main goals at Gateway Woods—rebuilding and restoration of the family. One of the ways John spread the gospel was rebuilding the family. "And he [John] shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared

for the Lord." (Luke 1:17)

The day to day interactions that children see in family life can be a powerful way to demonstrate how alive and real our God is. God designed the family to be a place where people could see faith in action and believe in Jesus as their Saviour. As we live and work here at Gateway Woods, it is a wonderful, secure place where the children are loved and taught about Jesus Christ. Yet, as workers, we all feel the strain of the emotional hurt these children carry because their homes have been broken apart by sin.

We should not have need for a children's home; it was not God's original design. However, because of sin, we need a children's home. God's design for families is husbands and wives having a vibrant relationship with Jesus and obeying His instructions for relationships. It challenges us with our own family. How are my priorities? Is my focus on worshipping and communing with my Creator— even before serving Him? Am I laying down my will for the good of my wife or husband? Do nothing out of selfish ambition.

Are we being faithful in the first ministry of our own family? Or is our family receiving the brunt of our frustrations and selfishness? Are we disciplining our children while taking the time to shepherd their heart so they understand WHY they needed it— from God's perspective? Are we rising to the challenge to lose our life (die to self) in this world, so we may gain it in eternity?

Marriage and parenting are hard work, but it is a ministry that can have far reaching effects, good or bad. In Exodus 20:5, God tells us that our sin can affect people to

the third and fourth generations after we have lived. But God promises to show us mercy and love for a thousand generations if we love Him and keep His commandments (Deut. 7:9).

Often, God's will for us is not hard to find. It's being obedient in the routine, mundane tasks He has called us to do today: going to work every day and doing the best job we can for His glory, changing that dirty diaper, writing a note of encouragement, taking time out to spend an evening with our spouse, throwing the ball with our child, etc. If God doesn't rule in the "mundane", then He doesn't rule! Let's be faithful to what He has called us to do.

"We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done... That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children."

*Psalm 78-4,6 (Choose to leave a godly legacy.)*

We would like to welcome Willy D. and Nolan G. to our campus in Leo. We would also like to say farewell to Dustin D., who recently graduated from high school. Please continue to pray for our residents and foster children, that they would embrace the Truth of God's Word.

Our school building is progressing nicely. The anticipated completion date is around Christmas 2002. The school building will increase our capacity to serve and give us more opportunities to present the Gospel to our residents. Thanks for your prayers and financial support.

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## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

**Melinda Matuch**

"All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." (Acts 16:31)

"Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." (Ephesians 6:1)

"Depart from evil and do good." (Psalm 34:14)

"Even a child is known by his doings." (Proverbs 20:11)

"Fear not for I am with thee." (Isaiah 43:5)

Each week at preschool we learn a Bible verse that begins with the letter of the alphabet we are learning to write and sound out. Planting the seeds of scripture in the hearts of our children is one of our most important goals. By year's end, the preschoolers will know 26 alphabet verses and a number of others that are holiday or theme related.

This month we are using the themes of community helpers and safety as special topics in our lessons. We will have fire and tornado drills, visit the police and fire stations, look inside an ambulance and talk about how people who serve others in the community serve God by helping others. We will also focus a little on the events of September 11 and plan to wear red, white and blue in a show of respect for those who gave their lives to save others that day.

For Labor Day weekend, we were blessed to have with us a volunteer work team from Roanoke, IL. Sisters Doris Fischer, Keri Kaeb, Kasey Kaeb, Allison Schroeder, Janet Bradle, Susan

Bradle, Bros. Luke Fischer, Loren Mogler and Kirby Lemman arrived late in the night on Friday and worked long and hard on Saturday with many big jobs that cannot be done during preschool hours. Carpets were shampooed, light fixtures cleaned and bulbs replaced, weeds cut and our dollhouse was completely redecorated with fresh paint, new carpet and wallpaper. While the work was hot and tiring, the love and fellowship we were able to enjoy made it all worthwhile. Thank you simply sounds much too inadequate in the face of your outpouring of love and labor on our behalf. May God bless you richly for all your efforts.

We continue to ask God to guide us in our search for a teacher. Many of you have heard the announcement over the pulpit. At this time our regular substitute teacher is teaching every day. It is only through the willingness of many local volunteers that we are adequately staffed and able to meet the needs of the children. Jesus said, "Let the children come unto me." We are asking that you come unto the children and serve Him.

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## ALABAMA, ATHENS

**Louise Hall**

**Joan Reinhard**

"Faith Mountain" was the theme for our Vacation Bible School this year, and as we studied the heroes of the faith and the "mountains" that were set before them, it was a good reminder of how God can take ordinary people and use them in extraordinary ways. We had a great turnout for VBS, with more students having perfect attendance than we have ever had in recent years.

We appreciated Elder Bro. Ted

Witzig and his wife, Sis. Cindy (Morton, IL), as they were here visiting on July 21 and Bro. Ted had the service for us. We also extend our prayers to God for Sis. Erin Witzig (Bro. Andy), as she was not feeling very well for a while, but is now feeling much better.

Sis. Joan Schrenk (Bro. Tom) had surgery this last month and is thankful for the skilled hands of the doctors as she is recovering very well.

On July 28, we were thankful for visitors from Milford, IN, and also from Morton and Washington, IL. Some of our visitors joined us as a group of us traveled down by Birmingham, AL, to visit our Sis. Nancy Sizemore and her children. We had an enjoyable evening of singing and fellowship.

We also had visitors from Goodfield, IL, and Mansfield, OH, and we are thankful for those who live here who are not originally from here, since we get to enjoy getting to know their families when they come to visit.

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### ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"...for without me ye can do nothing."

*John 15:5*

We are thankful our Elder Conference has met on behalf of all our churches and we will trust God to lead us in these troubled, dangerous times.

Sunday School will begin again August 25. Bro. Roy Blunier and fine staff will greet our children.

Bro. Chris and Sis. Heather Thorpe became parents again when Sierra Rose was born July 27. She has a sister, Dakota Pearl.

Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Connie Frautschi, Renee and Lise Broders and Brian and Trudy Thorpe.

Brian Kenneth Baum was born August 3 to Bro. Scott and Sis. Wendy Baum. Brian's siblings are Koby, Isaac, Annika and Becca. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jody Baum (Morton, IL). We pray God's blessings on both families. We are truly blessed to have three babies since July 5.

Bro. Ken Lawson and Richard Kraft had surgery. Little Dakota Thorpe had the first of her hand surgeries. We ask for your continued prayers for Sis. Elva Wuthrich, Sis. Lucille Richardson and our shut ins.

Our prayers were answered when Bro. Herb Knochel Sr. was in church on July 31.

Our sympathy to Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Kieser on the death of his aunt, Sis. Ruth Kieser (Princeville, IL).

Bro. Ron and Sis. Evelyn Hoerr were honored for their golden wedding anniversary with a reception at the church by their children on August 11.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

We thank you dear ones from near and far for the calls, cards and gifts for our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We are grateful to our Lord and you.

*In His love,*

*Ron and Evelyn Hoerr*

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### ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

Our annual picnic on August 3 was attended by approximately 125 people, with several of Janon (Fiechter) Furrer's family from Bluffton and over 70 from Phoe-

nix with us. A church dinner was also held on Sunday for those that stayed in the area. It was a wonderful weekend of fellowship, and we thank all that attended.

The engagement of Bro. Terry Koehl (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Yasmin Petrovic (Elder Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA) was announced on August 4. They have set their wedding date for November 17 at the San Diego church. We wish them God's guidance and blessing as they plan their lives together.

Susan Schmidgall (Doug) will be receiving chemotherapy treatments for the next few months. We ask that you remember her and her family in your prayers.

Our ministering brethren this last month included Bros. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Herb Knochel, Jr., James Emch, and Jim Meiss (all of Phoenix, AZ). We thank God for their willingness to serve us and pray that He will richly reward them for their service to others.

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### ARIZONA, TUCSON

**Lisa Knapp**

We have resumed our Sunday School classes and monthly fellowship suppers (the second Sunday of each month) after a two month summer vacation.

We are still enjoying our summer monsoon storms and especially the temperature drop that accompanies them. Can't say we enjoy the humidity that comes with the storms, but we are thankful for the rains.

Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) was our visiting minister for the month of August. We want to thank him for his time and effort to travel to Tucson and pray that he experienced some



blessings also.

Our Sunday School Bible Class is anticipating a trip to visit our Southern California churches over Labor Day weekend. We will hold them up in prayer as they travel the busy highway and spend time renewing friendships and enjoying the beach!

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### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

#### John Klotzle

Prayer. One of the major essences of our communications with God. Likely, an entire treatise can and has been written about prayer. What shall we pray for? What can lead us to an answer to this question? Thankfully, we have biblical direction to follow in this regard.

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

*Romans 8:26-27*

As we listen to the Holy Spirit, He identifies in our mind those things (ones) needful of prayer. It seems there are times when needs accrue involving a certain condition for which a church needs to be especially fervent in prayer. We have recently experienced several special needs for health and healing. In this prayer list we include: Bro. Bill Witzig, Bro. Jeff Luthi, Bro. Doug Aberle, Bro. Glen Hackenjos, Sis. Judy Crockett, and friend Anne Yaussi. Please join us in praying for all of

them.

We appreciated visiting minister, Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA) serving our congregation. We want to encourage others to do so as well.

By God's grace, Bro. Tom Klotzle is to be ordained Elder of our congregation on October 13. We pray that he will continue to be filled with the Holy Spirit and prayerfully supported by the church. He is to succeed Bro. John Klotzle who plans to retire, Lord willing.

As the schools and colleges reconvene, we pray our members and friends will be blessed with the spirit of holiness in framing their lives to serve the Lord. We bade farewell to Sis. Stephany Moser who has returned to China for language training. She will be missed by all. Kurt Luginbuhl will be spending a semester in Switzerland this fall while Paula Luginbuhl begins her college studies in San Diego.

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### CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

#### Peggy Jevremov

The Lord has truly blessed our little flock in this past month. We rejoice with Denny Fulop (Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy) as it was made known to us that he through repentance has found peace with God and desires to erect a covenant with Him in the waters of baptism. We look forward to hearing his testimony on October 26.

Another blessing was shared with us as the betrothal of Sis. Yasmin Petrovic (Elder Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian) and Bro. Terry Koehl (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary) of Prescott was announced. We pray the Lord's blessings will be upon their engagement and marriage. We are so thankful that

Bro. Terry and Sis. Yasmin plan to make their home here in the San Diego area.

We are thankful also for those friends and brethren who have come to worship with us during this past month. Among our visitors was Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle) and their family. We pray the Lord will bless Bro. Ben for his service to us in bringing forth God's Word.

Those of our congregation who were blessed to be able to travel to our annual Brotherhood Conference in Rockville wish to express our thanks to the brethren there for all their efforts of love and hospitality in hosting so many of us from all our churches. We could truly feel God's love and Spirit as we assembled there. May we each continue to pray for our dear shepherds and hold up their arms as they strive to guide our precious faith in these end times.

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### KITCHENER, ONTARIO

#### CANADA

#### Nathan Reutter

Greetings, brethren. We have had a somewhat slow month within our church. We had only one visiting minister come to visit us. This was because of the general Brotherhood Conference. Our hearts, too, were directed to the events in Rockville and we pray that the Lord's will has been accomplished there. “Where no counsel is, the people fall; but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” (Proverbs 11:14)

Our visiting minister, Bro. Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy, Rockville, CT), also brought us good counsel. We were thankful for their efforts to come here for the weekend of July 20-21. Matthew 10:42 tells us that

“whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.” Since Bro. Everett fed us little ones a cup of living water overflowing, we pray that he likewise will not lose his reward.

We were also rewarded opportunity to have a few singings both at homes of believers and at a nursing home this month. These are always blessed opportunities for praising God in song and blessed fellowship. The Bible tells us not to forsake these times of refreshing given to us by God.

We also enjoyed the fellowship of visitors within our midst. We appreciated each and everyone’s coming. It is a wonderful thing in our brotherhood to be able to meet and feel immediately comfortable with people we have never met before. If our children are going to enjoy this we need to preserve it and teach it to our children and grandchildren (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

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## COLORADO, DENVER

### Ann Gonglach

We’ve had a busy, blessed summer. In July, a group of our high schoolers went down to Imuris, Mexico, to work on the children’s homes there. Including young people from several of our churches, about 30 went all together. They put up dry wall, poured cement, and had a wonderful time serving there for a week.

We’ve had many visitors. Visiting ministers that have shared God’s Word with us were Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL), Nate Steffen (Sis. Marilyn, Elgin, IL),

Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL) and Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL). We thank them for their service.

We’re rejoicing with Bro. Mike and Sis. Heather Katanic whose son arrived on July 23 safe and sound. The doctors expected that the baby wouldn’t be able to breathe on his own, and therefore wouldn’t live. God had a different plan, however, and chose to answer our prayers. Little Kaden Michael has joined his dad, mom and sister, Emily, at home and is doing well with only minor complications.

We will miss Bro. Britt Steffen as he has moved to Illinois to attend college at ICC. He is attending church in Washington, IL. May God lead and guide him in his future plans as he pursues his education.

Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb) has been approved by the Elder body and we look forward to his ordination as our Elder on September 29.

August 17 was our annual Sunday School picnic. This year we went to the mountains and enjoyed the day together surrounded by the beauty of some of God’s higher-altitude creation.

Consider ye mortals, the wonders  
of nature  
Which God in wisdom did create.  
Did not our Creator in power and  
order  
For man His wondrous work’s in-  
state?

How can we behold the great work  
of creation  
And not feel moved His name to  
praise?  
From whom are these wonders? O  
give Him the glory!  
Our voice in honor to Him raise.  
*Hymns of Zion #49, vs. 3-4*

As summer winds down, and children head back to school and the routine that settles in, let us remember to think of our Creator and honor Him in all that we do.

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## CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE Cherie Galat

We had the blessed privilege to host the 2002 Brotherhood Conference. Words can hardly express the joy and strength of being surrounded by a multitude of our beloved brethren represented from around the world. We were thankful that almost all the Elders of our faith were in attendance for the Conference. May God richly bless each Elder and ministering brother who exhorted us throughout the week and weekend and encouraged us to live a more godly life. “Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle” (II Thessalonians 2:15). Let us hold fast and apply the teachings that we heard to our daily walk of life in Him. May He reward the efforts of our brethren and friends who so willingly gave of themselves so that the Conference could be a blessing for all.

Streams that from Thy wounds  
are flowing  
Bless us for this water bath...  
*Zion’s Harp #162*

We welcome into the fold Bro. Jonathan Goric (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Lou) as a brother-in-faith. Assisting our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan in the work was Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY). May our Heavenly Father continue to guide and direct Bro. Jonathan as he walks with Him.

We are thankful for our Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) who preached unto us recently as he visited our congregation. May God continue to give him words as he labors in the vineyard.

We had a singing with a reception following for Bro. Kirby and Sis. Areli Reutter (Ixtilan, Mexico). We pray that their marriage is blessed as they have made their home in Mexico.

Our dear Carl Luginbuhl (Bro. Chet and Sis. Pam) moved to the Overlook Group Home, which will assist him in his special needs. Our prayers are with both Carl and Bro. Chet and Sis. Pam as they have experienced this change in their daily life. Anyone wanting to contact Carl can write to:

Overlook Group Home  
282 Overlook Dr.  
Glastonbury, CT 06033

We lift our dear ones up in prayer who have been sick or hospitalized: Sis. Eunice Bahler, Chaz Lanz, and Bro. Ken Schulz (Sis. Lois).

May God provide consolation to families who have lost loved ones. Gertrude Kupferschmid (the late Bro. Alfred) leaves her brother-in-law Bro. Werner Kupferschmid (Sis. Esther) and sister-in-law Di Kupferschmid. Sis. Leola (Rein) Schambach leaves her husband, Bro. Charles (Elgin, IL), her brother Arlie Rein (Brenda), sister-in-law Sis. Martha Schneider (Bro. Leon), and other family members. May God provide for these two dear families during this time of loss.

### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer**

We are thankful so many have included our congregation in their vacation plans.

Our ministers the past month were Bro. Ron Koehl (Sarasota, FL), Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA), Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA). Other visitors this month were from Rittman, OH; Roanoke and Gridley, IL.

We are thankful Ken and Roberta Belsley are able to again assemble with us after various hospital stays.

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

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. for vacation or business, please call Bro. Barry and Sis. Doreen Steffen (410) 569-3635 or Sis. Henrietta Meyer (703) 904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. If you would like to get together on Saturday evening, please let us know that also. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

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### **FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE Nancy Rocke**

As the fall approaches, we look forward to some cooler weather and a break from the humidity. It

is also a time when our local families return from their vacations and some of our winter guests and visitors begin to arrive. We appreciate them because they are a vibrant part of our church family.

Living in an area that has many people come and go has its good points; it is an opportunity to meet and greet many people that we might otherwise not have known, but it also has its downside, especially when we bid farewell to people who have to move because of employment obligations. Such is the case with saying farewell to Bro. John and Sis. Holly Zimmerman. We wish them God's blessings and care as they move to Chile, South America, for Bro. John's job. They were an asset here, and we hope to see them in Fort Lauderdale again soon.

The annual voting took place in July for the various offices that became available. Elected this year were: Sis. Sally Gress, Sunday School; Bro. Mike Hohulin, Trustee; and Sis. Judy Sauder, Kitchen Committee. Thanks go out to the brothers and sisters that have completed their terms.

Because visitors are a highlight for our church family, we are grateful for your visits whenever the way opens for you to visit South Florida. You are always welcome at our worship services! We have been blessed with visiting ministering brothers this summer, including Elder Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL), Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL), and Bro. David Zehr (Sis. Vicki, Gridley, IL). May God bless them for their labor of love.

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## FLORIDA, NORTH FORT MYERS

### Mary Masters

We are so thankful for answered prayers for the successful surgery for our dear Sis. Jeanette Yergler. She had two stints put in, and reports are that she is doing fine. We hope her recovery is speedy and that she'll be rejoining us in church very soon.

We had the pleasure of a visit from visiting ministering Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Sue, Sarasota, FL) this month. We thank them for serving us and worshipping with us.

We are always delighted when we have visitors in the summer months, as our congregation is very small, and we value very highly each and every one of our year-round residents and have a special closeness and joy at seeing them each Sunday.

I read recently that the biggest hindrance to establishing an intimate time with God is not something outside of ourselves. It's our own reluctance to choose to spend time in prayer and Bible reading. So, how do we go about attempting that which at times may seem impossible? First, we must confess our failure to make time for God. Second, we need to recognize that spending time with God is essential for our spiritual lives. It should be as vital to us as making sure we get food every day. Third, we must develop a plan. In Psalm 5:3, for example, we see that David scheduled special time with God in the mornings. With those things in mind, let each of us make certain that we devote time every day to shut out the world and spend time in prayer, praise, and learning from God's Word.

## GEORGIA, ATLANTA

### John Brewer

The month of August was busy for all of us in our congregation with traveling and students getting ready to go back to school (it seems to come earlier and earlier each passing year). Through this hectic month for all of us, since this is the month of the Brotherhood Conference and the children's home auction, we are thankful for those who have stopped to worship with us. We are grateful for Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pamela, Latty, OH) and Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL) to take time to minister the Word to us.

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

### Sheila McCoy

### Doreen Moser

Beautiful words,  
Wonderful words,  
Wonderful words of Life.  
*Tabernacle Hymns*

We were so blessed to have religious freedom and to be able to freely hear the Word of the Lord. We thank Bro. Dean Messner

(Winthrop, MN) for visiting Belvidere and bringing forth "wonderful words of life."

Bro. Mark Wettstein did a topical Bible study for our congregation on "Setting Our Affection On Things Above" from Colossians 3:1-3. Bro. Shannon Stahl has been leading a program of individual Bible study for us on the New Testament. At our last monthly meeting we studied the Gospel according to John. We are so thankful for our willing brothers who promote God's Word.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

*II Timothy 2:15*

On vacation we were able to cross a scenic, shallow river by stepping from one boulder to another. In our Christian life, let us use the stepping-stones of love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance as we cross to 'yonder shore.'

## ILLINOIS

### BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

#### Ann Kellenberger

#### Rebekah Kaufmann

We are always thankful for visiting ministers. Joining us this month were Elder Bros. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), and Bros. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL). May God bless each one of them and their families for willingly sharing the precious Word with

us.

We extend our sympathy to our dear Sis. Eloise Diggelman due to the death of her brother, Bro. Reuben Stoller (Gridley, IL).

Four young families have welcomed sweet new babies into their homes and hearts this past month. Tyrell Blake was born to Tim and Trish Virgil on July 25. Big sister, Tea, is very happy to have a new baby brother to love. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Bev Virgil and Roger and Viv Beadles. Little Hannah Grace blessed the home of Bro. Scott and Sis. Erin Martin on July 29. Welcoming her home is big sister, Rebekah. Her grandparents are Carol Lenz and Robert Jennings and the late Bro. William and Sis. Jane Martin. Also, Thaddeus Samuel was born to Bro. Sam and Sis. Shelley Steffen on August 11. He is welcomed home by his big brother, William. His thankful grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Betty Steffen and Bro. Dave and Sis. Judy Knobloch. Dayton Doyle was born to Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie Rabe on August 16. Welcoming him home are Bro. Durelle, Bro. Adrian, Julissa, Dustin, Quinton, Benson, Carly and Dylan. His grandparents are Julie and Denny McDugle, Don Rabe, Sis. Loretta and the late Bro. Alvin Baumgartner. May the Lord bless and direct each of these loving parents as they strive to raise these dear children that God has entrusted to their care.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Dave Wegman (Sis. Karen) following a mild heart attack. We are thankful that he is recovering so well and trust that he will remain in good health.

How joyful it was for our church family to again gather two different weekends to listen to

testimonies and witness the baptisms of five precious souls. On the weekend of July 21, we welcomed Russ and Beth Koehl as our new brother and sister. Then on the weekend of August 3, Barb Knapp, Tamara Esteghamat and Norma Zimmerman were added as our dear sisters in faith. May God grant each of them much grace to remain true and faithful until life's end.

We rejoice with the engagement of Sis. Chelby Kaeb (Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda) to Bro. Jeff Sauder (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky Sauder) of Tremont. May they continue to look to the Lord to guide them during their engagement period and throughout the remainder of their lives.

On August 18, our Bloomington church hosted the student welcome for all of the incoming college students and their parents. We certainly enjoy having the students worship with us and were thankful for all the parents that came to share the day. We pray that each student will be blessed with a good school year and can continue to grow spiritually and submit to God's will for their future.

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### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Steve Endress

Ye guards on Zion's walls, prepare!  
For soon your Master will appear,  
Your full reward bestowing.  
In joyful ranks ye then will stand;  
The evidence will be at hand,  
Your work and labor showing;  
In great number, souls enlisted  
And assisted to find favor  
In the eyes of Christ, the Saviour.

*Zion's Harp #210 vs. 3*

It seemed so fitting as the con-

gregation lifted their voices in this song as our Elders took their places at the Conference. This hymn reminds us that we will all be recompensed according to our deeds, whether they be good or whether they be evil. Let us remember our Elder brothers in prayer at all times during the year.

We enjoyed having six Hungarian sisters with us for a Wednesday evening. We were reminded that the "tie that binds" goes far deeper than language or distance.

We are thankful that Bro. Kenny Dietz (Sis. Mardell) has recovered from his hospital stay and is again assembling with us.

We appreciated having Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Shioda, Japan) and Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA) to minister the Word of Life to us this month.

We enjoyed having Bro. Greg Johnson assemble with us for several months during part of his schooling. We will also miss Bro. Chad and Sis. Laura Lee Plattner and their family. They have felt led to relocate to the Tremont, IL, area and plan to worship with our brethren there. They have been a faithful family and will be missed.

Our Sunday School reconvenes this month. Our prayers are with Sis. Julie Ringger and Bro. Matt Kieser (Sis. Tracy) as they begin to serve the church as Sunday School teachers.

Another baby girl was born to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Elizabeth Endress. Laura Beth was welcomed home by Matthew and Sarah. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Ev Endress and Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL).

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## ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

### Janelle Schlipf

The fall brings special blessings to our church here in Champaign as we welcome students who will be attending either the University of Illinois or Parkland Community College. It is a joy to see the familiar faces of those who return for yet another year, as well as the new students who will make this their home in the upcoming months. We enjoyed meeting parents, families and friends at the annual New Student Welcome Picnic in August. This also provides an opportunity for parents to get a glimpse of where their child will spend these next few years. We encourage parents to visit your children often and we love to have you join us at church with your students.

This fall, we are privileged to welcome not only our students, but new members of our congregation as well. Bro. Neil and Sis. June Knobloch, with their sons Grant and Nelson, moved to the Champaign area in July. Neil is an assistant professor at the University of Illinois. God has also provided for Bro. Joel and Sis. Gretchen Gehrig to remain in the area as Gretchen continues her teaching position at an elementary school in Oakwood, IL. Joel will be joining her at Oakwood this year, where he will teach agriculture classes at the high school. We welcome both of them to our church family!

Bro. Dave Wiegand led us in a Bible Study on Wednesday, July 17. Though he is often missed from the pulpit, it was a blessing to hear his words of wisdom and encouragement.

The annual Sunday School pic-

nic was on Sunday, July 28, at Hessel Park. Many thanks to each one who helped make this a special day for the students.

We are always thankful for visitors, especially during the summer months. We especially want to thank Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bros. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) for visiting us this past month.

“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name...”

*Heb. 6:10*

We want to extend a special thanks to Bro. Sam and Sis. Pam Furrer for all their time and efforts as correspondents for the Silver Lining in the past years.

*Note of Thanks:*

Thank you very much for all the retirement cards and gifts I received to celebrate my retirement. I appreciate them! God bless you for your encouragement and support.

*Sis. Karen Kaiser*

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## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

### Jill Rager

The Lord has blessed us with many reasons to rejoice. Along with the angels in heaven, we are rejoicing that our dear Chuck and Ella Mae Stoller have turned their hearts to the Lord in repentance. We wish them grace as they go forward in surrendering their hearts and lives to God.

Our Bible Class was accompanied by several teachers and parents for a work project trip to Juarez, Mexico. The spiritual instruction and opportunity to

serve brought many blessings to the group.

We thank visiting Bros. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) and Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) for bringing us God's Word. May He bless them for their efforts.

Once again we experience both welcomes and farewells. We are happy to welcome Bro. Phil Nenadov, who has moved from Kansas City, MO, to Chicago for employment. We are sorry to bid farewell to Bro. Justin and Sis. Robin Moser. They will be attending our Altedena, CA, church as Bro. Justin will be resuming his employment there following completion of his studies in our area. May they feel the guidance of the Lord in this time of transition.

We give our support and prayers to Bro. Neil Banwart, who has been appointed as a Sunday School teacher. We thank Bro. Kim Steffen, who has completed his term, for his faithful service.

The Lord has blessed us with two precious babies. Emmaus Zollinger Rassi was born to Bro. Matthew and Sis. Bridget. Little Emmaus is being welcomed by siblings Carl and Manna. Grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi and Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger (Sardis, OH). Callista Michelle was born to Bro. Kent and Sis. Jill Rager. Allison, Kendall, and Holly are rejoicing over their new little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Sharon Rager (Toledo, OH) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Eleanor Borgia (Francesville, IN). May the wisdom and grace of God be given to these couples as they seek to raise their precious families in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

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

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), and Bros. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Dave Oberghel (Peoria, IL), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT). We are thankful for the messages each one brought. May God bless them for providing the Word of God to us.

We welcome Sis. Sandy Rudin back to our congregation from Elgin, IL. She has been gone for several years and we pray that she will soon feel at home again. We also are thankful to have Bro. Monty and Sis. Bethany Van Wyhe assembling with us. We pray God will bless them as they establish a new home.

We are thankful our Sis. Arcelia Bauer is able to be back home after recovering in the nursing home from a car accident. We continue to pray God will grant her healing.

Grandchildren are a blessing. We congratulate first-time grandparents, Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LaNae Rudin. They have a grandson, Dustin Neal, born on July 26 to Bro. Brent and Sis. Erica Blume of Wolcott, IN. Sis. Velma Rinkenberger (late Bro. Steve) welcomes a grandson, Jared Stephen, born on August 12. Jared's parents are Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karen Schmidt (West Bend, IA).

We are thankful that Chalise Steffen (Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth) has acknowledged that she needs to repent and be converted. We pray that God will grant her grace as she begins on the narrow way.

We congratulate Bro. Art and Sis. Lou Hari as they celebrate

their 65th anniversary. We are thankful they were able to reach this milestone and pray God will continue to bless them.

**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**  
**Arlene Banwart**

"Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty, give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

*Psalm 29:122*

As we think of school beginning, we pray for the students, teachers, and other staff, that the students may learn and use their talents to glorify God in their lives.

We were thankful for the many visitors this past month and encourage any to worship with us. Blessing us with God's Word were visiting ministers Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Bros. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), James Kaeb (Bern, KS), and Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR). It was also a joy to have six sisters from Hungary worship with us.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Kathe Hasty in the death of her mother, Clara Wacker. Blake Remmert (Kent and Sis. Crystal) and Sis. Millie Schieber (Bro. Carl) have experienced some health problems. After being home for a few weeks, Bro. Walt Miller is back in the hospital again. Our prayers are with these dear ones.

Presently our old church building is being used for Fellowship Hall-type activities but is still for sale. An all-church farewell singing for Sis. Julie Zimmerman was held there, as she plans to go to

Gateway Woods to work as an assistant houseparent. May we all remember her in prayer as she strives with others, by God's grace, to help turn lives around.

*Note of Thanks:*

It's now been one year since we moved back into our home after the fire. We wish to thank everyone for their prayers, deeds of kindness, food, monetary gifts, and help in cleaning and rebuilding our home. We are thankful for everything and have felt God's hand in the entire experience of recreating our home.

*In Christian Love,*  
*Bro. Dennis and Sis. Emily*  
*Wettstein*

**ILLINOIS, ELGIN**  
**Amy Gasser**  
**Kay Kellenberger**

Vacation Bible School was held July 29-30 and August 2-3. Visiting ministers who came to speak to the Bible Class students were Bros. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), and Dave Marquart (Taylor, MO). Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington-Normal, IL) gave a topical presentation on the Middle East to the church on Wednesday evening, July 31. Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Edwin Strahm (Bern, KS), Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Tom Leman (Denver, CO), and Randy Mogler (Washington, IL). We thank these brothers for their willingness to serve.

Lynwood Schambach (Bro. Don and Sis. Leann) and Jamie Weiss (Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen) were united in marriage on July 20. The engagement of Sis.

Jessica Schifferer (Wayne Schifferer and Sis. Joyce Schifferer) to Bro. Bryan Kellenberger (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Debbie) was recently made known to our congregation. They are planning an October 6 wedding. We wish both couples God's blessing in their lives together.

We welcome Bro. Richard Martin (Byron and Sis. Katie), who recently moved here from Gridley, IL, to accept a teaching job in Crystal Lake.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Charles Schambach in the passing of his wife, Sis. Leola, on August 6. May God comfort him in his lonely hours.

We rejoice that Brently Schambach (Bro. Don and Sis. Leann) has turned to the Lord in repentance.

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

Glory! glory! How the angels sing;  
Glory! glory! How the loud harps  
ring;  
'Tis the ransomed army, like a  
mighty sea,  
Peeling forth the anthem of the  
free.

*Gospel Hymns #622*

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**ILLINOIS, EUREKA**  
**Janet Zimmerman**

There's a fountain free;  
'Tis for you and me;  
Let us haste, O haste to the brink;  
'Tis a fount of love  
From the Source above,  
And He bids us all freely drink.

Will you come to the fountain free?  
Will you come? 'tis for you and me;  
Thirsty soul hear the welcome call;  
'Tis a fountain open for all.

*Gospel Hymns #770*

We are very thankful that Jeremy Knecht (Elder Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy) is seeking the Lord in repentance. May God grant him grace to build a solid foundation.

Our two visiting ministers most recently were Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN). We thank them for bringing the Word to us and trust God will richly bless them.

Bro. Eldon and Sis. Ida Mae Rocke have been blessed with twin granddaughters. Caitlin Julia and Amanda Lauren were born on August 12 to Steve and Gail (Rocke) McCane of The Woodlands, TX. Paternal grandparents are Ron and Jane McCane of Decatur, IL.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Clara Huber on the death of her sister, Sis. Matilda Legel of Roanoke, IL. She died August 1.

We are thankful to report that Sis. Wilma Huber is doing well after having her second hip replacement surgery.

"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

*I Corinthians 15:52*

Did you stop to think this morning  
That the Lord may come today?  
Would you rise to greet His coming,  
Would He bear your soul away?

Oh, get ready, lift your faces,  
Your redemption draweth nigh.  
In a moment Christ returneth  
In a twinkling of an eye.

Did you stop to think this evening  
E'er you enter slumber sweet  
That the Lord may come at mid-  
night

Are you ready, Him to meet?  
If you're ready, sweet slumber.  
If you're not, how tossed and  
worn.

Oh, please clear your state with Je-  
sus,  
He may come before the morn.

—*Ruth R. Groff*

*Note of Thanks:*

To be remembered by so many dear ones during my hip surgeries has been overwhelming. I wish to sincerely thank each one, and may God richly bless you for your love and concern.

*In Christian Love,*  
*Sis. Wilma Huber*

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**ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY**

**Joann Zehr**

**Tammy Hinrichsen**

The Lord has richly blessed Bro. Bill and Sis. Shay Stork with a beautiful baby girl. Rachel Chris was born on the 13th of July. Grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay Steffen, Bro. John and Sis. Eunice Stork, and great-grandmother Fannie Steffen.

All of us rejoice with Rachel Steidinger (Bro. Doug and Sis. Dixie), as she gives her life to the Lord. May God help her and give her grace with the start of her newfound faith.

Bro. Ryan Stoller and Sis. Hope Steidinger have announced their engagement. Parents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Rhonda Stoller and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane



Steidinger. Also engaged are Derrick Steidinger and Joslyn Grosshans. Parents are Dave and Deann Steidinger and Dan and Marcie Grosshans. We wish each of the couples God's blessings as they prepare for their special day.

We would like to thank the ministers who have visited Fairbury this past month. They were Bros. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), and Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA).

Our prayers go with Sis. Mary Kaeb, Sis. Marsha Fehr, Sis. Barb Meiss, and Sis. Helen Zimmerman, as each has spent time in the hospital. May our Lord's healing touch be felt by each our dear sisters.

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### ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp  
Linda Anliker**

Finding relief from the anguish of sin and Satan and accepting the grace from God, Laura Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill) and Joshua Schmidgall (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary) have begun their journey on the path of righteousness. We are thankful for them, and may they make a complete surrender that God may convert their hearts to a new being.

We thank Bro. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN) for visiting and sharing God's Word with us.

August 17 was the wedding day for Teresa Fehr and Ted Bachtold. May they desire the grace of God and His loving direction to become an ingredient of their union as husband and wife. Their parents are Ralph and Martha Fehr (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Bachtold.

Joining the family of Bro. Jason and Sis. Lynn, Luke and Nathan Dotterer is Elise Marie, born August 7. Her grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy Dotterer and Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly Steidinger.

First time parents Bro. Adrian and Sis. Shawna Bachman are enjoying their new baby boy, Micah Lee. Bro. Larry and Sis. Donna Bachman and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy Gutwein are his grandparents.

May God grant healing to Edith Honegger as she spent time in the hospital.

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### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Heather Hohulin  
Rita Bauman**

It brings joy to our hearts as we hear of three couples announcing their engagements this month.

May they continue to put their trust in God to direct their new lives together. Shane Rocke (Bro. Steve and Audrey) is engaged to Donna Weyer (Joe & Janet). With faith in the Lord, Bro. Brandon Knapp (Bro. Jon and Sis. Pat) and Sis. Amy Knobloch (Bro. Loris and Sis. Pat, Peoria) are preparing for their special day. Also, Blake Gerber (Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish) is to be wed to Kristin Knepp (Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise, Roanoke). God bless you as you make your wedding plans.

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

*Eccles. 3:1-2*

As the death angel has visited families in our congregation and loved ones are missing from family circles, may we turn to the Lord

for comfort. Our prayers are with Bro. Morrie and Sis. Kathy Zimmerman and Sis. Vi Hohulin in the death of their father and brother, Bro. Jeff Zimmerman. Also to Bro. Shorty and Sis. Evelyn Hoffman on the passing of his brother, Harold Hoffman. We also want to remember Sis. Elsie Hohulin in the loss of her brother, Bro. Reuben Stoller. Scott Hess has also passed away and our love and sympathy goes out to his mother, Sis. Loretta, and family. May each of these families feel God's loving arms around them and the prayers of many as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

We're reminded so well how the Lord has the power to take away, but also the power to give. As He closes doors to the lives of some, He blesses us with the opening of doors for others. We welcome Trevor Mark Rocke who has made a safe arrival into the loving arms of his parents on August 9. Bro. Jedd and Sis. Marsha, Tyler, Kaitlyn, and Mikaila are his happy family. Grandparents are Mark and Connie Rocke and Sis. Judy and the late Stan Knapp.

We have been abundantly fed through the Holy Spirit by the laboring of our visiting ministers. We would like to extend our love and appreciation to the following ministering brothers: Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke), and Bros. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke), Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley), Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North), and Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend).

Bro. Tim Wiegand (Bro. Roy and Sis. Jan) has moved to Leo, IN. He will be teaching at Gateway Woods. We will miss Bro. Tim but admire his willingness to go where He leads. May God bless

him for his faith.

"... Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

*Matthew 18:3*

We are glad that we can report Erin Davis (Bro. Noel and Sis. Molly) has found peace with God and man. Our prayers are with her and we look forward to her testimony and baptism. May God grant much needed grace to all our converts as they strive for the mark of the prize of the high calling of God.

On August 24-25, we were blessed when two precious souls told how God has worked in their lives. Those born again were Sis. Megan Knapp (Sis. Judy and the late Stan) and Sis. Lexy Blunier (Sis. Lucy and Bro. Daryl). How thankful we are to have these sisters added to the fold of our precious faith.

### **ILLINIOS, GRIDLEY Perry Klopfenstein**

The death of Bro. Reuben Stoller, 96, was a loss for our congregation. He passed away on his birthday, July 29. He had been a member in the Apostolic Christian Church for 78 years. Truly, he will be missed by family, brethren and friends.

He is survived by Sis. Delores Marti (Gridley) and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein (Peoria), and Artie Stoller (Gridley); 13 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren. Also surviving are five sisters: Sis. Elsie Hohulin (Eureka), Sis. Ida Schwenk and Sis. Verna Puschel (Peoria), Sis. Frances Martin (Kankakee) and Sis. Eloise Diggelman (Bloomington).

Bro. Reuben was blessed to live at home and enjoyed good health almost until the very end. He was a man of energy with much devotion to family and loved ones. He always had a sincerity in taking an interest in others, and was gifted in visiting. He was well versed about the past, and was an interesting brother to visit with because of the information he could provide. It's informative to note he was born in 1906 when Gridley's first resident Elder, Bro. Rudolph Witzig, was still living. He was six years old when Bro. Witzig died in 1912.

He was interested in the welfare of the church and even in his 90's offered prayer in the congregation. His concerns were for the lost and his great hope was that his children and grandchildren would be ready when the Lord comes.

We have had much rain here in Gridley during the month of August. Crops, which had needed rain, have recovered and much better yields are in prospect. The earthly harvest is a concern each year to all of us. But much more important, of course, is the harvest of souls. The Word teaches that the fields are white unto harvest, and the laborers are few. May God give us grace to work in the harvest, and may lost souls respond to the plan of salvation that their soul may find an eternal rest in Heaven. The enemy is busy, day and night, and seems to be exerting more and more influence on society. As brethren, may God help us in promoting the gospel, and in living it ourselves. Truly, His grace is plentiful, which He gives to the humble.

Several babies have been born. On August 1, a son was born to Bro. Jason and Sis. Jamie Schlipf.

He was named Kollin Michael. He has a sister, Kaylie, 2. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Jill Schlipf and Bro. Rollie and Sis. Carol Rumbold (Roanoke, IL). Great-grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Winifred Schlipf, Sis. Mae Rocke (Roanoke, IL) and Sis. Elna Nussbaum (Fairbury, IL).

Brett John Endress was born on July 23. His parents are Bro. Brandon and Sis. Sonia Endress. He has a brother, Mitchell, 4, and a sister, Megan, 1. Grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Marge Feucht (Lester, IA) and Bro. Dale and Sis. Cindy Endress (Peoria, IL). Great-grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Lucille Endress (Bradford, IL), Bro. William Wiegand (Washington, IL) and Helen Jackson (Peoria, IL).

Bro. Roger and Sis. Bonnie Funk became the parents of twins on August 1. They were named Madison May and Joseph Denton. Grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Shirley Funk (Congerville, IL) and Harold and Teresa Maubach (Henry, IL). These are the first children for Bro. Roger and Sis. Bonnie.

Our sympathies are with Sis. Beth Ehresman, whose father passed away.

Our prayers and concerns are with the 30 college students who have returned to the classroom at six different Illinois institutions.

Those who were in the hospital are Sis. Betty Rich and Bro. Paul Zehr.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Brace Wieland (Leo, IN), Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL).

Sis. Janelle Schlipf has moved

to Champaign and will attend church there.

Bro. Al and Sis. Dorothy Ringger observed their 50th wedding anniversary.

### ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Julie Bahr  
Christie Zeller**

We are so happy that Bro. Brett and Sis. Lena (Sauder) Grimm and little Jacie plan to make Morton their home church and we welcome them.

A new little bundle of joy, Brodie James, has blessed the home of Bro. Brian and Sis. Dawn Tanner. Big sister, Brianna, welcomed her little brother.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Cherise Blume also are the thankful parents of a little boy, Brian John, "B.J.", born three months prematurely. Please continue to pray for them and this precious little baby as his organs continue to develop and strengthen.

"I'm Going Home, I'm Going Home" ... such are the lives of many in this past month.

Roy Farney passed away. He is the son of our dear Bro. Earl and Sis. Irene Farney.

Bro. Floyd Meiss of Gridley passed away. He is a brother-in-law to our Sis. Katie Meiss.

Samuel Joos passed away. He is a brother to Emma Ackerman and Louise Winemiller who worship with us.

Sis. Ruth Kieser (Bro. Dave) of Princeville passed away. She is a sister to our Bro. Bob Knobloch.

Ray Belsley passed away July 29. He is an uncle to our Sis. Diana (Bro. Bob) Kaiser.

Robert Smith also passed away. He is a brother to our Sis. Helen (Bro. Lem) Kaiser.

Sis. Erma Hirstein passed

away August 6. She is a sister-in-law to our Sis. Alice Hirstein and Sis. Edna Fite.

Harold Hofmann passed away July 28. He worshipped with us for many years before moving into the Meadows Mennonite Home.

Bro. Jeff Zimmerman passed away at our Restmor Nursing Home. He is the father to our Bro. Bruce (Sis. Merna) Zimmerman, and a brother to our Sis. Edith Getz.

Sis. Til (Rassi) Legal passed away August 1. She is survived by four brothers and four sisters, many of whom worship with us.

Sis. Esther (Aupperle) Getz passed away August 12. She had been at her home for many years prior to her illness and hospitalization.

May many prayers go out in comfort to these dear families.

Our visiting ministers for the month were Bros. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) and Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL). Also our Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL) was here for our Family Worship. His topic was on "Creation vs. Evolution". May God bless these brothers for their endless labors of love.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

Thank you so much for the outpouring of love, prayers, food, phone calls, cards and flowers. They will never be forgotten. It was very humbling to our family in the loss of our beloved son, brother, and uncle. May the Lord bless you all.

*Bro. Earl and Sis. Irene Farney*

*Sis. Phyllis Farney*

*Dan and Jan Sturm*

*Dave and Sharon and family*

*Dan and Mary and family*

Thank you for all the love, prayers, visits and food during my hospitalization, surgery, and since I am home. God bless you all.

*Sis. Irene Farney*

### ILLINOIS, PEORIA

**Peter and Mabel Weber**

Webster defines "vacation" as a period of rest and freedom from work, study, etc., time of recreation, usually specific interval in a year. It just ended for most of us. May especially our students experience a good beginning again.

Joshua 14 tells us Joshua and Caleb were not afraid of giants and trusted in God, not their own might. We must be rooted in Him, because giants will come into our life. Don't rebuild the things we once tore down. A frog adjusts to rising temperatures in a water tank until he finally boils to death (Bro. Tim Funk 7/21).

We thank Bro. Fred Funk (Morton, IL) for presenting the Book of Esther on August 7 for our family night service, and Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) for his service to the church.

Caleb Aaron was born July 22 in Indianapolis, IN. Congratulations to first-time parents, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Kara Klopfenstein. Happy grandparents are Bro. Cleve and Sis. Kathleen Klopfenstein and Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart (Champaign, IL). Grandchildren are the treasure of (future) golden years.

The marriage engagement of Sis. Amy Knobloch to Bro. Brandon Knapp (Goodfield, IL) was announced August 11. May the blessings of the Lord follow as they plan their wedding for November 17. Their parents are Bro. Loris and Sis. Pat Knobloch and

Bro. John and Sis. Pat Knapp (Goodfield, IL).

Sis. Ruth Kieser (82), beloved wife of retired Elder Bro. Dave Kieser and mother of Bro. Verle and Sisters Karen Steiner and Pat Meister, finished her life of faith on July 22. She will be remembered for her love and kindness and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Dave and his family. Sis. Dorothy Hohulin (87) passed away at the Skylines on July 21 where she had resided since 1965 and two previous years at Monroe Street. We express our condolences to her sister, Sis. Ella Musselman, and the rest of her family. Bro. Reuben Stoller (96) went to be with the Lord on July 29 at Gridley, IL. He is the father of Sisters Carol Klopfenstein and Delores Marti and grandfather of Carissa, Kyra, Kelsey and Carmen. It was always a blessing to visit with Bro. Reuben and he left a legacy of love and kindness. Sis. Velma Kellenberger (76) was called to her heavenly home on August 10 at the Eureka Home. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Gene and his family. Bro. Bill and Sis. Edna Klein's daughter, Mary, went to Phoenix many years ago, married John Wilson and raised five children. John (69) passed away July 27 and we extend our sympathy to Mary and her family.

Is LIFE the ride? — or the DESTINATION?

*Note of Thanks:*

The family of Dorothy Hohulin wants to thank everyone for the love, kindness, many cards and prayers over all the years which were deeply appreciated, also for the contributions to the Skylines on her behalf.

*The family of Dorothy Hohulin*

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

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."

*St. Matthew 5:14*

May this verse be an encouragement to all students as they return to the fall semester of classes.

When a Christian dies, precious is the prize!

Lasting joys for days of sorrow,  
Rest from conflict on the morrow,  
Follows when he dies, follows  
when he dies.

*Hymns of Zion #248*

Our hearts are saddened in the death of our dear Sis. Ruth Kieser (retired Elder Bro. Dave), yet we are thankful that she could go home to meet the Lord and be relieved of her suffering on July 22. Our sympathy and prayers are with Bro. Dave and their children, Bro. Verle and Sis. Lavonne Kieser (Bradford, IL), Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen Steiner, and Bro. Skip and Sis. Pat Meister (Peoria, IL).

Visiting ministers are a special blessing to our faith. Those ministering the Word to us from other congregations this past month were Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Bro. Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL), Bro. Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN), Bro. David Zehr (Gridley, IL), and Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington - Normal, IL).

Sis. Grace Herrmann (Bro. Kevin) has been hospitalized for a time in anticipation of the arrival of her baby. "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" (James 1:4). Sis. Gladys Knobloch (Bro. Nick) was also a hospital patient this past month. Our prayers have been with these dear ones.

Bro. Jordan and Sis. Kathy Feucht are happy grandparents of Ethan David, born July 17 to Steven and Kari Beutel. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeanette Beutel (Tremont, IL). Ethan is welcomed home by older brother Austin. Bro. Reuben Feucht in our congregation is a great-grandpa. His great-grandmother is Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen (Goodfield, IL). Grandchildren are truly a blessing from God!

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to express our most sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone for all the love and prayers that have been extended to us through the year, and especially at Sis. Ruth's passing. With humble hearts and deepest appreciation, we ask God to bless you as only He can.

*Bro. Dave Kieser*

*Bro. Verle and Sis. Lavonne Kieser*

*Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen Steiner*

*Bro. Skip and Sis. Pat Meister*

**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**  
**Joan Leman**  
**Jenell Hodel**

As I write this, summer is almost over for our school children and our thoughts and prayers are with each one as they begin an-

other school year. From the Kindergarten students to our college students, we pray God will be with them and guide them each day and that they will always have a heart that loves Jesus.

We appreciate those brothers who have been willing to come and minister to us this past month. They were Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Tom Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL). On August 17, we enjoyed the Sunday School and ministers' supper and evening. We want to thank Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin and his wife for being with us and encouraging us for the Sunday School year ahead. He reminded us of the joy we should have as we teach our future church. May God ever bless these brothers, their wives and their families.

Our prayers have been with Sis. Janice Braker (Bro. Kevin), Sis. Kary Kaeb (Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy), Bro. Dave Knapp (Sis. Carol) and Sis. Donna Schwind (Bro. Dan) as they have spent time in the hospital this past month. May they continue to be strengthened and healed by our Heavenly Father.

We are happy to report the engagement of Sis. Allison Schroeder (Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel) to Bro. Luke Fischer (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annette). Also making wedding plans are Kristin Knepp (Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise) and Blake Gerber (Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish, Goodfield, IL). On July 21, we witnessed the marriage of Sis. Kathy Bradle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary) to Bro. Mark Knapp (Bro. Larry and Sis. Stephanie and the late Sis. Rosella, Gridley, IL). David Ott (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marilyn) and Joelle Conradt of

Peoria were married on June 15 and they are now living in Irvine, CA. Our prayers are with each of these new couples that God's blessings will be upon them.

God loves the little children and we know that little Nathan Lindberg is safe in the arms of Jesus. Our prayers and sympathy are with his parents, Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie, and their children, Bro. Matthew, Bro. Mark, Bro. Joshua, Jacob, Caleb, Benjamin, Lydia, Hannah and Joel, and grandparents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jane Schumacher and Ron and Jeanette Lindberg, in their loss.

Our church lost two faithful sisters just days apart. How we appreciated these dear sisters. On August 5, Sis. Mathilda "Til" Legel was laid to rest and our prayers are with her family. Sis. Elsie Beer received her heavenly reward on August 4 and our prayers are with her brother and nieces and nephews.

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### ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Heather Rassi**

**LaVonne Wagenbach**

We thank our dear Elders who gave so much of themselves at the Conference. We are looking forward to listening to the tapes in our home congregation. They will surely be a blessing to us. We also want to thank the Rockville, CT, congregation for their love and hospitality.

Bro. Jeff Sauder and Sis. Chelby Kaeb (Bloomington, IL) have chosen November 3 as their wedding date. May God bless them as they take this important step in life. Their parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda Kaeb (Bloomington) and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky Sauder.

We appreciate the efforts of vis-

iting ministering Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL). May God bless him for his willingness to serve us.

We rejoice with Kappy and Gayle Koch on the birth of their second son, Sean Nichalos. Big brother, Ryan, welcomes him home. Grandparents are Tom and Judy Lowman (Manito, IL) and Bro. Elmon and Sis. Janice Koch. Steven and Kari Beutel were also blessed with their second son, Ethan David. Austin is his big brother. Bro. Jordan and Sis. Kathy Feucht (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette Beutel are Ethan's grandparents.

Our dear Bro. Bill Schmid was called to his Heavenly Home. We think of his many nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews at this time. On the other hand, we are thankful he could go to rest with his brothers and sisters. We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Arnold and Sis. Lydia Rassi. Arnold's sister, Sis. Matilda Legel (Roanoke, IL), was also laid to rest.

We remember Sis. Emma Aberle and her family in our prayers as she had to spend time in the hospital. Sis. Emma and her family so faithfully care for her husband, Bro. Al, at home. We wish them God's nearness each day.

We are happy to welcome Bro. Chad and Sis. LauraLee Plattner and children to our congregation. We hope they will feel "at home" here real soon.

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### ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Dianne Wyss**

**Marcia Koch**

"Get wisdom, get understanding; forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth."

*Proverbs 4:5*

As the students return to the classroom this fall, we pray that as they attain knowledge, they will also attain greater wisdom and discretion.

Bro. Phil Wagenbach (Bro. Don and Sis. Marie) will be continuing his education in the Philadelphia area this fall. We pray that the Lord will bless and keep him in this endeavor.

May the Lord's healing hand be upon our friend Harold Wettstein (Loretta) as he underwent open heart surgery this month and upon Bro. Lloyd Schumacher (Sis. Betty) as he was also hospitalized.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Eugene Kellenberger and his family, Bro. Ron and Sis. Carole Kellenberger and Bro. Randy and Sis. Ruth Kellenberger, as Sis. Velma, their wife and mother, was laid to rest. We are thankful for the comfort of the Spirit and for Sis. Velma's victory in Jesus.

Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol Anne, Peoria, IL) encouraged and challenged us at our monthly topical Bible Study. As he walked through the Ten Commandments, he made practical applications for "Christians in the Workplace." We also want to thank Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Sis. Gloria, Cissna Park, IL) for his instruction from the Word.

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

Thy word, O Lord, draws us together  
 In mutual fellowship to stand;  
 It kindles in our hearts forever  
 The flames of faith and love's  
 sweet band.

The word of grace, which brought  
 salvation  
 And fellowship with thy great  
 throng,  
 Who praise the Lamb with harp  
 and song,  
 Extends to all it's invitation.  
*Zion's Harp #63*

This month three more souls responded to Christ's invitation. We rejoice with Jacob Gerber (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Rhonda), Ryan Schwartz (Bro. Scott and Sis. Patti), and Rachel Neuenschwander (Bro. Terry and Sis. Jean) as they have begun repenting.

Bro. Chad and Sis. Stephanie Lantz welcomed their first child on July 10. Garret Allen was also welcomed by thankful grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee Reinhard and Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Lantz.

Madison Paige James was born on July 23 to Marc and Rachel James. Madison's grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Sue Kipfer.

We are thankful for Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN) as he ministered to us this month.

We rejoice with four dear souls who are at peace and awaiting baptism. They are Brian Steffen (Bro. Allen and Sis. Arlene), Jim Frauhiger (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Jenny), Taylor Aschliman (Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy), and Jason Gerber (Bro. Gene and Sis. Becky).

Spending time in the hospital this month were Sis. Alice Geisel, Sis. Marie Drayer (Bro. Herman), Bro. Ervin Schwartz (Sis. Alice), Sis. Sally Schwartz (Bro. Lester), and John Cowens (Bro. Mick, Ben, and Alicia Gerber's grandfather). Our prayers are with these loved ones and their families in this difficult time.

We rejoice with Sis. Kristen Dubach (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jodi) and Bro. Brady Kaehr (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Connie) as they have announced their engagement on August 11. We pray that God will bless them as they prepare for a life together.

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

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

*Proverbs 9:10*

The summer has passed and school has started again. Our Elder Bro. Phil Stettner reminded us to keep our children in special prayer, knowing the temptations they are up against. We are thankful that young Javon Steffen (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori) and Sarah Towle (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jodie) chose the path of wisdom as they started seeking the Lord in repentance. May the Lord cover these girls with His wonderful grace.

It was a blessing to all that heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms on August 4 of Sis. Brittany Aschliman (Bro. Kelly and Sis. Lisa), Bro. Vince Francesi (Bro. Len and Sis. Mary), Sis. Amanda Fritts (Roland and Kathy), and Sis. Deb Kolkman (Bro. Matt Markley's mother). We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) come assist with the weekend. We were also fortunate to have Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene, Goodfield, IL) share with us one Sunday.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Stacey Franklin are thankful for the mir-

acle of a new son, Jared Steven, born August 16. Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy Stoller are the happy grandparents.

Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis Bucher also have a new grandson, Benjamin Nile, son of Rod and Connie Bucher.

We had several loved ones with health problems this month: Sis. Susie Maynard, Sis. Gladys Fiechter, Sis. Imogene Aeschliman (Bro. Walt), Sis. Vi Isch (Bro. Roger), and Sis. Becky Bertsch (Bro. Lonnie). May we continue to uplift them in prayer.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Mick and Sis. Connie Cupp in the death of his mother, Margaret.

Back-to-school Encouragement:

"Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

*Isaiah 41:9-10*

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### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jessica Murray

Braden Spencer Nuest was born on August 1 to Bro. Chris and Sis. Jennifer Nuest and was welcomed home by his sister Madisyn. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Jane Nuest and Bro. Larry and Sis. Pam Leman. On August 12, Joel William Rinkenberger was born to Bro. Linc and Sis. Catrina Rinkenberger. He was welcomed home by brothers Chase, Drew, and Colt, and sisters Caitleigh and Hannah. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie Westfall. May

these new babies bring love, joy, and peace to everyone they meet. God bless you all.

May God guide and direct our dear friends, Sarah Overmeyer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet) and Daniel Flory (Mike and Beverly), as they were married on August 3. We wish them the many blessings that marriage can bring, and may they continue to worship the Lord.

We pray for the continued healing of our Bro. Jerry Gutwein, as he is recovering from injuries from a bicycle accident. May the Lord bless him and bring him back to full recovery.

A great thanks to our visiting ministers this past month as they shared the Word. They were Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN). May the blessings that were shared go forth to all those who have the ears to hear.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

We humbly wish to thank all our friends and loved ones who remembered us on our 60th wedding anniversary on August 8 with the many cards, letters and telephone calls we received on this special day. The Lord certainly has blessed us with a loving family and many friends. May God bless you all for your love and thoughtfulness.

*Humbly,*

*Morris and Helen Eshleman*

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### INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS

**Sue Levy  
Sandy Lichtle**

Our congregation appreciated hearing the Word shared to us by Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart

(Champaign, IL) and Bro. Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ). We are thankful for the Word and those who labor to bring it to us so that we might grow in our walk with the Lord.

The home of Bro. Aaron and Sis. Kara Klopfenstein was blessed on July 22 with the arrival of little Caleb Aaron. His grandparents are Bro. Cleve and Sis. Kathleen Klopfenstein and Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart.

Our congregation rejoices with John Waibel as he has turned his heart to the Lord. When we walk in the Lord's ways, He will direct our steps and we can go forward with a thankful heart.

Our Sunday School has had its brief break and now we begin another year. The Lord has supplied our needs by giving willing hearts to those returning teachers and those newly elected. The three year olds will be taught by Sis. Amanda Meister and Sis. Alivia Gutwein. The four year olds and Kindergarten class will be taught by Sis. Sara Frauhiger and Sis. Sandy Guingrich. The first and second graders will have Sis. Doreen Leuthold and Sis. Sara Huber as their teachers. Teachers for third and fourth grades will be Bro. Rustin Meister and Bro. Jerry Leuthold. Bros. Ron Gress and Stuart Gutwein will teach the fifth and sixth graders. Seventh and eighth will be taught by Bro. Chris Frauhiger and Bro. Brad Cook. Bro. Matt Ackerman (superintendent) and Bro. Joe Sprunger (assistant Superintendent) will be the teachers of the high school class. We are thankful that these members have a servant's heart to train up our youth on a weekly basis. The students have enjoyed the recent trips they

have taken with the Sunday School and the memories they have built.

Just a word of thanks to those who donated time, items for sale, or food for the Leo Children's Home Sale. It was an enjoyable day and we pray that it can be a blessing to the children of Gateway Woods.

Also we want to thank those who attended the Elder Conference in Rockville, CT. There will be an eternal reward, but we know that even now we are reaping the benefits of their faithful service.

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### INDIANA, LACROSSE

#### **Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold**

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Sis. Martha Peters who went to be with her Lord on Tuesday, July 23. She is survived by two nieces, Joanie (James) Cambern, Karen (the late Paul) Pritchard, and one nephew, David (Pam) Heiniger.

We have had several in our small congregation who have been ill or in the hospital this past month. Retired Elder Bro. Ed Frank has undergone surgery and is home and doing much better. Blake Schneider (Bro. Dale and Sis. Andrea) was hospitalized after a dirt bike accident. We are very thankful that Blake is doing well. Bro. Levi Wuethrich (Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla) has been going through some pretty extensive treatment and we continue to keep him in our thoughts and prayers. Others who have been hospitalized this past month and continue to need our loving support and prayers are Eugene Stoller and Sis. Lucille Nuest.

We thank Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) for being willing to share the

Word with us. May God bless Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily for their labors of love.

As our children begin another school year, we need to remember to keep them in our prayers. They have such a wonderful opportunity to be a shining light to all of those around them.

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### INDIANA, LEO

#### **Ethelyn Schlatter**

Sis. Chelby Kaeb, who has been serving at Gateway Woods, is engaged to be married to Bro. Jeff Sauder of Tremont, IL. Their parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda Kaeb (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky Sauder (Tremont, IL). We pray for the Lord's blessings on their lives.

Many of us attended the wedding of Bro. Jason Pence and Sis. Heidi Hackenjosh on August 11, at Latty, OH. The messages were a blessing. May their lives radiate what we heard.

We welcome Bro. Phil and Sis. Judy Schlatter to our Leo fellowship. They have moved here from Indianapolis, IN, with their two sons, Andrew and Simon.

A busy week was culminated with the Gateway Woods annual auction August 17. We had many volunteers during the week and on Saturday. There was a tremendous turnout and many stayed over for Sunday, including Bros. John Jackson (Bay City, MI), Kenneth Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH), Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), and Jeff Thames (Washington, IL). As they shared the pulpit together, we were blessed. We pray they will return one by one. Our cup was running over. We were also

blessed with the visit of Bro. James Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN). We are thankful they allowed the Lord's Spirit to use them in ministering the Word.

Bro. Bill Blunier is gaining mobility in his arm. Loren Klopfenstein was hospitalized for tests, but is recovered. Bro. Tyler Stieglitz is recovering from a broken jaw due to an accident. Our prayers are with them and others in our congregation experiencing health problems.

On August 18, following services, Bro. Bill Schick spoke of their call to go to Mexico. It was very impressive how the Lord prepared them. Our prayers are with them as they follow His leading.

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### INDIANA, MILFORD

#### **Stacey Feller**

#### **Paula Haab**

It was so good to have our church full on July 28 when Milford hosted an army reunion. It was a blessed weekend for all of us.

Added blessings this month have been when we were visited by ministering Bros. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. Douglas Schock (Pulaski, IA). May God be their Rich Rewarder for being willing to share God's Word with us. We also appreciated those who traveled with them as well as our many other summer visitors. Our own ministers are so faithful in serving us, and we thank them. Bro. Dan Beer stirred up our minds to soul searching when he had a Bible Study on Forgiveness.

After having major surgery, both Sis. Eleanor (Bro. Howard)



and Bro. Morris (late Sis. Betty) Beer have been able to return to their homes. They continue to need our prayers for strength and healing.

We always rejoice when our congregation increases in number. Adam Ray was born to Bro. Randy and Sis. Deb Beer on August 1. Along with playmates, Ann, Aaron, Ashley and Amy, grandparents, Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby Beer and Bro. Robert and Sis. Charlene Schumacher (Eureka, IL), are happy to have another little one to hug and hold.

Camp Mac (where many of our young people have gathered on a Sunday each year) was the site chosen by Jason Price (Bro. Phil and Sis. Janie) and Jennifer Russell for their wedding on August 17. May their marriage be one where God is ever present to bless and keep them.

It has been evident, by empty benches on Sunday, followed by loving greetings that many of our brethren have been traveling to and fro. We pray God will ever allow us to do this. September 11 will remind us of how quickly this could change and of how surely God is in control. Daily we need to allow God to control our individual lives and not fear. I am so thankful for God's Word and many promises and especially take comfort in Isaiah 40:31, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

## INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler  
Rochelle Ward**

Peace! Peace! Wonderful peace,  
Coming down from the Father  
above;  
Sweep over my spirit forever, I  
pray,  
In fathomless billows of love.  
*Gospel Hymns #746*

In this chaotic world, it is wonderful to see that Christ still plants peace in the hearts of those who seek it. We rejoice with Brian and Kristin Schneider, Andy Getz (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Charlene) and Alan and Erica Craig, as they have been announced for peace. Our prayers are with them as they anticipate giving their testimonies and, God willing, stand before the church in baptismal waters in the near future.

In the spirit of holiness, two hearts were joined together as one on July 21. Bro. Luke Schafer (Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) took Sis. Andria Bahler (Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette) as his wife in the presence of God and many witnesses. Our prayers are with them as they make their new home together at 317 Vine Street, Apt 2, West Lafayette, IN, 47906. Their new phone number is 765-743-7123.

Bro. Earl Kilgus (Sis. Arlene) is recovering from an outpatient back surgery. May he daily feel the healing hand of God.

Sometimes it seems that there is so much bad around us, but then God reveals His work once more. We are thankful that John Waibel (Bro. Clyde and Sis. Mary Sue) and Kaitlyn Bahler (Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette) have decided to turn their lives over to the Lord. May they never question the awesome

power of the One who has paid the price to set us free!

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), and Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN). We thank these brothers for their service and dedication to the work of the Lord.

## INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Samantha Schafer  
Kara Beebe**

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh; so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

*Mark 10:7-9*

Bro. Brad Langhofer (Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla) and Sis. Becky Zimmerman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Maryellen, Congerville, IL) were united in marriage on August 25. We welcome Sis. Becky to our congregation and pray a special blessing on their union as they seek to serve the Lord together. Our small flock continues to grow in number as this is the third wedding this summer. We continue to be in awe at the faithfulness of our Lord.

We were blessed this past month to have ministering Bros. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Dave Obergfel (Peoria, IL) here to share the Word with us. May God bless them richly for their willingness to be used for His service.

## INDIANA VALPARAISO

### Darel and Janet Walker

We would like to thank everyone who helped with Vacation Bible School in July. Our theme was "Survival Skills for Life". We wish to thank the following ministers for letting God use them to serve us at Vacation Bible School: Bros. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), Jeff Neihouser (Francesville, IN) and Will Schieler (Milford, IN). They covered topics designed to teach life skills from the Scripture. Topics included "Follow God's Instruction", "Choose Friends Wisely", and "Trust Jesus". We also wish to thank the Remington Men's Group and the Francesville Ladies Group for singing at Vacation Bible School. Thanks to all involved for taking the time to make this a special event.

Our annual Sunday School Picnic was held July 28 at Bro. Andy and Sis. Diane Moser's home. We wish to thank all of our Sunday School teachers for planting seeds of faith in our children. Thanks to Bro. Andy and Sis. Diane for opening their home to us.

We were reminded recently that we have four members of our church who are unable to worship with us. They are Sis. Margaret Young, Sis. Irene Nuest, and Bro. Roy and Sis. Aldene Frieden. May we all remember them in our prayers.

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## INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

### Nettie Haab Diana Houston

A blessed Sunday was enjoyed by our congregation when the Cissna Park, IL, choir visited us. Ministering Bro. Wayne

Laubscher (Sis. Gloria) also came with them.

Other visiting ministers have been Bro. David Obergfel (Sis. Kathy, Peoria, IL), Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN) and Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN). Our thanks to these brothers and their wives for their willingness to travel and share God's Word.

We are rejoicing with our new convert, Samantha Ginzel (Bro. Geoff and Sis. Angie). We wish her God's grace as she begins her walk with the one true and living God.

Chosen to teach our Sunday School children for the next term are Bro. Brian Furrer, Bro. Ryan Meister, Sis. Darlene Walder and Sis. Tonya Schieler.

We welcome all of our Purdue students for another school year. We pray that our church will always be a safe haven where you may come and be refreshed from the cares of this world.

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## INDIANA, WOLCOTT

### Erica Wagenbach Luann Gerber

Visiting ministering Bros. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Nate Lehman (Denver, CO), Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) and Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) brought us God's Word this month. May God bless them for their labors of love.

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

*Psalm 127:3*

Bro. Brent and Sis. Erica Blume are the thankful parents of a baby boy, Dustin Neal, born July 26. Also rejoicing with them are grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell Blume and Bro. Arlen and

Sis. LaNae Ruden (Cissna Park, IL).

We are thankful Mindy Furrer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam) is home from the hospital after her recent appendectomy.

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## IOWA, BURLINGTON

### Lana Metzger Brenda Schulz

Greetings to all. This month we have had two visiting ministers. They were Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Fred Funk (Morton, IL). May God bless them according to their labors. We appreciate them coming.

Also this month, Sis. Lulu Landes passed away at the age of 101. She was born at Cissna Park, IL, and her parents were John and Barbara (Augsburger) Landes. She enjoyed music and many of us remember singing for her in the nursing home for as far back as we can remember. We will certainly miss her, but are also glad she could go on to her reward.

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## IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

"...but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world."

*John 16:21*

With thankful hearts, Bro. Kent and Sis. Betty, Tierra and Oren Getz welcome little Bahlor Douglas into their family circle. Also rejoicing with his safe arrival are his grandparents, Bro. Alan and Sis. Nathalia Getz (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne

Butikofer (Elgin, IA).

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

*Matthew 19:6*

Brian Frieden (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan) and Susie Ostert (Bert and Marge) chose August 17 for their wedding day. We wish them God's blessings, as hand in hand they face and share the joys and struggles of this life. May they ever remember God's promise, “My grace is sufficient for thee...”

“It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this, the judgment...”

*Hebrews 9:27*

The earthly life of Reuben Butikofer was completed on August 10. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Bertha, and their children: Ron, Mary, Linda and Don, and their families. Also his siblings: Harry (Rose), Bro. Paul (Sis. Millie), Bro. Bert (Sis. Beulah), Bro. Al (Sis. LaVerne), all of Elgin, and Bro. Bill Butikofer (Sis. Norma, Gridley, IL), Sis. Ruth Wiegand (Bro. Wilbur, Forrest, IL) and Sis. Shirley Nester (Bro. Eugene, Lester, IA).

“Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you... And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children...”

*Deut. 6:1,7*

Accepting this responsibility of teaching our youth in Sunday School are Sis. Sue Schneider (Bro. Charles) – Intermediate Class, and Bro. John Schupbach

(Sis. Janet) – Sr. Bible Class. May God grant them an extra portion of wisdom and grace as they look to Him for guidance and direction.

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### IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Willa Clark

We rejoice with Bro. Robert Wuthrich who confesses so much joy in his newfound relationship with God. Several from our congregation went to Pulaski to hear his testimony and witness his baptism.

Bros. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Glen Funk (Wichita, KS), Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) and Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) ministered to us this month. We thank them and their families for traveling to be with us.

As a new school year begins, we go to great efforts to send our children off with everything we think they need, from new crayons to new clothes. It can also be a time of reflection; do we put as much effort into sending them off into life with the spiritual tools they need?

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### IOWA, IOWA CITY Diana Butikofer

We were thankful to have Bro. Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan, Elgin, IA) here to help Bro. Joe on a recent Sunday.

We hope all of those who attended the Brotherhood Conference returned home safely. We pray each one who hears the tapes might be encouraged, warned and even challenged, as were those of us who were able to attend. Let's remember to lift up our leaders in prayer throughout the entire year.

“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spo-

ken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.”

*Hebrews 13:7*

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief; for that is unprofitable for you. Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.”

*Hebrews 13:17-18*

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### IOWA, LESTER Dawn Knobloch Dawn Metzger

Another summer draws to a close. We often wonder how the days can slip by so quickly. As we grow older in life, we grasp the reality of how soon our lifetime will pass away. Let us redeem our time wisely and ask ourselves if we are truly striving for only those things in life that will have an everlasting value.

Hospitalized for surgery this month were Bro. Mark Metzger (Sis. Audrey) and Sis. Melisa Feucht (Bro. Roy). Lee Leuthold (Mark), Sis. Iola Knobloch, Sis. Emma Gerber and Sis. Karoline Doorneweerd were hospitalized for other needs. Do we remember to thank the Lord for the wonderful doctors and nurses who care for us when our health declines?

Our congregation has enjoyed each visiting minister who made the effort to be with us this past month. Bro. Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR) shared the Word of Life on July 21. The following Sunday, Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) ministered to us. Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and

Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) shared the pulpit on August 4. It was a blessing to have Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) with us for a mid-week service on his way to Regina, Canada.

Our baby room has a new face this month. Gavin DaVere was born to Blake and Denise Wysong on July 10. He has a sister, Avery, to welcome him home. Grandparents are Leroy and Shelley Van Wyhe and great-grandma is Sis. Janet Wysong.

Perry and Jessica Mogler were united in marriage on August 3. We congratulate this couple and wish them much happiness as they take this important step in life. Perry is the son of Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie Mogler.

We are truly looking forward to listening to the Conference tapes in the upcoming weeks. Every word spoken can be for our benefit if we allow it to work in our life. Special thank you to Rockville's congregation for hosting this important weekend.

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

We were thankful to have Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) bring forth the Word of Life so freely to us in this past month. May God richly bless Bro. Paul and Sis. Elaine for their diligent labors in the Lord's service.

We continue to lift up in prayer our dear Bro. Robby Lanz as he remains hospitalized in a coma. May his dear wife, Sis. Kris, as well as the rest of his loving family feel the prayers of the brethren as we daily beseech the Lord for His healing mercies if it would be according to His will. With many uncertainties in life, we know that

our surety lies within the arms of our Father in Heaven. May we ever trust Him with all our burdens!

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

We were thankful for our many visitors this past month. Among them were ministering Bros. Fred Knapp (Sis. Marjorie, Congerville, IL), Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL), Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL) and Kim Sutter (Sis. Vonette, Taylor, MO).

Sis. Deb Metzger has moved to Pulaski. We welcome her and hope she soon feels at home.

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

On July 20, Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith, Elgin, IL) brought us the inspired Word.

We were the recipients of many blessings on the weekend of July 28 when we welcomed Bro. Jeff and Sis. LaRae Montag and Sis. Madeline Banwart (the late Bro. Arthur) into our brotherhood. Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, La-Crosse, IN) and Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) were here to assist. We appreciated their efforts and also all the other ministers that were with us: Bros. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA), Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL), Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky) and Rod Bajema (Sis. Twyla), both of Lester, IA.

August 4 was a special day for Bro. Troy Strahm (Sabetha, KS) and Sis. Dawn Grimm as they were united in Holy Matrimony. Among the visitors were those willing to speak as they were inspired: Elder Bro. Wayne

Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), and Bros. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Fort Scott, KS), Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN) and Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS).

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you."

*John 14:27*

We rejoice with James and Sarah Montag as they have received this peace in their hearts. We look forward to hearing their testimonies in September.

Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karen Schmidt welcomed their first son, Jared Stephen, into their family circle on August 12. His three sisters, Dana, Brooke, and Trissa, along with grandparents, Sis. Velma Rinkenberger (the late Elder Bro. Steve) and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn Schmidt, will give him much loving care.

Bro. Matthew and Sis. Rachel Fehr, along with Loren and Annie, are happy with the arrival of Kyle Wayne on August 14. Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr and Bro. John and Sis. Paula Schmidt are the happy grandparents.

Several of our loved ones have been hospitalized for surgical care. We are glad they are home and able to assemble with us again. Sis. Sandy Banwart (Bro. Kevin), Sis. Edna M. Banwart, Sis. Melissa Zaugg (Bro. David), Eli Gerber (Pearl) and Wendy Schmidt are thankful for bodily healing.

With friends on earth we meet  
 with gladness,  
 While swift the moments fly,  
 Yet ever comes the tho't of sadness,

That we must say "Good-by".

*Hymns of Zion #122*

We welcome back Doris Anliker and wish her much happiness in her retirement after working many years in a hospital in Omaha, NE. We bid a fond farewell to Sis. Debra Metzger who assembled with us several years. She has returned to the Pulaski area where she will be near her parents and many loved ones.

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### **JAPAN, SHIODA**

**Eiko Nozawa**

Our small congregation is even smaller without these dear ones in August:

Our Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle and his wife, Sis. Lois, for about a month; Bro. Toru Saigusa and his wife, Sis. Junko, from August 17-25; and Bro. Akihiro Ito for a few more years. May God bless their time in America and bring them back safely to us.

Our convert, Mrs. Sayo Tsuchiya, is out of the hospital, but still not in good condition. She is home to recuperate.

Mr. Nakajima had a surgery about a month ago. We are grateful that he can lately join us again to worship the Lord. May God's grace, mercy and healing hand be upon them.

God bless you all.

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### **JAPAN, TOKYO**

**Jana Klaus**

Greetings of love to all. It has been a very hot, humid summer here, but just recently, a typhoon passed through to the South and gave us an abundance of rain and cooler weather which is a welcome relief. But, July 26 and 27, when we had our annual summer Fel-

lowship Meeting in the mountains, most of us thought it seemed hotter, even up in the mountains than previous years. However, it was a blessed time together with our Shioda and Tokyo brothers, sisters and friends. The theme was on the Beatitudes, the first half given by Elder Bro. Akito Inoue and second half by Bro. Andrew Klaus. We were exhorted to look back to our time of conversion and think about if we possessed the first four "blesseds"—mourning, poor in Spirit, meekness, and hungering and thirsting after righteousness. Then, for the last four, we were reminded of several examples of people in the Bible who displayed or experienced those characteristics of being merciful, peacemakers, pure in heart and persecuted for righteousness sake. We were encouraged to be like these people. Six Sunday School aged children were present and had a Bible lesson both days, then gave a short program on the theme of the lessons—God cares for the small, like the ants and the sparrows, but even more, for us humans whom He made with similarities to Himself. We especially enjoyed hearing their sweet voices in song as they sang in Japanese "God sees the little sparrow fall" and "Who made...?" We pray the spiritual teachings will stay with us all, young and old alike. It was also a blessing to once again have plenty of fellowship time and enjoy the beauty of nature, which surely, no one could tire of!

We are very thankful to God to see some improvements of those with heavy struggles recently, but prayers for strength, healing and drawing closer to God are still needed. "Step by step" He faithfully will lead us.

Sis. Grace Klaus recently moved to Sagamihara. Her new address is: Daini Hikariso 205, 8-2-20 Sagamihara, Sagamihara-shi, 229-0031, Japan. Her sister, Joy, whom she was previously living with, plans to go back to America the end of August, after working for seven years in Japan.

Several visitors are expected in the months of September and October, which we look forward to. Sis. Marie Inoue will be writing about that and for the next several months, as I, Sis. Jana, am due to have a baby soon and will greatly appreciate her filling in for me

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### **KANSAS, BERN**

**Lori Baumgartner**

**Sally Strahm**

With thankful hearts, Bro. Richard Strahm and Sis. Edie Fetter (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Marilyn, Toledo, OH) were united in marriage on July 28. May God bless their union together.

Mark Esslinger (Waymer and Pauline) and Melinda Harwood of McLouth, KS, exchanged wedding vows on July 20. May God bless their marriage.

Our prayers have been with our Bro. Joe Rokey (Sis. Lila) as he has spent time in the hospital.

The Sabetha and Bern congregations have been listening to the tapes together of our General Brotherhood Conference held in Rockville, CT. May we find the grace to apply these teachings to our individual walks of life.

A correction needs to be made from last month's Silver Lining that Sis. Tiffany Menold (Bro. Ryan) will be teaching in Sis. Rhoda Meyer's place due to Sis. Rhoda's upcoming marriage.

What state is our soul in? Have we answered the call of God?

*The Fountain of My Soul*

I looked into the Master's face.  
He smiled at me, and there I  
glimpsed  
A heart of wonder, love, and grace.  
It bothered me—that tender  
smile—  
It showed me of my lowly place.  
It seemed to tell me I was wrong.  
It brought back all my haunting  
fears.  
Because it rankled me, I sobbed—  
Hot, angry tears.

I looked into the Master's eyes.  
Those eyes met mine, and there I  
saw  
A look of sorrow, shame, sur-  
prise—  
Surprised that I would cast aside  
The key to vict'ry and the prize.  
I turned to Him, my head dropped  
low.  
I glimpsed the gloom of coming  
years.  
Because I saddened Him, I  
sobbed—  
Hot, bitter tears.

I looked into the Master's face.  
He stretched His nail-pierced  
hands to me;  
They offered peace and truth and  
grace.  
"Wilt Thou forgive?" I humbly  
asked.  
I looked at Him with trusting face.  
He whispered low, "I pardon you."  
I caught the words with waiting  
ears.  
Tears gathered in my eyes again—  
Sad, rueful tears.

I looked into the Master's eyes.  
I read forgiveness written there.  
I knew that He had heard my cries  
For mercy, pardon, hope renewed.  
I read that He did not despise  
The choice I'd made to follow Him.  
I felt His peace in coming years.  
Tears seeped into my eyes anew—

Glad, joyful tears.  
—Unknown

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

The following visiting ministers proclaimed teachings from the Word this month: Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO), Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN). May they feel as blessed by their coming as we do.

Retired Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart fell at his home and was hospitalized a few weeks. After several days he was moved to rehab. Now able to attend church again, he is stronger than he has been since leaving the Joplin, MO, hospital last October.

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

A precious little daughter, Hannah Rose, was born July 23 to Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane Luthi. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Joann Luthi and Bro. Don and Sis. Ione Broquard (Fairbury, IL).

We are thankful and rejoice with Sam Anliker as he has answered God's call to repentance. We wish him much grace to build a firm foundation. His parents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorene.

Sarah Grimm was hospitalized this month and underwent surgery. We are glad she recovered so quickly and was able to assemble with us the next Sunday.

Our congregation has begun listening to the Conference tapes on Wednesday evenings. May we ever hold fast to our precious faith and support our Elder brethren as

they watch for our souls.

*Note of Thanks:*

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." Psalm 100:4-5

I cannot begin to thank everyone enough for the outpouring of prayers, words of encouragement, cards and gifts during my recent visits to Mayo Clinic. During my stays of tests and brain surgery, I could indeed feel His presence, and yours, though many miles are between us. God bless you each for your act of kindness.

*Sis. Jill Luthi*

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

We thank our visiting ministers who traveled many miles to share God's Word with us. Those serving us this past month were Elder Bros. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Bros. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Rod Bajema (Lester, IA).

Many from our congregation traveled to West Bend, IA, to witness the marriage of Bro. Troy Strahm and Sis. Dawn Grimm. Parents of the couple are Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon Strahm and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose Grimm (West Bend, IA). Our church had the opportunity to express our congratulations and best wishes to Bro. Troy and Sis. Dawn at their reception here in Sabetha a few weeks later.

We all enjoyed a nice break in our busy summer schedules when we gathered together for an

all-church Sunday evening potluck. What a blessing to set aside special time to fellowship with our church family. We thank the hosts, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita Grimm, Sis. Sue Meyer, and Bro. Jay and Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger, for their efforts in planning the evening.

The month of August is our normal break from Sunday School. May the Lord bless each one of our teachers that labored over the past year as they taught these young souls.

Announcing their engagement and making wedding plans are David Wysong and Cynthia Renyer. Their parents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Janice Wysong and Herman and Jean Renyer.

Our thoughts and prayers were recently with our Elders as they gathered together for the Conference in Rockville, CT. We're thankful we have the privilege of hearing the tapes as we gather together with our neighboring Bern congregation over the next four weeks.

Cheryl Wenger spent time in the hospital this month. We're thankful for God's healing hand as she has recovered from her surgery.

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### KANSAS, WICHITA

**Emma Miller**

The Wichita church, as were other Kansas churches, was contacted by the MCC in Newton to donate sewing kits for an overseas project. There was a time scheduled to meet. The responsibility to do the purchasing was delegated to one of the sisters. She gathered the needed items, then took them to Newton and packed them. True, we are a small congregation, but when willing hands

lend themselves in the spirit of cooperation, God can be praised!

July 21 was a special day when we were privileged to have Bro. John Rowell occupy the pulpit. He and Sis. Nelda were willing to include Wichita in their vacation plans, and we thank them for doing so. When I met Sis. Nelda, I was told that she was Hazel Kuntz's daughter. That brought back a flood of childhood memories. I was reared in the Gridley, KS, Apostolic community, and I can remember Hazel being a part of that community. In those post-World War I days, repenting and joining the "German" church was not a popular thing to do, yet Hazel, an "English" girl who worked for my Aunt Lydia and Uncle John Somerhalder and others in the church community, did just that! I remember thinking how special she was. Later she found domestic work in Fort Scott, but she still made periodic visits to Gridley. Sis. Hazel and her husband, Bro. George Kuntz, were married in the Gridley church. It was possibly the first church wedding that I can remember. Those were "precious memories!"

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### KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

**Glenda Neukomm**

As the Fall semester has begun for our children in school and college, our prayers are with them, that their minds can be focused for learning, the purpose for which they are there. Also that the Lord will keep His ever guardian angel over them, to keep them from the evil one who is ever present in our world. We pray that the Lord's blessings will be near them and that they will seek His help in time of need.

During my school years, our family memorized Psalm 19 around the table, taking only a verse at a time. The Psalm has been precious to me ever since. David knew he needed God's continuing strength and help to harmonize his walk with his talk. He earnestly prayed, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." (V. 14)

I want my heart His throne to be,  
So that a watching world may see  
His likeness shining forth in me;  
I want to be like Jesus.

—Chisholm

We were so very blessed these past months to have visiting ministers, Bros. David Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO), Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), Kenneth Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford, IL), Ralph Garber (Sis. Lynn, Morton, IL) and our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH). We pray for the Lord's rich blessings to rest upon them as they put forth an effort to bring the inspired Word to us.

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

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### MEXICO, IXTLAN

**Gloria Gonzalez**

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

*I Cor. 15:58*

Vacation Bible School has come and gone and as usual it was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We had more than 180 children from the community attend each day. It was a blessing to see God's love in their hearts. The students learned about different people in the Bible who demonstrated the use of God's armor. Our prayer is that each of these little children can allow the seed that was planted to grow and produce fruit. Many thanks to everyone who worked diligently to teach, drive and serve throughout this special week.

Meet Sis. Berenice Navarro:

My name is Berenice Navarro Cervantes (Alfonso Navarro and Sis. Teresa Cervantes de Navarro, Morelia, Michoacan). I live in Morelia, Michoacan.

There are six of us in my family, but only my mom and I are converted. From when we were kids, my mom talked to my brothers and to me about God, praying with us and taking us to the Catholic church. We visited my grandparents and aunts in Ixtlan during our vacations. When I was between 6 and 8 years old, I learned a little more about our Lord because my brothers and I liked to go to Vacation Bible School in Ixtlan. When I was about 15 years old, I remember that my parents had serious problems. I am the oldest among my siblings, so I felt that I should help my mom resolve the problems. In fact, this caused the distance between my dad and I to grow more every day. This was a very difficult time for me. I thought that the hurt that I was feeling wasn't important to God. Many times I thought that it wasn't worth the

pain living surrounded with so many problems.

At that time I was very rebellious, I was doing the opposite of what my parents were advising. Later, my aunt repented and was going to be baptized. I didn't want her to do it, because she had changed and when we talked it wasn't the same. In time, our relationship improved a lot because she invited me to the young group on Saturdays. At first I was ashamed to go and aside from that I was bored, but there was something that was making me feel good and it was the love that they always showed me and that cheered me up. A few months passed, and I began to think that my life wasn't good before God's eyes, that I wasn't doing His will and that I wasn't thanking Him for the fact that He has sent His Son to die for me on the cross even without deserving it. When I was going to the Bible studies, I was trying to pay attention but I was feeling strange upon seeing that I was dressed differently from the women that were already converted. I started to change my way of dressing and each time I felt a greater need for Christ to change my life. For awhile I kept this attitude but it was a little difficult because I was studying the last year of high school and all my friends were doing things that I now didn't want to do. It took a lot of work to stop listening to my music, having a boyfriend, going to parties and above all accepting my father as he is and not wanting to change him. I was afraid to die and on many occasions I dreamed that the world ended and that I had died. I didn't want that to happen before having repented of my heart. And so, I asked Christ to come into my life and that He have

mercy on me so that He could forgive my sins.

Soon afterwards, my uncle Jose visited us. He spoke with me and I told him that I wanted to follow the Lord. He helped me to understand that I can't change the attitude of my father and that I only have to ask God to have mercy on him and help him to recognize his sins.

I confessed my sins and after that moment I felt as if a big weight above me had disappeared. I give thanks to God that He could rescue me from the slavery of sin and I also thank God that He gave me the opportunity to serve Him. I realized that all the things of this world were making me happy only for a moment and they weren't filling me completely. On the other hand, the love of God filled the great void that was in my life.

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### MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Terri Huber  
Rose Watson**

We have celebrated several weddings this month: Ryan and Summer Stephen (Bro. Ron and Sis. Penny Erismann) on August 3; Jared (late Sis. Brenda) and Nellie (DeWitt) Schutte on August 17; and Jon and Danielle Eickhoff (Penny and Sis. Denise Oesch) on August 24. We pray for them all as they start their new lives together.

We were pleased to hear the engagement of Mark Schutte (Steven and Sis. Sandy) and Sarah Griffins (Charles and Kathy) announced this month and they are planning to be married on June 21, 2003.

There was a dinner and singing for the spring of 2002 graduates and the college students that are getting ready to head back to



school this fall hosted at Sis. Virginia and Marilyn Schutte's home this month. It was an evening of fellowship enjoyed by all who attended. We wish them all well and will be praying for them in the upcoming year while they are away.

We will be listening to the Elder Conference tapes for the next four weeks on Wednesday evenings.

Tim Schutte (Steven and Sis. Sandy) underwent minor surgery this month and we are all thankful he is on his way to a full recovery.

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### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel  
Janelle Ramseyer**

Greetings be to you, our brethren,  
To our sisters in the Lord,  
Here from far and near assembled,  
Gathered here in one accord  
Welcome, welcome, All ye loved  
ones:

Greetings in the Saviour's name.

*Hymns of Zion #7*

Bro. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH), Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL) and our Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) were among our visitors this past month.

Our prayers were with our dear Elder brethren as they convened in Rockville, CT, for the General Conference. As we begin to listen to the tapes, may we sincerely heed the kind counsel of these brethren.

Norm and Sis. Linda Andrzejewski welcomed the birth of a grandson, Kade Michael. Kade's parents are Kery and Brian Periso.

Sis. Irma Bragiel was hospitalized this past month. We pray that the Lord will continue to be with

her and heal her.

We rejoice with Amy Jackson (Bro. Don and Sis. Tina) as she has professed peace with God and man. We look forward to having her join the fold of the brotherhood, and pray that the Lord will continue to be her constant Provider. May God also comfort Bro. Don and Sis. Tina in the loss of Sis. Tina's grandfather.

We thank you loving teachers, too,  
for all your love and care.

You teach us of the heavenly

home,

How we may enter there.

*Hymns of Zion #73*

We thank Sis. Kathy Waibel and Bro. Bob Knochel for their service to the Sunday School the past four years. Our prayers and support go out to our new Sunday School teachers: Bro. Jay Schlatter, Bro. Brian Wieland, and Sis. Sarah Knochel. May God richly provide for each of them as they take up the important task of teaching our children.

As summer turns into fall, we pray that the Lord will bring forth a safe harvest and continue to bless His children. We also pray that the Lord's protecting hand will be with our young ones as they return back to school.

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### MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Sarah Beard  
Holly Barton**

We appreciate our recent visit from Dr. Parhke (Damayante). Joining him on his trip to the states was Elder Bro. Willis Ehle (Sis. Lois, Shioda, Japan). We thank Dr. Parhke and Bro. Willis for their Saturday evening talk and for Bro. Willis ministering to us.

Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) held Woodhaven services this month, and Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) joined us on a recent Sunday. Our thanks go to both of these brothers for their services.

On July 21, many of us traveled to Alto, MI, to witness the wedding of Bro. Justin Ooms and Sis. Sarah Gerst (Bro. Wally and Sis. Donna). We wish them God's blessings as they make their home in Alto and hope they visit us often.

We have felt the blessings of growth as we welcome three new babies. First time parents Ken and Bobbi Kaisner are happy to have Ava Marie join their circle. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner and Bob and Dawn Bruckner. Karl and Kerri Moilanen and children Connor and Kyle welcome Kaitlyn Paige on July 24. Happy grandparents are Tom and Kay Moilanen and Andrew and Lynn Kirkland (Akron, OH). Bro. Keith and Sis. Alisa Beyer welcome Addison Laine on August 13. Auburn, Braden, and Brecken are happy to have a new little sister. Grateful grandparents are Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr and Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen Beyer (Sabetha, KS).

As the children begin the school year and the college students pursue further education, our many prayers go with them. May each of them feel God's presence in their daily lives as they seek to do His will.

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**MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS  
Diane Stewart**

Visiting ministers this past month have been our Elder Bro.

Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN). God bless them!

We so much appreciate visitors coming to enjoy our beautiful state.

If we meet someone who knows nothing of Christ, remember to tell the story of Jesus at the Cross.

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### MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Katie Messner**

**Cheryl Messner**

Bobby and Jessica Chamberlain welcomed Miranda Maree into their family circle on July 16. Lee and Amanda are happy to have a baby sister. May God ever bless and keep this dear family.

Those who have been in the hospital include Sis. Edith Joos (Bro. Albert), Bro. Doug Feuchtenberger, Sis. Pam Schaefer (Bro. Steve) and Cathy Joos (Pete). We pray each will feel God's healing touch.

We rejoiced with Bro. Paul Wulf and Sis. Heidi Messner as they were united in the Lord on July 28. May their marriage always draw love, strength and direction from God's Holy Word. Parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Wulf and Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce Messner.

We appreciated God's Word brought to us through Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi and Bro. Rex Frieden (both of Lamar, MO).

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### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Marilyn Messner**

**Ginny Stoll**

We enjoyed our annual church picnic in July and Sunday School started shortly after that. Our busy summer is coming to a close.

Our visiting minister this

month was Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN). We really appreciated their visiting us here and laboring on our behalf.

Max Bartels, along with his parents, Jay and Amy, wish to announce the birth of the new addition to their family, Libby Rose, on August 3. Libby's grandparents are Sis. Carol Ann Messner and Al and Joleen Bartels of Winthrop.

It is here, the precious moment,  
Which unites our hearts in prayer,  
When the people of God's cov'nant  
Round the throne of grace appears.  
Hear, O Lord, our humble prayer,  
Unto us Thy blessing share!

*Zion's Harp #81*

We again have been prayerful for our dear Elder brethren as they gathered for the General Conference in Rockville, CT. We have been gathering together to listen to the Conference tapes and have already received many wonderful teachings.

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to thank everyone who remembered us on our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. May God bless you.

*In Christian love,*

*Bro. Leo and Sis. Georgia Messner*

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### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

**Garry and Marty Rokey**

The weekend of July 27-28 brought many to our area for the George and Elizabeth Marti Family Reunion. Many stayed for Sunday church services bringing our congregation to near capacity. Among those were visiting ministering Bro. Edwin Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS) and family. We enjoyed having our visitors

and appreciate Bro. Edwin's willingness to stand before us.

Recently our church has had three of our dear ones leave our community for other places. Bro. Phil Nenadov is now living in the Chicago area. We certainly miss him but now he has family there to welcome him. Ben Miller is in San Diego, stationed with the Marine Corps, while Bro. Mark Miller is in Indiana to attend college. Both Ben and Bro. Mark are the sons of Bro. Dennis and Sis. April Miller. We hope Bro. Phil, Ben and Bro. Mark will come back to visit us often.

We welcome Dr. Bruce Banwart to our area. Dr. Banwart is on staff at Children's Mercy Hospital. Having left Belvidere, IL, we hope he is beginning to feel at "home" with us.

We were privileged to have visiting Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) on the pulpit one Wednesday evening. We are very thankful for his labors, and invite him and Sis. Connie to visit us again soon.

Cindy Strahm (Bro. Ron) spent some time in the hospital recently. We wish her a speedy recovery with God's grace.

"How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee."

*Psalms 139:17-18*

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### MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Kristen Leman**

**Becky Marti**

Our congregation has enjoyed many visitors this past month. We always appreciate them and the Christian fellowship we share.

Bro. Charles Marti (Sis. Alice) spent a few days in the hospital. We are thankful for God's healing hand and he is doing well again.

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### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

#### Betsy Schrenk

The single brothers and the Bible Class boys from Tremont began a camping and canoeing trip in Missouri with a day of worship with us in St. Louis on July 21. It was a special blessing to have the sanctuary so full of young men – the singing was beautiful! It was the hottest day of the year in St. Louis. We are so thankful for air conditioning in this sweltering weather. I can remember how hot it was in church when I was a child, when we would use fans that were placed in the racks with the song books. The "Good Old Days"!

Ministering Bros. Steve Baner (Sis. Donna, Gridley, IL), Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL) and Dave Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO) graciously brought God's Word to our congregation. We were blessed.

As fall approaches, we know that the number of visitors to St. Louis will decrease. Remember that fall is one of the nicest times in our area, with walks through the MO Botanical Gardens, and the zoo is especially pleasant in cooler weather. St. Louis has an abundance of wonderful family activities if you are looking for a weekend trip. We encourage you all to pay us a visit. A phone call so we can plan appropriately for lunch is appreciated.

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### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

#### Susan Haerr

As we head into the fall season,

our thoughts go to our college students, heading back to class and to what can be a challenging environment for Christians. Our thoughts and prayers go with each one. We pray you all have a blessed year.

Those receiving medical attention in the last month are Bro. Rick Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny), Bro. Rusty Adrian (Sis. Amy), Nikki Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally) and Sis. Sally Haerr (Bro. Norman). May God heal you.

The final weeks of July marked our last two Bible studies as a church. We were blessed to have Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL) here to share Philippians 3 with us. The following week, we were blessed as Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) shared Philippians 4 with us. We are truly grateful for the time these brothers spent in preparation and travel to help us grow spiritually. "Thank you" doesn't seem like enough, so we pray that God will richly bless you and your families.

We are excited as we look forward to a new Sunday School year and welcome our new teachers, Bro. Scott Wegman, Sis. Amy Adrian and Sis. Dianne Sutter. We also wish to convey our sincere thank you for the service of those who have recently finished their terms: Bro. Eric Knochel, Sis. Peggy Haerr and Sis. Shelly Hoerr. Although our children may not fully understand it at this age, we as parents realize the significance of your roles as teachers and spiritual guides and we feel blessed that you each were/are willing to serve in that role. Though you may not see the fruits today, we know that God is faithful and trust that, some day, you

will!

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### NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

This past month the Lord has abundantly blessed us in so many ways. What a joy it has been for us here in the northeast to have our Brotherhood Conference so near by! We have enjoyed reaping the benefits of so many brethren passing through our area on their ways to and from Rockville.

On Wednesday evening, July 31, we were thankful to have ministering Bro. Dennis Rassi in our midst from Fairbury, IL. May the Lord bless him for sharing from God's Word with us.

Then on Saturday, August 3, we held our annual church picnic at Whetstone Gulf State Park. A beautiful, warm day was provided for us to enjoy the beauty of God's creation, but to especially enjoy our fellowship together. We are thankful to our visitors from away that made the day even more special to us. In the evening we were able to meet again at church and blend our voices together in praise to our great God.

On Sunday, August 4, we had Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Kenneth Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and ministering Bros. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) in our midst. We shared a potluck dinner together after church services and then gathered together again in God's house in the evening. May the Lord richly bless each of these dear brothers for their willingness to labor in His vineyard.

On Wednesday evening, August 7, we had ministering Bros. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and retired ministering Bro. Lloyd Kraft (Lamont-Gridley, KS) with us. May the Lord bless these brothers for parting the pages of the Holy Scriptures with our small congregation.

We were thankful for the Lord's protection of the many brethren that traveled so many miles to gather for the Brotherhood Conference in Rockville, CT, on August 9. We certainly felt His presence amongst us there and pray that the many teachings, exhortations and encouragements that were brought forth would carry us over the hills and mountains that may be ahead for us in this lifetime. May we each make an honest effort to esteem our Lord, the Word, and each other, especially the Elder brethren who worked so diligently on our behalf all week. A special thanks to the Rockville congregation for their many labors through the past year to make this such a blessed time of renewing for our spiritual walk.

Cheer up then and strive ye ransomed,  
In this toilsome, trying time.  
God will comfort and reward us  
With eternal rest sublime!  
Only he who is victorious  
Shall the crown of life receive.  
Then prevail in prayerful watching,  
Love, endure, hope and believe!  
*Zion's Harp #51, vs. 7*

On Saturday, August 10, we held a potluck dinner at church and a singing in the assembly room for the numerous visiting

brethren that were in our midst. On Sunday, August 11, we were thankful to have Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and ministering Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) share to us from God's Holy Word. We also gathered together again in the evening for church services. May God bless them richly for remembering us on their way home from the Conference.

Hospitalized this month were Geneva Rivers, Sis. Bernice Hirschey and Bro. Lowell Virkler. We pray that the Lord will continue to extend His hand of healing upon each one of these loved ones.

We bid our farewells to Bro. John and Sis. Esther Rauhe who have now moved to be with their daughter, Betty, in Rhode Island. Their new address is 30 Audubon Ave., N. Providence, RI 02908. We will miss their presence among us here but know that they will continue to be a part of our church here at Croghan-Naumburg. May the Lord be their constant Guide and strength. We will miss them!

### OHIO, AKRON

#### Joyce Gasser

Sis. Sarah Bako (Eugene and Sis. Dianna) is engaged to Bro. Amos Maibach (Bro. Alpha and Sis. Denise, Rittman, OH). We wish for them the Lord's blessings in planning for their marriage and in the future together.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Lois Schamback will be having a 60th wedding anniversary on September 6. Bro. Dave resides at 10710 Steiner Rd, Apartment 10, Rittman, OH, 44270, and Sis. Lois resides in the Home.

Sis. Louise Graf, widow of ministering Bro. Ernest Graf, will

have reached her four score ten years as she will be 90 on September 25. She resides in the Apostolic Christian Home at Rittman.

Sis. Marian Klotzle passed away on July 22. She had reached the age of 97 and had been a member of our church for 72 years. She had lived at Girard and then moved into an apartment by our Nursing Home, eventually coming to reside in the Apostolic Christian Home at Rittman. Surviving are nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

Bro. Joe Grossenbacher was hospitalized and is back assembling with us.

Elder Bro. John Klotzle, Bro. John Steiner, Bro. Gary Maibach, and Bro. Ted Luginbuhl ministered to us recently, which we appreciate.

### OHIO, COLUMBUS

#### Nancy Banks

We thank the Lord for the August rains He has sent our way which are helping to green up our pastures, ripen our garden produce and nourish the withering crops in the field.

We bid a sad farewell to Bro. Andy and Sis. Sara Hunyady as they have moved to Florida and will attend the North Fort Myers church. We will miss them dearly.

A friend and co-worker of ours lost his home this week to a flash fire. As we stood with him, watching his home smolder, he commented, "I have nothing now but at least my family is safe." After firemen sorted through the blackened remains, earthly belongings fit into a few small boxes.

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where

thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

*Matthew 6:19-21*

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH), Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS), Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL). Our heartfelt thanks goes out to these brothers and their families as they make Columbus a stop in their travels.

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### **OHIO, JUNCTION** **Cindy Schlatter**

When pure and upright hearts,  
By flames of love ignited,  
Are by the bond of faith  
More firmly yet united,...

*Zion's Harp #79*

July 21 was the wedding day of our new couple, Bro. Sam (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie) and Sis. Shelby (Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn, Latty, OH) Manz. We welcome Sis. Shelby into our congregation and pray that this new couple continues to look to God for guidance and direction.

We were thankful to have two visiting ministers with us, those being Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA). May God continue to be with you both and grant you the grace to continue in His service.

Our Bro. Ralph Schlatter (Sis. Sheila) was in the hospital this month to undergo surgery on his leg. We are thankful for God's

healing hand and hope the recovery is a speedy one.

Bro. Ken Manz (Sis. Gwen) and Sis. Cheryl Schlatter (Bro. Ed) have finished their Sunday School terms. Many thanks to both of you for your loyal service in teaching our children. Bro. Sam Manz (Sis. Shelby) and Sis. Laurie Schlatter (Bro. Dennis) are just starting as our new teachers. We will lift you up in prayer and trust God to supply you both the needed grace to teach our children the ways of God as well as to correct them if that would be the need.

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### **OHIO, LATTY** **Bonny Wenninger** **Kathy Sinn**

We rejoice that Melissa Greutman and Carla Laukhuf have begun their walk with the Lord in repentance. Melissa's parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Kristy Greutman. Carla's parents are Malcolm and Julia Hood of Skownegan, ME. Carla is married to Jason Laukhuf (Bro. Rod and Sis. Edie Laukhuf). We wish them much grace to begin their life anew in Christ.

There have been three weddings this past month. Bro. Sam Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie, Junction, OH) and Sis. Shelby Sinn (Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee) were joined in Holy Matrimony on July 21. On August 3, Derek Miller (Dennis and Janet, Grover Hill, OH) and Kim Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol) were united in marriage. On August 11, Bro. Jason Pence (John Pence, TX, and Marty Pence, Ft. Wayne, IN) and Sis. Heidi Hackenjoes (Bro. Myron and Sis. Lorine) were married. We wish these couples God's richest blessings as they begin their lives together.

We were blessed with two new babies in our congregation. Lydia Grace was born to Jeremy and Mandy Whitman. Grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen Whitman and Dave and MaryLou Pitney (Continental, OH). Bro. Eric and Sis. Sherri Rager welcome Samuel Eric into their home. Grandparents are Sis. June Rager and Verl and Sue Dasher (Paulding, OH).

We were thankful for the brothers who visited our congregation and shared God's Word with us during the past month. They were Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Bros. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Don Manz (Junction, OH), Chris Wuethrich (La-Crosse, IN), and John Grimm (Columbus, OH). May God bless them for their labor of love.

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### **OHIO, MANSFIELD** **John and Marci Pfeiffer**

We are very thankful that Anne Gromen was announced to have found peace with God and man. Anne is the mother of Sis. Joyce Boliantz (Bro. Don).

The Annual Ohio-Michigan Youth Day was held at the Pleasant Valley Ranch on July 28. The visiting ministers were Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Bro. John Laukhuf and Bro. Dwight Stoller (both of Latty, OH). We thank all who contributed in this effort to teach our youth.

Sis. Elizabeth Masters and Bro. Curt Walter were united in marriage on August 4. Sis. Elizabeth is the daughter of Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine Masters. Bro. Curt's parents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Walter (Silverton, OR). We wish them much happiness in their married

life together. Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), and Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) kindly served us on that special day.

We esteem our Elder brethren and thank them for their labors at the 2002 Brotherhood Conference. We thank the Rockville, CT, congregation for their love and hospitality.

The Fort Sam Army Reunion was held in Mansfield on August 10-11. Our brethren refused to bear arms, and God has surely watched over and kept them. We were blessed with many visiting ministers that weekend. They were Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Bro. Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO), Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), and Bro. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS). May God richly bless each one who labored on our behalf.

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### OHIO, RITTMAN

**Anna Schar  
Sandy Zollinger**

We rejoice as two more souls have heeded God's call to come to Him in repentance: Joshua Riggenbach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie) and Joanne Maibach (Bro. Alpha Jr. and Sis. Denise).

On July 17, Austin Charles was born to Bro. Philip and Sis. Michele Schar. Matthew and Zachary are Austin's two big brothers. Grandparents are Gary and Mary Beth Bowman, Jerry Geib, and Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar. On July 23, Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth Pelfrey gained a

first grandson, Kaden Michael. Kaden is joining parents, Bro. Mike and Sis. Heather Katanic (Denver, CO) and a sister, Emily. Bro. Matt and Sis. Laura Bauman had their first child, Dirk Matthew, on July 30. First-time grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman and Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky Zollinger (Smithville, OH).

On July 21, Sis. Martha Maag (Robert), Sis. Sheila Kries (John) and Bro. Jesse Rufener (Bro. Jim and Sis. Pat) buried their old life in the waters of baptism. Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler with the weekend.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Dwaine (Sis. Joan) and Bro. Galen (Sis. Cheryl) Indermuhle at the loss of their brother, Bro. Lloyd Indermuhle (Sis. Vera, Smithville, OH), on July 25. May the Holy Spirit comfort each family member and friend.

On July 28, the engagement of Bro. Amos Maibach to Sis. Sarah Bako (Akron, OH) was announced. Parents are Bro. Alpha Jr. and Sis. Denise Maibach and Eugene and Sis. Dianna Bako. Also engaged are Josh Olszewski (Bud and Ann, Burbank, OH) and Kristin Gasser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane). May the Lord guide each one.

Bro. Mark Dotterer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn) and Sis. April Miller (Bro. Max and Sis. Diane, Smithville) were married on August 11. We welcome Sis. April to our congregation!

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season..."

*II Timothy 4:2*

Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) were our visiting ministers.

Those hospitalized this past month were Denise Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty, Lexington, KY), Sis. Martha Zollinger (Bro. Carl), Stacy Bauman (Sis. Nancy) and Joe Zollinger (the late Bro. Elmer and Sis. Clara).

Correction: In the July 2002 issue, Sis. April Miller's parents were not reported correctly; her parents are Bro. Max and Sis. Diane of Smithville, OH.

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### OHIO, SARDIS Terry Zollinger

"Thou hast set all the borders of the earth: thou hast made summer and winter."

*Psalm 74:17*

Even though the summer days have been hot and humid as of late, the season is coming to a close, especially for the school-aged children. By now, the pre-school through college students should be well accustomed to the daily routine of attending and learning at school. Let's pray for our students and the teachers that they can look to the Lord Jesus for direction in their daily walk.

"And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles."

*Acts 14:27*

The General Conference is

over, and the shower of blessings was abundant. The tapes will be heard sometime soon. Let's continue to pray for our Elders as they make difficult decisions concerning the flock of the Apostolic faith.

"A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembered no more her anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world."

*John 16:21*

Grandparents Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger are grateful to report the safe arrival of Emmaus Zollinger Rassi, born August 15 to Bro. Matthew and Sis. Bridget (Chicago, IL). His paternal grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi (Chicago, IL). Little Emmaus also has a big brother and sister, Carl Elias and Manna Rose, who anxiously wait for their brother to grow old enough to be a playmate.

"For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth."

*III John 1:3*

One visiting minister this month who willingly read the Word and preached thereupon with the blessing of the Holy Spirit was Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO). We thank him for giving the Word of Life to each of us, and may we take it into our hearts and live by His will.

## OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Edith Miller  
Ruth Gasser**

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

*Philippians 1:21*

July 25 was gain for our Bro. Lloyd Indermuhle, who reached this heavenly goal after a long battle with cancer. His wife, Sis. Vera, and family have our prayers and sympathy. His children are Marvin (Sis. Carol, Akron, OH), Bro. Brian (Sis. Bev), Sis. Sharon Oliver, and Sis. Diane Jarret (Mike, Akron, OH). His brothers and sister are Bro. Darrel (Sis. Janet), Bro. Galen (Sis. Cheryl, Rittman, OH), Bro. Dwaine (Sis. Joan, Rittman, OH), and Sis. Lilas Rufener (Bro. Joe). Bro. Lloyd will be missed by all, but it is comforting to know "at home 'tis well."

We extend thanks to all who have visited us this summer, and we especially appreciate the efforts of Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) as he ministered the Word.

We are thankful that the Lord calls laborers into His vineyard at all hours, but we know He has a special blessing to those who offer their youthful days to Him. Our recent converts are Lynelle Stoller (Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene), Roseanna Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim), Emily Maibach (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Barb), and Melanie Emch (Bro. Craig and Sis. Gail). May God impart His grace and peace to each seeking soul.

On August 11, Bro. Mark Dotterer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn, Rittman, OH) and Sis. April Miller (Bro. Max and Sis. Diane) made vows of faithfulness to

each other in Holy Matrimony. May the Lord bless this union and their lives together.

Reed Joseph Maibach is a special blessing welcomed into the family of Bro. Mark and Sis. Julie Maibach on August 15. Miranda, Rachel, and Luke will shower him with love, as will grandparents Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann Maibach and Bro. Norman and Sis. Lola Young (Fairbury, IL).

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

*Philippians 4:19*

Bro. George and Sis. Carol Schuster and Sis. Delphine Nieman (Bro. Charles) have recently been hospitalized. We pray they will be strengthened by the Lord according to their needs.

*Note of Thanks:*

We want to thank everyone who remembered us with cards, visits, gifts, and especially prayers during our loved one's illness and passing. May God richly bless all for their deeds of love and kindness.

*The Lloyd Indermuhle Family*

## OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard  
Dee Beard**

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

*Colossians 4:17*

May the Lord richly bless those ministering brothers who visited us this past month. We extend a heart-felt thank-you to Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction,

OH), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), and Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS).

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

*Proverbs 23:6*

We rejoice with Richard and Kelly Chamberlain on the birth of Emma Caroline. Big sisters Stephanie, Marisa, and Anna Grace welcome their new baby sister. Happy grandparents are Dave and Sis. Connie Sancraint and Don and Katie Chamberlain. Bro. Kent and Sis. Jill Rager (Chicago, IL) rejoice in the birth of Callista Michelle. Alison, Kendall, and Holly welcome their new little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Sharon Rager and Bro. Jim and Sis. Eleanor Bgart (Francesville, IL).

Sis. Mary Ann Weigle and Kurt Rager each suffered a broken foot this month. May they feel God's healing touch.

We rejoice with Sis. Edie Fetter (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Marilyn) and Bro. Richard Strahm, as they were joined as one in the Lord on July 28. We will miss Sis. Edie in our little congregation. We wish them God's blessings as they make their home in Bern, KS.

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### OREGON, PORTLAND

#### Louisa Gallup

As summer is nearly over, families with children will be getting ready for another school year. Let us not forget to pray for these children, who most likely will be surrounded by the world and its influences; and for their teachers as well.

We are thankful that those who traveled to Rockville for the Con-

ference have safely returned. We look forward to hearing the tapes.

As always, we have enjoyed our visitors this past month. Special gratitude to the following ministering brethren and their families: Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) and Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) from Silverton, OR; Bros. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO) and Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL). Thank you all for adding a blessing to our small flock.

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### OREGON, SILVERTON

#### Kelsey Kuenzi

This month our thoughts and prayers have been with the Elder brethren as they met in Rockville, CT, to discuss issues facing the church. We'll continue to hold up their arms in support as they seek to help lead the church in these trying days.

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

*Proverbs 20:6*

We rejoice with Rick and Miriam Hoach in the birth of a daughter. Little Victoria Rayleen joined her parents on July 26. We wish them God's guidance as they raise their daughter and teach her about the Lord.

“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*

Bro. Curt Walter (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Elizabeth Masters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine) joined their hearts and lives in marriage in Mansfield,

OH, on August 4. We lovingly wish to welcome Sis. Elizabeth to our Silverton congregation. May God be the foundation of your marriage and lives.

This month, Sis. K'Ren Kuenzi (Bro. Mark) and Paul Jensen (Marie) had surgery. We're thankful that both are healing well and they are able to reassemble with us.

Among our many visitors this month, we were blessed with having ministers, Bros. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO) and Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL). We appreciate their willingness to share God's Word with us.

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### PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

#### Nathan and MaryElizabeth Gasser

This year's Brotherhood Conference in Rockville, CT, was only a short drive away, and many from our congregation took the opportunity to attend. What a blessing to gather with such a great number of believers, and to hear of so many ways in which we can show Christ's love in our life by esteeming one another.

We were pleased to receive a visit from Dr. Parkhe and his wife, from the Rural Gospel Medical Mission in India. We had an opportunity to hear about the work he and his staff are undertaking, the history of the Mission, and the hundreds of lives their work touches. Our fervent prayers are with Dr. Parkhe and the RGMM, and may the Lord continue to bless and protect each dear soul, and may many more in India be brought to a knowledge of Christ Jesus our Savior by their loving work.



With so many traveling in August we were blessed to welcome a number of other visitors to our congregation, including Elder Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Ted Witzig (Morton, IL); and Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Gerald Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT), Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), and Ron Palitto (Akron, OH).

Finally this month, we're sad to bid farewell to Donna Fehr (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb) as she returns to school in Kansas City. We pray that the Lord will continue to walk with her as she has recently given her life to Him.

### TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

#### Mike and Monica Fritz

We are so thankful for our visiting ministering brothers as they so willingly bring forth God's Word. We have been blessed by the ministry of Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Bros. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL), Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL), Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN) and Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL). We are also appreciative and thankful for the fellowship of brethren and friends from Eureka, Fairbury, Princeville, Roanoke and Tremont, IL; Bluffton North and La-

Crosse, IN; Oakville, IA; and Lexington, KY.

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: Taylor, MO (9/22); Morton, IL (9/29); Mansfield, OH (10/6); Peoria, IL (10/13); Lamar, MO (10/20); and Oakville, IA (10/27). 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

#### Carrie Beyer

Isaiah refers to God as "a refuge from the storm, a shadow from heat" (Isaiah 25:4). While experiencing a Texas summer, one can especially relate to these allegories. Eventually, autumn will offer a respite from the inconsistency of nature. However, God's protection from evil is constant; one has no need to wait for a new season to feel His refuge, His shadow.

Although the number of Texas vacationers seems to be dwindling, the scheduled ministers still provide the San Marcos church with welcome company. Bros. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago), Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata), Gene

Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott), and Elder Bros. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop) and Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka) served as ministers this month. Bro. Joe and Sis. Barb Zimmerman also visited from Morton.

The calendar for October shows visiting ministers from the following churches: Roanoke (10-6), Akron (10-13), Oakville (10-20), and Taylor (10-27). We extend a welcome to anyone who may be in the area to worship with us. Let us know if you would be available for fellowship on Sat. or Sun. evening or during the week. And please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch and other activities. Contacts are (Austin area) Bro. David and Sis. Shella Brummitt, 512-360-3379; Brian and Terri Kaisner, 512-266-0178; Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy Ringger, 512-933-1380; Dale Kaisner, 512-255-7583; (Round Top/Houston area) Bro. Bill Zeltwanger, 979-249-5102; (San Antonio area) Sis. Dorothy Martin, 210-658-1968; (Ft. Worth area) Bro. Kyle and Sis. Carrie Beyer, 817-989-0868; and (Corpus Christi area) Sis. Dorothy Wenger and Joy Pipkin, 361-526-5556.

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. Take Exit #206; the hotel is on the southwest side access road.



*Sermon continued from page 2*

vid was indignant, wasn't he? He said, surely that man will die! And out of his own mouth he judged himself. And Nathan said to him, thou art the man. And when it was revealed to him, he did not say, well wait a minute. She should not have been out there bathing like that to catch my eye. Or he could have said, Uriah, he should have been more ... he didn't do any of that. In sackcloth and ashes he repented.

The same thing happened in the scripture that we read of here. The word of the Lord came to him. This is a fascinating scripture and it is really a fascinating thing to contrast the life of David and Joab also. Joab himself was not what we would call a godly man and yet he always seemed to know of the power and presence of God even in his own victories. We read the end of Joab's life. It is kind of a gruesome affair. He was really destroyed. He was killed by Solomon because of some infractions. He went into the temple and he was called to come out and he would not come out. He would not come out because he knew he was going to go out and he was going to be slain by Solomon. So Solomon sent the sons of one of his servants in and said you go and fall upon him. His blood be upon his own and he held on to the pillars of the temple. Joab wanted to die in the temple.

It comes through in this scripture too. He said to David, why are you doing this? "And Joab said unto the king, Now the Lord thy God add unto the people, how many soever they be, an hundredfold, and that the eyes of my lord the king may see it: but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing?" II Samuel 24:3. Joab was telling David this is not a wise thing to do. Don't count your strength. Your strength is in the Lord. Think about it. In many respects, he was the general of the army. It would have made a lot of sense to him. Let us go find out how strong we are, make sure we are arrayed, make sure the armies are in good order, the men are valiant, the chariots are ready to fight. But even Joab who really of himself wasn't a godly man, gave David a warning.

One of the things we can take from David's life is we should be a lot more attentive in the times when we are faced with temptation, to the exit doors. The door that lets us exit, not the door that keeps us going in to temptation. Because the reality is, when David walked away from that roof when he saw Uriah's wife and the plan came to his mind, he did not have to execute it. There would have been a door of escape. In this one here, Joab warned him. In some respects, we could liken it to brotherly admonition today, couldn't we? He didn't heed the admonition of the general.

I think in another place, maybe it is in the book of the Chronicles where it is recorded and it went through there, Joab became so displeased. It was a disgusting thing to him, what he was doing. I think it tells us that he didn't really go and number all of them. He got so far, about eight or nine months into it which we read. And then he just went back and he gave him a number. Joab knew this was not going to be for good.

Well, the prophet Gad comes to David this time and reveals it. David's heart smote him. He knew what he had done. Once he got that number, it is like it came right out to him. Sometimes that happens in our day and time. It's kind of in human nature. Sometimes people are tempted, they are tempted, they are tempted and then all of a sudden they give in. They fall. It can happen to us. And then they realize the seriousness of it. It is a terrible thing.

I had a young sister say to me at home one time, she just recently married and I asked her how it was going. She said, "Well, it was going good." She said, "but I made an observation." I said, "What was that?" She said, "You know how the devil works? When you are engaged the devil does everything he can to get you together in ways that are improper. Then after you are married, he does everything he can to keep you apart in ways that are filled with conflict." I said, "You know, that is a pretty wise thing." That is how these things work. That is how the flesh works, isn't it? And the devil comes.

That is what happened to David. He was tempted to number the people. Immediately when he got that number, he was smote in his heart. The devil was victor then. He captivated him by that time.

Going back to the key of David, what is the difference here? When it was revealed to him, he did not try to justify himself. He did not rationalize it away one bit. He said something very wise to Gad. He said, "...I am in a great strait..." II Samuel 24:14. He was faced with three extremely unpleasant choices. Loved ones, you and I could have said, well he was given the choice. He could have said well, I will take the one least painful for me. Or, the one shortest in duration. Or, I'm old enough now to flee three months before my enemies. It has happened before. It happened with Saul. The Lord preserved me. It happened with Absalom, the Lord preserved me. I will choose that one. He could have gone through all of that. But the key within his heart and why he was the apple of God's eye, as the scripture tells us, is he said, "...let us fall now into the hand of the Lord; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man." II Samuel 24:14. He was referencing himself. He would not even fall into his own reasoning and rationale, as wise as he might have been. Let me fall into the hand of the Lord. And loved ones, there is the key of David. Our hearts can be moved likewise and we can have that much confidence in the mercies and in the judgment of God in our life.

It is an easy thing, isn't it, to thank the Lord when we are in good health, there is plenty of money in the bank, our families are in good order, our children are fairly obedient and our job is going well. It is very easy, isn't it? There is no praise really, just getting down on our knees and offering a prayer. But how about when we are sick? Or when the things that happen to us are the very things that we wish we never had to face? Can we thank the Lord for the afflictions of life? That really is some of the lessons that we can learn. And the scripture of the key of David is that we

can look and, even as one of the hymn-writers would write, that even our trust is in the Lord and He is able to bless. I am not saying loved ones, I have been able to do it either as quickly and as often in life, but I can say we have learned the lesson that even the troubles and afflictions of life are those things which shape and mold us and can humble us before our God.

That really is the difference between Saul and David and why one of those kingships ended completely and violently at the termination of Saul's kingship. And why David's continues on really unto the hour in which we right now dwell. Because in many respects isn't it true that He was the root of Jesse, the bright and morning star? And of that lineage was brought forth the only begotten Son of God. And it is a lineage not only after the flesh, although the scripture is clear that that was true too, wasn't it? But far more it is a lineage after the circumcision of the heart and the grafting in of the spiritual life.

David was at unity. He was one with the Lord. Obviously he was not a converted man and he shed much blood. But even that he had to pay a consequence for. The times in life when he committed many of those sins, he still had to bear a lifelong consequence for them. He was not able to build the temple. It was in his heart to build that temple. He loved the Lord and he wanted so desperately. He was humble before his God. He said, I live in a house of cedar and the ark of the Lord dwells in a tent. But the Lord would not allow it. It was a consequence that he had to bear life long for the sin of his life.

We read in the scripture in the New Testament, which really speaks of something even as the hymn #181 in the Zion's Harp that we sang together, the unity of brotherhood. It says, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;" Ephesians 2:1. That is speaking to the believer, isn't it? We were dead in sin.

We do live in a day and time, and from time to time I am sure you hear this reminder and exhortation, there is a phrase that has welled up in the na-

tion and it has made its way from time to time into the church, where it talks about sinning daily. Everyone sins daily. Well, if that is the truth, then this scripture is a lie. Because the reality is, we were dead in sin. Now loved ones, if we were dead in sin and then we have been quickened to a new walk of life, we are not called to keep on sinning. We are called to live free from the power of sin, aren't we?

That does not mean we are not tempted. It does not mean that we, from time to time, don't have to look at our life at the end of the day and say I should have spoken differently here. Or I should have handled that better. Or maybe I need to go just because there has been a lukewarmness that has come and to visit with my elder or in our case, with a co-laborer. Sometimes we do too. You know brethren we are brethren among brethren. We can be afflicted with all the same things that every man, woman that dwells upon the face of the earth are afflicted with. And loved ones, we can live a victorious life! We are no longer under the power of sin. And if sin comes back, it is a choice we make.

He says, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;" Ephesians 2:1. And the idea and the concept that we sin daily or that no one really can help themselves is very modern, very convenient - to what? It goes back to that account in David, doesn't it? It is very convenient to the flesh. It is a very fleshly serving kind of religion isn't it? That we can go out and live as we want and walk the edges and skate the edges, whatever the expression. I don't mean to use a common expression, forgive me, but I think you know what I mean. To walk dangerously.

We were visiting last evening about the time we visited a place. It was on the cliffs in the ocean and it was 800 feet straight down. It was a misty, rainy day. We walked on those cliffs. Those cliffs were shale. It was slippery. And I was on edge but I did not go near the edge. I stayed away from that place. I did not want to get close and I wanted to

make sure, some of our children were young at the time, to keep them away from that! But you know there were people at that place and that surf below that ridge was so rough that if anyone fell, they never went and searched for them because it was sheer right into the ocean. There was no way to even get a boat close, the waves just would crash against it, but there where people there on that rainy, misty day on the slippery rock that went over and they put their toes over the edge and they looked down. Lots of them. It was a tourist attraction where we were. I thought, can you imagine?

But people walk that way in the spiritual life too. They do those kind of things. They look over the edge back into the old life or into the beggarly elements of this world. And those people were confident. They did not think they would fall. But every once in awhile it happened. We don't want to be like those people in the spiritual sense, do we? We want to stay back from the edge, danger and destruction. We don't want to fall off into that abyss. We want to stay away and be watchful at the post.

"But God, who is rich in mercy..." Ephesians 2:4. We read of that also, didn't we? David was one who saw the mercy of God. Beloved, we too in our day and time, we need to be merciful. We do not sit in judgment of the people of this world. We should sit in judgment, I do believe, of two things. One is of the action, of those deeds of sin. Our lives, far more than our words should judge the sin of this world. And how is that possible? Only if you and I live free from those things and also, as we are reminded by the Apostle Paul, free from having pleasure in them.

That is why, loved ones, it moves us to just remind ourselves in this day and time of the media all around us. Not only the television but the printed material that comes into our home, obviously all that is available in computers and technology today, the movie theaters, the concerts. And just because they have a label of Christian, what

*Sermon continued on next page...*

*Sermon continued from page 43*

does it mean? It means it probably is a good tool of deception, isn't it? The devil is not going to try and deceive us by saying this is a wicked thing, come and try it out. He tempts us with those things. But deception will always have a label of something that looks good or something that appears good. That is the tool of deception. There is no deception when someone is tempted by something that is sinful because we are not that foolish are we? We are not stupid. And yet, deception is going to have a label that is good. It is a good thing. It is going to have a label of Christ. It is going to name the name of the Lord.

How do we prevent that in our lives? How do we know? Sometimes people, when we preach about deception or we speak of it or the Word talks about it, a lot of times the question will come up, well how do we know we are not being deceived? Loved ones, I think there is just three things we are given that really is helpful to us.

Number one is the Spirit of God who lives and dwells and abides within your heart, those of us who are converted here. But that is not the full sum and substance of it. We have the Word, don't we? We have the Bible. And those two things need to be in harmony and unity. They need to be in parallel with one another, don't they? But it does not stop there either. And that is what a lot of this chapter is about, because He gives us each other. And when those three things, when the Spirit within me and within you is aligned in harmony and parallel with the Word of God and when the brotherhood, which we enumerate ourselves among, is in line with those two things, in other words when my spirit, the Word of the Lord, and the council of brethren are in unity, we are very well protected then loved ones, from deception. Very well protected. And there is really there a tremendous asset, isn't there? That we are not just resting upon that which is our own thoughts, convictions and spiritual insight. But we have men and women who likewise by the evidence of their life, judge sin in their life because sin does not have dominion of their life. And

that is the greatest evidence.

Sometimes we meet people and they speak good things. But look beyond it. A tree by its fruit will be known. Isn't that what the Lord meant? That there is going to be a lot who say here is Christ and there is Christ. But He wanted us to look at the fruit. That is not to judge someone. That is to observe someone.

I think the other thing we need to be careful that we are continually judging is the doctrine that is around and about us. And I will give an example just for clarity. It certainly comes from our own background and I'm sure you could give examples that come from you. Loved ones, we make no judgment of a soul, do we? No matter what their experience might have been. But something such as infant baptism is a lie, isn't it? And it robs men of salvation. It does not bring them to salvation. And that is not to judge any soul but it certainly is to judge the words of that doctrine. Because there is no foundation in the Bible and it leaves not then room to exhibit the true conversion of life and a promise given from the lips of that soul, not from some proxy couple, but from that soul. Yes, I believe in God. Yes I am at peace with Him. Yes I am at peace with my fellow man and I vow and promise to be faithful and true to Him. So that doctrine we must always judge by the preaching of our pulpits, by the teaching of you brothers and sisters in Sunday school from little on up, by the exhibits of our life. When we are asked to give an account that we give that full and proper account. Not to judge another person. That is God's work. Our work is to be lights and examples of what? Of the truth of God.

"And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:" Ephesians 2:6. I can think of no better example of that than what we have experienced together in last evening especially but also throughout the day. I have troubles in my life, difficulties at work, things that concern us and duties to do and all that you do too. But they kind of melted away over the last twenty four hours haven't they? And we have been re-

vived and refreshed in the faith. We sat together in a heavenly place. There won't be trouble there. There won't be trial, temptation, heartache and despair in heaven. And we found somewhat a like experience in coming into the assembly into church.

Again the time in which we live in loved ones, wants to minimize the importance of the church, of the body of believers. You know what I mean. I have confidence, I really can feel within my heart you know exactly that I do not mean the physical structure of a building. But the unity of our lifestyle and the conviction of heart. The love for the Lord and the care and love for one another. The rejoicing that we can renew from time to time, even though we may be a thousand miles apart as we are, reacquaint ourselves. How are things going? To be able to share the burdens of life as well as the joys. To have brethren unknown to us extend the hand. Friendship and concern even to our children yet without the faith. These are things to sit together in heavenly places!

How important is the brotherhood? I made a comment Wednesday evening before we left to come here. The brother who had the services Wednesday evening referenced the scripture where the Lord talks about "Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" St. Mark 8:37. It really stirred some thoughts within me as I sat by and listened and thought about coming here this weekend and really looked forward to it. I asked the congregation before I left, I realize the Lord was talking about salvation and I don't want to in any way minimize the Word, but it drew a parallel for me, what would we give in exchange for the things that we have as a brotherhood in the church? What would you give in exchange?

Let's talk about something simple: separated seating. It is not common in the worldly churches is it, in nominal Christendom? It once was very common in almost all denominations. But it has been lost. What do you want to give in exchange for that? What would you want to give? I don't think you would

give anything. Or maybe in some respects, you would give everything, wouldn't you? You would give up your own will, your own life. Even the marital relationship and the relationship of mother and father and children is superseded by the relationship of brethren. Would you give up something for that?

You beloved sisters wear a veil in obedience to the Word of God. That is why we do this! It is our way, it is our custom but that is second, isn't it? Because primary is it is obedience to the Word and that is why you have the conviction. What would you give up for that? What would you give up to do away with that black lace veil? Would you give anything? I don't think you would. I trust you wouldn't. I can tell. Our spirit is united. We would not. You would not want to. But from time to time, there wells up round and about us and sometimes even within the walls of Zion, thoughts about those things. And those are just two small examples. But I would not want to give them up. I would not want to see them minimized. I would not want to see them lost and I trust we are in accord and unity in that.

What would we give in exchange for the things that we have within our faith? And that does not mean that we do not have work to do and that there are not things that we could even align ourselves closer to the Word of God. Maybe there is! We trust the Holy Spirit to reveal even that unto you, as the Apostle would write. But that is really what this scripture is telling us. If there is re-alignment to do, it should be re-alignment to the Word.

What did he say further on? "Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our

peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity..." Ephesians 2:11-15. These are the things he wrote. Do we read from the scripture that we should strive to become more like the society or the world in which we live in? We should strive to become more and more like the scripture would have us to be, in the image and likeness of the Lord and Master. That is what our striving should be. Not so that we become more acceptable to our society and easier for them to accept us. The middle wall of partition was broken down so that we could become what? Part of the commonwealth, no longer aliens. So if we are no longer aliens to the commonwealth of Israel and we have been united to that commonwealth, where are we aliens?

Loved ones, if we went to another country and we exchanged the citizenship of this land, even if we were born here and we voted here and everything else, for some country in Europe, and we were to come back, we are aliens here then, aren't we? The same is true in a spiritual sense. If we have gone and exchanged our citizenship of this world to become members of that commonwealth of Israel, to be grafted into the body of Christ, we are aliens to world then aren't we? We cannot have a foot in both camps. And we cannot sit on two chairs at the same time, can we? Or as the Master Himself said, "...Ye cannot serve God and mammon." St. Matthew 6:24. It is very binary.

We sang in one of our hymns, "Two ways, O man, are there for thee..." Zion's Harp #106. There is nothing changed in the modern day and time that makes that thought and hymn obsolete. There are two ways and we will choose. And we have, brethren, we have chosen. Let us not forget that. We made a vow and a promise in the waters of baptism. We have been grafted in, we have expressed our testimony and in the spirit of proving we have laid it to the heart of the brotherhood for them to decide. Is it time that I as a soul should be brought forth to the baptism?

Let us remember that concept. That is one of the old paths, too, isn't it? A convert comes and makes application to the brotherhood. They lay a testimony of faith down. It is not an entitlement and right — well, I am ready to be baptized so you are going to hear my testimony and conversion and you better accept it! That is not the Spirit of the old path of the brotherhood, is it? That is not the breaking down of the middle wall of partition. Because there is a wall of pride, isn't there, in that kind of thinking. But are we willing to come humbly and lay the testimony before the hearts of those people whose lives, whose lives, and there is the key, are victorious and able to live free from the power and condemnation of sin? And it is laid to their heart.

Brethren, we need to be merciful. We need to be merciful. The brethren in Rockville, when I laid that testimony, they were very merciful to me. I look back to my days in those times and there were things that I still did that I would not do today. I understand there is time that needs to be. But loved ones, if they would not have been really content, I would not have wanted to press forward. Are we losing some of those foundations, the principals, the precepts -line upon line, precept upon precept - of our faith?

That middle wall of partition is broken down that we can become a citizen of the commonwealth by faith. If so, we will have a wall of partition now between us and the world. We will be aliens to the commonwealth of the society that we up and left, because we exchanged our citizenship of this world for the one that is to come.

In that exchange, it is like sailing across the sea. Some of those of our fore-fathers who did that, they exchanged that citizenship, didn't they? But they had a pilgrimage to make first. They crossed a no-man's land, because no nation or sovereign claims the ocean, do they, even to this day. There is no country or citizen once you get beyond that twelve mile boundary or whatever it is, that says four hundred miles out in

*Sermon continued on next page...*

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that Atlantic Ocean, that piece of this coordinate belongs to this country and that piece of this coordinate belongs ...it doesn't happen, does it? Our fore-fathers had to sail through a pilgrimage because they exchanged the citizenship of one country for another.

That is what we are in. That is the time of life we are in. We have exchanged our citizenship in this world to be members of the commonwealth of Israel, to be grafted into the body of Christ. We are in a boat traveling together. We are brethren and sisters in the Lord and we are on the journey. We are in the pilgrimage. We don't have any continuing city here and we are not members of this country, so to speak, in the spiritual life. But we do have one another and the Apostle Paul wanted that, didn't he?

"And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:" Ephesians 2:16. "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;" Ephesians 2:19,20. And we are! We are founded upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets. That is exactly why we call ourselves Apostolic Christians. Because it is on the foundation of the apostles that we build our church and our lives. Their teachings and their ways, we are built upon those things. We are not any longer fellowcitizens of the country of this world, but now we are members of the household of faith.

The Apostle goes on here and just in conclusion, these thoughts. "In whom

all the building fitly framed together..." Ephesians 2:21. Now loved ones, we all live in some kind of abode, some kind of house. How do you want the joints and tenons and the mortises of that building to be built? If you hired a contractor, how do you want that fit together? Do you want it tight? Do you want it square? Do you want it aligned properly? Do you want it to fit well? How about a cabinet? If you had a kitchen cabinet and were putting in new cabinets, would you want the joints of that to have an 1/8th inch gap in some and 1/4 inch gap in another and one right up against it nice and tight, you could not hardly see the joint? Would you accept that in the building that you dwell in? Are we fitly framed together as individuals with one another? I am talking about how we live, how we worship and how we speak, the things we believe in and hold precious. Are we fit together like the joints of a house?

How about congregation to congregation? We have work to do there, don't we? It cannot be denied. We would be foolish if we tried to cover it up. We have a lot of work to do in that area. But it does not mean we despair and give up. We plane a little here and prune a little there and we press on. We keep that part for which we are building fitly framed together, square, tightly joined, grafted in.

We talked about that. The Apostle talks about that too, being grafted in. I have never really done it. One of our brothers at home is kind of an orchardist. He has a lot of trees and he does that kind of work, grafting. I asked him to show it to me one time. You could hardly tell. He cut that and laid that graft in that mother tree, or whatever it

is really called, it is probably not the right term. But it fit right in there! Why? So that air could not get in there to disturb the flow of the nutrients from that tree that had to go in to keep that branch alive.

How does that relate to us? We need to be close to the church, close to the brotherhood, aligned in our life to one another. To embrace the things of that root tree that is firmly planted. Loved ones, if we really look into these things with a spiritual eye, we can gain from them in our day and time. Just like the first century church gained from the writings of the apostles when they first read this letter that came to them in Ephesus. May God give us grace and might we be fitly framed together, an holy temple.

"In whom ye also are builded together (listen to this, loved ones, we have experienced this, haven't we, together) for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Ephesians 2:22. We want our lives together, our church, our worship service, our communion service to be a habitation of God, through the Spirit. Might we be inspired and live such that in our homes, in our hearts, in our assemblies that God can find a place of habitation through the presence of His Holy Spirit.

### **USED EYEGLASSES ARE NEEDED FOR FREE IXTLAN CLINIC**

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

Bryan Stoller  
817 S. Locust  
Pontiac, IL 61764



## CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2002, 2003

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

HAITI						
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY	PERCENT FILLED
Palm Grove	Oct 4-12, '02	Puit Sales	Phil Isabel	Grade School	11	60%
JAMAICA						
CCCD	Jan 2-11, '03	Montego Bay	Mark Criss	Deaf School	50/60	0%
CCCD	Mar 7-15, '03	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40	50%
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	<a href="mailto:rbeebe@surfpure.com">rbeebe@surfpure.com</a>
Kevin Fisher	309-923-7684		
Kent Heimer	573-393-2440	573-769-5516	<a href="mailto:janheimer@hotmail.com">janheimer@hotmail.com</a>
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	734-454-9259	<a href="mailto:thitzhome@juno.com">thitzhome@juno.com</a>
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885	
Jon Knapp	309-359-4213		<a href="mailto:jkplan@hotmail.com">jkplan@hotmail.com</a>
Mark Criss	309-693-2532		<a href="mailto:redemed1@aol.com">redemed1@aol.com</a>
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	330-939-4591	
Terry Miller	309-923-9154 or 941-485-4302	same as phone number	<a href="mailto:tbmiller@mymailstation.com">tbmiller@mymailstation.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:ksss@dpc.net">ksss@dpc.net</a>
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		<a href="mailto:NATEWIEG@hotmail.com">NATEWIEG@hotmail.com</a>
(4) Jon Schwab	219-261-2935		<a href="mailto:jschwab@ind-pallet-corp.com">jschwab@ind-pallet-corp.com</a>
Tim Lehman	913-648-3069		<a href="mailto:tlehman99@yahoo.com">tlehman99@yahoo.com</a>

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

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

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

### - NOTICE -

**Repair and Distribution of  
Worn Bibles,  
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Congerville, IL 61729  
(309) 448-2416

### **Apostolic Christian Counseling Services**

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

**877-370-9988 (toll free)**

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### *A Thank You from the Galilean Children's Home*

*Dear Loved Ones,*

Again, Sandy and I want to humbly thank you for the "new school". What can I say? How can we put it into words? I think everyone knows our heart and the deep-felt gratitude we have for everyone who was involved in this latest project. To try to name names would be tough, so please allow this letter to serve as a sincere "thank you" once again to all involved - those who gave physically and those who gave of their finances or prayers.

Every time I walk through the school, my heart and eyes both swell up. What a beautiful building, dedicated to the Lord and to the Christian education of His children.

Sandy, all the staff, the kids, and I wish God's richest blessings to everyone!

Humbly Serving,  
Jerry and Sandy Tucker



**Gateway Woods** would like to say "Thank You!" to all who attended our Auction on August 17th. Although the final numbers are not in, we estimate that over \$280,000 was raised! We are so thankful for a supportive church body that desires to help hurting and troubled children! The Auction is a wonderful display of God's people pulling together. As we all work together to accomplish His will, our prayer is that He would be glorified and honored.

*We are seeking some information about the Branson, Missouri vacation package that was donated to the Auction. If you are the donor or know who donated this vacation package, please call Patsy Stoller at 1-888-443-4283 as soon as possible.*

*Thank You!*

### **BIBLE DISTRIBUTION**

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

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

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

*To order, contact,*  
Apostolic Christian Church  
**Bible Distribution**  
PO Box 30  
1254 S. Main Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
Phone and Fax 219/824-5587  
E-mail: [bibledist@parlorcity.com](mailto:bibledist@parlorcity.com)



## Volunteer Needs For the Navajo Project

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

### Mexico Work Teams 2002 - 2003

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

If anyone would desire to go to Mexico at a time not listed on the schedule, please contact

Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or e-mail: [mfiechter@parlorcity.com](mailto: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](mailto:fairview@Route24.net)

### Preschool Coordinator Needed

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





# REMEMBERING

## *Our Spiritual Heritage*

*The intended article on Benedict Weyeneth will be delayed until next month. Because the General Conference was held in August, the following essay discusses the concept of church conferences, both in the past and today.*

### **Conference Time**

In late July and early August, millions of Americans lamented the drop in the stock market. As multitudes depended on the affection for things that are seen (i.e., material), a worrisome countenance lingered.

At the same time – and particularly as the week of August 5 drew near – hundreds of brethren, whose focus was things unseen (i.e., spiritual) – left their earthly cares and traveled to Rockville, CT. They traveled hundreds and thousands of miles. One dear brother (wheelchair confined) drove all the way from Oregon. Their motive was to attend the annual church conference (August 7-9).

The contrast – material verses spiritual – was striking. From a spiritual perspective, brethren looked to the stability and promises of God for their help and consolation, not to the market or to the marketplace. The Word teaches, “Set your affection on things above, not on the things of the earth (Col. 3:2).

### **Historical Precedent**

Coming together to “confer” is an ongoing tradition. Already in the book of Acts precedent was set to discuss matters affecting the church; and in our specific heritage brethren came together (under Bro. Samuel Froehlich), and subsequently, to address problems and opportunities.

In 1842 — during a schism in Europe, brethren met, and Bro. Froehlich wrote a circular letter to all the churches warning the believers of false teachings that affected the brethren.

Also, in the late 1840’s, a brother meeting was convened to send Bro. Benedict Weyeneth, 29, to upstate New York to counsel with a group of Mennonites. His advice to them: They must repent, and be baptized by immersion. One-half of the

church followed him. Subsequently, our first American church was established in Lewis County, New York, in 1847.

### **Periodic Meetings**

In the early years, our elders met only to address specific problems. For instance, during World War I, they met to decide on an official church name to list with governmental authorities so our young men could enter the army as non-combatants (i.e., not bearing arms).

In Europe, our church name was Evangelical Baptist. In America, our elders were reluctant to use that name because of a “Baptist” identification. Our leaders had difficulties with a few Baptist doctrines – foremost among them being eternal security, faith “alone” and individual autonomy (authority). They felt it was unwise to affiliate with those theological distinctives. So they chose the name “Apostolic Christian” because they followed the teachings of Christ and the Apostles.

As time wore on and travel became easier, elders met more often. Moreover, as worldly exposures became more pronounced, the elder brethren began meeting annually; and then semi-annually. A General Conference (with lay brothers and sisters present) is now held each year.

### **Coming Together**

The anticipation of attending a Conference lingers in one’s heart for weeks and months. Arriving at the cite generates a special feeling of gratitude and expectation. It is a quest for eternal things. The desire is for simple/unseen things. It’s seeking the things that far exceed our pocketbooks, our balance sheets, and our earthly securities. It’s the simplicity of meeting and greeting believers of like precious faith – who have had a common repentance and conversion experience, and who walk in a common self-denial and separation from the world. We find courage in fellowshiping with others who strive to walk on the narrow way.

Coming into the Rockville church or supper on Thursday evening and meeting loved ones and then joining in the beautiful singing(s) amounted to a treasure that

money can’t buy.

### **Listening**

It was a heavenly place to be sitting on Friday morning when the General Conference began. As the elder brethren filed into the assembly at 8:50 a.m., and a thousand voices sang from the Zion’s Harp, a feeling of oneness permeated the gathering. It was a blessed and joyous time. Such uplifting times made the long drive worthwhile.

Sitting through the kindly exhortations of 12 Spirit-led speakers gave encouragement to the listeners. Indeed, our spiritual armour was polished and the sword of the Spirit became sharper. The unspoken theme was faithfulness to the end.

A vivid thought among many is that we must “preserve” and “promote” the faith. Along with this, we must “practice” the faith. There is a correlation between doctrine and order. The order (practice) reflects a concrete illustration of the doctrine. Over time, if the order falters – or the way broadens – the doctrine becomes vulnerable. History instructs us in this.

### **The Future**

If the Lord tarries, the next generation(s) will benefit by the beliefs and strongholds that have preceded it. If we are faithful now, our offspring’s faith, and its implementation, will rest on a more stable/secure foundation.

The precedents of holiness in our faith have been well established. The elder brothers are asking us to hold fast to our Biblical applications (standards) without wavering. Our task is to “obey them”. We truly thank God for all their unseen efforts and labors for God’s people. In humility, and by God’s grace, let us keep the faith – the practice of the faith, now and always.

*By: Perry A. Klopfenstein*

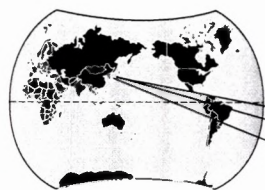
### Next issue:

The life of Bro. Benedict Weyeneth

# The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

## 希望の光



### “What’s The Good Of It?”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

We may be apt to say about many activities, “There is no harm in it.” However, there is another way of thinking, and that is, “What’s the good of it?” This is prompted by the scripture, “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” (I Cor. 10:31)

There is a danger that we may become too strict, to the extent that we are opposed to playing catch ball with our children, or opposed to potluck suppers for believers. However, I believe we can truthfully say that such activities are for good. They build excellent human relations, which is one of the most difficult issues we face in life. Let’s strive to have good human relations among ourselves, and insofar as possible, with all men. “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14)

We attempt, by our church memorandum and word of mouth, to help determine what is

for good and what might be better left out of our lives. It is also important that we think about, “Good for whom, ourselves or others?” and “Good for the body, or good for the soul?”

The Bible teaches that we have been crucified with Christ, “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him.” (Romans 6:6). If I understand it correctly, this means that doing something for self-gratification is out for the believer. We should be concerned for others and then we ourselves will be greatly blessed by God. If we seek our own pleasure, we probably will never find it. Therefore, an important question to be asked, is, “Is this doing anybody any good?” which is a little different from the question, “What’s the good for it?” The former question tends to point to others.

In regard to what’s good for the body and what’s good for the soul, the welfare of our soul is more important. “And fear not them which kill the body but are

not able to kill the soul.” (Matthew 10:28). But this doesn’t mean that we should forget about whether something is good or bad for our bodies. “If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.” (I. Cor. 3:17)

Doesn’t it follow then, that what we put into our bodies should be based on whether or not it is good for our bodies, not on whether we like the taste or not? In this area also, we need to ask the question, “What’s the good for it?”

These questions have been asked in the past and as a result we are more active in sharing God’s Word with others and with helping others who are poor and hungry. We better keep asking these questions and improve in all areas of doing good, for the soul and for the body, for others and for ourselves. Let’s ask, “What’s the good of it?”

## 希望の光



*An obedient dog is much like an obedient person.  
They need correction and encouragement.*

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