



# *The Silver Lining*

*If any man will come after me, let him deny himself,  
and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*

November 2002

Sermon by Brother Loren Schrenk, St. Louis, MO

### Jeremiah 52:1-16 and James 2

The scriptures must be examined with respect to the judgment of God, with respect to the revelation of God, with respect to the guiding of the Spirit. The scriptures are to be taken as a whole, not one small part to be taken out of context and used to justify our actions.

Now the apostle here shows us how the simple truths, the simple principles of God are to be applied in specific instances. Christ said, "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matt. 22:40). "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment." (Matt. 22:37-38). And we should have no other gods before Him. That is the first principle. It is always the first principle. It was the first principle in the Commandments. It was Christ's principal when He said He submitted Himself to God and all the things He spoke came from God. He honored God. And He said the second is like unto it, "...Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself..." (James 2:8).

So the Apostle James here shows us how to apply these things. If we perfectly understood those two principles, we would not need the rest of the scriptures. We would not need the advice of the apostles. The church would not need the advice of the apostles. The Corinthians would not have been misled. The

Galatians would not have been misled. We would not have conflict within the church. The church would be perfect. There would be total love but also perfect understanding. But because we are not fully spiritual, God continues to work with us and to instruct us. We have instructions given through the Spirit to us by the scriptures, by faithful brothers, by their examples and by their words.

Here the Apostle James uses the principle of "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them..." (Matt. 7:12) to examine our actions with respect – or the actions of at least of the church, and we can look in our own hearts – with respect to riches in this life. Apparently there was a problem in the church in general.

This is written "...to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad..." (James 1:1). This is written to the brethren of Jesus Christ. These twelve tribes, whether he meant only those that were Jewish and saved by the faith in Christ or whether he meant that we are as spiritual Israel, which is probably what he meant. But an any rate this is written to believers.

He talks about in the church there was a problem perhaps in some of the places where those who were wealthy were treated differently than those who were poor. This is not a new thing with the church of God at that time. It

is not a new thing in our society. It is observed in many societies.

I just got finished reading about Job. Job bemoans the fact that whenever he was wealthy he had the same spirit in him but men deferred to him and they asked for his advice. They treated him with respect (Job 29). And he said, then when he became poor, the sons of the vil-

*Sermon continued on page 45*

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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

November 2002

### All Things Work Together for Good

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Ro. 8:28). "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (I Thes. 5:18). These are such beautiful and comforting verses of scripture when everything is going well. They are verses that all of us want to believe and apply fully to our lives. However, at a time of tragedy they can be difficult verses to embrace.

Nearly all of us at one time or another have had situations come into our lives where we have felt a heavy burden or serious heartache. When the situation passes and time brings an element of healing we can see that the experience did enable us to increase our faith by the grace of God.

But what do we do when we or a loved one face a situation where we know that there is virtually no chance for a speedy recovery? There are situations in which there seems to be no way out. How do we take comfort or how do we encourage others when there is not much hope of a brighter day? The death of a loved one who did not appear to make preparation for eternity, an accident that leaves a permanent and nearly total disability, or parents who face incredibly painful situations in raising their children are situations that do not appear to give much hope for relief.

When we are not the one who faces the affliction it might be rather easy for us to use the opening verses to encourage others. While we certainly need to use scriptures to encourage each other, we must be careful that we do not demonstrate a lack of compassion toward those who are suffering.

There are examples in the scripture that describe situations where men of God found themselves in situations in which they felt they had no hope. King David, who was described as a man after God's heart, at times felt completely deserted. He uttered words that are virtually identical to Christ's words on the cross: "My God, my God why hast thou

forsaken me..." (Ps. 22:1)? There was a time that he felt so low he said "...But I am a worm, and no man..." (Ps. 22:6).

Elijah was so discouraged that he "sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die: and said "...It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers" (I Ki. 19:4). Moses, Job, Joshua and others in the Old Testament also experienced times of distress and doubt.

Even John the Baptist experienced doubt. While in prison, knowing that his work was nearly complete, he questioned if Jesus was the Christ. He sent two disciples to ask Jesus "...Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?" (Mt. 11:3). In time of deep distress John needed to be reassured that Jesus was the Christ and that the power of God was manifest in Him. At the time of His crucifixion, even Jesus felt deserted when He cried out "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani, which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Mk. 15:34).

If some of the most faithful servants of God struggled from time to time, we undoubtedly will also face situations which bring doubt. How do we encourage someone who is facing extreme difficulty?

The scriptures provide us with a wide variety of options when we try to comfort those in need. When someone is in deep distress, it is very helpful to share encouraging scriptures with them. God allowed Moses to see his back parts, but not His face, when Moses needed extra strength (Ex. 33:23). In blessing the children of Israel Moses reminded them that God "...shall thrust out the enemy from before thee;..." (Deut. 33:27). David, though often distressed, wrote "...in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion:..." (Ps. 27:5) and "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Ps. 46:1).

Jesus, after telling Peter that he would deny his master three times, comforted him when He said, "Let not your heart be

troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me" (Jn. 14:1). At that time Jesus knew His disciples needed comfort. He also knew there were occasions when it was necessary to "...upbraid(ed) them with their unbelief and hardness of heart;..." (Mk. 16:14). Jesus knew when to upbraid and when to encourage. We also need to work on learning to discern when someone needs chastisement and when they need encouragement, and then follow the appropriate scriptures.

If a sincere soul is trying to do God's will and they are carrying a grievous burden, they hardly need to be made to feel even worse by inappropriately using scripture that will add to their burden. Paul recognized that there will be times when we are almost overcome by distress when he wrote "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;" (II Cor. 4:8-9).

It is not a sin to feel heavily burdened at times. It is not that we do not trust God. It is more likely that a soul is simply going through a time of struggle that will ultimately make him stronger and he needs to be encouraged.

We do not always understand why we face certain trials. We are sometimes allowed to go through difficult situations when, from our perspective, it may not make sense. We do not always see accurately but the time will come when we will. "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known" (I Cor. 13:12).

If we can encourage and uphold others as they go through dark valleys of distress, if we can help them retain a measure of faith when all seems helpless, if we can provide a measure of hope when there seems to be none, then by the grace of God, the time will come that they can see that all things do work together for good and that we can give thanks in everything.



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

## Child Sponsorship in Juarez Mexico

The Apostolic Christian World Relief Child Sponsorship Program began in 1998. Its purpose is to give members and friends of the Apostolic Christian Churches an opportunity to be involved in the lives of children in economically distressed areas of the world.

The program provides opportunity for sponsorship for children in Haiti, Jamaica, and Mexico. This month's article focuses on one of the participating schools, Granjas in Juarez, Mexico.

### Love is a universal language

The children that are sponsored in Juarez, Mexico are truly precious in His sight. Their enthusiastic personalities radiate love and warmth. Love is such a universal language and one realizes this when meeting children from another country who can't speak English.

When one visits the school located in a community called Granjas, the children stop focusing on their school work and focus on the visitor. We found it best to visit during recess where we received hugs, coins, drawings and candy.

What sacrificial love these children exemplified. None of these children have the luxuries that children in the states have, and yet they were willing to give us everything they possess in their pockets and book bags!

### History of the school

The school began several years ago because Chito and Lydia Aguilar saw this as an opportunity to share the love of Jesus to local children and their families. Chito and Lydia

are the Mexican missionaries that World Relief has been working with in Juarez since the late 1980's.

We began sponsoring students at this school in September 2001. We currently sponsor 110 students, but the school has grown and there is potential to sponsor more students.



### Classrooms and students

There are eight classrooms of students ranging from preschool age through grade six. The rooms are painted a brilliant white and each has a dry erase board. The classrooms look so inviting! Some of the desks are the same style as the ones in Haiti. They can be used as a desk or a bench and they accommodate more students than traditional desks.

The children are fed a hot lunch several days each week and they pack their lunch on the other days. The children wear uniforms to school everyday. We purchase shirts for all the students and pants for the boys. This fall, the girls will be wearing culottes and jumpers that have been sewn by our World Relief sewing ladies. At Christmas time, we ask the sponsors to give a little extra for a sweater that matches. The children look so nice and clean!

### A new building is provided

Just before school began in the fall of 2001, the old building burned to the ground. We know that God's timing is always perfect, but in our

finite minds, this seemed like a big step backward. School began that fall in a very small, rented 4 room house and in 2 rooms of an existing medical clinic. To see 100 students in 6 small rooms was something to remember. The kindergarten room had a dirt floor and the stench in that room was awful. However, the children were smiling and anxious to learn! Several of us had packed children's clothing in our luggage and the teachers distributed the clothing so every child had at least one "new" thing. They were so appreciative. You would have thought it was Christmas.

At this time, the school is in a brand new community building that was built by World Relief funds and workers this past spring.

### Blessings of sponsorships

We feel that these children are very blessed to have sponsors here in the United States. They have someone praying for them here and the students are encouraged to pray for their sponsors. Because they are sponsored, they have other advantages over other children in their neighborhoods.

Most importantly, they hear the Word of God everyday. Secondly, they are being taught English, which hopefully will broaden their job opportunities as they reach adulthood. We are grateful to every sponsor and we trust God to lead these children into repentance and then a dedicated life of service to further His kingdom.

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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

### Apostolic Christian Church in San Diego

Services in the San Diego area began in mid 1983 for those of the Altadena, CA congregation that lived in the San Diego area. They were held once a month in the home of Brother Victor Jevremov. Ministers from Altadena, Phoenix, and Tucson served the congregation.

The frequency of the services was increased to twice a month, and alternated between Bro. Victor Jevremov's and Bro Peter Petrovic's homes. Attendance was bolstered by several families that moved to the area from the Midwest.

#### Facility rented

As regular attendance increased, it was decided to rent a facility in a central location. In late 1985, services were held in the activity room of the Meadowbrook Middle School in Poway. This facility served well, but required all books, kitchen supplies, and baby beds to be brought in each Sunday. Sunday school was held outside when the weather permitted.

#### Ministers selected

On July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1986, Bros. Peter Petrovic and Doug Wagenbach were chosen to serve as ministers for the congregation. Services were then held every Sunday as well as midweek.

#### A store-front facility rented

In April, 1988, two suites in a small shopping center at 410 W. Felicita, Escondido, CA were rented. A baby room and a Sunday school room were built and a small kitchen installed. Pews and a pulpit were built with volunteer labor. There

was permanent seating for approximately 70 persons. This facility served well, but the Sunday school and fellowship area were very limited.

#### A new church

In 1993, a 2 acre parcel on the west edge of Escondido was purchased. Plans were drawn, and after a lengthy review process, building permits were secured. Extensive grading was necessary to lift the elevation of the building pad. The building project began in May 1994.



San Diego Church

This facility consists of three main wings that project off a central fellowship area. The assembly room has seating for 112. The Sunday school wing has 4 rooms and the dining room contains a kitchen and seating for 88.

#### An elder is chosen

In 1998, Bro. Peter Petrovic was ordained as deacon and on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2000, he was ordained as elder for the San Diego congregation. On March 11, 2001, Bro. James Koehl was appointed as the 3<sup>rd</sup> minister.

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how

shall they hear without a preacher?

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things.”

ROMANS 10:13-15

The San Diego congregation currently consists of 32 members with an average Sunday attendance of fifty persons.

#### An interesting area

San Diego is located on the Pacific Ocean coast very near the southern border of California. The mild climate makes this area a lovely place for family vacations and relaxing get-away trips.

There are many beautiful places to visit, including pristine beaches, rugged back country, and a diverse culture. There are numerous museums in the area filled with wonders that appeal to just about any taste. Many of the area's most popular museums are clustered in Balboa Park within walking distance of each other. The San Diego Zoo and the Sea World Park are world famous.

#### Employment opportunities

There are numerous opportunities for employment in the area including commerce and industry. Families seeking to relocate in this area are most certainly welcome to contact any of the local members for more information.

#### Visitors are appreciated

The San Diego congregation is always happy for visitors, regardless of the time of year. The nearest congregation is Altadena, and other than that, there are no nearby churches. Therefore, as in all small churches, visitors are important, and receive a warm welcome.

## **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED**

The Board of Directors and the administration for the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped (ACHH) have implemented our Outreach and Communication Plan by making presentations at six regional meetings. It was felt that our churches needed to be updated about the work done at our ministry and about our current needs. The cornerstone of the presentation is a new computer slide show put together to show the services of the agency. This is an update of a previous video presentation. The Elders, ministers, church representatives and parents of developmentally disabled residents have been invited to these presentations. The hope is that these individuals will tell others more about the Home. When these regional presentations have been completed, we hope to offer presentations to individual churches as a whole.

The presentations are a combination of pictures and narrative that tells the story of who we are, what we do and why we do it. Specific discussions concerning our mission and our vision statement are presented along with information about who is eligible for services at our facilities. Career opportunities and training which exist now and which may exist in the future have been presented. Also, because our financial needs have changed over the thirty years of our service, it is expedient that more individuals

have knowledge of the operating income and expenses, trends in costs, changes in profit and loss, trends in government reimbursement and how the church and others can help with regular donations and by supporting the endowment fund in one's estate and financial planning.

Four Outreach and Communication presentations have already taken place. They were held in Forrest, IL; Morton, IL; West Bend, IA; and Bern, KS. Lord willing, an upcoming presentation will take place in Rittman, OH, on November 23. Also, on January 5, 2003, a presentation is planned to take place in Bluffton, IN.

Thus far, we can testify to you that the Lord has used these meetings in a positive way. By letting our needs be known, the church has been prompted by the Holy Spirit to pour out compassion by lifting the Home and the residents in prayer, volunteer and financial support.

The call for help for reshingling two roofs for ACHH went out over several central Illinois Apostolic Christian church pulpits. The morning of September 28 the head of the maintenance department only knew he had several skilled men who had committed to work as team leaders. He had no idea if enough laborers would arrive to reshingle the large bus garage at Timber Ridge and our community home at 241 S. Minnesota, Morton, IL. When the beautiful fall day arrived, the Lord provided just the right number of men with willing

hearts and backs. The men were divided into two groups and began their workday at 8:00 a.m. By 3:30 p.m. both jobs had been completed.

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

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

**Kent Kloter**

What is meekness? Meekness is often compared to weakness, but this is not true in the biblical sense. Meekness has been described as "power under control". God exemplifies power under control in the first recorded dialog<sup>1</sup> in the Bible. It begins with a question directed to Adam after he and Eve had sinned in the Garden. Why a question? Couldn't God find them? Did He really not know where they were? Of course not. This was a meek God giving Adam the opportunity to think about his behavior before He confronted his rebellion. God is the model of meekness.

Jesus was another example of power under control. The first recorded conversation of Jesus was of Him asking questions and listening. "And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them ques-

tions<sup>2</sup>.” Consider the scene. This is God in the flesh asking questions of the very people He created. Admittedly, Jesus was only twelve years old, but He was still God<sup>3</sup>. He knew more than all of the “doctors” combined, yet he asked them questions. Jesus is the model of meekness.

The Lord’s meekness is also shown in the temptation in the wilderness<sup>4</sup>. Jesus had the power to instantly create a lavish meal, yet He chose to fast for 40 days. He had the power to turn stones into bread, yet he submitted His power to the authority of the Word<sup>5</sup>. Jesus created the very tempter standing before Him, yet He calmly responded to Satan’s taunting with nothing less than Scripture, even though Jesus could have annihilated him in an instant. Jesus is power under control.

The last hours of Jesus showed Him exercising power under control. He allowed the illegal courts to condemn Him, the soldiers to mock Him and nail Him to the Cross. He had the power to stop all of this cruelty<sup>6</sup>, but He chose meekness. He modeled meekness and showed us by walking in the power of the Spirit; meekness is possible, even in the worst of circumstances. Jesus is the model of meekness.

Col. 1:28 reminds us that our goal should be to become “perfect in Christ Jesus”. One of Christ’s greatest attributes is meekness. If your desire is to become “perfect in Christ Jesus”, you must learn meekness.

What enabled Jesus to be

meek? Jesus’ outward meekness began with meekness towards God. He completely surrendered himself to the will of His father. “.for I do always those things that please him<sup>7</sup>.” “My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work<sup>8</sup>.”

How can I become meek, you ask? Meekness in outward behavior is certainly important for you to practice, but God is more concerned with the attitude of your heart. True meekness therefore begins in your attitude and relationship toward God, in your “heart”. Jesus sates that your actions stem from the condition of your heart. “A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things<sup>9</sup>.”

The biblical definition of meekness is more than outward behavior. The word meekness in the Bible<sup>10</sup> is defined in Vine’s Expository Dictionary as not just outward behavior, but “. . . it is an inwrought grace of the soul; and the exercises of it are first and chiefly towards God. It is that temper of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting; it is closely linked with the word [humility] and follows directly upon it, [see] Eph. 4:2, Col. 3:12.<sup>11</sup>

Outward meekness means nothing before God if it is not first based upon a meekness towards God stemming from a complete trust in God’s sovereign power and authority over your life. True biblical meekness

generates humility and total obedience. Like faith<sup>12</sup>, without meekness it is impossible to please God.

Are there circumstances in your life that you have been fighting?

Are there situations about which you are complaining?

Are there people in your life that you resent, against whom you are bitter?

A sovereign God has allowed them to come into your life to make you more like Christ<sup>13</sup>. Are you willing to allow these difficulties to produce meekness towards His Sovereignty?

Are you willing to accept them as coming to you from a holy, good, faithful God and therefore without disputing or resisting?

How are you doing in the area of biblical meekness in your relationship with God?

Meekness ought to be a dominant characteristic of the believer’s daily life.

“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with

grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." (Col. 3:12-17)

We at Gateway Illinois Family Services have been busy presenting seminars along with our normal counseling opportunities.

Bro. Jeff Thames presented our child-training seminar "Bring Them Up" at Francesville, IN, in September. He also presented our marriage seminar "No Greater Love" at Akron for the Akron, Smithville and Rittman churches.

Bro. Kent Kloter presented our "Growing Godly Men" seminar at our West Lafayette, IN, church in September. He also gave two presentations on Growing in Godliness to the Florida Family Camp in October.

Bro. Jeff is scheduled to present a new seminar in Gridley (Oct. 29, Nov. 5 and Nov. 12) on financial stewardship entitled "It is Required in Stewards". He is also scheduled to present the marriage seminar, "No Greater Love" to the Burlington/Oakville churches in January, 2003, and at Bluffton Country the first weekend in February.

We would like to welcome Jeff S. and Corey H. to our campus in Leo. We pray that God will touch their hearts and reveal Himself in their lives.

We are very thankful to the Leo Church and Sunday School for their recent ice cream social to raise money for the Gateway

Woods School home economics room. What a blessing it was! We thank each and every person who has donated to our school project over the last several months. May God use this project – and our other programs (residential care, foster care, home-based services, and IL family services) – for His glory!

- 1 There are commands recorded prior to this (Gen. 3:9), but there are no recorded dialogs. God also had many conversations with Adam and Eve prior to this, but there is no record of what was said.
- 2 Luke 2:46
- 3 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell... (Col. 1:19)  
And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power... (Col. 2:10)
- 4 Matthew 4:1-11
- 5 Deut. 8:3
- 6 Matt. 26:53
- 7 John 8:29b
- 8 John 4:34
- 9 Matt. 12:35
- 10 II Cor. 10:1; Titus 3:2; Col. 3:12; I Tim. 6:11 (these are just a few examples)
- 11 from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, Copyright © 1985, Thomas Nelson Publishers
- 12 Heb. 11:6
- 13 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did fore-know, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the first born among many brethren. (Rom. 8:28-29)

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Melinda Matuch

"Look unto Me, and be ye saved."

"My son, give Me thine heart."

*Proverbs 23:26*

"In everything give thanks."

*I Thessalonians 5:18*

This month we will focus on our Thanksgiving-related activities. We will have our Thanksgiving Feast during the holiday week. The children are busy making their pilgrim and Indian costumes to wear, as well as decorations and other holiday crafts. We will also talk about nutrition and health as a theme this month.

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to express our thanks to all of our donors, sponsors, and volunteers who have provided so generously for us this year. May God bless you all for everything you have done. If anyone would be interested in helping us out in any way, please feel free to contact the preschool by phone during the day or in writing.

Of course, we could not function without the diligent service of those brethren who serve on our preschool board, and on the education and world relief committees, who have the oversight of our endeavor. Thanks to each of you for your time and energy. We appreciate how much you give of yourself to serve the preschool all year long.



It is a bit repetitious, but once again the call goes out for an experienced teacher who would be willing to come to the preschool to work with us. Please contact your local elder, Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), or Bro. Tom Schrenk if you are interested in the position. We pray that someone will heed the call.

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**ALABAMA, ATHENS**  
**Louise Hall**

“Sing unto the Lord with Thanksgiving...”

*Psalm 147:7*

We are so thankful for all the blessings that God does bestow upon us in His abundant grace and mercy. May we keep a song of thanksgiving in our hearts every day.

We have many reasons to be thankful. We have been blessed with visitors from Princeville, IL; Leo, IN; Tucson, AZ; and Rittman, OH. Our dear Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) was here for a Wednesday evening service. Also serving us from the pulpit were Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH), and Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL), who are the parents of Bro. Andy Witzig (Sis. Erin) of Athens.

Prayers go out to those who have been hospitalized this past month. Sis. Amanda Glass fell and broke her hip. Lisa Moore (Randy) was ill and briefly in the hospital. She is recovering speedily with God's grace. Frances Edwards and Vivian

Haggenmaker (Bro. Arnold Lee) have also experienced illness.

With heavy hearts we said farewell to Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard as well as their daughters, Sarah, Bethany, and Hannah. They have moved to Peoria, IL, and plan to make their home there. We will miss them and hope that God will bless them richly for all that they have done here in Athens.

Twice recently we have had opportunities to travel as a group. September 28-29 saw a group of thirty take a bus trip to Peoria, IL, where we enjoyed fellowship and were able to sing at the Eureka and Peoria nursing homes. We also went to the Peoria County Jail for Sunday morning services. On October 11-13, a group of sixteen Sunday School students, parents, and teachers traveled to Lakewood retreat in Brookville, FL. We had a wonderful time with brethren from our Sarasota, Ft. Myers, and Ft. Lauderdale churches.

At our recent Sunday School meeting, the following duties were assigned. The superintendent is Bro. Joel Schrenk. We currently have three classes. The youngest children are taught by Sis. Beci Fischer and Sis. Louise Hall. The middle grades are taught by Sis. Pam Moore and Sis. Louise Haggenmaker. The oldest grades are taught by Bro. Andy Witzig and Sis. Melinda Matuch.

Local unemployment and need are increasing, and we have had more referrals for food and clothing than usual. We are

grateful to be in a position to be helpful to others and thank God for the bounty we are able to share with our neighbors.

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**ARIZONA, PHOENIX**  
**Ron and Ev Hoerr**

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.”

*I John 4:11*

Our beloved Sis. Barbara Schupbach passed away at 11:38 p.m. on September 28 in Peoria after residing a short time at the Apostolic Christian Restmor Home in Morton, IL. The funeral service was here in the Phoenix church on October 3. Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) and our local ministers had the service. Burial was in East Rest Haven Cemetery by her beloved husband, Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach, who died November 27, 2000. Sis. Barbara leaves Connie Beer (Joe), Sis. Christine Baum (Robert), Sis. Chelly Kaiser (Fred), 12 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and her church family. Our sympathy to all relatives and friends.

Our beloved Sis. Elva Wuthrich passed away on October 2 in Phoenix. Her funeral was October 6 at the church. Bro. Herbert Knochel and local ministers had the service. Internment was in the East Rest Haven Cemetery. Sis. Elva is survived by her sister, Sis. Ruth, nieces Sis. Bonnie Sauder and Sis. Lynn Wuthrich, nephew Bill, and sister-in-law, Florence, and her

church family. We extend our sympathy to our dear ones. A personal love note ... Sis. Helen Wuthrich and Sis. Gladys Fisher passed away the same week in 1999, like Sis. Elva and Sis. Barbara in 2002.

"Peace be unto you."  
*John 20:19*

Adam Ebert and Richard Kraft have each found Peace, the special gift that is received through repentance and obedience to God's Word. They are looking forward to giving their testimonies and baptism. Adam is the son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Ebert. Our late Sis. Dorothy is rejoicing over Richard's gift.

Our hospital patients were Sis. Marie Kieser, Sis. Ruth Vaughn and Richard Kraft.

Our World Relief workers have been busy with sewing projects and readying health kits.

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR).

O death where is thy sting? The beautiful singing by the choir was very comforting at our two funerals this month. May God bless the singers.

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**ARIZONA, PRESCOTT**  
**Jane Hodges**

"Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness."

*Psalms 97:12*

Last month several families

from the Phoenix and Tuscon churches came to Prescott for a weekend of fellowship at a camp in the pines. We were blest to have them worship with us on Sunday.

Due to illness, Bro. Henry Volz has been unable to worship with us. Please remember him in prayer.

We wish to thank our ministering brethren this last month. They included Bros. Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN), Tim Roecker (Peoria, IL), Herb Knochel, Jr., and Jim Meiss (both of Phoenix, AZ). May the Lord richly bless them for their service to Him and us.

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**ARIZONA, TUCSON**  
**Lisa Knapp**

We were blessed with a visit from Bro. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA) last Sunday. We truly appreciate his willingness to travel such a long distance to minister to us. We know God will bless Bro. Shawn's efforts on behalf of the Tucson church.

The following Sunday Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) were with us. We know that God will also bless them and their wives for their love and support of the Tucson church. We were happy to meet some of our Sis. Krista Banwart's family and get to know them. We hope to have them visit a lot in the future.

We thoroughly enjoyed getting together at Ft. Lowell Park on October 6 to attend our annual Sunday School Picnic. The weather was beautiful with temperatures in the upper 80s and

plenty of sunshine. Great food, games, and our Bake Sale/Auction guarantee that young and old have a great time. It's always a day that reminds us of how wonderful God's blessings are. Many thanks to Bro. Brad and Sis. Sandy for organizing the fun!

Our weather is getting better every day with our temperatures heading towards the 70s soon. The evenings and mornings are beautifully cool, and the days are warm and sunny. Not time to get out our sweaters yet, but maybe next month!

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**CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA**  
**Robin Moser**

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High."

*Psalms 92:1*

This autumn we pause to reflect on God's blessings and mercy throughout the year. Most of all, we are grateful for Jesus, who has given His life in love to offer spiritual healing to each one of us. We know He works miracles daily and we pray for the ongoing health concerns in our congregation. Our prayers continue to go out for Bro. Jeff Luthi, Bro. Glen Hackenjos, and Ann Yaussi. We are also thankful this month for the initial progress Bro. Lazlo Cser has experienced after his stroke, and we pray for his rehabilitation.

Our congregation has been encouraged by the support we have received during the past

months leading up to the ordination on October 13 of Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody) as our new Elder. He succeeded Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Sis. Lois), who faithfully served the Altadena congregation as an Elder for 16 years, and as a minister for 41 years. We were blessed with many visitors for the ordination weekend, including: Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ), Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN), Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Elizabeth, Silverton, OR), and Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), as well as ministering brothers, Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA), Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ). Our thanks to all who remembered us during this special weekend in prayer.

We also appreciated visiting minister, Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) serving our congregation earlier this month. We are grateful for brethren who come to serve in the ministry here in Altadena, and hope many more can visit in the upcoming months, Lord willing.

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### **CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO** **Peggy Jevremov**

Once more we were richly blessed with visiting brethren, and among them were the following ministering brothers: Bro. Jeff Luthi (Sis. Shirley,

Altadena, CA), Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), and Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL). We pray the Lord will richly bless these faithful brothers for their willing service to us all.

We welcome our new sister in the Lord, Linde Zimmer, into our little flock. She shared with us her testimony and was baptized on October 2. We are thankful that she could find grace to repent in the twilight years of her life. Elder Bro. John Klotzle and Bro. Tom Klotzle (Altadena) assisted Elder Bro. Peter in this work. May the Lord reward them for their willingness to come and help.

We are approaching Thanks-giving Day once again. But truly each day we should have a thankful heart for all the Lord has done for us. Let us remember that GRATITUDE takes three forms. Not only a feeling in the heart and an expression in words, but also a giving in return.

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

Greetings, brethren. This month in Kitchener has been busy with weekend activities such as singings and Conference tapes. We also have had many visiting ministers. Every weekend this past month there has been either a singing or Conference tapes. The Conference tapes have been good for us to remember to esteem the important things in life. Now it is for us to

practice this esteem in our life's conversation.

One way we can do this is to pray for our ministers and encourage them as they come to us to preach. We always have at least two ministers come to visit us during a month. This month we saw three come. They were as follows: Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT). We are always happy to see visiting ministers come to visit. They add a mix of brotherly fellowship that cannot always be had with the local brethren. We appreciate that they came in the following spirit: "And I, brethren, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." (I Corinthians 2:1-5)

The Saturday night singings that always accompany a minister's arrival are a cherished, looked for time of the week. We are always glad when it comes. It gives us an opportunity to fellowship with brethren from distant places and be reminded again that a true faith knows no boundaries (statewide, national,

or international). The singings also provide a time of edification from the words of the songs and a time for thankfulness for what He has accomplished in our life. Psalm 105:2 really captures the essence of our Saturday night singings: "Sing unto him, sing songs unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works."

Lately also we have had a few people begin to fellowship with us from various backgrounds. We pray that in due time they could come into greater fellowship with us. We pray the Lord's will to be done, as always.

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### **COLORADO, DENVER** **Ann Gonglach**

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

*I Thess. 5:18*

We truly have much for which to give thanks. Our Lord has blessed us with His Holy Word, His Holy Spirit and His Son! Aside from all our material possessions, blessings and comforts in this life, we can have eternal life with Him! Because of this, let's remember to give thanks in everything.

We had a very special weekend on September 28-29, as Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb) was ordained as Elder of our congregation. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) exhorted us to support our Elder and also to go through our statement of faith again to make sure our lives are in line with our be-

liefs. Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) spoke to our ministers, Bro. Tom Leman and Bro. Nate Lehman, encouraging them that their ministry is still "vitaly important" and that they should strive to keep the Spirit of unity. Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) spoke to Bro. Mike's family, reminding Sis. Deb to remain a fruitful vine (Ps. 128) and their children, Bro. Caleb, Jacob, Joel and Daniel, that they are "arrows" with purpose (Ps. 127). Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) asked Bro. Mike to always be willing to do God's work (for the work is not his) and reminded him that his encouragement comes not from the "compliment of man, but from the peace of God." Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) presided over the ordination ceremony as Bro. Mike promised to uphold the duties of an Elder. We were also blessed to have retired Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Sis. Marilyn, Elgin, IL) with us.

We thank these Elders for their service on our behalf. Also, special thanks to Bro. Nathan for his service as our counseling Elder for the first 20 years of the Denver Church and to Bro. John for his recent years of service as our counseling Elder.

We have become very fond of Bro. Nathan and Bro. John and hope that they and their dear wives continue to visit us often.

October 5-6 was another special weekend as we were happy and blessed to be able to host the

Kansas high schoolers' Sunday school classes for a weekend of fun and learning. Students (and parents) from many Kansas churches drove through the night in order to arrive on Saturday afternoon.

We are thankful for Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) who served as guest speaker to these young people.

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

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." (St. John 14:15.) We have had the blessed opportunity to listen to God's direction for our lives by listening to the Conference tapes. It is a privilege to be able to gather together without fear of persecution of man or government. May we all apply the teachings that our dear Elder brethren were inspired to share from the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Eternity is drawing near;  
O, seek your soul's salvation!  
Upon the narrow path of life  
There's mercy and protection.

*Zion's Harp #106*

We rejoice with the angels in heaven when we hear that another soul is seeking the Lord in repentance. May God gently lead and guide Jane Schulz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lois), as she takes this step in faith.

Our prayers will surely go with Sis. Norma Luginbuhl as she moves to California. May each one feel the love and prayers as He leads according to His will:

Sis. Alma Lanz, Bro. Gerald Ludwig (Heidi), Bro. Robert Luginbuhl (Sis. Martha), Bro. Dean Reutter (Sis. Miriam), Sis. Albertina Rumpf, Ron Tredor, and Sis. Lora Zahner (Bro. Ed).

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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON  
Henrietta Meyer**

“Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.”

*Luke 17:36*

While the Lord was telling us to be ready when the kingdom of God should come, we in the capital area (and the rest of the country) have been reminded this month how unexpectedly a life can be ended. Oh, let us ever be ready!

Our ministers the past month were Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI), Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS). Other visitors were from Bloomington, Champaign and Gridley, IL; Leo, IN; Alto, MI; Akron, Columbus and Mansfield, OH; Philadelphia, PA; Hubbard, OR; York, PA; and Richmond, VA. We are always glad for visitors, especially parents and other family members.

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**

We extend our love and prayers to Bro. Bud Klopfenstein (Sis. Billie) as he has not assembled with us for a time due to his health. May he feel the Lord's nearness.

We had the opportunity to listen to the Brotherhood Conference tapes. May we be obedient and submissive to the faithful shepherds God has placed over His flock.

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**FLORIDA  
NORTH FORT MYERS  
Mary Masters**

We are beginning to experience some growth in our congregation due to our part time Northern residents. It is so uplifting to see our church fill with their love and smiles.

Sis. Viola Kellar will have her 92nd birthday on November 7. Bro. Roland and Sis. Vi's son, Art, was relating to us the scene that greets him and Sis. Marie when they visit them, of seeing

them sitting side by side in their wheelchairs, holding hands. What an example of commitment and love!

Talking with older brothers and sisters in the faith is so heartwarming and interesting. We have walking history books among us just waiting to impart wisdom and experiences. Sis. Jeanette Yergler recently related her and her late husband's (Ralph) conversion experience. We had John 10 read and she told me that was a special chapter for her. One night as she lay in bed, she heard her name called. When she got up and no one was there, she opened the Bible and it fell open to John 10. The following Sunday, the minister opened to John 10 and her and Ralph were convicted to turn their hearts to God's will. The day of their baptism, again the minister randomly turned to John 10. That remains a special chapter for Sis. Jeanette and she still seeks it out in times of distress and need.

With the celebration of Columbus Day recently, I came across some interesting information about Columbus. Why did Columbus risk so much to set sail in seas largely unknown? The textbook answer that we learned as students in school is only partly correct. To find a trade route to the Orient and also to win glory, riches, and a title of nobility. Columbus wrote about his journey in much greater terms. “Who can doubt that this fire was not merely mine, but also the Holy Spirit who encouraged me with a radiance of mar-

velous illumination from His sacred scriptures, urging me to press forward?" Columbus felt that Almighty God had directly brought about his journey. He wrote, "With a hand that could be felt, the Lord opened my mind to the fact that it would be possible and He opened my will to desire to accomplish that project. The Lord purposed that there would be something miraculous in this matter of the voyage to the Indies."

We thank Bro. Doug Sabo for coming to minister to us this month and also thank our own faithful ministers for their service that is so constant and sure. We heard in one of our sermons recently that the Christians in China are carrying the gospel message on foot to different areas of their country due to complications of getting passports. It makes us realize that it is much easier for us to spread the gospel in our country, and yet how are we doing? Did I tell anyone about Jesus, lend a helping hand, or give a word of encouragement this week? Did you? Our everyday walk of life affects many.

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

Sarasota wishes to heartily welcome back all of our winter residents who are returning to the sunny South.

We are always thankful for visiting ministers. Serving us this past month were Bros. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Loren

Schrenk (St. Louis, MO).

On October 11-13 many from here enjoyed the annual Lakewood Retreat at Brooksville, FL. We wish to once more thank our guest speakers, Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bro. Kent Kloter (Goodfield, IL).

Those who have been hospitalized or ill and need our continued prayers are Bro. John Krstec (Sis. Biserka), Sis. Marge Pitman, Sis. Doris Rocke (Bro. Orval), and Sis. Kay Eisenmann (Bro. Dave).

We want to extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Doris Koehl (Forrest, IL) in the loss of her dear husband, Bro. Clarence. He and Sis. Doris have wintered here for many years.

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

Seeing the leaves change every fall, it is a wonder that God would create a visual beauty every year that we can enjoy and marvel at the intricacies of His creation. Every year we expect the leaves to change into various bright colors and we are never disappointed. Something so simple as the leaves changing, the sun setting in the west, or how the earth revolves in a 24-hour period that we should all appreciate a never changing God. It seems the promises of God in the Bible are the same way. Especially the plan of salvation, which is so simple and free, which, does not change nor does God change His mind and alter the details of that gift.

We appreciate Bros. Jim Ramseyer (Sis. Marlene, Bay City, MI) and Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL) for traveling down, fellowshipping and expounding upon the Word.

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 7:00pm. 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.

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**ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE**  
**Sheila McCoy**  
**Doreen Moser**

"O come, let us worship and bow down..."

*Psalm 95:6*

Our visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Kenneth Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL). We are thankful for the ministers who come to visit us.

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord..."

*Isaiah 1:18*

Bro. Art Mueller did a Bible study in Madison, WI, on "Our

Relationship with God". Bro. Shannon Stahl continues to lead our monthly individual Bible study of the New Testament and we were given a review of Acts.

"...come before his presence with singing."

*Psalm 100:2*

We were blessed with a lovely afternoon for our annual fall picnic at the forest preserve. Another blessing our congregation shares each month is a singing at the nursing home followed by a pizza dinner at someone's home.

We had another occasion to come together at our invite-a-friend weekend in October. There was a singing on Saturday and then a delicious dinner following church services on Sunday.

"Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving..."

*Psalm 95:2*

Our Bible class was invited to come to Roanoke for a day of fellowship. We thank God for his blessings on that Sunday.

We come before God with thankful hearts that Sis. Alice Thompson's (Bob) recovery from two surgeries is going smoothly.

As we come together for church services and abundant family dinners this Thanksgiving, let us be so thankful to our Heavenly Father.

What is it like to become a Christian? One woman replied, "It is like being a pumpkin. God

picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then he cuts off the top and scoops all the yuck out as he removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., and then he carves you a new smiling face and puts his light inside of you for all the world to see."

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**ILLINOIS  
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL  
Ann Kellenberger  
Rebekah Kaufmann**

Once again, we are thankful to have had a number of visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Bros. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Randy Mogler (Washington, IL). May God bless each of them for their willingness to serve. We sincerely appreciate their efforts and labors of love.

The weekend of September 28-29 was a very blessed weekend as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of four precious young souls. Our new sisters in faith are Sara Cook, Rebecca Maurer (Bro. John and Sis. Emily), Marlina Loy (Bro. Matt and Sis. Barb) and Julissa Rabe (Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie). May God bless each of them with a continued close walk with Him as He leads them through life.

October 6 was the wedding day of Bro. Ed Hohulin (Chicago, IL) and Sis. Marilyn Walder. Re-

joining parents are Bro. Wes and Sis. Joyce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Dale and Sis. Dorothy Walder (Cissna Park, IL). We pray that God will bless their future together.

Our sympathy and prayers are with several in our congregation this month. Sis. Elsa Endress lost her father, Bro. Harold Stoller (Gridley, IL). Sis. Lauretta Funk lost her daughter, Sis. Vyra Stoller (Gridley, IL). Also, our hearts were deeply saddened to hear of the tragic traffic accident that took the life of 16 year old Troy Hari, precious grandson of our dear Elder Bro. Everett and Sis. Bev Hari. We trust that each of them will feel God's continued faithfulness during this difficult time of loss. "Leave to thy God to order and provide ... In every change He faithful will remain." (Hymns of Zion #91)

The title of our Family Night this month was "Are We Living in the End Times?" The Bible Study given by Bro. Ron Heiniger was very informative and interesting. Many families attended this blessed evening.

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**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD  
Steve Endress**

Faith finds in Christ whate'er we need,  
to save and strengthen, guide and feed.

*Hymns of Zion #100*

Our Bro. Scott Endress (Bro. Gary and Sis. Ev) has taken a step forward in faith as he made known his engagement to Sis.

Mary Ehnle (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jane) of Princeville.

Our Sis. Rachel Dietz (Bro. Barry) also is leaning on God in faith as she recovers from another hospital stay. We know not what the future holds, yet we know Who holds the future. What a blessed state we can find ourselves in—even having the confidence that whatever God brings our way is for our good.

We are thankful for the birth of two babies this past month. Samuel Levi was born to Bro. John and Sis. Sara Ehnle. His older brothers and sisters are Rebecca, Jonathan, Luke, Hannah, and Ruth. Grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret Feucht (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Ehnle.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Katie Endress became parents of their third child, Maria Kathryn. She is welcomed home by Corbin and Marissa. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress and Bro. Richard and Sis. Marilyn Slutz.

As days turn into weeks, then months, then years, so life does quickly change. Yet, we are reminded in Hebrews 13:8 that “Jesus Christ [is] the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” May we likewise be a stabilizing influence in an ever-changing world.

### ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA Janelle Schlipf

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

*I Thessalonians 5:18*

As the Thanksgiving season approaches, may we each take a moment to reflect on the many blessings God has so abundantly provided.

The last week of September was chosen for this year’s “Spiritual Focus” week among the students here in Champaign. Although this time is purposely chosen to fall during the first round of exams for the semester, the students enjoy a week of various activities and specific challenges. This year the word Focus was spelled out to provide a specific challenge for each day of the week.

**F** Take a step of **Faith**

**O** **Occupy** yourself with scripture

**C** **Consider** others

**U** Pray for **Unity**

**S** Do an act of **Secrecy**

In preparation for the week, Bro. Darren Plattner led us in a Bible study Sunday evening at Hope House. We appreciate his insights as he challenged us in our study of the Word.

Monday evening, World Relief activities provided us with an opportunity to reach out to new mothers in our community. Students met at church to put together layette kits to provide blankets, clothing, diapers and other supplies to young mothers

who are not able to buy many of these items for their new babies. Students were also encouraged to gather in prayer with their individual apartments or houses sometime during the evening.

Each Tuesday evening is an opportunity to visit various nursing homes in the Champaign-Urbana area. During spiritual focus week, the students sang to the residents at the nursing home in Champaign, followed by a lunch call at Saltshaker.

Taking advantage of the cooler weather and autumn leaves, our annual Fall Picnic was held at Illini Grove on Wednesday evening. This is a special opportunity to extend an invitation to many of our friends as we gather together to enjoy the beautiful weather and a time of fellowship.

Thursday evening was a “Night of Encouragement” at Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart’s. We appreciate the efforts of Elder Bro. Ron Messner and our retired Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand as they encouraged us through the Word. Bro. Ron shared his insights and encouragement on the topics of “Doubt, Discouragement and Depression” followed by a special exhortation to “Joy in the Journey” from Bro. Dave.

It was an added blessing to have Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger finish out our week with a Bible study at Lighthouse on Friday evening. He spoke briefly on each of our challenges for the week and focused on the impor-



tance of secrecy in our service to the Lord. A special thanks to all those who participated in Spiritual Focus week this year and may we continue to encourage each other to remain focused throughout the semester!

The second weekend in October was a special "homecoming" weekend for many families and friends of our Champaign congregation. The annual cookout and hayrack ride at Bro. Dennie and Sis. Cheryl Mangers provided a beautiful evening for many of the college students and alumni on Friday night, and the rest of the church on Saturday. Outdoor games, a hayrack ride, singing, food and fellowship were enjoyed by those of all ages, despite the rain and cooler weather. It was a blessing to gather with friends and families, as many who assembled here in the past made a special effort to journey back to Champaign for the weekend. We especially want to thank the Mangers family for all their love and support as they have hosted this homecoming event for the past 23 years.

Among those who traveled back to Champaign for the weekend, were Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy Schrenk (St. Louis, MO). We want to thank Bro. Loren as well as Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL), for ministering to us this month. May God richly bless these brothers and their families for their efforts in His service.

## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

"Pray without ceasing."

*1 Thessalonians 5:17*

In our area, this year's autumn season has been particularly mild, and we have had many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. One weekend in September we spent with my parents on their farm, which my "suburbanite" children just love. We were outdoors most of the day, and we observed butterflies just about everywhere we looked.

It reminded me of something I had read about Monarch butterflies. These butterflies' migration pattern is often thousands of miles in distance, and they return to the same areas each year. The amazing thing about this is that a Monarch butterfly's life span is less than a year. God has created these butterflies with an instinct that allows them to miraculously carry on the migration pattern without ever having been to their destination.

On the weekend of October 5-6, Lucille Koehl and William Art (Natalie) gave their testimonies and were baptized. As was brought out in the Sunday message that day, many times our efforts in prayer can continue to have an impact long after the words are spoken. Like the instinct of a Monarch butterfly passed on from the parent butterfly, our prayers for the unconverted can outlive us. Such was the case for both Sis. Lucille and Bro. William. They are both a real encouragement for us to

continue fervent and ceaseless in our prayers for the unconverted.

Our visiting ministers for the baptism weekend were Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL), Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR), and Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL).

Our Invite-A-Guest weekend was September 21-22. Our guests included Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), who also shared God's Word with us on Sunday.

September 22 was also a special day for Bro. Sam Nenadov (Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn, Eureka, IL) and Sis. Sherri Metzger (Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) as they announced their engagement. We wish the couple God's blessings as they prepare for their wedding day.

We ask God's comfort for our Sis. Erica Furj in the passing of her father in Hungary.

We are happy to welcome Aaron and Angie Anliker, who have moved to Chicago for employment. They are both from the Eureka area.

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## ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Susan Waldbeser

Denise Walder

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Ed Alt over the loss of his brother-in-law, Bro. Harold Stoller (Gridley, IL). Also, Sis. Aldine Kaufmann's brother-in-law, Bro. Clarence Koehl (Forrest, IL), passed away. May God comfort each one during this time of loss.

We also have experienced loss in our congregation as Bro. Bob Kellerhals has been released from this earthly life. We pray God will fill the void for his family.

Our hospital patients this month have been Bro. Dale Walder and Bro. Gib Schrock. We are thankful that both had only short stays and are feeling fine now.

Grandchildren are truly a blessing. We extend congratulations to Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Heinold as they welcome two new grandsons to their family. Stephen Michael and Jeremiah Jordan were adopted by Bro. Clint and Sis. Stephany Heinold (Morton, IL) on September 26. We pray God will bless this new family.

Many from our congregation traveled to Bloomington, IL, on October 6 to witness the marriage of Sis. Marilyn Walder (Bro. Dale and Sis. Dort, Cissna Park) and Bro. Ed Hohulin (Bro. Wes and Sis. Joyce). We pray God will bless their marriage and be by their side as they walk this path of life.

We want to thank the visiting ministers that have been with us this month. May God bless Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), and Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) for their labors of love.

We have been blessed in our congregation with two new baby girls born on the same day. Bro. Dale and Sis. Susan Waldbeser

welcome Hannah Jo to their family. Big sisters Briana and Jenna are happy for another playmate. Grandparents are Sis. Wilma and the late Bro. Charles Walder and Bro. John and Sis. Carol Waldbeser. Bro. Nathan and Sis. Denise Walder are thankful to have Kristen Rose added to their family. Big sister Erica welcomed her home. Grandparents are Sis. Velma and the late Bro. Steve Rinkenberger and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder. We pray God will be with these families as they strive to raise these little ones in the fear of Him.

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

A Christian now baptized...  
O grant me now Thy grace  
That I, with true devotion,  
May ever by Thee stand,  
Though stormy be life's ocean.  
And with Thy blessing, Lord,  
May I in faith remain.  
And to that kingdom come  
Where peace shall ever reign.  
*Zion's Harp #43*

September 22 we witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Jay Hartman (Sis. Carrie and the late Bro. Gene) and Sis. Kayla Steffen (Kent and Sis. Beth). Again, on October 13, we were thankful to see Bro. Alex Rinkenberger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna) and Sis. Wendy Rinkenberger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat) baptized. Our many visitors this month included Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield,

IL), and Bros. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Ralph Garber (Morton, IL), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), and Steve Martin and Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL).

We are thankful that, after an injury, Justin Steffen (Bro. Jay and Sis. Melinda) is back in church with us, as is Sis. Rachel Schrock (Bro. Kevin). Bro. Virgil Funk had knee surgery and is recovering at home. This verse came to mind: "My grace is sufficient for thee." (II Corinthians 12:9). May all of us uphold them in prayer.

*Note of Thanks:*

A special thank-you to each one who remembered us with prayers, visits, cards, and phone calls during Walt's hospital stay and since returning home. May God bless each one of you.

*Bro. Walt and Sis. Betty Miller*

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

Thank ye the Lord! Give thanks to the Lord,  
For He is gracious, His mercy it endureth evermore.  
Worship the Lord, O worship the Lord!  
With sacred rev'rence, Respectfully we speak His holy name.  
Sing to the Lord, Yes, sing to the Lord!  
In joyful chorus, for graciously He hears our song of praise.  
*Hymns of Zion #245, vs. 1,5,6*

What a blessing it has been to again sit under the sound of God's precious Word. We want to remember to pray for the many brethren who minister God's Word so faithfully. The visiting ministers this month were Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) and Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL).

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

*Romans 10:17*

It is such a blessing to be able to rejoice with those who rejoice. Bro. Bryan Kellenberger (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Debbie) and Sis. Jessica Schifferer (Wayne Schifferer and Sis. Joyce Schifferer) were united in marriage on October 6. May they feel the manifold blessings of a marriage built on Christ.

May we continue to lift those in prayer who have experienced sickness or hospitalization. May Sis. Marge Wewetzer (Bro. Bill) and Sis. Julia Graf feel the prayers of the brethren as they experience God's healing power.

Our dear aged brother, Bro. Morris Willaert, went to be with our Lord on October 19, just a few weeks before his 99th birthday. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Nina; his daughter, Sis. Norma Utt; granddaughters, Tana (Tim) Steen and Traci (Ed) Hartfiel, and other relatives. Bro. Morrie will long be remembered for his loving heart and cheerful spirit.

### ILLINOIS, EUREKA Janet Zimmerman

Now it is accomplished!  
I'm no longer mine;  
Lord, I will forever and always be  
Thine,  
For Thou has created and pur-  
chased me too,  
Baptized with Thy Spirit,  
Thou makest me new.  
*Zion's Harp #209*

Many from Eureka traveled to West Bend, IA, the weekend of September 28-29 for the proving and baptism of Clinton Metzger (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley). He has been employed in the Eureka area for some time and we welcome him now as our new brother in faith. May God grant him grace and peace to walk the straight and narrow way.

Likewise, we were thankful to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three dear souls the weekend of October 19-20. We welcome our new brothers in faith, Bro. Merle Stoller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola), Bro. Jonathon Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Janet), and our new sister in faith, Sis. Melinda Sanders (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue). We express our thanks to the following ministers for being with us for this weekend: Elder Bro. Bob Walder and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Bro. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Bro. Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL).

Bro. Jake and Sis. T. Anne

Wiegand were blessed with a precious baby girl, Emma Jo. She was born September 27. She is lovingly welcomed home by her sister, Anna, and her grandparents, Dale and Sis. Friedora Wiegand and Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin (Forrest, IL).

We were thankful to hear Kathy Stoller (Richard) has found the grace to make a beginning in her repentance. May she continue to feel the Lord's grace as she takes this most important step in life.

Sis. Freda Knepp was called Home to be with our Lord on October 19. We will miss Sis. Freda but we look forward to the time when we shall meet her on that beautiful shore. She is survived by four sons and one daughter: Donald (Barrington, IL), Walter (Baytown, TX), Wayne (Morton, IL), Gary (Eureka, IL) and Sis. Shirley Lemman (Bro. Terry). Also, two sisters, Sis. Edna Feller (Fairbury, IL), Sis. Lucille Herman (Peoria, IL), and sister-in-law, Sis. Edna Blunier. May the family find comfort in God - "the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our tribulation..." (II Cor. 1:3-4)

Our hospital patients were Sis. Lucille Gramm (Bro. Ed), Sis. Lyola Ringger (Bro. Jim) and Sis. Ida Pfaffman. May God's healing hand be upon them according to His will.

We certainly appreciated the visits of ministering Bros. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) and Tom Lemman (Denver, CO). May they be richly blessed for bringing us

God's true, living Word.

*Note of Thanks:*

I would like to thank one and all for deeds of kindness shown to me while being hospitalized with the stroke that caused almost total vision loss.

How thankful and grateful to God I am that once again I could have my sight returned to me, so that once again I could behold my family, brethren and friends.

I also wish to thank all for many prayers, visits, cards, gifts and phone calls during my hospital stay and my recuperation at home.

May our dear God be your rich rewarder for your love shown to me and my family.

Wish you all God's choicest blessings.

*Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn Nenadov and family*

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**ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY**

**Joann Zehr**

**Tammy Hinrichsen**

Greetings, dear ones! As I am writing this, the signs of change are all around outside. A perfect blue sky, with the sun shining, is not as warm as it was just a couple of weeks ago. The leaves on our trees are turning from green to red and gold, and some are already brown. The crops have almost all been harvested. Even as nature changes, so do our lives change with each day that we are blessed with.

On the weekend of October 5-6 we were witnesses to the most wonderful change that can happen while we are on this

earth. Four dear souls gave their testimonies and then were baptized, fulfilling the Lord's command. They are Bro. Travis Walter (Daniel and Sis. Patricia), Sis. Tiffany and Bro. Bradley Edelman (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Laurie), and Bro. Derek Rassi (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane). The entire weekend was filled with the kind of joy you can only feel when you are again a witness to God's love and faithfulness.

September 29 was a glorious fall day outside, but also inside our church, as Bro. Ryan Stoller (Bro. Randy and Sis. Ronda) and Sis. Hope Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane) were united in Holy Matrimony. We pray God's blessings on this young couple.

Some of our congregation have had time spent in the hospital this month. They are Sis. Lana Steidinger, Paul Hoffman, Sis. Marsha Fehr, and Bro. Norman Young. We pray that God will continue to grant healing.

Our most sincere sympathy goes to Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley Fehr and their families on the loss of Sis. Shirley's father, Bro. Clarence Koehl (Forrest, IL). We pray that our Lord's loving arms encircle each of you during this difficult time.

We are always thankful for visiting ministers. Joining us this month were Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), and Bros. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), and Jim Rinkenberger

(Bluffton, IN). May our God bless each one of them and their families for willingly sharing the precious Word with our congregation.

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

*Ecclesiastes 3:1*

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**ILLINOIS, FORREST**

**Jean Knapp**

**Linda Anliker**

"The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth."

*Psalms 145:18*

The Lord has touched the hearts of our friends, Krystle Kaeb (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie), Jennifer Kerrins, and Ben Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida), as they seek Him in repentance. Giving their whole heart, may they find the joy and peace in serving our Heavenly Father. We apologize for neglecting to include Krystle Kaeb in a prior issue.

Visiting us from Iowa City, IA, Bro. Joe Gerst shared with us from God's Word. We thank him, and may the Lord bless his efforts.

Planning a winter wedding in a warm climate are Greg Knapp and Erika Wegher. Parents of the couple are Dave and Bernadette Wegher (Oahu, HA) and Dale and Barb Knapp.

First time parents, Bro. Clint and Sis. Rebecca Dotterer, are enjoying their daughter Sophia

Grace, born October 4. Her grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy Dotterer and Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida Mueller.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise Coffey and family with the death of her father, Walter Essington.

The funeral for Bro. Clarence Koehl was held on October 9. Our prayers are with those who sorrow, including his wife, Sis. Doris, children, Dennis Koehl and family (Grand Rapids, MI), Sis. Shirley Fehr (Bro. Warren) and family (Fairbury, IL), and Sis. Marlene Walter (Bro. Duane), and brothers and sisters, Maurice and Bro. Leroy Koehl, Sis. Edith Meiss and Sis. Eldora Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Sis. Bernice Cox and Sis. Velda Huette. May God grant comfort to those who sorrow.

Spending time in the hospital were Sis. Roberta Broquard (Bro. Wayne) and Kirk Leman (Bro. Phil and Sis. Charlotte). May the Lord grant healing and restoration.

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**ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**  
**Heather Hohulin**  
**Rita Bauman**

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

*Acts 3:19*

With thankfulness in our hearts we were glad to hear that Troy Blunier (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Eddis) has found peace with

God and man and desires baptism.

Prayer and encouragement is important for our hospital and surgical patients this past month. Spending time in the hospital were Bro. Mike Wiegand (Sis. Jenise), Bro. Dennis Martin (Sis. Carol), and Bro. Jerry Steffen (Sis. Allene). We pray that each one may feel God's peace and healing.

We rejoice in the recent betrothal of Sis. Hope Knapp (Bro. George and Sis. Fern) to Bro. Matt Sauder (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan) from Roanoke. May the Lord be near these dear ones as they plan and make preparation for their life as one with Him.

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**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY**  
**Perry A. Klopfenstein**

A third son was born to Bro. Chad and Sis. Janice Wettstein. He was named Korey Miles. He has two brothers, Derek, 8, and Logan, 4. Grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda Wettstein and Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna Edelman (Forrest, IL). A great-grandmother is Edna Mueller (Fairbury, IL).

Bro. Mike Knapp was married to Sis. Janet Kaiser (Tremont, IL). She is the daughter of Bro. Mel and Sis. Marlene Kaiser (Tremont, IL). Bro. Mike is the son of Bro. Larry and Sis. Stephanie Knapp and the late Sis. Rosella Knapp.

Visiting ministers have been Bros. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL).

Louis and Jean Kieser of

Lexington are now attending our congregation and we welcome them to our assembly.

We were sorry to learn of the passing of our dear Sis. Betty Rich, 81, on October 1. She is survived by a nephew, Dean Rich (Naples, FL); two nieces, Paula Ann Medor (Springhill, FL) and Kay Rudin (Apple Valley, CA); a sister-in-law, Dorothy Finck Rich (Naples, FL) and 12 cousins.

It was a blessing she could find salvation later in life. Her endearing smile and sense of contentment with life are things we will miss.

Because she always lived with her mother, Sis. Ollie Rich (now deceased), they were always known in church as “Ollie and Betty”. Now, that era is gone. Nothing in this life stays the same.

Our dear Sis. Vyra D. Stoller, 64, passed away on October 6, after a long illness which she endured without complaint. She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Bro. Donald. She is also survived by a son, Bro. Mike; four daughters, Sis. Kathy Meyer (Bluffton, IN), Diane Handley and Debbie Dillon (Bloomington) and Kelli Heille (Peoria); her mother, Sis. Loretta Kauffman Funk (Normal); one brother, John Kauffman, Jr. (Hudson), and 14 grandchildren. A sister, Claire Ann Kauffman, preceded her in death.

She gave a lot of her time and effort to World Relief activities. Her kindly smile and sweet dis-

position will be missed by the congregation. Her lot was to suffer illness over a long span of time. Yet, she persisted in her duties as a wife, mother and sister in faith. We are thankful that God saw her through to a good and blessed end.

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### ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Julie Bahr  
Christie Zeller**

We rejoice in the baptisms of three dear souls on September 22, namely Sis. Abi Witzig, Sis. Larissa Witzig and Bro. Aaron Funk.

We also are very happy for Bro. Clint and Sis. Stephanie Heinold who have adopted twin boys, Stephen Michael and Jeremiah Jordan. May God bless their little family. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Heinold (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Steve and Sis. Lynn Roeschley.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Cara Steffen had a baby boy born October 8, Jaden Jeffrey. May God bless them and their little bundle. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Valerie Steffen and Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn Hartter (Bern, KS).

Sis. Barbara Schupbach passed away September 28. She is the mother to our Sis. Chelly Kaiser (Bro. Fred). Sis. Barbara had been residing at Restmor for the past month. May God comfort this dear family in their loss.

Many thanks to our Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL) who brought us our family worship topic, "I

Surrender All", on October 2. May all of us have a surrendered heart and spirit.

We welcome our Bro. Scott Hodel (Bro. Ben and Sis. Ruth, Roanoke) to our Morton church. Bro. Scott resides in our Hazelwood group home. Brandon Gramm (Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeanette, Princeville) has made Morton his home and we want to welcome him also. Brandon resides in our Idlewood group home. Sis. Kristie Knapp (Sis. Laura Knapp, Forrest) has made Morton her home since recently moving into our Oakwood Home. God's blessings to all of you and welcome.

Visiting ministers for this month were our Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL), Bros. Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL), Tim Funk (Peoria, IL) and Randy Mogler (Washington, IL). May God bless these dear brothers for their continuous labors of love.

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### ILLINOIS, PEORIA

**Peter and Mabel Weber**

The fields are ripe for harvest; is the WORLD? Many roaring waves confront us today: people are out of control (Christians, Moslems), rumors of war, earthquakes, terrorism, jihad, buying and selling (greed is our creed). Satan wants us to get discouraged, frustrated, distracted. How does Jesus say to deal with such waves? Not loving the world, not touching the unclean thing, be a separate people, let not your heart be troubled and "in all thy ways acknowledge

Him", be aware of His presence, have an eternal perspective and press forward toward the mark. We should not be too busy, learn to be satisfied, give Church priority, stay close to the brotherhood. The waves will completely get out of hand, but "be still and know I am God" your hope, refuge and strength ... He will never leave nor forsake us. Bro. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL) reminded us 10/2 at our family night service that we should "Let the waves roar", climb out of them and cling to God, the Solid Rock. We thank Bro. Tim for his advice how to cope with the conditions of today.

In Luke 21 the widow casts all into God's treasury. Do we do likewise, not just monetary but love, time and other ways to serve the Lord? We feel so secure with what we have, but in a moment's time, like a little over a year ago, it can be taken away. We are only a heartbeat away from eternity. Though our life is but a vapor, be not terrified. God's name is "I AM..." always with you. We are in God's hands and the battle is the Lord's. Are we ready for His return? Settle it in your hearts before you leave this place (Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer and Bro. Dave Obergfel 9/22).

Balm of Gilead, an aromatic resin harvested in Roman times in the Jordan valley, was supposed to have had great healing properties. Today, while merely a poetic expression, we wish it spiritually for our hospital patients. Congregational and many

individual prayers have been offered on behalf of Bro. Jim Hoerr, who underwent a lengthy surgical procedure at Mayo Clinic on October 9. Also Sis. Dorothy Meier and Bro. Ben Sceggel were patients. We wish them speedy recovery and restoration.

The Athens, AL, choir visited us the weekend of September 28-29 and we thank them for their fellowship and song worship.

October 5 was the final day on earth for Bro. Clarence Koehl (86) of Fairbury, brother of Sisters Eldora Hoerr and Edith Meiss; and Bro. Eugene Herrmann (77) of Princeville, father of Sis. Jane Scholl. We express our deep sympathy to them and their families. "If a man die shall he live again?" What a comfort if we can answer with a hopeful "yes".

"It is of children, that the family is built." Bro. Jesse and Sis. Rachel Waibel are thankful for their fourth daughter, Tess Kathleen, born September 19, joining Zoe, Ellie and Mia; and Bro. Russ and Sis. Peg Rumbold were happy to add Jaden Eileen, born September 25, to big brothers, Jonah and Josiah. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel, Bro. Dale and Sis. Barb Geyer and Bro. Ed and Sis. Frances Knobloch, Russ and Sis. Roma Rumbold of Princeville, IL.

### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Phyllis Knobloch Crystal Streitmatter

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."

*Psalm 100:4*

As Thanksgiving approaches, we reflect upon our many blessings, and the fact that when we share with those in need, we are simply giving back to the Lord that which He has given us, as stated in I Chronicles 29:14-17.

The past month has been a time of both joy and sorrow for our congregation. On September 29, the engagement of Sis. Mary Ehnle (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jane) to Bro. Scott Endress from Bradford (Bro. Gary and Sis. Evelyn) was announced. We rejoice with them and wish them God's blessings as they plan their wedding and prepare for their marriage in the Lord.

Two precious baby girls are being welcomed by their families. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Grace Herrmann were blessed with another daughter, Tianna Marie, born September 24 to join David, Tamara and Jesse. Grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann and Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn Nenadov (Eureka, IL). Bro. Larry and Sis. Tiffany Martin also have another daughter, Libby Briana, born September 26, to join Brittany, Hannah and Peyton. Grandparents are Bro. Ellsworth and Sis. Donna Martin and Dennis and Toni Kerns.

October 5-6 was a special weekend for Sis. Kim Herrmann (Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn) and Sis. Hannah Herrmann (Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann) as they became our Sisters in Christ. Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) assisted with the work, and Bros. Chris Wuethrich and Tom Troxel, both of Lacrosse, IN, as well as Bros. Kent Mogler and Dewayne Dill, both of Minneapolis, MN, were in our midst. We thank each of them for the Word of Life brought to us.

Those needing hospital care or suffering illness have been Bro. Reuben Feucht, Bro. George Kieser (Sis. Esther) and Sis. Janet Joos. May God's presence strengthen and comfort them in their times of need, and may we continue to pray for them and visit them.

Our hearts are saddened in the recent sudden death of our dear Bro. Eugene Herrmann. We extend sympathy to his wife, Sis. Betty, and children, Bro. Roger and Sis. Darlene Herrmann, Sis. Kathy and Bro. Bill Stoller, Sis. Janice and Bro. Alan Martin, and Sis. Jane and Bro. Kyle Scholl (Peoria, IL) as well as the grandchildren and many other relatives.

At Home 'tis well!  
There shall the pilgrim tarry,  
When tired and worn by sorrow,  
grief, and strife;  
In heaven, when the hard race of  
earthly life is run,  
The longborne load no more he'll  
carry.

*Zion's Harp #70*

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to thank everyone for all the love and prayers, food, gifts, and cards and help with the children in our difficult time during bedrest and hospitalization. Your encouragement has meant a lot to us. We love you all and may God bless each one for your kindness.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Grace Herrmann and family

**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**

**Joan Leman  
Jenell Hodel**

"Ring the bells of Heaven, there is joy today!" We are so thankful to be able to share the news of three souls who have turned to the Lord in repentance. They are Jerry Hodel (Betty), Mike Pfister (Cori), and Brittney Durand (Tom and Sis. Marsha). We rejoice with them and pray they will feel God's love and direction.

On October 3, we laid to rest Bro. Ervin Kempf. We will all miss this faithful brother. Our love and prayers are with his dear wife, Sis Alice; their children, Elaine (Roger Hodel), Sis. Maxine (Bro. Dave Hodel), Gail (Gene Smith), Junetta "Boots" (Jeff Schrock), and Bernie (Don Miller), and his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. May they feel the comfort of God's Holy Spirit surround them.

We want to thank our visiting ministers this past month who were so willing to be used by the

Lord to share His word with us. They were Bros. Tim Funk (Peoria), Clark Stoller (Gridley) and Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington). Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria) was here for our monthly Bible Study when he spoke on the Second Coming of Christ. Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield) was here to assist with testimonies and baptisms.

We praise God that three young people were able to find peace with God and be baptized on October 20. They were Sis. Marjorie Leman (Bro. Clark and Sis. Lisa), Sis. Angie Hodel (Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty), and Bro. Brent Rocke (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Eva). We welcome them into the family of God and pray they will always feel God's blessings.

We rejoice with Bro. Phil and Sis. Lynne Hodel as God has blessed them with a son, Joseph Philip. Welcoming him home are his sister, Ruth, and grandparents, Bro. Don Sauder (late Sis. Wilma) and Bro. Stan and Sis. Verna Hodel (Bloomington).

Our prayers are with Bro. Morris Barth and Jerry Hodel as they have spent time in the hospital this past month. May they each feel God's nearness and healing during this time.

We report two engagements this past month. Bro. Matt Stoller (Bro. Tim and Sis. Peg) to Sis. Sarah Leman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Dort, Goodfield) and Bro. Matt Sauder (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan) to Sis. Hope Knapp (Bro. George and Sis. Fern, Goodfield). May these couples feel God's love and guidance as

they prepare for their upcoming marriages.

**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**

**Heather Rassi  
LaVonne Wagenbach**

We are thankful for our visitors this past month. Among them were visiting ministers, Bros. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL), Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL) and Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL). May God richly bless them for their faithful service.

Si and Sis. LaVonne Wagenbach were blessed with two grandsons born on September 26. Simon III and Lori welcomed Simon Charles Wagenbach IV. His excited sisters are Courtney, Caitlyn, Elise and Bethany. Grandparents from Cadiz, KY, are Robert and Joy Rodden. Daniel and Jeanne Wagenbach were blessed with Cole Robert on the same day. Big brother, Connor, welcomes him home. Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy Leuthold (Lester, IA) also rejoice with their new grandson.

We continue to remember Sis. Pauline Sauder (Bro. Willis) in our prayers. We were thankful to see her back in church after her hospital stay. Our prayers are with Sis. Pauline and others in our congregation who may be experiencing health problems. May God's healing hand be upon them.



**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON****Marcia Koch****Dianne Wyss**

"To me is given boundless mercy, a gift that I did not deserve..." How thankful we are for the Lord's goodness and mercies. We welcome our new brother and sister, Nile and Mickey Schumm, as we were privileged to hear their testimony and witness their baptism. Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) assisted. Also sharing the pulpit this past month was Bro. Ken Weerts (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Walt Herrmann (Sis. Betty, Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI). Bro. Bob Pflederer (Sis. Eleanor, Morton, IL) conducted a Bible study on worship. We thank all these brothers and their wives for lending themselves to us.

"The afflictions of our time, are not worthy of the glory, promised in that realm sublime, to the patiently enduring..." Several in our congregation have experienced afflictions of the body and spent time in the hospital: Bro. Ron Kellenberger (Sis. Carol), Sis. Sue Ruppert and Sis. Ida Pfaffmann. We pray for restored health.

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

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the

Holy Ghost."

*Acts 2:38*

We welcomed five new souls into the fold of Christ on September 29. We are thankful to call Amber Steffen (Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcia), Lisa Frauhiger (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Jenny), Deon Maller (Bro. Bob and Sis. Kim), Kara Drayer (Bro. Herman and Sis. Julie), and Kasha Gerber (Bro. Kent and Sis. Kim) our sisters in Christ.

Vanessa Isch (Bro. Jim and Sis. Rachel) and Marissa Pfister (Bro. Tim and Sis. Angela) have been announced that they are at peace and ready for baptism. Our prayers are with these dear souls as they prepare for their testimonies and baptisms.

Our prayers are with Sis. Bev Troxel (Bro. Dwight) in the death of her father, Bro. Elmer Hartter (Milford, IN), and Sis. Kathy Meyer (Bro. Denny) in the death of her mother, Sis. Vyra Stoller (Gridley, IL). While we are saddened in their deaths, we are thankful that we can meet them someday in Heaven.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Elaine Reimschisel welcome another granddaughter to their family circle. Moira Elaine was born to Tyler and Terisa Reimschisel (Baltimore, MD). Moira's big sister is Elise and big brother is Caleb.

We are thankful for the ministers who visited Bluffton this month. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN), and

Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) were such a blessing to us as they shared the Word with us.

Spending time in the hospital this month were Sis. Lula Baumgartner, Bro. Glen Graber (Sis. Evelyn), Jean Detmon (Bro. Dick and the late Sis. Beulah Clark), and Lucas Agler (Bro. Jim and Sis. Pam).

We would like to welcome a new convert, Alicia Rager, from Latty, OH, as she makes Bluffton her home. We would also like to welcome our convert Andy Yergler (Bro. Kim and Sis. Sue) back home. We are blessed to have them fellowshiping with us.

On October 13, Bro. Brady Kaehr (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Connie) took Sis. Kristen Dubach (Bro. Ken Dubach and Jodi Holloway) to be his wife. We ask God's blessings on this union.

On October 13, Bro. Joel Drayer (Bro. Herman and Sis. Julie) and Sis. Erin Frauhiger (Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly) announced their engagement. We pray that God will bless them as they plan their upcoming wedding.

"He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defense; I shall not be moved."

*Psalms 62:6*

**INDIANA  
BLUFFTON NORTH  
Tiffani Schladenhauffen  
Ann Meyer**

"Come, come unto Me,

all ye that labor  
and are heavy laden,  
And I will give you rest."

*Hymns of Zion #295*

We rejoice that Amanda Brudi has started down the road of repentance to walk closer to the Lord. She is the sister of Sis. Heather (Bro. Brian) Drayer. We're thankful that she is heeding the Master's call.

September 28 was the wedding day uniting Aaron Mason and Anna Claghorn. Mark Mason and Sis. Diane Mason and Ted and JoAnn Claghorn are their parents. May the Lord bless their new life together.

On October 1, the Lord called Gyrkin Schwartz Home so He could give him a new body and free him from his struggles since birth. He was lovingly cared for during his 20 years of life by his parents, Bro. Ernie and Sis. Robin, and brothers, Tiercell and Lanner. He will also be missed by his grandparents, Bro. Gene and Sis. Edna Moser and Bro. Ervin and Sis. Alice Schwartz. What an example of sacrificial love this family was to us all.

Our hospital patients this month include Sis. Mildred Gerber and Sis. Cyndee (Bro. Phil) Hoover. May they feel our prayers as they recover. We also remember Sis. Becky (Bro. Lonnie) Bertsch as she continues her treatments. May she find the energy and strength each day as she continues to work.

In a sermon this month, we were reminded how eager the young lad was to offer his five

loaves and two fishes to the Lord to help feed the five thousand. He was willing to give all he had to help. Sometimes we think that the little bit we have is totally inadequate to meet the huge need and we despair. But, if we have a willing heart like the little lad, the Lord can use our gifts (time, money, talents) in a big way.

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**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE**  
**Jessica Murray**

As our fall days continue to bring color and more brisk winds, we prepare ourselves for winter. Are we also preparing our hearts for the briskness of the devil? "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.

May we be prayerful for the many young souls that are seeking the Lord. They can benefit from hearing our testimonies and what we have to share in our experiences, so take the time to visit with these young ones and do our duty according to the Lord.

We had the opportunity to hear a topical Bible study in regards to the Internet and its use and potential harm to us and to the world. Thank you, dear brothers, for your work in preparing this and helping by teaching. May we always enjoy learning.

This past month we had two brothers undergo surgery. Bro. Eugene Huber is recovering

from hip surgery, and Bro. Dale Ward (Sis. Anne) is recovering from brain surgery. We pray God's healing hand continue to be with them and their families. Frances Leman is doing well as she continues with her chemotherapy for her cancer. May the Lord watch over thee and keep thee.

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**INDIANA**  
**INDIANAPOLIS**  
**Sandy Lichtle**  
**Sue Levy**

Indianapolis has had an increase of those worshipping together. We welcome Bro. Brian and Sis. Cherise Blume and baby BJ to our Bloomington area, and Sis. Mandy Stieglitz, Sis. Katie Schwab and Rebecca Gudeman to the Indianapolis area. What a joy to worship with others and to gain the blessing that each contributes to the whole.

Several in our area have been hospitalized in recent weeks. We pray for God's mercy and protection on both the very young (BJ) and on those off to college (Traever). May each trial cause us to look above and to grow in our relationship with our Creator. May our reliance be on God and not on ourselves for in His strength we can be raised to a higher level than we can reach on our own. We are thankful for our home ministers and their teaching. We all have in common certain experiences, but our ministers show us how to look at them in a spiritual light and that helps us to know God better. God daily teaches us and draws us

into fellowship with Himself. We often encounter situations in our daily walk that cause us to think deeper about our great God.

### INDIANA, LACROSSE

#### Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold

We are once again thankful that we have made it through another harvest season safely. Despite less than ideal harvest yields, we are thankful for God's many blessings in each of our lives.

Sis. Lucille Nuest has been able to gather with our congregation after a long illness. She is still very weak and needs our prayers. It is such a blessing to have her and her sister, Sis. Pearl, who has been taking care of her, gathering with us once again.

As earthly fields are ripe with harvest, so are the heavenly fields. We are thankful for our new convert, Fern Antrim, who has given her life to the Lord and is allowing Him to guide her in the pathway ahead. We wish her much grace and God's richest blessings as she begins her new walk of life!

#### *Note of Thanks:*

Dear Loved Ones,

We would like to thank everyone who sent cards, flowers, gifts, and monetary gifts after Amanda and Blake's hospital stays. We have been blessed! The Lord has allowed us to keep our children, and for that precious gift we are totally unworthy, but eternally grateful. Thank you for your love and

prayers.

#### *The Dale Schneider Family*

### INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

We had a large turnout for Youth Outreach on September 28. It was Leo's first time to do this service for the elderly and area nursing homes. Several brothers from Bluffton, IN, helped in the planning. In the evening all were invited to hear Bro. Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN) interview Bro. Joshua Martinez as he shared his experience in finding the true faith. Bro. Josh and Sis. Tina (South Bend, IN) stayed for Sunday.

Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) is teaching a class on "Self Worth" to a group of Sisters here at Leo. We pray for God's blessing and spiritual growth.

We welcome Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy Herrmann and Sis. Marti Hinrichsen who have come to serve at Gateway Woods.

First-time parents, Bro. Shane and Sis. Laura Stieglitz, welcome Gage Allen. He was born on October 19. His grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Jane Stieglitz and Bro. Bob and Sis. Leann Siegle (Oakville, IA). Our congratulations to all.

The evening of October 20 was our annual wiener roast. We experienced a blessed time of fellowship and singing and expressed our appreciation to Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz, Bro. John Stoller, Bro. Marvin Stieglitz, Bro. Brace Wieland and their wives, Sis. Leonda, Sis.

Patsy, Sis. Joan and Sis. Brenda, for their faithful service. Each Brother spoke on different chapters of Philippians and made application to our fellowship at Leo. We all feel so blessed for the Lord's grace and blessings.

This is the month our government has set aside a day of Thanksgiving. We are grateful the government has recognized the importance of being thankful. For us who know the Lord and have our trust in Jesus for our salvation, every day is Thanksgiving. We are thankful for our salvation through Jesus Christ, for His Holy Word, for the gifts of grace and faith. We are also thankful for the privilege of prayers.

Our prayers are with Bro. Gene Stoller as he goes to Mayo Clinic, Sis. Helen Zimmer as she contemplates leaving her home and entering an apartment at The Cedars. Sis. Helen has a real struggle in losing her eye sight. Sis. Katherine Norr is taking therapy at University Park Nursing Home in Fort Wayne. We pray for restoration of health for her and others in our congregation.

#### *Faith*

If you're weary and bitter  
Remember this – your life  
Was not to be all rainbows,  
There's struggle and there's strife,  
While you hear the winds of winter  
blow,  
Flowers sleep beneath the silver  
snow.  
The loneliness, the pain you feel  
Your headaches and your tears,  
The prayers you pray are prophe-  
sies of

Tomorrow's golden years.  
 God's ledgers balance, for laughter  
 lies  
 Just a step beyond your searching  
 eyes.

"For ye have need of patience,  
 that, after ye have done the will  
 of God, ye might receive the  
 promise. For yet a little while,  
 and He that shall come will come,  
 and will not tarry."

*Hebrews 10:36-37*

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### INDIANA, MILFORD

**Stacey Feller  
 Paula Haab**

God provided a beautiful fall day on September 22 when the Bible Classes of our Indiana churches gathered together at Camp Mack for a day of fellowship and spiritual food.

What good instructions and teachings we received by being able to listen to the tapes from the Brotherhood Conference. May these brothers who spent much time in planning and participating be blest and feel our appreciation.

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), and Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) had the desire to visit us and share the Word this past month.

September 28 was the wedding day for Ryan Mikel (Russ and Sis. Pat) and Nicole Fox (Adrian, MI). They are making their home in Fort Wayne. May they feel God's presence in their home as He lovingly provides for their needs as husband and wife.

Bro. Jeff Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) will be missed in his home and in our congregation as he has gone to Ixtlan, Mexico, for several months. May God bless all of those willing to work in God's vineyard there.

Bro. Elmer Hartter, age 95, was taken from his life of service here to his home in glory on October 4. Such precious memories we have of him of such a willing servant in Sunday School, as a church minister and deacon, and throughout our community. He is survived by five daughters: Sis. Beverly Troxel (Dwight), Bluffton, IN; Virginia Hoover and Clarann Campbell, Milford; and Doris Hartter and Connie Cast, Florida.

Bro. Clint Steffen (Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen) had the misfortune of breaking his leg and needing surgery to repair it. We pray he'll be able to "wait upon the Lord" for healing and strength at this time of need.

Sunday School children have begun learning their Thanksgiving Program pieces. The grain has been gathered in. The Thanksgiving season is upon us, but we need to make every day a Thanksgiving day. God is so good and worthy of our thanks and praise.

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### INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler  
 Rochelle Ward**

On September 21, Justin Scheitlin (Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori) was united in love with Emily Chamberlain. Our prayers for God's direction in their now-

married life are with them as they make their new home in Indianapolis.

"For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

*Matthew 7:8*

As always, we rejoice with the angels when new brothers and sisters are added to our church family. After hearing their testimonies and witnessing their baptisms, we welcomed Bro. Brian and Sis. Kristen Schneider and Bro. Andy Getz (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Charlene). Our prayers are with them as they begin their new Christian walk.

Visiting ministers who served during this special weekend were Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest, IL) and Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO) and Bros. Bill Hodel (Sis. Betty, Roanoke, IL) and Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL).

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, let's pause a moment and thank our Lord for His generosity in all that He has blessed us with, especially the gift of eternal life through the sacrifice of His own Son—a gift that we truly did not deserve. May we always be thankful for that dark day on Calvary where Jesus shed His innocent blood in a true display of love.

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**INDIANA, SOUTH BEND**  
**Samantha Schafer**  
**Kara Beebe**

Ask ye what great thing I know  
 That delights and stirs me so?  
 What the high reward I win?  
 Whose the name I glory in?  
 Jesus Christ, the crucified.

We were blessed to have visiting ministers, Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) and our Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) share the Word with us this past month.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven as Rachel Selof has turned her life to Jesus in repentance. We pray that God will lead and bless her in her walk with the Lord.

Our sympathy and love is extended to Sis. Ernestine Meister at the passing of her brother, Harley Meister.

Who defeats my fiercest foes?  
 Who consoles my saddest woes?  
 Who revives my fainting heart,  
 Healing all its hidden smart?  
 Jesus Christ, the crucified.

*Zion's Harp #225 vs. 1,4*

**INDIANA, VALPARAISO**  
**Darel and Janet Walker**

Another little bundle of joy has blessed the home of Bro. Brandon and Sis. Chris Moser on October 2. Bryce Allen was welcomed home by his big sister, Cayla. The happy grandparents are Bro. Andy and Sis. Diane Moser and Bro. Ed and Sis. Caroline Lester. How nice it is to have a full nursery once again.

October 20 was a special Sunday. We were blessed by the

many friends and visitors who came to help us celebrate our annual harvest dinner program. Thanks to Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen) who brought us the Word and inspired us. Bro. Howard asked us, "Do we thank God that we are alive today?" Or do we just take it for granted.

"This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

*Psalm 118:24*

Bro. Howard reminded us that God is in control of both Heaven and Hell. We need not be deceived into believing God is incapable of punishing us by casting us out. Bro. Howard reminded us that while Satan dwells in Hell, he does not control it. God does! Thanks, Bro. Howard, for encouraging us to remain faithful and true.

Our harvest program included the Valparaiso Junior Choir, and the Francesville Men's Quartet and several others. The poems "Happy Harvest Time" and "The Grace of Gratitude" completed a special program. We wrapped up a wonderful day with a roast pork dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to all of those who made this day possible.

**INDIANA**  
**WEST LAFAYETTE**  
**Nettie Haab**  
**Diana Houston**

We have been blessed to have many visiting ministers this past month. They have been Bro. Ron

Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN), Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie, Tokyo, Japan), Bros. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL), Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL), Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN), Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN), Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), and Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN). Thank you for your willingness to come and share God's Word with us.

Our prayers are with Bro. Traever Guingrich as he recovers from an eye injury and with Bro. Clint Steffen who is recuperating from a broken leg.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT**  
**Erica Wagenbach**  
**Luann Gerber**

"Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set."

*Proverbs 22:28*

"Faith of our fathers living still..." (Hymns of Zion #85) We enjoyed a blessed weekend on September 29, when we celebrated 100 years since the establishment of the church at Wolcott. Many who had attended church here over the years returned to share in our centennial Homecoming. Many memories were shared by approximately

300 who were in attendance that day.

We thank visiting ministering Bros. Neal Widmer (West Lafayette, IN), Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), and Dan Beer (Milford, IN) for sharing God's Word with us this past month. We have had several hospital patients this month. They are Sis. Gladys Widmer (Bro. Ed), Takara Lehman (Bro. John and Sis. Ruth), Fran Klopfenstein (Bud), and Sis. Jo Kyburz. Sis. Jo is now at The Regency Place at 300 Windy Hill Drive, Lafayette, IN 47905, and would enjoy receiving cards or letters.

Brad Kyburz (Tanna) has been diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma and would appreciate prayers offered on his behalf as he faces several months of chemotherapy. May God be near each one and provide His healing touch and comfort. John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

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### **IOWA, BURLINGTON**

**Lana Metzger  
Brenda Schulz**

Greetings! This month we are thankful to report the safe arrival of another healthy baby. Bro. Michael and Sis. Rachel Messner and Micah welcome Abigail Lee into their hearts and home. Her grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail Messner, and Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy Messner (Morris, MN).

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

After 40 years of serving in the ministry and 28 years as an Elder, Bro. Paul Butikofer has decided to retire from the pulpit. We certainly want to thank him for his faithfulness in preaching the Word, and also, along with his wife Sis. Millie, for their many hours of labor and sacrifices on our behalf. May God richly bless them as they continue to serve the Lord in their daily lives.

Count your many blessings,  
Name them one by one.

We really do have so much to be thankful for, but yet how naturally we take our blessings for granted. As we approach another Thanksgiving season, may we take a little time to think on our blessings and then a little more time to thank the Giver.

Tom and Darla Butikofer are very thankful that their daughter Valerie escaped serious injuries when recently struck by a pick-up truck on her way to the school bus. Also thankful are Valerie's grandparents, Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne Butikofer.

Visiting ministers this past month have been Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr, Bro. Wayne Grimm, and Bro. Pat Zaugg (all of West Bend, IA). May God bless them for being submissive to their calling.

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

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky Snodgrass and their family have moved to Williamsburg, IA, in a career change for Bro. Wayne. They will be a part of the Iowa City church. We miss them greatly, and wish God's richest blessings for them in their new home and work. We appreciate visits from ministering Bros. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) and Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA). It's always a blessing to have ministering brothers and their families visit us and expound upon God's precious Word.

Our Bible class students enjoyed a weekend hosted by the Denver Bible class, along with students from several Kansas churches.

As another crop year draws to a close and harvest continues around us, we often hear the questions, How are the crops? What is the yield? We are reminded of the spiritual question, What shall the harvest be? (Gospel Hymns, 662.) When earthly life is over, will we be harvesting seed that has been well tended, or seed that has been neglected?

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

We are pleased to welcome Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky Snodgrass and their children to our congregation. We know they will be missed in Garden Grove and pray for the church there.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) and Fred Eberhardt

(Sis. Kathy, Burlington, IA). We appreciate the visits and their efforts in helping to illustrate the Word of Life to us.

We have so much to be thankful for this season, as always. One of those many things is each other. Paul tells the Philippians in 1:3, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." Let's do the same as we remember those we love and cherish.

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

We've had many loved ones spending some time in the hospital this past month. Let's remember to pray for those who are suffering from physical ailments, that God will heal as He sees best. Surgical patients were Ruby Feucht (Emil), Bro. Ron Kellenberger and Sis. Martha Feucht (Ernst). Hospitalized for other reasons were Sis. Emma Gerber, Sis. Salome Knobloch, Sis. Karoline Doorneweerd and Michelle Knobloch (Dustin).

The marriage engagement of Sis. Carolyn Knobloch (Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva) to Bro. Dale Hartzler of Rittman, OH, was announced on October 6. Also engaged are Ross Metzger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois) and Heather Walhof. May God be with these couples as they plan for their December weddings.

On October 16, Brendan Bradley was welcomed into the lives of Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle Leuthold along with big sisters, Ashley, Monica and Mikayla. Bro. Chuck and Sis.

Vicki Leuthold and Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam Schaefer are the grandparents.

Great-grandparents in our congregation are Bro. Art and Sis. Emily Leuthold.

We welcome Cory Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee, West Bend, IA) into our congregation as he attends college in our area. We are thankful that he has recently turned his heart to the Lord and we will keep him in our prayers.

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever."

*Psalm 107:1*

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, let's remember to thank God for the spiritual and physical blessings He has shared with us.

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

We were grateful to have Bro. Ed Graf from the Leo Children's Home share with us the mission and other information about the home. May we always remember to lift up these dear Brothers and Sisters who willingly lend themselves in serving the physical and spiritual needs of those who are in dire need of direction in so many areas of their lives. May God bless and encourage them all.

Thought: The prayer of the feeblest saint on earth who lives in the Spirit and keeps right with God is a terror to Satan. The very

powers of darkness are paralyzed by prayer. No wonder Satan tries to keep our minds fussy in active work till we cannot think in prayer.

—O. Chambers

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

On the 29th of September, our congregation had the blessing of a ground breaking service at our new church property in Bloomfield. It was a beautiful sunny day, so we gathered after our afternoon service. The "parking lot" and new church building had been outlined in the hay field. We gathered in the "assembly" area and sang "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us." Bro. Ron Joos read a few scripture verses, sketched a brief history of the Pulaski church and reminded us of the true purpose of our undertaking. Bro. Russell Wuthrich led us in prayer, asking our Father's blessing both for us now, and future generations. Then our oldest Brother and Sister in our congregation, Bro. Cleo & Sis. Esther Rinkenberger, broke the ground with a shovel, and soon all joined in, especially our Sunday School children. We were especially thankful for our visitors as they were an added blessing. We always enjoy visitors, and look forward to meeting many more, old and new acquaintances, as we undertake this building project, beginning in earnest in 2003, Lord willing.

Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) also visited this

month, sharing God's Word with us.

We also want to remember Bro. Roger Wuthrich (Sis. DeAnn) and Sis. Teresa Schock (Bro. Dale) as they have taken up duties teaching our Sunday School children. Our thanks to Sis. DeAnn Wuthrich and Bro. Ken Wuthrich for their years of service as they have finished their terms.

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

Baptized into Thy name most holy,  
 O Father, Son and Holy Ghost,  
 I claim a place, though weak and  
 lowly

Among Thy seed, Thy chosen host.  
 Immersed with Christ, I'm dead to  
 sin;

Thy Spirit now shall live within.

*Zion's Harp #41*

These words have new meaning for our new brothers and sister in faith. Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT), Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandra, Eureka, IL) and Robert Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL) were willing to travel and assist with the responsibilities surrounding the baptism of Jamie and Sarah Montag and Clinton Metzger (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley). Also here this weekend of September 29 were Bros. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL), Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO), Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) and Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan,

Elgin, IA). May these brothers be blest for so willingly bringing forth the Word.

Several loved ones have spent time in hospitals. Sis. Madeline Banwart and Eli Gerber (Pearl) are home again. Sis. Ida Schmidt expects to be released soon and Bro. Verner Wirtz (Sis. Betty) remains hospitalized. Let us always prayerfully remember all who suffer illness.

On October 13, the engagement of Bro. Jaylin Dahlhauser (Bro. Ken and Sis. Ellen) to Sis. Anne Schmidt (Bro. John and Sis. Paula) was made known. We wish them God's blessings and guidance during this time as they prepare for their wedding.

On September 25, Levi Arthur Mogler was born to Bro. Lynn and Sis. Amy. Luke, Alicia and Autumn are excited with their new brother. Grandparents are Ron and Sis. Sandy Feucht (Lester, IA) and Bro. Arthur and Sis. Eula Mogler.

On October 2, Rachel Ann was born to Bro. Darren and Sis. Nora Fehr. Her happy family includes three brothers, Ashton, Travis, and Lincoln, and grandparents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr and Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi (Silverton, OR).

On October 14, Lane Dennis Schmidt was born to Bro. Neal and Sis. Angela. Big brother, Cody, and sisters, Portlind and April, along with grandparents, Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Lucille Schmidt and Bro. James and Sis. Sharon Fehr, are happy for his safe arrival. May these young parents always find grace and

patience to teach these young children of the love of Jesus.

We wish Sis. Betty Mogler God's guidance as she has moved to the Tremont, IL, area for employment.

*Thanksgiving*

For three things I thank God every day of my life: thanks that He has vouchsafed me knowledge of His works; deep thanks that He has set in my darkness the flame of faith; deep, deepest thanks that I have another life to look forward to – a life joyous with light and flowers and heavenly song.

—Helen Adams Keller

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**JAPAN, TOKYO**  
**Marie Inoue**

Cooler weather has arrived and we are thankful for a relief from all the humidity, looking forward to the autumn colors of November. Yesterday we partook of the solemn service of Holy Communion, being reminded of the price paid for our sins and not to once again entangle our life in these sins, but to look to the risen Saviour for the abundant life of a redeemed soul. Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois), Shioda, ably conveyed this message to us along with our local Elder.

Sis. Shizuko Urushino and family experienced the loving and powerful hand of our risen Saviour this month as her grandson, Kazuki, received the second surgery on his mouth area. They are very pleased with the results and thank the Lord and many for



the prayers on his behalf. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to her husband, Toshio, as his mother, age 91, quietly slipped into eternity. She has been hospitalized for some time due to a leg amputation. Sis. Shuzuko was very faithful in caring for her, something the Lord will not forget, as we are told in His Word.

Another person who faced surgery a few days ago was the daughter-in-law of the Hashimotos. This was her second cancer-related surgery. We are all thankful she could come through the surgery safely, but our prayers are still needed as she remains in intensive care.

The Klaus family misses Sis. Shirley Kieser who returned home to Princeville, IL, after spending 2 months in their home helping with their new baby, braiding the children's hair for school, and lots of other jobs and effort in raising a precious family. We also enjoyed her fellowship in our church circle and wish God's richest blessings upon her. Our thoughts returned to the times her husband, deceased Bro. David, used to accompany her on their trips to Japan to visit their children. We miss his encouraging spirit and look forward to meeting him in Heaven some day.

Our special guests this month were Elder Bro. Gerry and Sis. Ellen Hertzler (Sabetha, KS). The Lord was faithful as Bro. Gerry expounded on I Tim. 6, "That they do good, that they . . . willing to communicate;" They also vis-

ited in homes of our brethren, visited with our friends at church, and even lent a hand with cleaning and yard work of our newly remodeled church. Although Bro. Gerry has visited here several times on business, this time he brought Sis. Ellen in remembrance of their 25th wedding anniversary. We wish them many more years in serving the Lord together. I may add that the weather was not pleasant when they arrived in the midst of typhoon #21. The usual 11-12 hour trip to Tokyo ended up lasting 18 hours sitting in the same seat, experiencing lots of shaking and vibration of the plane. They were so thankful when the plane could finally land safely and even noticed others who had shed tears and were praying. How good it always is to ask our Heavenly Father for His traveling mercies before we begin a journey.

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

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

*Proverbs 22:6*

We are thankful Kenzie Marie arrived safely on September 25. Kenzie's parents are Bro. Dominic and Sis. Jenny Meyer. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Ada Plattner (Sabetha, KS) and Earl and Sis. Darlene Meyer. Great-grandparents are Bro. Alpha and Sis.

Maime Strahm.

Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn Hartter are grandparents of a baby boy born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Cara Steffen of the Morton, IL, congregation. He has been named Jaden Jeffrey.

Bro. Jason Rokey and Sis. Kendra Meyer were united in marriage on September 22. Parents of the couple are Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy Rokey and Earl and Sis. Darlene Meyer. We pray for God's blessings on this couple as they walk hand in hand down life's pathway together. Visiting ministers used as servants that weekend were Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Sis. Marlene, Bay City, MI) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. Lavonne, Sabetha, KS).

Our prayers have been with those hospitalized this past month. Among them was Sis. Verona Strahm (Bro. Wilfred) and surgical patients were Sis. Kathy Rokey (Bro. Joe, Jr.) and Pauline Esslinger (Waymer).

The Bern Senior Bible Class traveled to Denver, CO, the weekend of October 5-6. We pray it was a blessing for all. We express our appreciation and thanks to the Denver congregation for hosting this event.

Our annual all church fall picnic/wiener roast was held on the beautiful fall evening of October 13. With a bountiful turnout, we enjoyed an evening of singing and fellowship.

On September 18, Ron and Lanae Schick, coordinators for the work teams that go to Haiti, showed world relief slides at the Fellowship Center about our

churches' work in Haiti.

As Thanksgiving time approaches, and not only at this time but any other time of the year, may we have a thankful heart for the many things we have been blest with.

All Come And Thank The Lord  
Now thank we all our God  
With heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done,  
In whom the world rejoices,  
Who from our mother's arms  
Has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God  
Thro' all our lives be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in His grace,  
His full redemption send,  
And free us from all ill,  
Sustain us to the end.

All praise and thanks to God  
The Father now be given,  
The Son and Holy Ghost,  
Who dwell in highest heaven.  
The one eternal God,  
Whom earth and heav'n adore,  
Who is and shall survive,  
Now and forever more.

*Zion's Harp #236*

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### **KANSAS, FORT SCOTT**

**Ruth Bahr**

Again, we're thankful for visiting ministers. This past month teachings came from Bros. Dale Frank (Sis. Christine, Oakville, IA), Ben Wysong (Sis. Janice, Sabetha, KS) and Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN).

Several brothers, young men, and visitors gathered for a

campout in a wooded area north of Fort Scott. They enjoyed fellowship around a campfire, fishing, and hymn singing.

The teacher, some sponsors, and several members of the Bible Class traveled to Denver, CO, on October 5-6 for Youth Fellowship weekend. It was an enjoyable weekend for all who attended.

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### **KANSAS, KIOWA**

**Jenny Stewart  
Laura Wagenbach**

Our hospital patient this month was Sis. Helen Murrow. She is now home and recovering nicely.

The high school Bible Class had the great opportunity to travel to Denver for the fall Sunday School fellowship. They had a wonderful trip and great fellowship. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful view of the snowy mountains of Colorado.

The young brothers and friends were here this past month for their fall camping trip. We always enjoy their wonderful singing voices and the fellowship. Thank you!

Count your blessings, name them  
one by one;

Count your blessings, see what  
God hath done;

Count your blessings, name them  
one by one;

Count your many blessings, see  
what God hath done.

*Hymns of Zion #116*

The holiday of Thanksgiving is almost upon us. There are so many things to be thankful for in

our lives. Just remember to count your many blessings.

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

Our congregation is rejoicing as another young soul has started repenting. We wish the Lord's guidance and blessings to Kurt Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy) as he begins this most important step in life.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held Sunday, September 29, at the Wolf Creek shelter house. It was a beautiful fall evening and everyone enjoyed the activities and fellowship.

Congratulations and best wishes to two couples that celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversaries. Bro. Lloyd and Joann Luthi celebrated their golden anniversary on September 28 with a reception hosted by their children.

Also, Bro. Roy and Betty Wernli celebrated their golden anniversary on October 13 with a reception hosted by their children.

Saturday, October 5, was the wedding day for Justin Isch (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) and Liz Kassler (Marjorie Haas, Madison, KS). We wish them the Lord's blessings in their life together.

As Thanksgiving Day draws near, may we be thankful to the Lord for the many blessings we enjoy each day.

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**KANSAS, SABETHA**

**Jeanelle Plattner  
Mary Kay Wenger**

Bro. Don and Sis. Ada Plattner are happy grandparents of Kenzie Marie, born September 25 to Bro. Dominic and Sis. Jennifer Meyer (Bern, KS). We also rejoice with Wayne and Carrie Grimm on the arrival of their second daughter, Sadie Marie. Big sister, Elsie, welcomes her home. Sadie's grandparents are Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene Grimm, Gary and Marilyn Edelman, and great-grandma, Sis. Lois Grimm.

Our Sunday School Bible class students had the privilege of traveling to Denver, CO, for a blessed weekend of fellowship. We extend a special thank you to the Denver congregation for their labors of love in making this event possible.

Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) shared God's Word with our congregation this month. We thank him for his willingness to assist on the pulpit when many of our home ministers were traveling.

May God grant healing to Terry Strahm as he recently spent time in the hospital.

**KANSAS, WICHITA**

**Emma Miller**

Bro. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA) came to Wichita to serve as our visiting minister on October 13. His wife, Sis. Christy, accompanied him. In the morning service, Bro. Ron meditated on the scripture account of Peter's denial that he knew Jesus. Then in the

afternoon, the scripture opened to I Peter. Bro. Ron commented on how Peter had an opportunity to change his dedication and he encouraged us to make use of the opportunities God gives us to serve Him. Again, we thank God for providing willing brothers who will be used to proclaim His Word.

Several from our congregation are in need of healing. Marie Geary was injured when a car struck her as she was crossing the street. Thankfully, she is healing. Marie lives about a block from our church and has been worshipping with us. Also, Sis. Nellie Lambert has been confined to her home because of illness. We pray that these dear souls will be able to assemble with us soon.

Our congregation extended sympathy to Dwaine Reeves (Sis. Roseann). His sister died recently.

Sis. Jodi Metzger (Bro. Cory) has completed her residency in family practice at Via Christy. She has joined a Family Practice Group in Wichita and is able to schedule her work so she will be able to be home with her young son, Harrison, on a part time basis.

**KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON  
Glenda Neukomm**

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! For

he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness."

*Psalm 107:1,8-9*

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, we think of family, friends and those we will share the holiday with. Also, we are mindful of those we love who are also in need. May the Lord lay on our hearts those whom we need to share the bountiful gifts the Lord has blessed us with during this time.

"Our lives help paint our neighbor's picture of God."

We are so grateful for the ministering brothers who visited us in the past months. They are Bros. Will Schieler (Sis. Sue, Milford, IN), Victor Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH), Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH) and Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN). We pray the Lord's rich blessings to rest upon them as they came to Lexington and brought us the inspired Word of God.

We always enjoy having visitors and the fellowship. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1). On the weekend of October 12-13, Bro. Earl and Sis. Suzie Beery brought a nice group with them from Rittman. Also the Bro. Mike Fritz family joined us from Nashville. We enjoyed a potluck and singing on Saturday evening. Also this past weekend, October 26-27, Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki Huber had a couple car loads accompany them from

Francesville. We again enjoyed a potluck and singing at Bro. Lester Huber's barn.

Katrina Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) broke her foot this past week playing sports. We pray the Lord will bless her with a successful and quick recovery.

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**

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance. For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name."

*Psalm 33:12,21*

This month we remembered those people who brought us liberty and how we were freed from the slavery of another nation. As Christians, we are truly blessed when we remember how Christ came into this world to save us from the slavery of Satan and sin. Our Independence Day is important, but more important is our spiritual independence that brings spiritual freedom.

"And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness."

*Colossians 3:14*

On September 22, our congregation rejoiced with the engage-

ment of Bro. Mario Cabrera (Salvador and Sis. Guadalupe Cabrera) and Sis. Elsa Sibaja (Felix and Sis. Lourdes Sibaja). Both of them are from our congregation. We pray that the Lord will continue to guide this couple as they prepare to begin the rest of their lives together.

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**MICHIGAN, ALTO**  
**Terri Huber**  
**Rose Watson**

A busy month full of activities and visiting ministers has heralded the autumn season! Many thanks to God for enabling the following ministers and their wives to serve us: Bro. Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN), Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), who assisted Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen in reading the Memorandum, and Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), who assisted with Communion.

Jerry and Annie Link are the proud parents of William Fredrick. He is welcomed home by Joanna, as well as his grandparents Bro. Fred and Sis. Donna Oesch.

The annual gathering of Michigan Youth Day was held in Detroit. The Bible and Jr. Bible Class students and the Sunday School teachers who attended were blessed and enjoyed all of the activities. Our thanks to the hard workers in Detroit who planned and executed the weekend! Locally, our Sunday School picnic was well attended, with games and treats provided by the teachers and a potluck meal at a local park.

Bro. Denny Koehl mourns the loss of his father, Bro. Clarence Koehl (Forrest, IL). It is always difficult to lose a parent, and we pray for the family to be comforted. Surgery patients this month—both home and recuperating—were Sis. Michelle Blough and Bro. Terry Watson.

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**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**  
**Sarah Knochel**  
**Janelle Ramseyer**

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

Thou sayest, "Child, give me your heart!"

O what a sweet request!  
It shows the way that we must take

To life and peace and rest.

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

*Zion's Harp #163, vs. 1-3*

Our congregation had the opportunity to witness the testimony and baptism of four dear souls on September 21-22. They are Sis. Amy Jackson (Bro. Don and Sis. Tina), Bro. Nathan Knochel (Bro. Bob and Sis. Rhonda) and Sis. Moonlight and Bro. Pierre Szabo (Bro. Frank and Sis. Gail). May the Lord guide and direct these new brothers and sisters as they follow Him.

Amongst our visitors here for the baptisms, we were blessed to have Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen

(Alto, MI), Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN).

While visiting our area, Sis. MaryBeth and Sis. Susie Rufener (Smithville, OH) were injured in an accident. They are now recovering at home. We pray the Lord will be with them and comfort them during their time of healing.

The Lord has blessed Bro. Darrell and Sis. Sue Steffen with another grandson. Nathaniel Robert was welcomed into the home of Bob and Christy Palme on September 19.

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#### **MICHIGAN, DETROIT**

**Sarah Beard  
Holly Barton**

Bro. Kevin Hodel recently submitted to surgery. We are thankful he is healing and able to assemble with us again. Sis. Maria Sabados was in the hospital for several days, but is now at home.

We have several in our church who have struggled with the frailty of health. Our prayers are with Sis. Audrey Hitz and Harvey Novak. May God bless them with His grace and strength. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Ann Tacher in the loss of her brother Peter Dimitrie and his wife Delores. May she find comfort in God.

The weekend of September 28-29 the Michigan Sunday Schools joined together for a weekend of fun and fellowship. We appreciate all who joined us for that weekend.

We thank Bro. Ken Wuethrich

(Indianapolis, IN) for serving us recently. May God bless him for his efforts.

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#### **MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Diane Stewart**

Visiting this month were Elder Bros. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN), Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA), Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) and Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN). Bro. Clint Schmidt also was a guest minister. May God bless each one richly.

Sis. Rachel Kent has resumed chemotherapy treatments. Our prayers continue for her, her husband, Darcy, and their family.

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#### **MINNESOTA, MORRIS**

**Katie Messner  
Cheryl Messner**

Four visiting ministers this past month included Elder Bros. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bros. James Koehl (San Diego, CA) and Todd Stoller (Latty, OH). We appreciated their labors and pray that God will be their Rewarder.

Two couples have announced their engagements. Marcy Wulf and Josh Sundheim plan to marry on November 23. Parents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce Wulf and Stephen and Vicki Sundheim. Rachel Luthi and Adam Bjerketvedt have chosen May 31 for their wedding date. Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte Luthi and Teddy and Gloria

Bjerketvedt are their parents. We pray that both couples will seek counsel from the Lord as they make the many decisions that lie ahead.

Many prayers have been uttered for little Aaron Jones who has been hospitalized in Minneapolis for several weeks. We are so happy and thankful that he is now recovering. Parents are Bro. Shane and Sis. Ruth Jones.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy Domnick and little Stephanie are very thrilled to have Colin Tucker join their family circle. Colin was born on October 5. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma Domnick and Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice Nohl. Praying that the Lord will continue to bless and keep this young family.

"Friendship is a gift from God that's blessed in every part ... born through love and loyalty ... conceived within the heart."

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#### **MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**

**Marilyn Messner  
Ginny Stoll**

On September 28, Ann Messner (Sis. Julia) and Dan Lind (Ellen) were united in marriage. May God bless them as they establish their home.

Our thoughts and prayers were with Quinten Schmidt (Bro. Verle and Sis. Jamie) and Pollie Messner (Sis. Melva) as they were hospitalized. May God continue to bless them.

We gathered for our fall fellowship hall cleaning. How quickly things were done and put back in place when willing hands

work together.

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

With schools now in full session, days becoming cooler and shorter and leaves turning glorious colors, autumn has arrived in our area. It is also the time Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen Kellenberger extend their gracious hospitality by hosting their annual church wiener roast. This year it was held on October 13. Besides those of us from within our congregation, we were also blessed with visitors; some having been a part of Kansas City church in past years. After a wonderful afternoon and evening of fellowship and delicious food, we ended our day with a singing. May God richly bless Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen for their efforts.

We were reminded of God's mercies on October 13 when our convert Heather Persinger and Sis. Amber Kellenberger were spared serious injuries, having been involved in an automobile accident on their way to church. We are grateful to God for watching over them.

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

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Jim Koehl (Sis. Hildy, San Diego, CA). We appreciate his willingness to be used in God's service.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth Banwart in the death of Ruth's sister,

Betty Bergren.

We rejoice with Bro. Brian and Sis. Kristen Leman as they were blessed with a son, Brett Nathaniel, on September 22. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirley Leman (Eureka, IL) and Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller.

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

Visitors to St. Louis have blessed our little congregation again this past month. Ministering Bros. Tim Funk (Sis. Deb, Peoria, IL), John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) and Kenny Knapp (Sis. Phyllis, Taylor, MO) all brought God's Word to us.

We recently heard about using God's Word as a filter for our hearts. Filters, in a physical application, remove impurities. We can prevent the impurities that we are exposed to from contaminating our hearts and minds by filtering what we take in by applying the principles taught in the Bible. And we can also filter that which comes out of our hearts, and then out of our mouths, so we can present a pure witness to all those with whom we come in contact. We all know that it is easier to keep something clean than to allow it to get contaminated and then try to reclean it. As a mother, I know that spots and stains in laundry need to be treated and cleansed quickly. The same applies to our spiritual life. If we allow impurities to cause spots and stains, a rapid acknowledgement and re-

pentance will restore us. And more careful filtering can prevent the reoccurrence of the contamination.

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**MISSOURI, TAYLOR**  
**Susan Haerr**

September 29 marked the first ACYF for the new Sunday School year. Many students, parents, and teachers made the trip to Princeville, IL, that Sunday afternoon. Thanks so much to all who went along, to the students who blessed us with their singing, and to the Princeville church who went to considerable effort to host the event. God bless you, each one.

Our annual Sunday School Fall Cookout was held Sunday, October 6, at Bro. Kenny and Sis. Phyllis Knapp's farm. It was really a blessing for teachers and kids alike, and we offer our sincere thanks to Bro. Kenny and Sis. Phyllis for generously offering their time and space to bring this blessing to us.

Congratulations are in order for Connie Miller and Ron Blue as they were married Saturday, October 12. May God bless you with many happy years together.

We are praying for God's healing for Jared Sutter as he underwent back surgery in the last month. It's great to see your smile back in church, Jared!

A special thank-you and wish for God's blessings to Bro. Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL) for being here to share God's Word with us this month.

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**NEW YORK  
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG  
Hope Graves**

We were thankful to have Elder Bros. Andy Stoller and Kevin Ryan in our midst on the weekend of September 22. We gathered together for a potluck dinner on Saturday evening followed by a church service. May the Lord richly bless these dear brothers for their many labors of love and for the clear sounding of the trumpet.

On September 28 we were again blessed with visitors and held another potluck dinner followed by a singing in the church basement. What a blessing it always is to have those of like mind and faith from across the land come and assemble with us.

O, may the Christian love be ever  
glowing  
Within our hearts; this is our Sav-  
iour's will!  
Though cross or pain or scorn or  
death befall us,  
May faith and love to Him be con-  
stant still.  
For He who bore the cross is now  
in heaven;  
To Him we'll rise when once His  
call is given.

But should our course be other-  
wise directed,  
Should we on earth no more each  
other see,  
Should death approach more  
quickly than expected,  
Then may the Lord unite us lov-  
ingly  
In yonder realm of peace and joy  
forever,  
Where sun and moon need not be  
shining ever.

*Zion's Harp #114 vs. 3, 5*

**OHIO, AKRON  
Joyce Gasser**

We rejoice that Daniel Pamer has turned to the Lord in repentance. We wish him much grace and to grow in the Lord. His parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Arliss Pamer.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Carolyn Miller have two new grandchildren. John and Erin Miller have a new baby girl, Anna Claire, born September 2. She has a sister Emily. Erin's parents are Dave and Bonnie Roule. Bro. Joe and Sis. Carla Miller have a new baby boy, Landon Joel, born October 5, and Landon has a sister Trina. Sis. Carla's parents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Joyce Stoller (Rittman, OH).

Sis. Sarah Bako and Bro. Amos Maibach were united in marriage September 29. Parents are Eugene and Sis. Dianna Bako and Bro. Alpha and Sis. Denise Maibach. We wish the newlyweds God's continued grace.

Sis. Mary Ellen Walker is engaged to Bro. William Saylor (Rittman, OH). May the Lord continue to guide and direct their lives.

Charlotte Kaufman was able to return home again after being hospitalized and hopes to gain strength.

We enjoyed visiting ministers: Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Bro. Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Ontario), and Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH). May the Lord bless them

for their service to us.

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to express our sincere thanks to the many brethren, family, and friends who showered us with love and prayers, cards, gifts, and telephone calls on our 60th anniversary. God bless each one.

*Bro. Dave and Sis. Lois Schamback*

**OHIO, COLUMBUS  
Nancy Banks**

As Thanksgiving approaches, we need to take time from our busy lives and count our many blessings. In Columbus...

We are thankful for the safe arrival of Joel Matthew Grimm on October 18. Bro. John, Sis. Julie, Joshua, Josiah, and Julia lovingly welcome him into their hearts and home. Little Joel's grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Anna Lou Grimm (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue Sauder (Mansfield, OH).

We give thanks for the many ministering brothers who give of their time to travel to our church and preach God's Word. This month we welcomed Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) to our church services.

We are thankful for the young students who support our World Relief work nights during the winter months. It is a blessing for all of those who work together for the common purpose of helping those in need.

May we give thanks always.

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

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

*II Timothy 4:2*

We recently enjoyed hearing Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) on a Wednesday evening and Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH) on a Sunday. Many thanks to these dear brothers for their labors of love. May God continue to richly bless them each one.

Luke David came to bless the home of James and Sis. Julie McCullough and their daughters, Sierra, Skyler, and Sydney. Luke's grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Manz and Paulette McCullough. We trust God will be with this dear family as they daily strive to teach their children to know and love Him.

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

*Zion's Harp #163*

The Lord again has answered prayers as another soul has answered His call. May God be with Kent Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily) to lead, guide and direct him as he begins living his life for the Lord.

Believing that God has brought their lives together, Sis. Cindy Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) and Bro. Chad Indermuhle (Bro. Dwaine and

Sis. Joan, Smithville, OH) made their engagement known to us on October 20. Our prayers are with you both as you make plans for your future lives together.

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

Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) and Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) were among our visitors this past month. We thank them for their labor of love.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Marge Laukhuf (Bro. Ken) and Ken Stoller (Sis. Esther). We pray that the Lord's hand will continue to extend healing to them.

Our prayers are with Barry Grant (Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria) and his family as he has begun basic training for the Marines. May God watch over and protect him.

We were blessed this month to have the opportunity to listen to the tapes of the annual Conference. The encouragement and guidance we received from our Elder brothers is greatly appreciated.

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

Keep Him for your gain,  
Earth's pleasures are vain;  
Sweet rest is found only in heaven.

*Zion's Harp #46*

Sis. Helen Ramsier went to her eternal rest on September

18. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to her husband, Bro. Wally, and children, Sis. Karen Baltic (Bro. Pete), Darlene Enderle (Larry), Jeff (Cherie), Deb Jones (Don), Cliff (Lynn), Sis. Jolene, Brenda Herrmann (Wayne), Sis. Joyce Germaine (Bro. Milan), Carol Browne (Lonnie), and Todd.

Elizabeth Ramsey (John and Dawn) has chosen to follow our Lord and Saviour. We rejoice with Elizabeth and wish her God's grace.

Elmer Oesch (Doris) and Jason Sabo (Nora) have confessed peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing their testimonies in November.

May the Lord richly bless ministering Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), who brought us the Word this past month.

We ask for God's healing strength and mercies to many from our congregation who have had either surgery or illness. They are Sis. Donna Gabor (Bro. Dale), Sis. Olivia Ramsey (Bro. Ed and Sis. Laura), Rick Foss (Sis. Susan), Corbin Masters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine), Sis. Becky Vent (Richard), Sis. Viola Popp (Bro. Lawrence), and Sis. Alice Graszl (Bro. Frank).

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

Doug and Debbie Rupp are first time parents of Jacob Andrew, born on October 6. Grandparents Earl and Pat Rupp and Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann Chris-



tian welcome a new little one into their hearts. Bro. Fred and Sis. Joyce Stoller have been blessed with another grandson, Landon Joel, born to Bro. Joe and Sis. Carla Miller (Akron, OH) on October 5.

"I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me."

*Proverbs 8:17*

With thankfulness we report that we have three new converts. Katie Ramsier (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joni), Eric Maibach (Bro. Alpha, Jr. and Sis. Denise), and Eric Hartzler (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan) have each made a beginning in their walk with God.

September 28 was the day that Julie Bauman (Sis. Nancy) and Randy Call were joined together in marriage. On September 29, Bro. Amos Maibach (Bro. Alpha, Jr. and Sis. Denise) and Sis. Sarah Bako (Eugene and Sis. Diana, Akron, OH) were united in Holy Matrimony. We welcome Sis. Sarah to our Rittman congregation. We hope each of these couples feels the Lord's direction in their lives and that they help each other to Heaven.

Our Sis. Mildred Reusser passed on to eternity on October 2 at the age of 92. She has left precious memories to many, including her children, Sis. Marilyn Ice (Harry, Sardis, OH), Sis. Wilda Fetty (Roy), Sis. Martha Maag (Robert), Vernon (Marlene), Dean (Paula), Paul (Jennifer), Dennis (Lisa), and David (Deborah).

October 5-6 were testimonies

and baptisms for our new brothers and sister in Christ. We welcome Bro. Ben Rufener (Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen), Bro. Shawn Acker (Boyd and Barbara), and Sis. Judy Hartzler (Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie) to the family of God! Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler.

October 6 was also the day that two engagements were made known: Bro. Bill Saylor to Sis. Mary Ellen Walker (Akron, OH) and Bro. Dale Hartzler to Sis. Carolyn Knobloch (Lester, IA). We pray the Lord will help each of their families to adjust to the changes. Bro. Dave and Sis. Eileen Emch have a grandson, Bryan Emch, which recently became engaged to Krissy Hough. We again wish the Lord's guidance to those taking such an important step!

Thank you to the ministers of the Word that visited us: Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), and Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH).

Hospitalized this past month were Bro. Chet Rufener (Sis. Roma) and Sis. Yvonne Beery. Thankfully, Sis. Yvonne has returned to church, and we hope Bro. Chet will be joining us again soon, also.

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### OHIO, SARDIS Terry Zollinger

"I have glorified thee on the

earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."

*John 17:4*

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Marilyn Ice (Harry) and her family due to the death of her mother, Sis. Mildred Reusser (Rittman, OH).

"I said, Lord, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee."

*Psalms 41:4*

Two souls turned away from sin and to a more fruitful life with the Lord. They are Eric Hartzler (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan, Rittman) and Nathan Ramsier (Bro. Mark and Sis. Alice). May they have the grace to carry on and eventually have peace with man and the precious Lord.

"Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray..."

*James 5:13*

Bro. Gary Zollinger (Sis. Terry) was hospitalized this month. We are thankful that Bro. Gary is home and attending church.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

*Psalms 46:1*

Ben Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry) is in the armed forces and was sent to Kuwait for the duration of six months. They ask for prayers during these troubled times. If interested to write,

Ben would love to hear from anyone. E-mail address: (Always enter Zollinger in the subject). His mailing address is:

[BCH@salts.iccpphil.navy.mil](mailto:BCH@salts.iccpphil.navy.mil)

LSV-6 Detachment/WO1 Benjamin Zollinger/ 411th Transportation Detachment /APO AE 09889. After each slash is a new line.

“Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.”

*Acts 15:35*

Visiting minister and family, Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL), blessed us with the Word of Life. We are thankful for the Word and all the visitors during a special week-end of fellowship and praise.

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### OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Carrie Stoller  
Ruth Gasser**

“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*

We are thankful for the opportunities we have to share our abundance with those less fortunate. It was a true blessing to be involved with a meat-canning project this month—a combined effort of many brethren, both of local churches and across the country. We wish to thank each one who participated in any way—with materials, money, time, talents, and various skills.

We hope each one experiences the truth of the words, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

There are times in our lives when we are called upon to be the receivers. We hope that our Sisters Mary Beth and Susie Rufener (Bro. John W. and Sis. Emily) have felt our prayers after their recent accident. Sis. Mary Beth required surgery and faces a period of recovery yet, but we trust that God’s healing hand will be upon them.

Our hearts are always encouraged to hear that our converts have found peace and wish to make a covenant with God. We rejoice with Jeni Klotzle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley) and Sharla Steiner (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue) and look forward to that special time for them.

We are happy to see Amanda Gerber again and to hear she has moved back into our area. We hope she feels a warm welcome assembling with us.

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### OREGON, PORTLAND

**Louisa Gallup**

On September 20, Bro. John and Sis. Wanda Kinsinger returned from a rural orphanage south of Hanoi, Vietnam, where they finalized the adoption of their new son and daughter. Both babies were born earlier this year; Jesse Hung on February 15 and Joy HongPhuong on May 7. These precious little ones were welcomed home and into the family by their big brother, James, as well as by grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Sandy Kinsinger (Elgin, IL) and Ray

and Sis. Janna Baer (Bradford, IL). May the Lord guide and direct Bro. John and Sis. Wanda as they raise their sweet children and may He ever bless them.

As we have been listening to the Conference tapes, we truly appreciate our Elder brethren and our Church. The messages and teachings were encouraging and inspiring. May the Lord bless and keep His faithful servants for their efforts on our behalf.

We thank our Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) for bringing us the Word recently, and for his exhortation on Holy Communion. Lord willing, our Communion service will be held in early November.

Our gratitude as well as to all our visitors and the following ministering brethren from Silverton, OR: Bros. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), Don Sinn (Sis. Linda) and Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer). Thank you all and may God bless you.

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### OREGON, SILVERTON

**Kelsey Kuenzi**

“...suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.”

*Mark 10:14*

We rejoice with Bro. Kyle and Sis. Trisha Walter in the birth of their daughter Kiana Jo on September 23. Grandparents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter and Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy Young (Forrest, IL). We wish them God’s loving guidance as

they raise little Kiana in the love of the Lord.

This month our prayers have been with our friend Cliff Kuenzi and his wife Violet. Cliff suffered a stroke and is undergoing rehabilitation in a local nursing care home. They wish to express their thanks for all the cards they have received and for all those who have gone to visit and sing for them.

Visiting this month was ministering Bro. Jim Ramseyer and his wife Sis. Marlene from Bay City, MI. We extend our heartfelt thanks to him for sharing the Word of God with our congregation here in Silverton.

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#### **PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA**

**Nathan &  
MaryElizabeth Gasser**

This month we were happy to welcome Camille Kathryn Wiegand into our church family. Little Camille was born on September 25 to Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle Wiegand, and joins older sisters, Lauren and Emily, and brother David. We pray for God's continued care over their family, protection from the dangers of Satan and the world, and guidance that the parents, as well as each of us, can be a light to her and share with her God's abundant love for us.

We enjoyed a Sunday School picnic this month at a nearby park. We were reminded recently, in scripture and in song, of the many ways in which the simplicity, trust, and innocence of a child is a model for our behavior toward our Heavenly Fa-

ther. May we continue to learn from their example, while at the same time setting an example for them, of faith, integrity, and purity in our lives.

We were thankful to have Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) visit with us and share God's Word with our congregation this month.

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#### **TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz**

We praise the Lord for providing for our spiritual needs so graciously through the ministry of our visiting brothers, and we want to thank them again for their willingness to serve us: Bros. Arnold Gerst (Sis. Marge, Taylor, MO), Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL), Mike Baumann (Sis. Florina, Mansfield, OH) and Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL). We have also been richly blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends from Athens, AL; Morton and Peoria, IL; Francesville, IN; Bern, KS; Bay City, MI; Taylor, MO; Latty and Mansfield, OH; and Philadelphia, PA.

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: Goodfield, IL (11/17); Latty, OH (12/1); Gridley, IL (12/8); Sardis, OH (12/15). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for the weekends of 11/24, 12/22, and 12/29. We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service.

If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946.

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#### **TEXAS, SAN MARCOS Carrie Beyer**

While feasting on turkey and stuffing during the holiday season, it's difficult not to think about being thankful. But the bounty of food can easily be the only blessing for which we remember to thank God in our dutiful Thanksgiving prayers. In I Timothy 1:12, though, Paul writes, "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry". As Christians, we must also remember to praise our Savior for enabling us to serve Him, be it through finances, music, or oratory!

Over the past month, the San Marcos church enjoyed the sermons of Bros. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), Kenneth Hoerr (Sis. Darlene, Peoria, IL), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), and David Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron, OH). We were also pleased to receive visitors from the Phoenix and Sabetha congregations.

During December, Silverton (12-1), Cissna Park (12-8), and Bluffton North (12-15) are scheduled to minister in San Marcos. (No services will be held the last two weekends in December.) We extend a hearty wel-

come to anyone else 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.

### TEXAS, ZAPATA Joyce Nohl

"O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works."

*Psalms 105:1-2*

We are blessed indeed to have a government that has set a day aside so we as a nation can give our praise and thanks with family and friends to our Almighty God for all the blessings He has bestowed on us this past year. Each day should be a day filled with gladness of heart and praise to Him, but Thanksgiving is a special day as families and friends leave their daily tasks

and devote the day for family worship and fellowship.

We are delighted for first time parents Andy and Kristi Plattner on the birth of our their son, Jacob Lee. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary Plattner and Gayle and Myrna Brogdon of Los Fresnos, TX. Our congregation extends a warm welcome to baby Jacob.

We welcome the winter residents as they arrive to their winter homes for the season. It's such a delight to greet one another after a season of miles apart. It is so wonderful to be a part of God's family where love abounds. The world knows not of this love, and may we never take this for granted.

Any winter visitors planning to visit the valley for Sunday worship may want to contact Bro. Leland Plattner (956) 765-5612 or Bro. Lloyd Nohl (956) 581-8266 for location and schedule.



*Sermon continued from page 2*

est men, men that he would not have had work for him because they were not honest, because they were not faithful, those men despised him and spit on him and treated him ill (Job 30). They had respect of persons. So Job noted these things. He noted that this was the way men were. He knew that this was not right. His own friends said, "Well, surely you must have sinned. You are poor now. You were rich. In the judgment of men you must have sinned." God tells us that this is not true. He is sovereign.

The church of God in the time of James fell into the same error. And we ourselves are tempted by those things. So the scriptures are given to us that we might look into our own hearts. We might look into our own actions and examine our thoughts. Are our thoughts evil? Men often don't examine the reasons that they act. The true thoughts of their hearts, they don't examine them. It is best if we examine our thoughts.

In this issue, he examines the thoughts of the hearts for these men, to show them how they have come short of God's love. He says, why is it that you treat the wealthy better than the poor? Have you not judged that the poor are not right? Have ye not judged the poor have sinned? Have ye not judged that God's grace is not upon them? Otherwise, why would you in the Spirit treat them so? Christ says "...whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him; ...That which

cometh out of the man, that defileth the man." (Mark 7:18,20).

In the last part of this chapter the Apostle James is telling us to examine our deeds. Examine the efforts that we make. Are they consistent with the faith and the confidence we have in Christ working within us? The efforts that we make, are they made submitting ourselves to Christ? Or are they made for our good upon the earth?

Now the Apostle Paul tells us that even as we labor upon the earth, that can be done in submission to God's will. If we do it that way there will be a blessing. If God would lead us otherwise but we would continue to perhaps even do the same thing, the same work, it would not be a blessing from God. So when we examine our lives, our lives should not flow from happenstance. They should flow from direction by God. We should examine the desires of our heart. We should examine the work of God in our heart.

God does not have the same work for me as He has for you. But God will teach you the place that He has. If we want to fulfill the faith that He gives us, if we want to fulfill the promise that God has given to our hearts to have the blessings so that when we lie down on our bed at night we can feel the comfort and the blessings of God, we have to propose in our heart to follow that which God has shown us. That may be different for each of us at different times. But that's what

he is talking about, about works.

"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?" (James 2:14). That seems obvious to us but how do we apply that to our own lives? The Apostle James says, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (James 4:17). This is part of this faith, letting faith work in us and letting the faith that we have honor God through works.

Works is not a bad thing. The problem with works is the temptation that Satan can bring with them. It was the problem with the law. It is part of our being in the flesh, that we want to be in control. One of the hardest things for us as men is to submit ourselves to God. To allow God to control us. Sometimes when we are led of God, we resist it. I do not know if you have known yourself to resist it, but I have known myself to resist it. One of the ways that I find out that I am resisting God's will is I have a little hard time praying.

But one of the reasons that the law did not work, not only was it only for judgment, and it says here, "...and mercy rejoiceth against judgment." (James 2:13). The way of Jesus Christ was salvation and mercy is better than the way of the law and judgment. The law only could condemn, it couldn't upbuild. But part of the problem with the law and what the church such as the Galatians fell into is that we can

*Sermon continued on next page...*

*Sermon continued from page 45*

by our works secure our salvation. So that is a trap. Therefore we are taught that faith in Jesus' blood saves us.

But what is Christ saying we will do if we have faith? We will keep His commandments. It is a result of the heart that has changed. Therefore it is in the praise of God because of our own selves we cannot please God. Men without a converted heart don't even understand what God wants. Even if we were able to copy the ways of God, it would not be of any blessing for us. God tells us that plainly in Ezekiel when it says that when a man turns from me, then all the good works that he has done, I will reject. "...if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered..." (Ezekiel 33:13). We cannot please God, He is not happy with us unless first we honor Him with our heart and our faith. Then the works that we do are acceptable to Him.

He says by the same token, that when a man turns to me, when he submits himself to me, when he believes in Jesus Christ, I will forget all his sins. "...as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness;..." (Ezekiel 33:12). He was pleading with Israel. He says, my ways are not double but your ways are double.

Even if we did not agree with this judgment, we must submit ourselves to God.

But He is faithful. He is faithful to forgive us our sins and then we are able to please Him. Not just because of the works that we do, but most importantly because we do the works with the right attitude for His praise. If we do works, give to the poor or whatever we do, we help, we give that glass of water to the thirsty where there is a blessing, but we do it that we might be honored of men, it will not honor God. If a man asks us why we are doing this and we look in our heart, we say it is to honor God. We do this because of the love God has given to our hearts. And He is honored.

If we do it that we might be, we probably would not be so crass as to say that you will appreciate me or you will honor me, but if we do it for that reason, we do not honor God. And if we do it for that reason, men sometimes perceive that even if they don't recognize it. They sometimes perceive that and God is not honored. But our faith can be demonstrated by the works that we do.

One of the greatest witnesses that we can give which is one of the hardest things to do, is to not respond to evil in kind. Meaning that if someone does evil to us, if someone, as Christ would say, takes our cloke, give him our coat also. "And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away

thy coat, let him have thy cloke also." (Matt. 5:40). We call it going the second mile. Christ in His 'Sermon on the Mount' also tells us "and whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain." (Matt. 5:41). We cannot, as a converted person if our heart is right, stop from doing works. Because the Spirit of God that is in us will cause us to do that. That is not bad. That is the work of God. That is God's will that we work upon the earth.

"For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills." (Psalm 50:10) He does not need us to do that. He can heal people better than we can. He has wealth. He can give wealth. He can build things. He can do whatever He wants to. But it is His will that we honor Him, that we praise Him by the works that come through our faith. The blessing is not only for His name. But the blessing is for our heart upon the earth and we will judge rightly that our labor in Him is not in vain. The fulfillment of our faith is that we will have laid up treasures in Heaven. Let us pray that God not only gives us this heart to serve Him but then that He allows us to have the blessings in this life that we can feel His comfort and that it will then encourage us to be more faithful as our life continues.



## 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
AWA-FRW	Oct. 17-25, '02	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4	100%
AWA-T	Oct. 17-25, '02	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5	50%
AWA-B	Oct. 17-25, '02	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2	100%
MEBSH	Dec. 5-13, '02	Les Cayes	Ted Habegger	Grade School	9	80%
MEBSH	Jan. 2-10, '03	Les Cayes	Craig Emch	Grade School	9	100%
AWA-FRW	Jan. 9-17, '03	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4	100%
AWA-T	Jan. 9-17, '03	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5	50%
AWA-B	Jan. 9-17, '03	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2	100%
MEBSH	Jan. 30 - Feb. 7, '03	Les Cayes	Dean Pashak	Grade School	9	50%
Palm Grove	Jan. 31-Feb. 8, '03	Puit Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11	70%
SEED	Feb. 6-14, '03	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	9	0%
MEBSH	Feb. 13-21, '03	Les Cayes	Rich Bertschi	Grade School	9	100%
SEED	Mar. 13-21, '03	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	9	0%
Palm Grove	Mar. 28-Apr. 5, '03	Puit Sales	Mike Reinhard	Grade School	11	0%
AWA-FRW	May 8-16, '03	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4	100%
AWA-T	May 8-16, '03	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5	50%
AWA-B	May 8-16, '03	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2	100%
MEBSH	May 5-23, '03	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	9	0%
JAMAICA						
CCCD	Jan 2-11, '03	Montego Bay	Greg Herman	Deaf School	50/60	95%
CCCD	Mar 7-15, '03	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40	50%
CCCD	Mar 14-22, '03	Deaf Village	Kevin Sauder	Work Place	40	50%
CCCD	May 23-31, '03	Deaf Village	Ted Hirstein / Kevin Sauder	Work Place	40	100%
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>
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	
Greg Herman	309-243-5610		<a href="mailto:gbherman@juno.com">gbherman@juno.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		
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Rick Wuethrich	219-567-9488	219-567-2542	<a href="mailto:topnotch@home.ffni.com">topnotch@home.ffni.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).

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## 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](mailto: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 <a href="mailto:cherylh@mtco.com">cherylh@mtco.com</a>	309-385-1082
Juarez	Nov. 9-16, '02	Construction	Bruce Aschliman <a href="mailto:aschliman@onlyinternet.net">aschliman@onlyinternet.net</a>	260-824-5160
Juarez	Jan. 11-16, '03	Construction	Steve Gerber <a href="mailto:steveslandscape@adamswells.com">steveslandscape@adamswells.com</a>	260-824-9561
Juarez	Mar. 8 - 15, '03	Construction	Kurt Ifer <a href="mailto:kurt@stevesconstruction.com">kurt@stevesconstruction.com</a>	260-824-2829
Imuris	Mar. 8 - 15, '03	Construction	Jerry Tooley <a href="mailto:jtooley@mcdavisco.com">jtooley@mcdavisco.com</a>	480-460-4531
Agua Prieta	Mar. 8 - 15, '03	Construction	Wayne Lehman <a href="mailto:socks@bnin.net">socks@bnin.net</a>	574-773-4373
Juarez	Mar. 15 - 22, '03	Construction	Rick Yergler <a href="mailto:ryergler@yahoo.com">ryergler@yahoo.com</a>	260-824-4513
Agua Prieta	Mar. 15 - 22, '03	Construction	Wayne Lehman <a href="mailto:socks@bnin.net">socks@bnin.net</a>	574-773-4373
Rio Bravo	Mar. 15 - 22, '03	Construction	Ron Kellenberger <a href="mailto:kberger@mtco.com">kberger@mtco.com</a>	309-383-2325
Juarez	Mar. 20 - 27, '03	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann <a href="mailto:cherylh@mtco.com">cherylh@mtco.com</a>	309-385-1082
Imuris	Mar. 22 - 29, '03	Construction	Jerry Tooley <a href="mailto:jtooley@mcdavisco.com">jtooley@mcdavisco.com</a>	480-460-4531
Rio Bravo	Mar. 22 - 29, '03	Construction	Pete Aberle	309-925-5969
Rio Bravo	Jun. 14 - 21, '03	Construction	Chad Kaeb <a href="mailto:gal220@hughestech.net">gal220@hughestech.net</a>	815-962-0612
Rio Bravo	Jun. 28 - July 5, '03	Construction	Joe Maller <a href="mailto:jmaller@adamswells.com">jmaller@adamswells.com</a>	260-565-3211
Rio Bravo	July 5 - July 12, '03	Construction	Timothy Lehman <a href="mailto:timothy.lehman@ey.com">timothy.lehman@ey.com</a>	913-236-5721

*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)*



*This continues the two part series on the life of Bro. Benedict Weyeneth (1819-1887). He served as our first American Elder. Excerpts are taken from *Marching to Zion*.*

### **A Young Leader**

Bro. Benedict Weyeneth was a young man, 29 years old, when he was ordained in Europe to come to America. He applied himself devotedly to the glorious cause of Christ. God used him. The fields were white unto harvest and by God's grace, he was able to establish churches.

It is instructive to note that he did not comprise doctrine or lifestyle, but labored with resolution to draw souls to a true conversion and upright living.

### **Dillon to Roanoke**

He moved from the Dillon area and located permanently at Roanoke in 1857, acquiring land from the railroad. He had heard a railroad was being built from Pekin to Streator and thought this would be a good place to purchase a farm. He was also aware of a settlement of Swiss people in nearby Partridge Prairie.

He probably viewed this group as lively prospects for evangelization. These were people of Mennonite persuasion, and several later became a part of Weyeneth's group. This followed a pattern that have been established in New York, Ohio, Indiana and Iowa.

### **Ingatherings**

In 1869, 34 souls were taken into the Roanoke church. Then, for an extended period of time, no baptisms occurred, and Weyeneth became anxious and concerned to the extent he sold his farm and prepared to move to Kansas where he thought the spiritual soil might be more fertile. He thought the Roanoke area had become spiritually barren with respect to adding more souls into the church. Then, he suddenly changed his mind, bought another tract of land, and remained at Roanoke. It was a wise decision. Of the 159 souls he baptized in 1879, 94 were at the Roanoke church.

### **Persuasive Leader**

He was a man of great persuasion. One time he had to reprimand some young non-members who were out of order. The young boys decided to get even with him. The next time they were gathered at his place, they planned to treat him coldly and stay out in the barn. When Weyeneth learned this, he headed for the barn, and with his gracious and winning personality said, "Come on boys and have some lunch." At this, the boys simply melted and yielded to his request. He had an excellent manner with people. He is remembered as one who, when his children quarreled among themselves, always instructed them to "make up" before the sun went down.

Benedict Weyeneth was an extraordinarily gifted speaker and ef-

fective in God's work of persuading souls to embrace the faith. He, with God's grace, could point men to Christ. He was particularly successful in drawing people of Mennonite and Anabaptist background to his doctrinal precepts of salvation.

Weyeneth's zeal knew no bounds when it came to caring for his church and preaching the gospel of salvation. Not only did he seek to win lost souls for the Saviour, but he was diligent as an Elder in traveling to and fro in an attempt to care for them spiritually. He took the lead in attempting to keep the churches he established spiritually strong and pure. The early leaders (and those today) stressed the Biblical point that if a soul repented, and thence fell away, they were/are "worse off" than if they never repented.

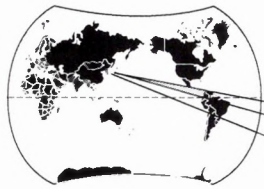
### **Untiring Efforts**

It is reported that one time he and Nicholas Baumgartner walked from Elgin, IA, to Illinois (probably the Morton/Peoria/Roanoke area) in the winter. When they arrived in Illinois, their leather boots were frozen to their feet and they had to open the seams to take them off. As one author wrote, "This they did in the service of the Lord."

*By: Perry A. Klopfenstein*

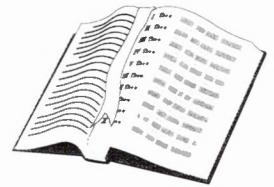
Next Issue:

**Misc. historical facts**



# The Light Of Hope

## From Across The Ocean



# 希望の光

### “Respect for the Elderly”

*Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan*

September 15 is Respect for the Elderly day in Japan. Several days prior to that date, a man and a woman appeared at our door and presented us with two envelopes, each containing 3,000 (\$24), one envelope for me and one for my wife. They explained that the gifts were from our town of Ichinomiya in regard to Respect for the Elderly day. They said that we had just reached the required age.

On September 15, Sunday, while we were eating our noon lunch in our church, two neighbor men appeared in our church entrance, one of whom I know very well. He came to our Sunday School when he was a little boy. They told me that they were bringing us gifts and I said that we had already received gifts. They said that they are bringing us gifts, 3,000 each for my wife and myself, from Shioda Ku, which is a group of houses within our town. I was quite amazed but received the gifts with appreciation. I later

learned that it is a national law in Japan that the elderly must be so respected and honored.

This got me to thinking about what the Bible teaches regarding respect for the elderly. We are all acquainted with Leviticus 19:32, “Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old men, and fear thy God: I am the Lord.” Respect and esteem are both words which are synonyms of the word, honour. We spell that word, honor, but in Britain they spell it honour. Either way, it is a stronger word than respect. Esteem, on the other hand, gives the impression of looking up to.

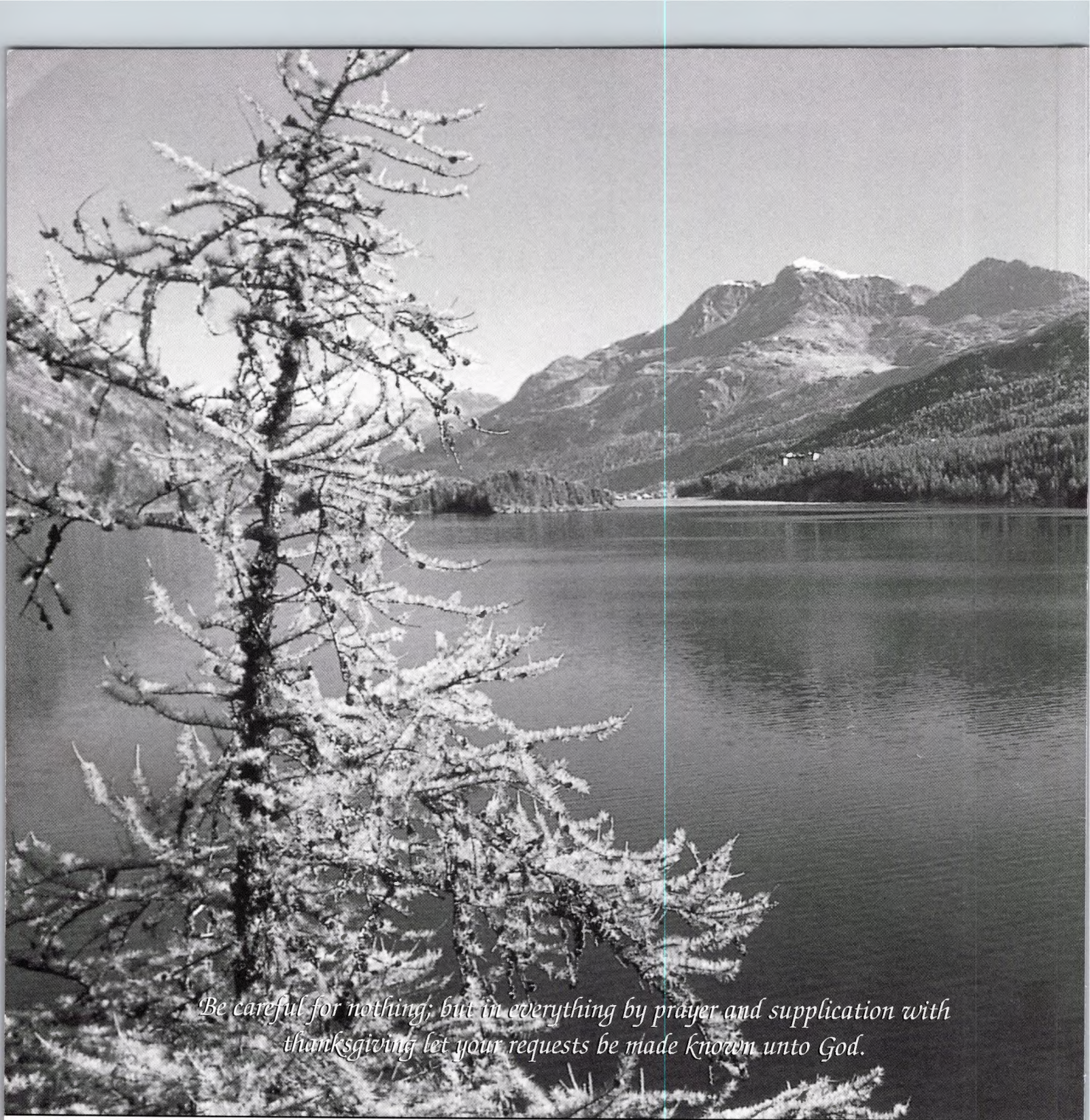
Getting back to Leviticus, this verse teaches us to stand up when we come into the presence of someone older than we are, man or woman, as the word “man” is often used to mean a human being. Where did we lose this kind of etiquette? And what does this have to do with fearing God? These two commandments are tied together

in this verse in Leviticus so there must be a connection. And then Jesus said, “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me.” (John 14:21). If we consider this verse in Leviticus to be one of Jesus’ commandments, it looks like we have some work to do.

Now why is respect for the elderly taught more in Japan than it is in America? I am reminded of the scripture, “The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.” (Luke 16:8). Let’s confess it, sometimes the children of this world outperform us.

Let’s look around and be thankful to God for the elderly, and show them great respect. They have much to teach us. We, too, will be old someday. Luke 6:31 reads, “And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.” Let’s be thankful and treat others as we would like to be treated.

# 希望の光



*Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

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