# The Tilver Lining

And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness...

June 2003

#### Sermon by Brother Wes Moser, Lester, IA I Corinthians 3

As Paul penned these words, it is interesting what he spoke here. The brethren that he was talking to there, he said he could not speak to as unto spiritual but unto carnal. Now we have to wonder as we come together here tonight, if the Apostle was addressing those of us gathered here, would he be able to speak to us as spiritual? Or would he have to speak to us as carnal? Maybe we need to just think a little bit about the big difference there, between the two.

We think of carnal as being our former nature. We think of spiritual as being a new nature. That new nature is a Christ-like nature. So really, we are talking about a comparison there between mankind in the flesh and in such ways as being spiritual. That is really what needs to happen to us, doesn't it?

In order to possess a hope of heaven. we have to be Christ-like. We have to have a new mind. We have to have a new nature, don't we? Yet, in each of our lives, that transformation probably occurred a little bit differently. The possibility is if we are not careful, that old nature can still raise its ugly head

I would say, evidently, the Apostle he talked to these people here, it was a letter written to a church - addressed them as brethren. But he did seemingly reprimand them just a little bit here because they were conducting themselves in a carnal fashion rather than in a Christ-like way. So he was going to go back to the real basics. The real simple truths. He was going to address them as babes in Christ. He wasn't going to talk to them in ways difficult to understand. But it was going to be very simply that he was going to address them.

He went on and said, "I have fed you with milk, and not with meat ... " I Corinthians 3:2. So we believe that he had been nurturing these people. He had been patient with them. He did treat them as lambs in Christ. He started with milk.

It says, "...ye were not able to bear

it, neither yet now are ye able." I Corinthians 3:2. So they really had not come to the point they needed to come to, had they? It is just a good question for you and I tonight. We ask ourselves, are we at the point to where we are Christ-like enough to be considered spiritual? Or are we still battling too much with that carnal and former nature that we had?

Then he went on to point out a little bit. He said, "For ye are yet carnal..." and why was that? It said because, "...there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions..." I Corinthians 3:3. We have to ask ourselves, within our life and within our conduct, do we envy one another yet? Do we envy others around about us in this world?

We mentioned in the prayer there a little bit about our salvation. It is really more precious than anything in this world, isn't it? If we really have that hope of heaven, there is really nothing that we should desire and that can compare in this world in which we live. So really, that means there would be no reason, would there, for us to be envious and to be desirous of what the world had to offer and could provide.

It talked here about strife. We think of that probably as differences between us and how we conduct ourselves. I think we can have differences in a very peaceable, God-like, Christ-like way. If we are willing to listen one to another, if we are willing to conduct ourselves as Christ would.

We know that Christ would never have compromised with the world in any way. But yet we think about the sinful people He came in contact with. Those who were living sinful lives. He was really very compassionate unto them, was He not? Those people who knew they were sinners, recognized the fact, Jesus loved them and was kind to them.

Now, there was another group of people also that Jesus came in contact with. Really, we can very simply describe them as being self-righteous. They really weren't receptive to Christ and His teachings. They did not like to

hear Him. They were out to get rid of Him. Which eventually, they thought they did. They did not have that receptive heart.

So it seems important today that we have to recognize our weaknesses, our failings. Recognize where we came from: that we were sinners and that only by the grace of God did we find salvation. Only by the grace of God can we continue in His ways. So we have to

Sermon continued on page 44

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

#### July

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

Suggested Donation: \$11/subscription

Next correspondence due:

For July Issue (16 May News - 15 June News)

Due: 20 June 2003

The Silver Lining (Vol. 58, #6) 1389 County Road 1600 N Roanoke, IL 61561 **USPS 496780** 

Published Monthly By The Apostolic Christian Church of America Counselors:

Ervin Knecht, Ron Schambach

#### SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

cleman@lonewillow.com (e-mail preferred) The Silver Lining 1389 County Road 1600 N Roanoke, IL, 61561 309-923-7513 (phone) 309-923-7359 (fax)

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

> The Silver Lining 1389 County Road 1600 N Roanoke, IL 61561

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

### **Light From The Word**

Divine Protector



Writings based on God's Word

June 2003

As the world grows more evil and as the inventions of man seem to make it easier for Satan to prevail, it sometimes brings fear to those who love and serve God. As we observe the advances of technology, the scriptural warning "...that no man might buy or sell.

warning "...that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (Rev. 13:17) becomes more realistic with each passing day.

How does a child of God deal with these issues? Is it no longer possible for Christians to escape the wrath and deceit of Satan?

From the beginning of time God's people have been faced with these concerns and with the need to discern between the truth of God's Word and the deceitfulness of Satan. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve faced a similar problem. King Saul, as he watched the approach of the Philistines, faced the same problem. Peter, at the time of Christ's trial, also struggled with Satan's power of deceit.

The Word of God, His promises to His people to provide comfort and strength in times of trouble, and the power of prayer have not changed. God is still in control, His promises are true, and He does provide for His people. Although there is no promise that we will not face adversity, we are promised "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (II Cor. 12:9). God will not allow more to come upon us than what He will give strength to overcome.

The scripture has many examples of situations in which one or more of God's people felt completely overwhelmed by their circumstances. God provided them a way of escape, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him" (II Chr. 16:9).

When Cain was placed under a curse after he killed Abel, he said that his burden was too great to bear. Even under these circumstances, when someone is willing to seek God's help, there is a promise. God set a mark upon Cain to protect him from his enemies.

When the children of Israel were leaving Egypt, the Egyptians pursued them. They

were terrified when they saw the Egyptian horses and chariots. They cried unto the Lord and complained unto Moses because of their distress. "And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you today.... The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace" (Gen. 14:13-14). God delivered them out of the hands of the Egyptians and protected them as they safely crossed the Red Sea.

Many times throughout the history of the children of Israel, they forsook God and found themselves in deep distress. Psalm 107 reminds us a number of times about their difficulties and the problems it caused them. We are also reminded that "...when they cried unto the Lord in their trouble ...he delivered them out of their distresses" (verses 7,13,19,28). The Divine Protector saved them from their distress when they turned away from their sin and served the one true God. How much better would it have been for them if they would have remained faithful to God! "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" (Ps. 107:8).

When the King of Israel was angry at Elisha, he sent horses, chariots and a host of men to take Elisha. Elisha's servant was afraid when he saw the forces that were against them. Elisha encouraged him to not be afraid. He also prayed that God would open the eyes of the servant. "...and he saw: and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha" (II Ki. 6:17). Elisha prayed that his enemies would be smitten with blindness. He then led them to Samaria where their eyes were opened. He then gave them bread and water and sent them to their master. God prevented the bands of Syrians from returning to Israel.

Many other Old Testament examples of Divine Protection could be cited. Gideon, with a band of three hundred men, defeated the Midianites. David, when pursued by Saul's army, was given special Divine Protection. Daniel was protected in the lion's den. His three friends were protected from the fire. The list could go on for some time.

The New Testament also contains many examples of God's Divine Protection for His

people. Although many of the early followers of Jesus eventually died a martyr's death after their work was completed, in many situations they were delivered out of distress. As Paul neared the end of his ministry, he encouraged the Corinthians to hold fast to their faith. He recounted for them the suffering he endured for the gospel of Jesus Christ. (II Cor. 11:23-28).

Do these promises of the Divine Protector still hold for us today? Jesus promised us, "...That in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (Jn. 16:33).

Throughout the New Testament, there is promise of victory to the overcomer. The Apostle Paul wrote "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Ro. 8:35,37).

We also have reassurance in other scriptures that there is protection for God's people. "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (I Jn. 5:4). To each of the seven churches that John referred to in Revelation, there is a promise to overcomers. He closes His message to the churches with a very special promise. "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I overcame, and am sit down with my Father in His throne" (Rev. 3:21).

There are many promises that we have in the Word of God that give us courage to face the future. We know that there are many who have given their lives for the gospel of Jesus Christ. There are also many who have carried very heavy burdens, almost beyond endurance. We are not promised an easy way but we are promised that the Divine Protector will not leave us without hope. "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Ro. 8:38-39).

An editorial committee of elder brothers is preparing articles for this section of the Silver Lining to address some of the special needs of our times. Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to: Silver Lining Editorials, 1389 County Road 1600 N, Roanoke, IL. 61561.



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

### **Projects in Mexico Provide Opportunity**

The past several Mexico articles written for the Silver Lining written for the Silver Lining have been focused on individual projects, such as medical or special construction. This article will give a brief overview of World Relief activities in Mexico. World Relief involvement in Mexico began in the mid 1980's with work in Mexico City after an earthquake. A border meeting with Chito Aguilar began the involvement with the AMMAR group in Juarez. World Relief helps with physical needs, coupled with Christ's love, and the plan of salvation.

### Juarez

Just across the border from the west Texas town of El Paso is the large city of Juarez. Many people flock to these border areas in hope of a better life. They are often met with disappointments, and find themselves in great need.

World Relief funds furnish hot lunches for children on a regular basis. These meals are accompanied by a Bible story, prayer, and singing. World Relief also sends groups to build small homes and repair existing homes. The Child Sponsorship Board has students available to sponsor in the Granjas school.

Medical-Dental teams are taken twice a year to Juarez and Copper Canyon. These teams have been in existence since 1986. They provide medical-dental care to the Mexicans who live in the areas around the outskirts of the city. Each day the team goes to different areas to set up work sites and clinics outside. The average day includes treating 600-900 people.

After arriving in El Paso, Texas and crossing the border into Juarez, most groups will stay in a motel in Mexico. They will spend Sunday with their group and have services with the ministering brother of the group. Meals are usually as follows: Breakfast in the motel, lunch provided by AMMAR people, and the evening meal at a restaurant of vour choice.

### **Imuris**

About 35 miles south of Nogales, AZ, World Relief is helping with the Casa de Elizabeth orphanage at Imuris. Several projects have been completed, including a fence, a laundry and bathroom improvement, a dwelling for the house parents, housing for volunteers, fire and EMT training, and some rooms for abused or single mothers.

This project is a comfortable drive to Tucson and Phoenix. Most out of state groups will fly or drive to Tucson or Phoenix, spend Sunday there, and travel to Imuris Sunday evening. Most will return to Tucson late Friday evening in order to be home Sunday.

### Agua Prieta

About a 2 hour drive from Tucson and just across the border from Douglas, AZ, is Agua Prieta. There we work with Concern International, who directs the work. In the past this has consisted of helping build a school, building some small homes, and working in an orphanage.

While working at Agua Prieta, most groups stay in a motel in Douglas. Breakfast is at a local restaurant, lunch is prepared by someone in the group, and the evening meal is usually eaten at a local restaurant. Most travelers use the same format as is used for Imirus.

#### Rio Bravo

Across the border from McAllen. TX. Rio Bravo is the home of one of the ICCD schools for the deaf. It is a campus of 27 acres and is in the

process of being built.

Most fly or drive to McAllen or Harlingen and meet prior to entering Mexico. A group to Rio Bravo will stay on campus. They furnish all meals. The quarters are dormitory, with the men and women having separate buildings. ICCD people lead the work, and make our leader's job relatively painless. For work teams to Rio Bravo, each team member brings \$250.00 for food and lodging. The deaf children make the week especially enjoyable. The Zapata church is about 2 hours away.

### Blessings are many

In addition to World Relief work there is a large effort at our church in Ixtlan, Mexico. The work in Ixtlan, which has grown measurably and been abundantly blessed, comes primarily under the auspices of the Mission Committee

As with all World Relief projects, the Mexico opportunities are made possible by the prayers, support, and gifts from our beloved brotherhood. Seeing the enthusiasm of a work team member whose heart was softened by being involved brings joy to our hearts. A frequent response of the returning traveler is: "I am more thankful for what I have, and realize that material possessions are not as important as I thought." If one comes home closer to Christ than before leaving, it has been a week well spent. (Matthew 25:35-36)

If you have questions about opportunities in Mexico, please contact Bro. Mike Fiechter.

Phone: (260) 597-7330

Email: mfiechter@parlorcity.com



... The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. MATTHEW 9:37-38

### The Word of Life

Offering Bibles to a lost world is an opportunity to show the love of God and the power of His Spirit. We live in a nation of much material wealth, but with great spiritual poverty. The pleasures of this world have not brought lasting satisfaction and the heart of man is in desperate need of meaning and hope, only to be found through God's Word. Also, there are millions of foreigners living in the U.S. who have never owned a Bible in their life. The fields are ripe for harvest and laborers are needed.

Distribution of Bibles is a special opportunity to help meet these needs while learning from the experience. First we must live worthy lives of faith in Jesus Christ before we seek to share our faith with others. The purpose of this article is to remind us of the many benefits of Bible distribution to those who share and to those who receive.

#### **Bibles distributed**

Last year the Mission Committee distributed about fifty-five thousand Bibles. Some of these Bibles were sent to prisons, hospitals and nursing homes. We also sent Bibles to Haiti and Mexico. Many of the Bibles were distributed on college campuses, placed at truck stops, in restaurants, gas stations, businesses or anywhere our brethren felt led to go. Anyone who gives a Bible is a part of this great work. Of course, smiles and prayers are also an important part.

### **Developing relationships**

We should be willing to take the time to talk with people who lack a Christian upbringing. Just handing someone a Bible may still leave them far behind. If we take the opportunity to discuss the Word with someone who does not understand, it will bless them, and it can help us appreciate the Word more ourselves.

One of the very encouraging examples of Bible distribution activity is the prison ministry effort in the Peoria area. Large numbers of Bibles have been given to inmates in area prisons over the years. Along with each Bible, the inmates receive a Bible Study lesson which includes questions to be completed as they become familiar with various portions of Scripture.

The completed lessons are sent to brethren who grade them and provide feedback. Area young groups, other members, as well as some residents of the local church nursing home participate in grading the lessons. The graded paper is returned to each participating inmate along with another lesson for him or her to complete. Numerous letters of appreciation have been received from these individuals who describe the great benefit it has brought to their lives to be exposed to the Word of God.

Many other examples could be cited where by local congregations, through a special committee, or as a young group activity, Bibles have been given to individuals who have been richly blessed.

#### Service to others

Our brethren are greatly blessed, having learned the truths of the Word. We should be concerned about the terrible consequences of the absence of Biblical influence in the lives of others. But the Spirit of God is still moving. Our prayers and our actions are all important. God needs hands and hearts that are available to Him. When we become involved in

humble service for others, we find a greater motivation to diligence in our own devotions, Bible reading and obedience. The Apostle Paul acknowledged his own need for self-discipline in order to be effective in helping others (1 Cor. 9:27).

It is important that the Word is also available to our own families. At Bluffton and Eureka, we have study Bibles, concordances, and Bible dictionaries. Bible story-books, Bible tapes, large print Bibles, little white Bibles and large family Bibles are also available. When we consider a gift for someone, we have the special privilege of sharing the Word of God. We can hide its truths in our hearts.

When the topic of Bible distribution is brought up we usually think first about the people we wish to help. While this is true, we will also reap a blessing for ourselves. Carrying a Bible for distribution while going to work or the store may bring positive changes into our own lives, as well as the lives of others.

### Local organization

The addresses for Apostolic Christian Publications in Eureka and Bluffton Bible Distribution are published in the Silver Lining. Anyone is welcome to contact these offices directly to learn more about Bible Distribution. It is helpful if each church has a local contact person to coordinate the efforts. This person can keep everyone informed as to what is available and consolidate orders to reduce shipping costs.

Will each Bible be a treasure to its recipient? We hope so. Thanks for your prayers and participation in this important work. May it always be done to the glory and honor of our great God.

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee." (Psalm 91:7). We feel we have experienced God's protection and provision for us as our community witnessed a demonstration of His power. The night of May 10, there was a tornado that came through South Pekin and parts of Morton. It destroyed some apartments and homes on a path just south and east of Timber Ridge and Oakwood Estate. Seeing this demolition in places less than a mile from our group homes and main facility, we can be so thankful that our Heavenly Father saw fit to spare us: our residents, our staff and the buildings and property.

One of our Timber Ridge residents reached a milestone in May. Christopher "Chip" Rogers celebrated his high school graduation with an open house. His family, friends, residents and staff were invited to come and extend their congratulations. Chip now plans to attend PARC workshop.

Twenty-five Timber Ridge residents enjoyed competing in Special Olympics recently. Gold medals were presented to sixteen of those participants, who will now have the opportunity to compete at a state level. The Activity Department will be making sure each one is there and ready for his or her event on June 14-15 at Illinois State University in Bloomington.

Central Illinois Riding Therapy recently had a horse show that two Timber Ridge residents and one CILA resident were a part of. They enjoyed showing the trophies they received to other residents, staff and visitors. Many residents from Oakwood and Linden Estates as well as several Timber Ridge residents look forward to riding horses this summer.

Residents from the group homes and CILA's are looking forward to day trips that are being planned for the summer. This includes a shopping trip to Bloomington, IL, and a ride on the "Spirit of Peoria" boat which will take them to Starved Rock State Park.

Invitations have been sent out for our bi-annual Volunteer Dinner. scheduled for June 19. We welcome anyone who has donated their time at any of our Home's facilities in 2001 or 2002. With an agency our size, we know it's quite possible to overlook sending an invitation to any of our volunteers. If you or someone you know volunteered in 2001 or 2002 and have not received an invitation, please call us at (309) 266-9781. An invitation will be sent to you with more details. Our volunteers are an important part of the work at Apostolic Christian Services. We want to take this opportunity to thank as many of you as we can.

JULY birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Randy Siebenthal (7/3), Walter McKeever (7/16), Dan Zimmerman (7/18), Clark Lewis (7/24), Kristie Ramp (7/31). At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Todd Schneider (7/29). At Linden Estate, 100 Linden St., Morton, IL 61550: Billie Tatum (7/1), Cindy Virkler (7/6), Mike Oates (7/18), Michelle Maloney (7/19). At 1001 E. Idlewood, Morton, IL 61550: Ed Getz (7/31). At 208 S. Indiana, Morton, IL 61550: Chris Knapp (7/17).

### GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Bro. Jeff Schumacher

"I can't wait to see the fruit." That was a simple line from my son that started a lot of thoughts for me. We were planting young fruit trees and he was quickly counting how many pears he was going to be eating this summer. He looked a little disheartened when I told him that there would be no fruit this summer, and maybe not even next summer. "Why are we planting this tree if it isn't going to give us fruit." I knew he meant "why are we planting this tree if it isn't going to give us fruit, right now." So while I was spending time talking to him about the need for trees to take root before they could give fruit, I was able to talk to him about some of the parallels from God's Word that applies to our lives as Christians.

I reminded him that God asks us as Christians to plant seeds. We may not see the fruit from our labor, but we look to our Father for His reward for the work. It is exciting to see how the Lord adds His increase to our work here at Gateway Woods. Sometimes we never hear from or see a child after they leave. But we are confident that the Lord, in His time, will bless the seed that was planted as they heard the Word and the light of Jesus' love was reflected through the lives of the staff into that child's life.

Gateway Woods would like to welcome Darrell B. and Michelle C. to our campus. We trust and pray that God will use this ministry to touch their lives. We would also like to welcome Jennifer H. to our Foster Care program. We thank God

that He continues to place troubled and hurting children in Christian homes through Gateway Woods.

Throughout this past year, Gateway Woods has been exploring becoming an adoption service provider. At the May meeting, the Board of Directors approved a proposal to offer adoptive home studies and pre- and post-adoption supervision to Christian families. More information will be made available as we proceed further. If you have any questions, please call Sis. Jan Baumgartner at 888-443-4283 ex. 108.

Please remember that Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home is a Christian social services organization with 5 distinct but related programs. Each day, God is touching hundreds of lives through this ministry. Whether it's the over 50 children being directly helped by our Residential Program, Foster Care Program, and Home Based Program or the hundreds of families being helped through the IL Family Services Program, we seek to honor God in all we do. We are thankful for your prayerful and financial support.

The Annual Gateway Woods Benefit Auction is scheduled for August 16, 2003 (see additional Auction information in this month's Silver Lining). We look forward to seeing everyone there. May God bless you all!

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Melinda Matuch

Our summer session is in full swing. We are focusing our Bible lessons around the theme of character building this year. Our busy bees will learn about bee-ing happy, bee-ing kind and helpful, bee-ing friends, etc. all summer long. We hope that they can "bee" still long enough to hear the story.

Summer is also swimming season and lots of playtime. The children enjoy being able to run and play with their friends.

We hope that you can "bee" helpful this year as well. Please contact the preschool if you would like to come and volunteer for a weekend, a whole week or a day or two. There are many things that you can do to help the teachers prepare for the coming year. Accommodations are available in the church.

The preschool still has an opening for a teacher for the coming year. If you think that you would like to spend a year with some terrific little ones and learn a bit about yourself in the process, please contact your local elder or you may contact Bro. Tom Schrenk, the preschool administrator, at (256) 232-0037.

On a personal note, it has been a great privilege for me to work here these past two years. I am going home with a heart full of memories and leave behind many friends. I am grateful to God that He has given me this opportunity and hope that another sister will come and receive the blessing as well.

### ALABAMA, ATHENS Louise Hall

Mom is such a special word The loveliest I've ever heard.

"Her children rise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

Proverbs 31:28-30

Happy Mother's Day greetings to moms everywhere! We ask special blessings and prayers for all the mothers who teach their children to love the Lord.

Many prayers of consolation have been offered for our Bro. Buddy Lynn who lost his father, George Lynn, on April 28.

We are thankful for our visitors this month from Sabetha, KS; Morris, MN; and Junction, OH.

Our Bro. Milton Ray is recovering from knee surgery. We pray that it will go well with him. Also, Sis. Naomi Hall is recovering from a heart procedure. May she be blessed with a speedy recovery.

Sis. Enid Miller has suffered a fall and broken her arm. We pray that she is mending well.

Memorial Day weekend was the annual song service at the Tennessee Fellowship Center. We were pleased to have greetings extended from 26 churches representing seven states. Featured speakers this year included Bros. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH), Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN), Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL) and Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL). Their messages encouraged and informed us on a variety of topics. We thank them for their faithful service. If you have not ever attended one of these weekends, we encourage you to plan to do so next year. All are welcome, younger and older, families and singles.

### ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"The Lord is my light and my sal-

vation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Psalm 27:1

After ten plus years, the Mountain View Villas congregate living has become a reality; and the dedication was on April 27. We joyfully sang "I know whom I have believed" before stopping in to see the Villas and the folks who had just moved in. Rejoicing and thankful are those who have moved into the Villas. The long wait to downsize seems "just right" for many of us at this time.

Visiting ministers in April were Bros. Ken Lawson (TX), Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO).

A reception for our graduates was held on May 5. The 8th grade graduates are Kelsey Cooke, Jesse Corven, Abby Freed, Jacob Hand and Tim Kokanovich. High School graduates are Aubrey Lindenbaum and Samuel Sutton. College graduates are Kory Langhofer, Matt Ringger and Mike Ringger.

We welcome John and Sis. Francis Martin back after her lengthy illness. We pray for Bro. Alan Knochel that he will have a swift recovery from his surgery.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Erica Baum became parents of Josiah Robert on May 10. His siblings are Whitney, Jessica and Elijah. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum and Steve and Jill Roth.

Our annual business meeting was on May 14. New officers will be: Treasurer – Bro. George Gramm; Interior Maintenance – Bro. Larry Labudde; Asst. Sunday School Superintendent – Bro. Scott Baum; Ushers – Bro. Brandon

Rinkenberger and Bro. Josh Weiss; Lunch fund treasurer – Bro. Dave Klopfenstein. It is such a privilege to serve our Lord. We pray that each of you will be able to joyfully fulfill the role you have been given.

### ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

Our small congregation had three graduates in the month of May. Laura Schambach (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gail) graduated from the nursing program at Yavapai College, Andrew Furrer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena) graduated from high school, and Matthew Schmidgal (Doug and Susan) graduated from 8th grade. We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they move on toward the next milepost in their lives.

Our visiting ministers this last month included Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL). We thank them for their service and love and pray the Lord will richly bless them and their families.

> ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) served us Holy Communion last Saturday night. It was truly a special evening. We wish to thank Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy and Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy for their many efforts on our behalf. We know God will add His blessing.

We said goodbye to Bro. Norm and Sis. Jan Rechkemmer (Roanoke, IL) who spend several months with us each winter and spring. We also said goodbye to our dear friend, Bee Schmidt, last Sunday as she heads farther north to escape the heat. We were sad to see them all go and look forward to a joyful reunion next winter, Lord willing.

We welcome Edward Schander to Arizona from the St. Louis church. He will be attending the University of Arizona here in Tucson. We are anxious to get to know Edward better and make him a part of our little family.

We have been informed that Sis. Martha Blessman has only a few days to live. She is receiving care from Hospice. We pray God will be with Sis. Martha's family as they prepare to say goodbye to their beloved mother and grandmother. We entrust them to His loving care.

I am thrilled to report that Bill and Catie (Kaufman) Dienst (Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline Kaufman) are both home on American soil again after serving our country in the war. Many prayers have been joyfully answered. God is so good.

Vacation Bible School has been set for June 17-20 with our theme being "Living for Jesus Every Day".

We officially hit 100 degrees for the first time in 2003. Summer is most definitely here! Our mornings and evenings are still enjoyable with cool temperatures.

### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Robin Moser

"Favour is deceitful and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

Proverbs 31:30

We can all reflect on how God has touched our lives with a woman's love. Whether it is a mother, grandmother, aunt, sister, or friend, we are blessed to have many good examples. On Mother's Day, each of the children in the congregation was called upon by name and reminded to be obedient to their mothers. Of course, we all should be reminded when it comes to Godly obedience.

Many from our Altadena congregation rejoiced on Easter morning with our annual song service in the mountains. It was a clear, sunny day and we could see lush hills reaching all the way to the ocean. Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody) gave an inspirational message on what the resurrection means to our lives. He encouraged us to reach out to those who live in our various neighborhoods - as we gazed on the city below, that seemed a bit overwhelming. Thankfully, God provides grace to touch lives, one heart at a time.

We were grateful Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA) and family were with us for Easter Sunday. Bro. Doug shared the Easter morning service.

We rejoice with Bro. Bob and Sis. Judy Crockett over the birth of their first grandchild, Noah Allen, born to Brian and June Crockett on March 19. Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene Ringger (Bluffton, IN) are also thankful for their new grandson.

One correction to a previous Silver Lining article: Bro. Bob (Sis. Judy) Crockett underwent surgery on his ear in May, not in March, and we pray for his rapid healing.

### CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Peggy Jevremov

Greetings to each one of you. We were blessed this past month with two visiting ministers. They were

Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL) and Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA). We appreciate their willingness to be used on our behalf.

Our prayers continue to be with Bro. Rory Strahm who has not been able to assemble with us for several weeks.

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

Exodus 20:12

As Father's Day approaches, may we make a special effort to show our appreciation to our earthly fathers for all they have done of us.

### KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

**Ingrid Fortenbacher** 

News of a new little addition to our church was received with much joy. Gabrielle Chloe was welcomed home by her big brother, Lucas, and thankful parents, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Miriam Reutter. Happy grandparents are Bro. Dwayne and Sis. Kay Reutter (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Wladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher.

"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), Bro. Dwayne Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT) and Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN). We are always so thankful for those who make the effort to travel to Canada to minister to us.

Congratulations to our graduate this year, Virginia Schlauch (Henry and Sis. Astrid). We wish her much grace as she makes decisions regarding her future.

Please keep Kitchener in mind when making your travel plans this summer. We are only 1 ½ hours from Niagara Falls and 1 hour from Toronto. There are also many things of interest locally such as the St. Jacob's farmers market, Africa Lion Safari, as well as the town of St. Jacobs.

When typing out the verse above, I was reminded that we will soon be setting aside a special day for our earthly fathers. It is such a blessing to the whole family when our earthly father can be an example and let his light of faith shine.

### COLORADO, DENVER Ann Gonglach

"...that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

I Timothy 3:15

How should we behave ourselves in the house of God? Certainly, we should be reverent and conduct ourselves in a way so as not to be a distraction to others. If our children are a distraction, we should take them out or train them to sit quietly. We should remember to turn our cell phones off before entering the sanctuary of the Lord. Let us all remember where we are and in Whose presence we sit while we are in church.

On April 26-27, our junior high Sunday School class traveled to Lamont-Gridley, KS, for a Sunday School conference. We would like to thank the Lamont-Gridley congregation for their hospitality and also Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) for speaking God's Word to these young people.

We also are thankful to Bro. George Gal and Sis. Marcel Huber for their service as Sunday School teachers. Their term is now up and they are being replaced by Bro. Rod Schmidt and Sis. Lanette Meyer. May the Lord bless these faithful ones as they take on the responsibility of teaching our next generation.

During the summer months, we are privileged to have many visitors. If your travel plans are bringing you to Colorado this summer, we would be blessed to have you come and fellowship with us. We appreciate when large groups call in advance so that we can accommodate them for lunch.

### CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE Amber Reutter Laura Virkler

Take and eat, my body I do offer, as unto the death for you I suffer... Zion's Harp #26

This month we had the blessed opportunity to partake in Holy Communion and also take three new souls into the fold. We welcome Bro. Scott and Bro. Eric Virkler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy) and Philip Wagenbach (Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary) into the congregation as brothers in faith. With us for these joyous occasions were Elder Bros. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) and Duane Farney (Croghan-

Naumburg, NY). We wish these new brothers much grace as they begin their walk as brethren in faith.

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

Genesis 2:18

On Sunday, April 20, Bro. Ben Lanz (Bro. Sherman and Sis. Joanne) and Sis. Carla Virkler (Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy) were united in Holy Matrimony. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their new life together in the Lord.

Mia Anne is welcomed joyfully by parents, John and Janelle Sawka. Grandparents are Bro. Chet and Sis. Pam Luginbuhl and Michael and Barbra Sawka. May God be with them as they raise their precious new daughter.

We do extend our sympathy and prayers to those who have lost loved ones recently. Sis. Anna Lanz leaves her children, Jacqueline Copeland, Linda Galligan (Jim) and Russell (Vicki). We also wish to extend our support to the extended family and friends.

Kristine Kozuch Alexander leaves her parents, Robert and Jean Kozuch, as well as sisters, Robin Luginbuhl (Bro. Mark) and Lynn Luginbuhl (Chad), and her brother, Scott (Melissa), as well as extended family, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Sis. Albertina Rumpf leaves a son, Donald Hoffman (Barbara); daughters, Elaine Hunt (Chester) and Marilyn Dwire (Richard); a stepchild, Walter Rumpf (Alice); and a son-in-law, Trevor Wilfert, as well as extended family. May God be with all that have suffered these losses.

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

"He is risen." Matthew 28:6

Oh how joyful on Easter Sunday to have a large gathering to rejoice that He truly is risen. I know for most of those reading this an assembly of a little more than 40 is very small, but for us it is about double our usual number. Many thanks to family and fellow believers who worshipped with us.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy, Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL). Other visitors this month were from Rittman, Lakewood & Westlake, OH; Bloomington, Fairbury and Morton, IL.

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 eve-

ning of fellowship and/or singing.

### FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE Renee Mangold

We were thankful to have visiting with us Bro. Marvin Steffen (Sis. Rhea, North Ft. Myers, FL). As our own ministers were traveling, it was nice to have the support from a neighboring church.

We want to congratulate our graduates, Heather Mangold, from Purdue University; Stephen Webb from Westminster High School; and Andy Hohulin from Coral Springs Christian High School. We pray that God will be with them and bless them as they go forward into the next chapter of their lives.

### FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS Mary Masters

We are so delighted to have so many visitors even throughout the spring months. It seems that we have been richly blessed with folks coming into our area. Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Roger Sauder (Sis. Judy, Fort Lauderdale, FL), Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN) and Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN).

Bro. Roger Sauder was with us on Mother's Day. We thank all of these brothers and their wives for their unselfish sacrifices on our behalf. When I think about the most important job that a mother has, I think of prayer on behalf of her children. In Hebrews it tells us to come boldly to the throne of grace and as mothers we tend to do that as we feel like mother hens at times gathering all the chicks under our wing of protection. But we know in real

life that we cannot always be there for them, so we entreat our Lord and Saviour to gather them unto Him.

We enjoyed a time of fellowship along with sadness and heavy hearts as we met together to go out to eat and bid our dear loved one. Louise Heckel, farewell. She has been an integral part of the Fort Myers church for 29 years, but will soon be moving to her home town of Mansfield, OH, at the end of May. Louise has been such a shining star to us and is always seen displaying happiness to everyone she meets. Her life proves that what we give, more than what we get, produces joy in life. We will miss her sorely and hope that she can come visit us often.

### FLORIDA, SARASOTA Carol Koehl

We were grateful to have our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) bring us God's Word this past month.

Let's continue to pray for healing for Sis. Mary Lou Joos, who broke both wrists; and for Bro. Lloyd Pflederer who had knee replacement surgery.

We wish to extend our sympathy and love to Bro. Leonard Hitz (Detroit, MI) in the loss of his helpmate, Sis. Audrey. Sarasota was Bro. Leonard and Sis. Audrey's winter home for many years.

### ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Doreen Moser Sheila McCov

"Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me."

And one of His lambs, Joshua Steffen, has answered the call by turning his back on the world and starting a new life in the Lord. How thankful we are that the Lord is still working miracles in the hearts of souls here in Belvidere and across the land. Oh, how we pray many more will answer the call before the door of grace is shut.

"See on the Portal He's watching and waiting, watching for you and for me."

As our Lord watches and waits for us, we are grateful that He has sent us loving servants to teach of His Heavenly Word. Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) spent a Sunday with us this month. Thank you, Bro. Ron, for your efforts and love.

"Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, Why should we linger and heed not His mercies?"

As our high school and college graduates finish one part of schooling and go on to another or go to jobs, may those that have not answered the call find the grace to do so. Graduating from high school are Joshua Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol), Diedra Mueller (Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene), and Sis. Sadie Nazarczuk (Michael and Kay). College graduates for this school year are Nichole Moser (Gary and Sis. Doreen).

"Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing; Passing from you and from me."

Time spent teaching the youth in Sunday School is time spent we will

never regret. Although sometimes we do not feel qualified to teach, the Lord does bless those who put forth the time and effort. Our new Sunday School teachers are Sisters Michelle Knobloch, Sandy Darlington and Bro. Mark Wettstein. Bro. Brian Anliker was elected for Trustee.

12

Oh, for the wonderful love He has promised, promised for you and for me;

Tho we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon, Pardon for you and for me."

Bros. Dwayne Dill, Tom Schifferer and Shannon Stahl led our Bible studies this month. As our monthly Bible studies continue, we certainly know that the Lord has promised us the gift of eternal life, if we will only Trust and Obey in all things.

Come home, Come home, ye who are weary, come home. Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, Calling O sinner, come home!

# ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Rebekah Kaufmann Ann Kellenberger

We were greatly blessed this past month by many visiting ministers! We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Bros. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Dave Marquart (Taylor, MO), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) and Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL).

Our church family has many reasons to rejoice! We are thankful that

two little babies have safely arrived into the world. Bro. Marc and Sis. Diann Grim welcomed Isaac Alan on April 21. The happy grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Earl and Jan Grim (Bloomington, IL).

Bro. Matt and Sis. Janelle Steidinger have also been blessed with a new baby. Jaelah Eden was born on April 23. She was also welcomed home by her big sister, Mariah. Her thankful grandparents are Art and Jana Lehmann (Strawn, IL) and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger (Fairbury, IL). May the Lord be with both families and give the parents wisdom and love as they care for their new little babies.

This past month has been very eventful. We were once again reminded of the great price of love paid on the cross as we celebrated Good Friday. We were reminded of the victory that Jesus won on the cross. "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it." (Colossians 2:13-15). Our hearts were filled with gratitude as we came together for Sunrise Services and thought back to that first Easter morning when the tomb was found empty.

On May 3, we again remembered what Christ did for us as we took Communion. Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) assisted Elder Bro. Everett Hari. It was a solemn and reflective evening as we remembered Jesus' Last Supper and that His body was broken and His blood was shed for our sins.

May 7 was our Family Night and we were grateful to have Bro. Clark Stoller come and share with us about the hope of Heaven, our Paradise! We were reminded that our faithfulness to God and His Word here on earth all seem small when we consider the great reward yet to come!

On May 18, our church family rejoiced as we witnessed the wedding vows of Sis. Sara Knobloch and Bro. Chris Hattan. Sis. Sara's parents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Jackie Knobloch (Goodfield, IL). Bro. Chris's parents are John Hattan (Minonk, IL) and Ann Hattan (Wenona, IL). We pray God's richest blessings on their new life together!

### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Steve Endress

We are thankful to report the engagement of our Sis. Donna Kieser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma) to Bro. Phil Nenadov from our Chicago, IL, congregation. His parents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn of Eureka, IL. Just as the messenger arranged the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah as recorded in Genesis 24, we can be so thankful that God's Spirit arranges our futures if we submit to Him. Knowing that it is impossible for God to make mistakes, we have great confidence that He will guide these souls aright.

Sis. Janelle Endress (Bro. Gary and Sis. Ev) is our only high school graduate this year. We are thankful that she sought the Lord early in life and was able to avoid the many pitfalls that confront our youth today.

We trust that she will continue to be a blessing to those whom she meets as the Lord leads her into a new phase of life.

We appreciated having Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) with us on Easter. We were reminded that the sinful pleasures of life are never worth it. We must remind ourselves of this often because the flesh easily forgets. We also appreciated the labors of Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL).

We are thankful for the safe return of our Elder Bro. Marvin Leman from his visit to Europe. Psalm 133 reminds us of the blessedness of dwelling together in unity. May it always be our most fervent desire to be in unity with God, His Word, and His Spirit. In this way, we will be assured of being in unity with His faithful followers.

### ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA Janelle Schlipf

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

Joshua 1:8

The end of the semester brings a time of joy as we celebrate the accomplishments of many of our students. As they pursue employment or further education, it is a blessing to see God's hand gently lead them to this next step in their lives. Amidst the pressures of society today, may we all remember that God

promises success to those who simply live in His Word.

Pursuing his goal of Chemistry Education, Bro. Kevin Hodel (Washington, IL) has completed his degree in Chemistry and plans to begin graduate school at Illinois State University next fall. Jackie Knapp (Bloomington, IL) has finished her degree in Psychology and is moving to California to continue her education in Biblical Counseling. Sis. Kayla Steffen (Congerville, IL) is moving home to put her education and experience in Veterinary Technology to work at Noah's Ark Small Animal Hospital. Bro. Grant Heinold, (Cissna Park, IL) is currently working in New Mexico, after completing his degree in Engineering.

We are thankful to have a few of our graduates staying in the Champaign area. After completing her degree in Horticulture, Sis. Michelle Bachtold (Forrest, IL) has a summer internship at the Champaign County Extension Office. Sis. Leisa Maloney (Goodfield, IL) will be working in Monticello as an elementary art teacher. Bro. Matthew Schneider (Forrest, IL) has finished graduate school and is a CPA with Martin, Hood, Friese, and Associates, LLC., located in Champaign.

The end of each semester brings an added pressure of projects and exams but also many activities and opportunities to serve. Each year it is a joy to watch as our students make the time and effort to put God first and trust Him to provide the rest. This semester brought special blessings as the U of I young group hosted College Weekend. Thanks to the prayers, time and efforts of our students and local congregation, it was truly a beautiful weekend and we praise God for His goodness! We

especially want to thank Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), and ministering Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Stephen Baner (Gridley, IL), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), and Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) for sharing the day with us on Saturday.

May 1 was our last World Relief night of the semester. With the help of many students and families, we were able to put together over 500 kits for children in Mexico, Haiti, and Jamaica.

The annual Senior Breakfast was held on Saturday, May 3, at Carle Park. It was a beautiful morning as the students gathered to reflect on many of the memories from their years in Champaign, as well as share some parting advice with those who may be just beginning their journey here.

As we bid farewell to many of our students for the summer, we will miss the added energy and activity that they bring to our congregation throughout the school year. Our annual "Student Appreciation Dinner", held Wednesday, May 7, is our opportunity to express our appreciation for the blessings they bring to our little church.

Our annual business meeting was held on April 24. Our prayers are with our new Sunday School teachers, Bro. Joel and Sis. Gretchen Gehrig, Bro. Neil Knobloch, and Sis. Janelle Schlipf. A special thanks to Bro. Chad Kupferschmid, Bro. Darin Blunier, Sis. Shelly Kaeb and Sis. Pamela Furrer for their time and effort in teaching our children in the previous years. Bro. Matt Ginzel's trustee position is being filled by Bro. Greg Kaeb while Bro. Art Walder has assumed Bro. Greg's re-

sponsibilities as usher. We wish each one God's blessings as they assume their new responsibilities in this upcoming year!

Following the business meeting, our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart had the exhortation for Communion. We appreciate the efforts of Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) as he assisted Bro. Wayne in serving us Communion on May 14.

Kaylie Travis, along with her parents, Andy and Kim, are excited to welcome little Zachary James, who was born in early May. Zachary's grandparents are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Darlene Steidinger (Fairbury, IL) and Martin Travis and Sheryl Travis, also of Fairbury.

Corey and Jodi Berkland are delighted to welcome their first child, Cael Daniel. Cael was born on Thursday, May 15. His grandparents are Bro. Daniel and Sis. Eunice Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Jeff and Joleen Berkland of Cylinder, IA.

A special thanks to Bros. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) for visiting us this month!

### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Rachel Meyer

As we were leaving for my cousin's testimony last month, I was curious whether there was anyone else also giving their testimony. I asked, "Is Adam alone tonight?" Almost as soon as I asked, the thought came that there were two answers. On a human level, he was the sole convert that night. On a spiritual level, God was right there with him regardless of the number of souls giving their testimony. God promises that He will never leave us. As I daily go about this busy city, I amjust another face in the crowd. I

don't expect to see anyone who knows me, and it can be quite surprising if I do. But we do not walk alone if we are God's own daughter or son.

We were thankful to see another daughter of God added to our congregation. Sis. Mabelle Welk was lovingly taken into the fold May 4. Although older in years, it was a reminder that God will call and not cease while we have life and breath. It was a day of rejoicing and we wish Sis. Mabelle much grace. Joining us that day was Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith, Elgin, IL).

"Growing Godly Men" is the name of the seminar Bro. Kent Kloter presented to our church brothers and friends. We thank him for coming two Saturdays in May. The Bible says unless we continue to show fruit in our lives, we will be cut down. Surely we all desire growth.

Arriving at church on Sunday, May 11, we were greeted with no power in the church. However, the weather was nice and it was not cold, so we proceeded with our regular service. How interesting to note that we have no fear of arriving at church only to find the doors locked and God "on break".

We are sorry to bid farewell to Bro. Neil Banwart who has been a blessing to our congregation. He has moved to Peoria where he accepted employment.

We rejoice with Bro. Phil Nenadov (Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn, Eureka, IL) and Sis. Donna Kieser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma, Bradford, IL) whose engagement was announced on May 18. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they take this important step in their lives.

Finally, I was reminded how

much attention is paid to what we say and do. In my classroom there is a student who likes to tell me I am silly. Since she seems to like to do this quite a bit, I decided on a response. I have consistently told her, "Thank you, Laura; it's one of my better qualities." The other day she again said, "Mrs. Meyer, you're silly." Then without missing a beat she said, "It's one of your better qualities." Let us be sure of what we say and do, because it is being recorded in the minds of those with whom we come into contact.

### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Denise Walder Susan Waldbeser

On Good Friday evening this year, we were touched and reminded in a special way of what Christ did for each of us as our Sunday School children brought us the message of Easter. We pray that each of them will someday kneel at the cross and acknowledge their need for a Saviour.

This month we bade farewell to a dear sister in faith, Sis. Helen Lackey. Our sympathy goes to each of her daughters and sons as well as her brothers and sisters that are left behind. We especially think of her twin sister, Sis. Louise Manz, and pray that God will be her comfort. Our love and sympathy also goes out to others in our congregation who have lost loved ones. Henry Kaeb of our area passed away this past month. He is the brother of Bro. Elmer Kaeb (Sis. MaryLou). Evelyn Yergler was also laid to rest. She is the sister of our Sis. Kathy Stock (Bro. Gilbert). Also mourning the loss of a dear mother is Judy Drayer (Bill). "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:7). It is our prayer that each of these dear ones will find peace and comfort during this time of sorrow.

What a blessing it was to have our church filled May 4 as we witnessed the vows of Bro. Fred Wiegand and Sis. Stephany Anderson. Their parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rosemary Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee Anderson. We wish this dear couple God's richest blessings as they begin their life together.

We are grateful to the following ministers for serving us this past month: Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin, Bro. Wayne Wiegand and Bro. Jeff Grimm (all from Goodfield, IL), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Conger-ville, IL). We appreciate the service of each of these brothers and know God will bless each of them according to His promise given in Hebrews 6:10 "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Arlene Banwart

"For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind..." (Psalm 107:25). And four times in this Psalm is this exact verse: "Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his goodness and his wonderful works to the children of men."

(Psalm 107:8,15,21,31)

It was during the midst of a great

storm that Maranda Luthi told her parents she wanted to repent. Our congregation is thankful and we praise the Lord along with her parents, Bro. Troy and Sis. Vannessa Luthi. As there was no church in several neighboring churches on May 11 due to power outages, we appreciated having visitors.

Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) shared God's Word with us this past month. Bro. Aaron also helped serve Holy Communion. It was an added blessing as it was the first time we observed it in our new edifice.

We sadly said "Farewell" to Bro. Brian and Sis. Renee Wieland, Ethan, Mikaela, Grace and Eli as they felt led to move to the Princeville area. We came to truly love them in the 6 years they were with us and pray God will ever direct and bless them.

We rejoice with another of God's wonderful works – a new baby girl named Allison Renee born May 11 to Bro. John and Sis. Jackie Schrock. Also rejoicing are her sister, Ashley, and brothers, Andrew and Austin. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock of Congerville and Jim and Sherry Sallis of New York.

Sympathy is extended to Sis. Marge Knapp (Bro. Frederick) in the death of her sister, Sis. Helen Lackey, of Cissna Park.

Notes of Thanks:

We wish to express our gratitude for all the prayers, food, help and other acts of kindness that have been given to us since Rachel's prolonged hospitalization following Hannah's birth. Thankfully she continues to improve each day though it will be quite awhile yet until she is completely back to normal. May God bless you all.

Humbly,

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Rachel Schrock and families

Words seem inadequate to try to express my gratitude and appreciation for all the deeds of love and kindness and especially the prayers during the time of my surgery and recuperation. The love and support has been such a blessing. May the good Lord richly bless each of you as only He can do.

Sis. Pauline Roth

### ILLINOIS, ELGIN Amy Gasser

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Ted Schock (Belvidere, IL) and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA). Thankyou, brothers, for your willing service.

We rejoice with Adam Young (Bro. Morris and Sis. Pat) who has found peace and is awaiting baptism. We are very thankful for Jaclyn Kellenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Vicki) as she has begun her repentance.

Mike and April Swanson welcomed a son, Owen Thomas, on March 10. His grandaprents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Schifferer and Paul and Polly Swanson. A daughter, Jenna Kate, was born to Andy and Kim Schifferer on April 4. Her grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Schifferer and Dan and Kate Weaver.

We pray for those who have experienced health problems recently. They are Sis. Helen Liebig, Bro. Ken (Mary) Lindoerfer, and Sis. Jeannette (Bro. Dick) Kilgus.

We extend sympathy to the fam-

ily of Sis. Martha Greiner, who passed away on May 6 at our nursing home. Her funeral was held in Morris, MN.

Notes of Thanks:

Special thanks to each of you for the love expressed through cards, gifts, phone calls, etc., for my 80th birthday. May God bless every act of kindness and deed of love shared.

Sis. Evie Gudeman

Dear Brothers and Sisters and dear church family:

I wish to thank everyone from my heart for the many prayers and good wishes and love to remember me on my 80th birthday with so many wonderful cards and gifts and the great surprise. It is all so very much appreciated and I am very grateful for it. May God richly bless you all.

In thankfulness in our dear Lord Jesus,

Bro. Georg Schumacher

Dear Brothers and Sisters and dear church family:

It is so much appreciated and I am very grateful and want to thank everyone for the many prayers and the great love, visits, flowers, gifts, calls and the uplifting messages and words in the beautiful cards and for the many birthday cards and gifts I received during my stay in the hospital and recovery time at home. Also, many special thanks go to Bro. Bill and Sis. Cora Schambach for their ever-caring love and big help all the time. It is so very humbling to belong to such a very loving church family, and may God bless you all richly and be your Rewarder.

Thanks and love in our dear Lord and Saviour,

Sis. Hilde Schumacher

### ILLINOIS, EUREKA Janet Zimmerman

Bro. Matt and Sis. Sara Zimmerman welcomed a new baby girl into their hearts and home. Elle Rae was born April 20 and joins her brothers, Kyle, Noah, Levi, and sister, Lena, at home. Her grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen Ringger (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Leland and Sis. Barb Zimmerman (Eureka, IL).

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and love to Elder Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy Knecht on the passing of her mother, Opal Mooberry. She died May 9. We will certainly miss her friendly smile. Our thoughts and prayers are also with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren whom she loved very much.

Our visiting ministers on April 27 were Bros. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), Rick Plattner and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL). Our Bible Class invited Tremont Bible Class that day. Planned activities and a meal were held at Eureka Middle School following church services. May God bless the ministering brothers for all their labors and all those who helped plan the day.

Our prayers are with our hospital patients this month. Having to be hospitalized were Sis. Helen Wiegand (Bro. Bob) and little Braden Martin (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky). We are thankful they are home and are doing better.

We were not able to have church on Mother's Day, May 11, because of a tornado that went through our area and caused severe damage and power outages. We are thankful that no lives were lost because of this severe storm. Many of the brethren formed work crews to help those whose homes and farms sustained damage.

We wish God's special blessings to all of our fathers on this Father's Day.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank you for all the beautiful cards and gifts of love on our 50th wedding anniversary. God's blessings to each of you.

Bro. Gerald and Sis. Velma Leman

Words cannot express our thankfulness to our church family and friends for the many acts of kindness shown to us during the recent loss of our mother and grandmother, Opal Mooberry. Your expressions of love and your prayers are greatly appreciated. May God be with you and bless you.

In Christian love, Ervin and Sandy Knecht Daniel, David and Jeremy

Keith and Michelle Knepp and family

Jay and Melinda Steffen and family

 ${\it Tony and Denise Manz and family}$ 

### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Tammy Hinrichsen Joann Zehr

Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish Steidinger welcomed Tyler Earl on April 27. He is a brother to Alex, Wesley, Kent, Leann, Karla, Kirk, Ross, Toby and Jamie. Happy grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther Gerber (Forrest, IL) and Maurice and Ruth Steidinger and the late Sis. Alma Steidinger, Fairbury.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger are happy grandparents to two baby girls. Madalyn Marie was born on April 5 (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane's anniversary) to Tim and Amy Steidinger of Fairbury. Other grandparents are Randy and Rita Lessman, Fairbury. Jaelah Eden was born on April 23 to Bro. Matthew and Sis. Janelle Steidinger of Bloomington. Her big sister is Mariah Grace. Other grandparents are Art and Jana Lehmann, Strawn. May God be with all of these parents as they raise their precious new babies.

We are thankful to God that He called Janelle Steidinger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn) and she is seeking Him in repentance. May His grace be with her.

Several of our sisters from Fairview Haven spent some time in the hospital: Sis. Blanche Kiefer and Sis. Marguerite Bauer. May they feel God's healing power.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Don and Sis. Phyllis Welborn in the death of Bro. Don's father, Cook Welborn, 93, who passed away on May 5. May they feel God's comfort.

Our congregation and the entire community, as well as many school and Sunday School students, were deeply grieved with the May 8 accident of little Tanner Lloyd Fehr, 8, son of Bro. Leslie and Sis. Sally Fehr. His brothers are Marcus and Wade and his grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser and the late Myrna Moser. He will be sadly missed by all. We just hope and trust that Bro. Les and Sis. Sally and all the family can feel the many prayers that have been said for them and may God be at their side for comfort, grace and mercy.

We thank Bros. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) and Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) who have

visited us this last month and brought us the Living Word of God.

It is again the time of year when we want to remember our high school graduates. They are Brett Fehr (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marsha), Sis. Tracy Fehr (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda), Bro. Joe Hinrichsen (Bro. Keith and Sis. Tammy), Kari Kaisner (Robert and Cheryl), Lance Mowery (Dale and Sis. Elaine), Sis. Carrie Steffen (Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay), Bro. Alex Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish), Bro. Dallas Steidinger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn), Bro. Travis Walter (Dan and Sis. Patricia) and Blake Zehr (Bro. Quinn and Sis. Joan). This is a milestone in their lives and we ask God's richest blessings on each of them as they start the next chapter. Might each of them realize that God is their source of help and strength in all that they do.

Last, but certainly not least, we want to remember our dear earthly fathers. Some of us have laid our fathers to rest many years ago, but precious memories still live on, and for those that still have their fathers, be thankful and seek their counsel and guidance. And, above all, might we always thank our dear Father in Heaven for all that He has done for us.

### ILLINOIS, FORREST Linda Anliker Lori Dotterer

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."

Luke 22:19

We were thankful to partake of

Holy Communion on May 14 and remember our Lord's suffering and death and the great price that was paid on Calvary. May we never take this for granted, but continue to thank Him for our salvation. We are thankful to Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) for assisting our Bro. Wayne.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ron Koehl (Sarasota, FL) and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL). May God continue to grant them grace and humility to speak His Word.

Believing that God has brought them together, several in our congregation announce their engagement and upcoming marriage. We rejoice with Sis. Kelli Adams (Sis. Sharon) as she is engaged to Bro. Kevin Joos (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Debra) of Morris, MN. We also rejoice with Bro. Nate Kelson (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sherri) and Sis. Paula Bachtold (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary). May God be with these couples as they prepare to take this step of faith.

A precious daughter was born to Bro. Michael and Sis. Jodi Schneider on May 14. Lynelle Rose was also welcomed into their home by big brother, Joel. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley Ifft and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra Schneider.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with young Blake Hall (Bro. Don and Barb) as he has been diagnosed with bone cancer and will undergo treatment for it. Others in our congregation who have spent time in the hospital are Sis. Lou Ida Steffen (Bro. Rich), Bro. Norval Knapp (Sis. Wilma), Sis. Lillie Ann Moore, and Sis. Virginia Blunier (Bro. Homer). We pray that God's

healing hand will be upon each of them.

### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Rita Bauman Heather Hohulin

We were so blessed to hear the testimony of faith of two new Brothers in Christ. Bros. Jason Schick (Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann Zobrist) and Blake Knapp (Bro. Jon and Sis. Pat Knapp) were baptized this last month. We are so thankful for their addition to our family. May they feel the Grace of God in all they do.

We are so thankful to hear that Bethany Wiegand (Bro. Art and Sis. Pam) and Brooke Monfre (Bro. Tony and Sis. Deonne) have found peace with God. We look forward to their testimony and baptisms.

Bro. Tadd Gerst (Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie) and Sis. Jill Leman (Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirley) of Gridley announced their engagement. It is so wonderful when God brings two people together to become one in Him. Our prayers are with them as they prepare for a wedding and a new life together.

Our prayers are with the family of Curtis Steffen as he was laid to rest. We pray that his wife, Sis. Laura, Bro. Melvin Heinold, and Bro. Wilber and Sis. Mildred Heinold, could feel God's presence in their loss. Also losing a loved one is Sis. Violet Reeser. Her sister, Sylvia King, was laid to rest. We pray that God will provide peace and comfort to her in her loss.

We have two dear families that are relocating to other areas. Bro. Darren and Sis. Jane Freidinger are moving to North Carolina, and Bro. Josh, Sis. Keri, Reilly and Grace Beer are moving to Indiana. We pray that God will be with each of these families as they follow His guiding hand wherever it may lead. We will miss them in our congregation.

Our High School Graduates this year are as follows: Warren Blunier, Kristen Davis, Monique Dingledine, Tyler Getz, Hans Hinrichsen, Aaron Hohulin, Crystal Jansen, Clayton Monfre, Michele Mussleman, Abbie Rocke, Seth Rocke, Bro. Bob Schieler, Mikel Steffen, Sis. Jennifer Wiegand, Russell Wiegand, Mark Wirtz, and Jared Zobrist. May God be with each of them as they plan for the future.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Stephanie Wiegand were joined as one. May God be with this new couple. We welcome Sis. Stephanie to our congregation. Parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rosemary Wiegand and Bro. John and Sis. Cyndee Anderson (Cissna Park, IL).

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Doug (Sis. Clara) Schock, Bro. Ken (Sis. Darlene) Hoerr, Bro. Steve (Sis. Donnalou) Baner, Bro. Curt (Sis. Kathy) Rassi, Elder Bro. Joe (Sis. Emily) Stoller, Bro. Wayne (Sis. Julie) Leman, Bro. Darren (Sis. Sue) Plattner, Bro. Steve (Sis. Vicki) Martin, and Bro. Tom (Sis. Jane) Bolliger. We thank them for their service to us.

### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

Memorial Day came and went as the nation focused on our freedoms and those who served and died for America. But our more enduring memory should be on that great act at Calvary where the Lord died and shed His blood. Each day should be "Memorial Day" for His great sacrifice for our sins.

Three from our congregation were recently hospitalized: Sis. Kathy Taylor and Bros. Marvin Kaupp and Pete Meiss.

Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) was a visiting minister on May 4 and on May 11 we heard the preaching of Bros. Tim Hohulin and Ed Sauder (both of Roanoke, IL). We were thankful for their labors.

Sis. Jill Leman was engaged to Bro. Tadd Gerst (Goodfield, IL). Her parents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirley Leman of Eureka. He is the son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie Gerst of Goodfield. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Bro. John Meiss and Sis. Tamara Estegamat were married in the Bloomington congregation on May 25. He is the son of Bro. Pete and Sis. Jan Meiss, Gridley. Her parents are Gary and Joan Lavorgna, Gridley. The couple will reside in Gridley. May God bless them and give them much happiness.

On May 20, Josiah Michael was born to Bro. Joel and Sis. Jessica Gramm. He has a sister, Josie, 2. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Rosie Gramm and Bro. Keith and Sis. Linda Zimmerman, all of Gridley. Great-grandparents are Sis. Marge and the late Bro. Floyd Meiss, Bro. Herb and Sis. Jane Gramm, all of Gridley; and Sis. Christiane Erkert, Peoria, and John and Lois Zimmerman, Fairbury. Thanks be to God for this special gift to this family.

### Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for their support of Alyssa's benefit. The love, prayers and gifts of money have been overwhelming. It was such a blessing to see so many people from so many congregations at the benefit. May God bless each and every one who helped out in any way. Please continue to pray for us as we seek further treatment for Alyssa.

In Christian love, Bro. John, Sis. Joan, Alexis and Alyssa Yoder

### ILLINOIS, MORTON Julie Bahr Christie Zeller

We were so blessed to have Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Sis. Suzanne, Fairbury, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest, IL) with us for Holy Communion on May 3. Bro. Wayne gave us a vivid picture of Christ's death and to remind us in a sobering way of His unconditional love for us. May God bless these dear brothers for their labors of love unto us.

On Mother's Day we were reminded to reflect on our mother's love as well as our Biblical mothers.

Our new Sunday School teachers for next fall are: Bro. Andy Sauder (Sis. Jayne), Bro. Tom Steffen (Sis. Tasha), Bro. Chuck Hart (Sis. Ann) and Sis. Kari Ackerman. May we continue to pray for these willing servants as they teach our children about God's love, Bro. Mark Grimm (Sis. Becky) is our new church trustee taking Bro. Bill Mayo's position. Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail and their family are moving to Geneva, Switzerland, due to a Caterpillar transfer. May our Heavenly Father go with them and their dear family. They will be missed in our Morton congregation.

Some more dear souls have gone Home to be with the Lord. Sis. Marie Hauter passed away at Restmor on April 27 at the age of 101 years. Many nieces and nephews survive her. Glenn Ellenson passed away at Restmor on April 28. Our church ministers had his service at our funeral home. Sylvia (Landes) King passed away May 9. She is a sister to our Sis. Dorothy Krantz (Bro. Jack) and to our late Bro. Bruce Landes. May God comfort these dear families in their loss.

Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury, IL) had our family worship for May and he directed his talk to our graduating Bible class seniors. May God bless him and his dear wife. Our graduates this year are: Brock Bahr, Jackie Florey, Trevor Kaufman, Sis. Staci Getz, Sis. Kelly Kaiser, Sis. Heather Knobloch, Sis. Gabrielle Roeschley, Sam Ritthaler, Tracy Zimmerman, and Jon Zimmerman. God's blessings to these loved ones as they continue on in their education and occupations.

We also had the engagement announcement of our Bro. Daniel Wuthrich (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl) to our Sis. Diane Tanner (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Annette). We wish them the Lord's blessings.

### ILLINOIS, PEORIA Lou and Marjean Lonteen

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 1:1

Visiting ministers: Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA), Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), and Bro. Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) for family night on May 7. Bro. Wayne's family night topic was "Broken to be made whole." Thank you for bringing us the good news of

the gospel (visiting ministers and our home ministers who serve us every time we assemble in God's house). God bless you and your dear families.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:3

Converts: Matilda Faughn (Binkele) and Isaac Funk (Bro. Tim and Sis. Debi) have turned their hearts and lives over to the Lord. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Corinthians 5:17

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God..."

Romans 8:28

Engagements: Bro. Mark Triplett (Bro. Willis and Sis. Shirley) to Sis. Aubrey Schmidgall (Rick and Sis. Cindy) of Elgin, IL.

Bro. Ben Hartter and Sis. Heidi Huthmann announced their engagement on April 20. Bro. George and Sis. Ruth Huthmann and Bro. Bob and Sis. Chris Hartter (Roanoke, IL) are their parents.

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee;"

Isaiah 41:10

Injuries and illnesses have visited: Alex Funk (broken leg), Sis. Edith (Bro. Kenneth) Plattner (broken arm), and Sis. Carol Rieker (Bro. Mike) had surgery.

"Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me."

St. Matthew 18:4-5

Births: Blake David Schroeder was born on April 12. Bro. Jesse and Sis. Jill welcomed him into their hearts and homes along with big sister, Alexa. Thankful grandparents are Bro. David "Skip" and Sis. Pat Meister (Peoria) and Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel Schroeder (Roanoke, IL).

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another..."

John 1:7

Welcome back: Bro. Jeff and Sis. Angie Ginzel, Samantha, Alexandra, and Joshua. It's a blessing to have you home.

"And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of saints."

Revelation 5:8

We were blessed to be able to come to church over the noon hour for prayer on May 1. "Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care..."
We pray God will continue to allow us to live in a land where the church doors are open and we can pray together on this day set aside as the National Day of Prayer.

"This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ."

I John 5:6

Easter sunrise services were held at the fellowship hall with breakfast, service, and program. What a joy....He is risen!

"Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee."

Psalm 63:3

On April 26, the Choir Benefit Dinner was held at the fellowship hall. The lovely dinner, sweet fellowship, and the wonderful worship in song was a special time of inspiration. Thank you to all who diligently sang and served us.

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"

Ephesians 5:19

God's love shown through the faces and voices of the Bluffton quartet, Psalm 100, as they sang for us the weekend of May 3-4. These brothers sang at the retirement homes (Peoria and Eureka) on May 3. Again they raised their voices in praise for three services at the jail on May 4, and sang after our afternoon services at church.

On Sunday evening, during our time set aside for hymn sing, we enjoyed the beautiful hymns of praise brought to us by the Goodfield choir. Thanks again to all our singing visitors.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:7

Congratulations to our high school graduates: Sis. Amber Criss, Kristen Gerst, Bro. Jay Geyer, Sis. Amy Beth Herman, Sis. Abby Hoerr, Allison Hoerr, Sis. Ashley Hoerr, Sis. Kyra Klopfenstein, Zach Landers, Sis. Emily Oberfel, Rachel Staley, Sis. Bonnie Waibel, and Sis. Natasha Wiegand. A Senior Breakfast is planned for June 1.

"And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

Malachi 4:6

"And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last."

Revelation 22:12,13

### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Phyllis Knobloch Crystal Streitmatter

We appreciated having Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN) with us for Good Friday services. We always enjoy their visits!

Sis. Sadie Streitmatter, 94, was baptized at her home on March 15. She expressed to the brothers that she had a vision where all was blackness except for a small light. She thought it was God telling her that she still had time to repent. We are thankful for our dear Sister, that she now has that wonderful peace in her heart that passeth all understanding!

Sis. Bernice (Bro. Vernon) Stoller had surgery and is home again. When I talked to her at church, she said the pain was gone. What a precious blessing! May we all pray for our loved ones that endure pain every day. Someday the faithful ones will be at Home where there is no pain. May we all strive to that end!

Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) so willingly assisted our Elder Bro. Jim Plattner with Communion services on March 27. We thank both of you for the love and concern shown to all of us. Our time together that evening, as a church united, was very precious.

We are happy to welcome Bro. Brian and Sis. Renee Wieland along with Ethan, Mikaela, Grace and Eli, to our Princeville church. I'm sure they are missed by the Congerville church.

Notes of Thanks:

I would like to thank my family and also my church family for the prayers and kindness shown to Ray during his surgery and since returning home. Your cards, phone calls, visits and gifts were very much appreciated. God bless you all!

Bro. Ray and Sis. Betty Wagenbach

I wish to thank everyone for the many beautiful cards, gifts and flowers I received for my 85th birthday. God bless each one of you!

Sis. Edith Martin

### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Jenell Hodel Joan Leman

"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 rejoice with Jim and Sis.

Cheryl Wacker as they have been blessed with a son, Lucas Alexander, born May 6. Welcoming him home are big brothers, Jakob and Collin, and his grandparents, Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann Hoffman and Rudie Wacker.

We also rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Cory and Sis. Gini Gerber, as they welcome a little boy into their hearts and home. Wyatt James was born May 8. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Carol Knapp and Jack and Deb Gerber. May the Lord grant both these couples Godly wisdom as they raise their children.

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

Proverbs 18:22

We rejoice with Bro. Ben Hartter (Bro. Bob and Sis. Chris) and Sis. Heidi Huthmann (Bro. George and Sis. Ruth) of Peoria as their engagement has been announced. We pray God's blessings be upon them as they prepare to serve the Lord as husband and wife.

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

Matthew 19:6

Sis. Mindy Rumbold (Bro. Rol and Sis. Carol) and Bro. Michael Anliker (Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karel) of Francesville were united as one in the Lord on Sunday, May 18. May they ever feel God's presence as they walk life's pathway together. Visiting ministers who shared this special day with us were Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein and Bro. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield,

IL). May the Lord bless them for their labors.

On Sunday, May 4, our Young Group hosted a supper and an evening of singing and fellowship for the elderly of our congregation. It was a blessed evening for all who were gathered at the Fellowship Hall.

Our Mother-Daughter luncheon was held Saturday, May 10. Many thanks to all who made this a special occasion in honor of mothers.

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:6

We extend our congratulations and wishes for God's blessings to our high school and college graduates. May they seek God's direction and guidance as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

### ILLINOIS, TREMONT Heather Rassi LaVonne Wagenbach

Visiting ministers this month included Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), Bro. Dan Beer (Milford, IN), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL). We thank each one of the efforts to minister the gospel through the Holy Spirit.

We witnessed the Holy union of marriage in the Lord between Bro. Tim Ropp (Ken and Joyce) and Sis. Jenny Sauder (Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice). May God bless this couple as they establish a Christian home together.

During this difficult time of loss, our thoughts and prayers extend to Eunice Rowell in the passing of her husband, Harold. Although this is a time of sadness, there is rejoicing in that Harold had a hope of Heaven because both he and Eunice acknowledged their need for a Saviour and humbled themselves in repentance several weeks before his passing. May God grant comfort to Eunice and her son, Ken (Linda) Rowell, of Anchor Point, Alaska.

Three more babies have been added to families in our congregation. Bro. Chad and Sis. Laurie Keever have been blessed with another boy. Brothers, Joel and Todd, helped welcome home Seth Daniel on April 25. Grandparents are Bro. Claire and Sis. Bev Keever (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lauretta Schafer (Leo, IN). Chris and Sheri Allen and their son. Dallas, are thankful for the safe arrival of Laina Irene on May 9. Her grandparents are Richard and Cindy Liescheidt (Sheffield Lake, OH), Dan and Carol Bolliger (Tremont, IL) and Bill and Debbie Allen (Tremont, IL). Bro. John and Sis. Misty Sauder have been blessed with another girl. Willow, Echo, Talon, Meadow and Arrow welcomed Halo Moon on May 15. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam Sauder and Jim and Shirley Green (Fairfield, IL).

May we remember to continually lift Barb (Galen) Koch up in prayer during the frequent times she is hospitalized due to her physical condition. Our hope is that she feels the strength of the Lord and the support of those she loves.

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

Psalm 32:8

Many of our youth will be graduating this month from junior and se-

nior high school. We pray a blessing on each one and hope they choose the Lord as their Guide in all decisions.

### ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Dianne Wyss Marcia Koch

"Do you have to prove that you're right?" or "Are you willing to yield the right to be right?"

"Are you wounded when others are promoted and you're over-looked?" or "Do you rejoice when others are lifted up?"

"Are you defensive when criticized?" or "Do you receive criticism with a humble and open heart?"

These are just a few of the questions Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL) recently posed at a monthly Topical Bible Study on "Brokenness". He encouraged us to use the questions to search out our hearts and to expose our hidden pride.

We are also thankful for the ministry this month of Bros. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN), Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) and Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL).

"A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps." Proverbs 16:9

We congratulate our following high school graduates this year: Jennifer Wyss (Bro. Ed and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Laura Barth (Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie) and Bro. David Thames (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda). We are thankful that as they make plans for the future, the Lord will direct their steps.

"They are weak, but He is

strong." We rejoice with Kevin and Michelle Phillips (daughter of Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally Fritz) at the birth of Emily Elizabeth. She is welcomed home by her big sister, Abbie.

We pray for restored health as Sis. Ann Meiss (Bro. Harold) has recently been hospitalized; and for comfort to Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser at the death of their grandson, Tanner Fehr (Bro. Les and Sis. Sally Fehr, Fairbury, IL). Sis. Ellen Cox (Bro. John) was also hospitalized and we're all prayerful for her healing.

We are thankful we could witness the baptism of two dear souls, Bro. Jobie and Sis. Ebony Ledford (Bro. Chris and Sis. Stacy). We also appreciated Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) coming to assist in this blessed occasion.

### INDIANA, BLUFFTON Tiffany Aschliman Elizabeth Frauhiger

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God."

John 1:1

Our congregation has been blessed with several new babies this past month. On April 17, little Hallie Kay was born to B.J. and Sis. Lana Frauhiger. Colton, Cody and Samuel eagerly welcome their little sister to this world. Also celebrating her birth are her grandparents, Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Frauhiger and Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger.

Jerome and April Isch welcomed their first child on April 19. Anna Grace's grandparents are Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene Isch.

Ethan Joseph was brought into

this world on April 29 to Joe and Cybil Dunnuck. Ethan joins Madison, Saddie, and Aubrey. His thankful grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Lantz.

Bro. Ryan and Sis. Darla Fiechter adopted their second son who was born on December 9, 2002. Little Gabriel Ryan joins Jalen at home. The happy grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Maxine Fiechter.

On May 12, Ava Jane came into this world to Bro. Ron and Sis. LaNae Macklin. Her siblings are Olivia, McKenna, and Logan. Her grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda Moser and Carl and Betty Macklin.

We are prayerful for several dear ones who have spent some time in the hospital this month. They are: Sis. Sharon Barger (Bro. Gary) and RJ Gerber (Shelley). We ask the Lord's blessings and healing hand on each of them.

We rejoice with Cameron Steiner (Dianna) as he has decided to begin his repentance and follow Christ. We are prayerful for him in his new walk.

Wedding bells were ringing on April 27 as Bro. Clint Gerber (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay) took Sis. Amy Fiechter (Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie) to be his wife. We pray that God will bless them as they begin their journey as husband and wife.

Our congregation was blessed to hear the Word brought forth by two visiting ministers this month. We pray God will bless Bro. Dan Dubach (Sis. Bethany, Prescott, AZ) and Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie, Tokyo, Japan) in their willingness to share with us.

On April 20, there were two engagements announced. Bro. Michael Reinhard (Bro. John and Sis.

Pam) and Sis. Jane Brazelton (Bluffton North) believe it is the Lord's will for them to be united in marriage. Also engaged this month was Bro. David Pfister (Leo, IN) to Sis. Jami Imel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon). We ask the Lord's blessings as they begin their walks together.

We are excited to hear the testimonies of three souls in the near future. Joey Kline, Tammy Raber (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary) and Ryan Schwartz (Bro. Scott and Sis. Patti) were announced for peace this month.

We, as a congregation, have been blessed with the excellent example of Bro. Melvin and Sis. Doris Fiechter as they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this month. We pray that there will be more years to come for this dear couple.

"But Jesus said, suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 19:14

# INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH Ann Meyer Tiffani Schladenhauffen

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

I Corinthians 11:26

We remembered our Lord's death when we partook of communion this month. The Elders in attendance to assist our Elder Bro. Phil were Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN), Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San

Diego, CA), and Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Elizabeth, Silverton, OR). As always, it was a special time to feel the Lord's nearness.

Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic and Elder Bro. Art Metz also helped in the reading of the Memorandum. We appreciated having them and their wives spend the weekend with us.

Other visiting ministers sharing with us this month were Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN), Bro. Wayne Leman (South Bend, IN), Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI), and Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI). We are thankful for their service to the Lord.

We want to congratulate our graduating high school and college seniors. Our prayer for them is that they will each seek the Lord's guidance as they take a new step in life.

Our Sunday School along with Bluffton's Sunday School had their annual pork chop supper. We appreciated all who donated food and time along with all who attended. It was a good way to show support for our Sunday School.

The church was given a special cleaning when all were encouraged to come and help with the annual spring cleaning. We appreciate Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg Yergler for all the time and effort they put into keeping the church clean year round.

We honored our faithful mothers this month. To show their appreciation for their mothers, our Single's Group served lunch on Mother's Day. Our mothers were able to see some of the fruits of their labors in the kitchen that Sunday.

Our prayers are with Bro. Adam Merkle as he moves to Washington D.C. We will miss him here, but we are glad that he is willing to follow where the Lord is leading him.

We grieved with Sis. Myra (Bro. Steve) Ringger as she said goodbye to her father, Bro. Joe Gray (Francesville, IN), as he was called home to Heaven. Our prayers are also with Bro. Ken and Sis. Roberta Steffen as their little grandson, Micah Olson, son of Eric and Elaine, went back to be with his Heavenly Father.

Our continued prayers are with Sis. Rochelle (Bro. Rod) Gerber as she continues to spend time in the hospital. We pray that Sis. Rochelle and her family can feel the Lord's hand lifting them up. Also spending some time in the hospital this month was Bro. Walt (Sis. Imogene) Aeschliman.

We rejoiced with Sis. Laura Kipfer and Bro. Caleb Schafer (South Bend, IN) as they were united as one in holy matrimony this month. Their parents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Val Kipfer and Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer (South Bend, IN). We were encouraged at their wedding in all things to: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jessica Murray

"Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms."

James 5:13

This past month there have been some afflicted and in need of our prayers. Bro. Chuck Anliker (Sis. Margaret), Bro. Leon Wuethrich (Sis. Mabel), Bro. Kevin Wuethrich (Sis. Connie) and Sis. Emilie Anliker (Bro. Elmer) have all spent

some time in the hospital. May we continue to keep them in our prayers.

We rejoice to hear that Christen Huber (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki) has found peace with God and man. We will continue to pray for you and look forward to sharing in your testimony.

We mourn the loss of two dear souls this past month. Our prayers are with the family of Les Pfledderer who went to see his Heavenly Father. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Rosie; a brother, Bro. Bob Pfledderer (Sis. Norma); a daughter, Sis. Sally Wuethrich (Tim); and the rest of the family.

Our prayers are also with Sis. Esther Gray as her husband, Bro. Joe Gray, went to meet his Maker. We extend our sympathy to the entire family circle. May they rejoice again in Heaven some day.

We were blessed to have Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Sis. Jeanne, Bluffton, IN), Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) and Bro. Victor Beer (Sis. Dorothy, North Fort Myers, FL) here with us this past month. Thanks to you and your families for sharing with us. May you be richly blessed.

We would like to thank Sis. Pam Huber (Bro. Chad) for her service in writing the Silver Lining. I have enjoyed serving with Pam and pray the best for her and her family. May God continue to bless you. We want to welcome Sis. Barb Huber (Bro. Gene) as she has decided to take Pam's place. What a blessing it will be to share the writing with you, Barb. The Lord will lead and guide as long as we seek to do His will.

# INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS Sandy Lichtle Gail Bradford

Some events in our lives appear to mark passages from one "phase" to another. A few in our congregations experienced such passages this month.

Bro. Joel Baumgartner will move to Denver, CO, to continue his medical career. Bro. Dave Roberts and Bro. Stu Gutwein graduated from law school. Dave has joined a law firm in St. Louis and Stu has joined a law firm in Indianapolis. Bro. Doug and Sis. Jenni Hart, along with their four children, will shortly make their home in New Jersey. Doug will commute to Manhattan where his CPA firm transferred him.

Bro. Ben Pearson and Blake Guingrich graduated from high school. Heather Wuethrich graduated from college. Tia Wuethrich will work in Washington, DC for the summer.

Even positive changes such as these can cause anxiety and feelings of insecurity. We need to trust in the protection our Lord and Savior gives us, and stay close to Him in prayer as we move through these important passages. Although we may be apart from friends and family, and confront new challenges, we can take comfort that Jesus is very close. Lean on Him!

Many of us recently gathered together for "spring cleaning" of the church building and grounds. Work is not a burden when enthusiastic helpersjoin in. The results were edifying to all. We appreciate the trustees who organized the day.

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."

Psalm 31:24

### INDIANA, LACROSSE Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold

We are always thankful for brothers who are willing to share God's Word with us. Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) visited in the past month. May God richly bless him for his labors of love.

Our friend, David Massner, has expressed that he feels peace with God and with man. We look forward to hearing his testimony of faith the weekend of June 21-22. May he feel the support of the church as he awaits this special time.

### INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress... Nay in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

Romans 8:35,37

Nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer except that which lies beyond the will of God.

Our prayers are for renewed strength and healing for retired Elder Bro. David Bertsch, who had successful knee surgery and is receiving therapy; also Bro. Gene Stoller who is still receiving therapy, hoping to walk again; and Bro. Marvin Fischer who is suffering from a fall, has broken ribs and fluid is on his lung.

On April 21, Chelby Jaye was welcomed into the heart of Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany Plattner. Her siblings are Tyler and Abrey. Grandparents are Elder Bro. James and Sis. Marlene Plattner and Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann, all of Princeville, IL. Congratulations to all.

Todd Klopfenstein (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Chris) and Angelyn Bickel (Steven and Ramonda) were united in marriage on May 10 at the Leo Fellowship Center. We wish them God's blessings and grace to include Jesus as their partner.

Our graduates this month are Bro. John Stoller with a bachelor's degree in hospitality and tourism, and Bro. Kevin Stoller with a bachelor's degree in business management. Our High School graduates are Austin Klopfenstein (Loren and Sis. Rita), Mandy Pfister (Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen), Peter Fischer (Bro. Paul and Sis. Leanne) and Joel Kaiser (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jane Stieglitz). We pray for God's guidance and direction for their future.

### INDIANA, MILFORD Carlton Beer Paula Haab

God's evidence is surely shown to us in the changing of the seasons in Indiana. How refreshing to see green grass, tree leaves, blooming flowers and to feel the spring rains. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Many of us could reminisce of how our departed Bro. Henry Beer invited the Sunday School Bible class and other young people to his cabin in the woods at sunrise on Easter morning. Now we appreciate his tradition as we all gather together in our Fellowship center at sunrise on Easter morning to again hear of Jesus' resurrection. Oh how true the words that Bro. Henry put to verse, "tis not the babe, but Christ the man, Who walked in Gal-

ilee; tis not the manger, but the cross, That sets the spirit free."

Our primary and nursery Sunday School classes were excited to go to the Lakeland Care Center, located behind our church, and give their Easter program to the residents. These little ones really bring smiles and joy to these shut-ins. Jesus loved the children and asks us to be childlike. May we be as excited as these little ones to go visit and bring joy to the aged.

Bro. Nelson Beer appreciated Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) coming to share the pulpit with him one Sunday recently. We were all blessed by Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue's visit.

Recent high school graduates are Rhett Mikel (Russ and Sis. Pat) and Meagan Piper (Rod and Sheryl). Graduating from college were Rustin Mikel (Russ and Sis. Pat) and Bro. Clint Steffen (Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen). Now they face big changes in their lives in either leaving home for the first time or beginning new jobs. We pray that they will allow God to lead them all the way.

Jon Maust, husband of Marlene Price, suffered many injuries in a freak accident, but thanks be to God, he is recovering and will be able to go back to work soon.

While Bro. Art Haab has been able to return to his home, Bro. Harold Emch (Sis. Kathryn) and Sis. Melba Hunsberger remain in Care Centers. Sis. Leona Price continues to be confined to her wheel chair at home and is so lovingly cared for by her aged husband, Everett. All of these loved ones need our special prayers as we continue to pray for one another.

### INDIANA, REMINGTON Rochelle Ward Beth Virkler

Dave and Charity Pratt welcome their second daughter, Genisis Kalia, into their home on April 25. Big sister, Chloe, along with grandparents, Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane Isabell and Jerry Pratt and Donna Pratt, are helping them celebrate.

Sharing our pulpit this month were Bros. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) and Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL). We sincerely appreciate every time the Word is spoken from our pulpits knowing the submission to the Holy Spirit that it requires.

Sis. Emily Kilgus spent some time in the hospital after she took a fall. We're thankful it wasn't more serious.

Where Did the Idea for Father's Day Originate?

Father's Day, as some might assume, was not conceived in the egotism of a man, but originated with a woman.

To Mrs. John Bruce Dodd belongs the honor.

The day actually came into being around 1936 on a very small scale, when a woman, Mrs. Dodd, in Spokane, Washington, remembered her father as she sat in church on Mother's Day.

Mrs. Dodd was one girl among five brothers when her mother died early in her life.

As small children not understanding the finality of death, her little brother rushed out the door one evening and started for the cemetery where he had last seen his mother lay. Her father ran after him catching the little fellow up in his arms and brought him back to the house where he gathered his

children together and put his arms around all of them.

From that moment on, he became both father and mother to us. Mrs. Dodd remembered how her father through the years tried to give his six children basic biblical principles and a faith to live by along with bringing the best influences into their home again and again.

Mrs. Dodd went to the ministerial association in Spokane with the idea of honoring her father.

A Father's Prayer

Build me a son, O God, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be unbending in honest defeat, but humble and gentle in victory. Build me a son whose wishes will not replace his actions - a son who will know Thee, and that to know himself is the foundation stone of knowledge. Send him, I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort but the stress and spur of difficulties and challenge; here let him learn to stand up in the storm; here let him learn compassion for those who fail. May it never be said that my son lost his way among strangers because I, his father, was too busy to get acquainted with him.

Build me a son whose heart will be pure, whose goals will be godly; a son who will master himself before he seeks to master others; one who will learn to laugh, yet never forget how to weep; one who will reach into the future, yet never forget the past, and after all these things are his, this I pray, enough sense of humor that he may always be serious yet never take himself too seriously. Give him humility so that he may always remember the simplicity of true greatness, the open mind of true wisdom, the meekness of true strength; then I, his father, will dare to whisper, "I have not lived in vain."

—combined from different selections

### INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Samantha Gramm Kara Beebe

May 11 was the wedding day for Bro. Caleb Schafer (Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi) and Sis. Laura Kipfer (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Valerie, Bluffton North, IN). We rejoice with them as they serve our Lord together.

My Lord an off'ring 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

Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) and our Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) were with us on Saturday evening for the testimonies of Sharon Flis and Rachel Selof. Bro. Curt was also with us on Sunday for their baptisms. What a blessing it is to welcome two dear souls as sisters in the Lord.

### INDIANA, VALPARAISO Ed Lester

Greetings, Grace, and Peace to all from the Valpo congregation. Spring is definitely in the air. Warmer days and sunshine are here to stay for a while. It's easy to forget how the Lord works, even in the things we don't or forget to pray about. He does so much for us and we do so little in return.

The end of April brought our Easter program. We give thanks for

the wonderful gifts of Bro. Brian Huber, and Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jacki, Francesville; and Sis. Jenna, Remington, respectively). It's wonderful how these brothers are used to the Lord's benefit. We don't want to forget the men's quartet and ladies group from Francesville, who graced us with their beautiful voices. How is God using you?

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

Matthew 5:14-16

He lived and died to buy my pardon;

An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

-Because He Lives

Also this month the Valparaiso Sisters had a nice luncheon for the members of Parkview Haven. More of God's work in action!

 $Love \, and \, peace \, from \, Valparaiso. \,$ 

# INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE Nettie Haab Diana Houston

"And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, that ye should walk in it."

II John 1:6

Visiting ministers have been Bros. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie,

Washington, IL), Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO), Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kay, Bloomington, IL), Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, LaCrosse, IN), Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN), Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North, IN) and Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN). We thank them for bringing us God's Word.

Wedding vows were shared between Bro. Michael Anliker and Sis. Mindy Rumbold. Parents are Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karel Anliker (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Rollie and Sis. Carol Rumbold (Roanoke, IL).

Graduating high school students this year are Heather Furrer (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene), Sonya Gerber (Bro. Gordy and Sis. Kathy), and Blake Widmer (Bro. Neal and Sis. Kris). God's blessings on them as they go on to the next step in their lives.

We pray for God's special healing powers to quickly heal Kaitlin Gutwein's broken leg. Kaitlin is the daughter of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Laura.

### INDIANA, WOLCOTT Heidi Bahler Luann Gerber

We are so thankful to see the sun shining after a couple weeks of rain and clouds here in Indiana! Thankfully the farmers have their corn in and are anxious to get back in to finish planting their beans. It is hard for them to remain patient when they desire to get those crops in! The Lord always provides, though, and they will be the first to confirm that.

Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke) was with us recently and we always enjoy hearing him expound on the Word of God. We are thankful they have relation here and visit fairly often!

Little Emma Rose Blume spent a week in the hospital recently and we are so thankful that God has touched her with His healing hand and she is able to be in church again! These little ones are so precious to us and we all get a little nervous when we hear they're in the hospital!

This past weekend we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Jon and Colleen Jacoby (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Pat Kyburz). It was sweet to watch their two little boys when they saw Mommy and Daddy baptized and it made us stop and think of our responsibility to our young generation. They are watching everything that goes on around them and will take to heart what they see and hear. May God richly bless this precious family. With us to help Bro. Alfred on Saturday evening was Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN).

On Sunday afternoon, we enjoyed welcoming back to our pulpit for a visit Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette, IN).

Our high school graduates this year are Sis. Renae Bahler (Chris and Sis. Teresa), Sis. Brittany Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann), Stefanie Schwab (Bro. Mark and Sis. Shari) and Sis. Sheila Schwab (Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel). Graduating from college are Nikki Harris (Mike and Sis. Nancy Scott) and Sis. Bethany Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann.) We pray each of them will seek God's guidance and direction as they go off to college or the workplace.

Ron and Donna Kyburz would like to thank everyone for their love, prayers and support during the time of diagnosis and treatment for their son Brad's Hodgkin's disease. They couldn't have gotten through it without all of you and said they will never, ever forget it. Donna asked that we continue to pray for Brad since even though he was just told he's clear, it could return. Brad and his wife, Tanna, appreciated all that was done for them during this rough time in their lives.

### IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

It was a blessing to again share the bread and wine in Holy Communion. Our thanks to Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) for serving this blessed sacrament to us. May we together, now, press on unto greater faithfulness.

Steve Moyle (Peggy) was recently a surgical patient and is home again recuperating well.

Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach were happy to hear of the arrival of their new granddaughter, Leandra Kay (Bro. Greg and Sis. Gwen, West Bend, IA).

May the words of this poem give food for thought to Dads this Father's Day.

To Any Daddy
There are little eyes upon you,
And they're watching night and
day;

There are little ears that quickly Take in every word you say.
There are little hands all eager
To do everything you do,
And a little boy who's dreaming
Of the day he'll be like you.
You're the little fellow's idol,
You're the wisest of the wise;
In his little mind about you
No suspicions ever rise;
He believes in you devoutly,

Holds that all you say and do
He will say and do in your way
When he's grown up like you.
There's a wide-eyed little fellow
Who believes you're always right,
And his ears are always open
And he watches day and night,
You are setting an example
Every day in all you do,
For the little boy who's waiting
To grow up to be like you.

Other visiting ministers this month include Bros. Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA) and Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL). May God richly bless them.

### IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Willa Clark

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

Proverbs 4:1

In this month we give special honor to our earthly fathers, and nothing can honor a father more than for his children to follow his instruction, and grow strong in the ways of the Lord, acting with wisdom and understanding.

Bros. Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN) and Beirne Messner (Morris, MN) have visited and shared God's Word with us. We are thankful for their extra efforts and travel to be with us. The fellowship we enjoy with brothers and sisters in Christ is a little bit of Heaven on earth.

### IOWA, LESTER Dawn Knobloch Dawn Metzger

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Revelation 21:4

We have several in our congregation that are mourning the passing of a loved one from their family circles. Emil Wulf passed away on April 28 after suffering a stroke a few days earlier. We extend our sympathy to his family including those in our congregation, Bro. Wilhem and Sis. Leona Wulf, Bro. Jacob and Sis. Alice Wulf, Bro. Lawrence Wulf, Sis. Amelia Roeman, Sis. Karoline Doorneweerd, Leah Doorneweerd and Sis. Martha (Ernst) Feucht. Bro. Paul and Sis. Betty Leuthold, Elsie Leuthold and Sis. Estelle Leuthold are grieving the loss of their brother and brother-in-law, Bill Leuthold. Our sympathy is extended to Ed and Judy Martin in the death of Ed's sister, Evelyn Yergler. Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori Popkes and their girls were saddened by the death of their mother and grandmother, Darlene Folkens. May our loving Father comfort each one during their time of loss.

Korin Mae was born on May 5 to Bro. Vernon and Sis. Chalea Knobloch. Excited siblings are Chalsea, Garth, Blain, Damon, Janel and Molly.

On May 11, the betrothal of Bro. Jeff Leuthold (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki) and Sis. Amber Metzger (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Mary) was shared with us. Troy Metzger and Gwen Grimm are also engaged to be married. Their parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte Metzger and Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm (Sabetha, KS). May God direct and bless these couples as they make

their future plans.

Our prayers are with Sis. Emma Feucht as she was hospitalized recently. Good health is truly a blessing from God — may we remember to thank Him for it.

We were blessed with a visit from Bro. Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS). We thank him for the inspiring words he shared with us.

We are thankful to hear that Dan and Jeanne Wagenbach (Tremont, IL) have been blessed with the wonderful gift of peace and are looking forward to baptism. Jeanne was raised in the Lester congregation and her parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy Leuthold.

We were saddened to bid farewell to Sis. Tara Kellenberger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley) but trust God has led her to be with family in Morris, MN. We also thank her for so lovingly teaching the preschool Sunday school class this past year.

May is graduation time and we want to congratulate and recognize our graduates. High school graduates this year are Stacey DeSmet (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley), Traci Knoblock (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet), Jesse Metzger (Bro. Art and Sis. Kris), Sam Metzger (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Harriet), Jessica Moser (Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther), Melinda Popkes (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori), Tanya Wulf (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Myra), Jay Knoblock (Bro. Terry and Sis. Elaine), Janice Leuthold (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki), Mark Mogler (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Lois), Kent Moser (Bro. Donn and Sis. Joyce), Dava Stickling (Bro. Dale and Sis. Diane) and Robert Metzger (Don and Pat). Completing their college degree this spring were Katie Metzger (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Harriet), Sis. Lyndi Bruellman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa, West

Bend, IA), Susie Nohl (Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice, Morris, MN), Jesse TeSlaa and Joel TeSlaa (Jim and Rhonda Thielen and Gary and Barb TeSlaa), Stan Metzger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte) and Morris Metzger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce). Bro. Kevin Wulf (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy, Morris, MN) has completed his Master's Degree. May each of these graduates seek God's direction as they make their future plans.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to extend our deep appreciation for your prayers, encouragement, cards, and gifts as we bear the sudden death of our son, Jaden. We have felt the nearness of our brethren. May God bless each one.

Bro. Merlin and Sis. Marilyn Meyer

Jessica and Erica Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla Meyer

> IOWA, OAKVILLE Melody Steiner Debra Wagenbach

Our prayers and hearty congratulations go out to our high school graduates this year. Aaron Frank (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy), Dan Lanz (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Janet), Sis. Heidi (Lanz) Schmidgall (Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya and wife of Bro. Brian), Sis. Betsy Schulz (Bro. Roger and Sis. June), Amber Siegle (Bro. Bob and Sis. LeAnn), Ben Vierling (Jeff and Deb), and Kira White (Jeff and Sis. Lori White) are all beginning a new journey in their lives. We wish them God's grace and direction in all they set out to accomplish in the future. May they always look to Him for guidance

along the way.

Our heartfelt love and sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. Ernie Frank. Bro. Ernie was called home to his eternal reward after a long and faithful walk with his Lord. May God comfort his dear widow, Sis. Bernice, and surviving children, Sis. Marian Pflum (Bro. Lyle, Taylor, MO), and Bro. Curt (Sis. Kathy). Also our hearts were grieved to hear about the accident and passing of our dear Sis. Bonnie (Moser) Wagenbach's (Bro. Jerry Jr.) young nephew, Tanner Lloyd Fehr, of Fairbury, IL. We pray that the God's love can fill the voids that exist here on this earth as He calls loved ones home.

Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart recently spent a Sunday afternoon in Oakville. We were very grateful and thankful that he came to minister unto us from the precious Word of Life.

### IOWA, PULASKI Katrina Knobloch

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

Proverbs 3:5,6

As the school year draws to a close, we congratulate our high school graduates and pray they will allow the Lord to direct their paths. The graduates are: Jacob Joos (Bro. Ron and Sis. Christy), Ryan Schock (Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa), Jonathon Teubel (Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte), Boni Wettstein (Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita) and Stacy Wuthrich (Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn).

Visiting us on the pulpit this past month were Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) and Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL). We thank them for their labors and pray God will bless them.

With the arrival of spring weather, our new church building project has begun to become a reality. Footings were poured and foundation walls were next as we are able to see how important it is for the building to be set on solid ground and the foundation to be able to withstand the loads and demands that will be put on it throughout the years to come. Tons of steel is incorporated within the concrete, and although it is not seen, it is required, that the full strength is achieved.

Plumbing and waterlines that have been foreseen by the masterbuilders were put in place before the floor was poured with concrete. When we think of how our Heavenly Father is our Masterbuilder and Maker, our Creator, we too often don't realize all the things that come to pass, and perhaps put into our makeup, are there for a reason we don't always foresee.

It has been a real blessing working with volunteer Brothers and friends, from here at home, and several from Illinois and our neighboring Iowa churches. We know the Lord is their reward, yet gratitude for their thinking of us, humbles us. We also have been assured by many, that their prayers will be with us throughout this project that none is injured, and that it will be a blessing for all, especially our great God.

### IOWA, WEST BEND Berniece Banwart Lori Skoglund

The safe arrival of three little girls has brought joy to their families this past month. Bro. John and Sis. Wendy Fehr welcomed Crystal Sue on April 21. Siblings, Heather, Michael and Brandon, along with grandparents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr and Bro. Art and Sis. Eula Mogler, will give her much love.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Gwen and 2-year-old Trystian Schupbach are happy with the arrival of Leandra Kay on April 22. Her grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Yvonne Bruellman and Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach (Elgin, IA).

Julia Beth Fehr was a special addition for Bro. Cory and Sis. Jennifer, big sister Emma, and brothers, Jack, Charlie, Noah and Thomas. Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice Fehr and Gary and Pat Alberts of Ames, IA, are her grandparents.

Graduating from high school are five young adults: Joshua Banwart (Brad and Julie), Pamela Bormann (Ralph and Melanie), Anthony Fehr (Jeff and Beth), Corbin Fehr (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy) and Joel Mogler (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Beth). To all of our graduates, whether it be from 8th grade, high school or colleges, we share these words of wisdom found in Proverbs:

"My son, forget not my law ... Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So thou shalt find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall di-

rect thy paths."

Proverbs 3:1-6

Eli Gerber was hospitalized briefly again and is thankful to be back home. Also, Lydia Edwards had a short hospital stay.

It is well that our nation has a day set aside in remembrance of fathers. May we give them the honor that they are due as it is stated in the fifth of the Ten Commandments. "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." (Exodus 20:12)

Father's Day

There are little eyes upon you, and they're watching night and day;
There are little hands all eager to do everything you do

And a little boy who's dreaming of the day he'll be like you.

You're the little fellow's idol...you're the wisest of the wise.

In his little mind, about you no suspicions ever rise.

He believes in you devoutly, holds that all you say and do He will say and do it your way

He will say and do it your way, when he is grown-up like you. There's a wide-eyed little fellow,

who believes you're always right,

And his ears are always open, and he watches day and night.

You are setting an example every day in all you do

For the little boy who's waiting to grow up to be like you.

—author unknown

### JAPAN, SHIODA Toru Saigusa

These days we have had unhappy news here in Shioda. Bro. Toshio Uchida, who had been with us for about four decades, passed away on February 19. He was 89. Every Sunday he always sat in the same place in our church and that place on the bench has been vacant since then. Nobody has sat there because we miss him.

Sis. Haruko Saigusa has been in the hospital for several months. She is in Ichimomiya Hot Spring Hospital near our church now. We hope she will get well soon.

Life brings happiness and sadness. Some days we feel happy, and other days we are disappointed. But we thank our precious Lord that we are with Him. We are not alone, but we are always with the Lord. We thank Him for our learning to feel joyful in God.

### JAPAN, TOKYO Marie Inoue

With joy this month we heard the announcement that our friend Ikumi Watanabe has repented and found forgiveness for her sins and by faith is walking with the Lord. Because of this she has peace in her heart and desires baptism. The Lord willing, we look forward to this on June 21 and 22. We are thankful the Lord is still calling precious souls and are looking forward to this special weekend. Ikumi first came to church during her college days in Yamanashi through the encouragement of our Sis. Reiko Furuya (Shioda) who was one of her teachers.

Our yearly business meeting was held this month also. With a small group, one person usually has to have several responsibilities. Lunch duties and secretary and treasurer remain the same. Cleaning responsibilities were divided up to all who could help. It is such a blessing when each does

their part with a willing heart. Teaching responsibilities in Sunday School also remain the same. May God bless each one who can serve Him in these ways.

We are so thankful our local Elder brother was able to serve and returned home safely from the recent Mission Committee meeting held in Chicago.

Traveling to Japan from Smithville, OH, were Bros. Art Riggenbach and Scott Stoller. They are farmers and spent time up north in Sendai attending meetings for marketing their soybeans. On their departure day they had a few hours lay over in Tokyo Station before heading for the airport, and asked if anyone could meet them. Three of us were able to have lunch and short time of blessed fellowship with them. Two other gentlemen accompanied the brothers and were surprised that Art and Scott were so interested to meet someone they had never seen or met before. "Will you recognize them?" they asked. "Oh yes, we will surely recognize them," they replied. As we visited, the brothers shared aspects of their lives and how the Lord provided for them. Not everything was given to them as they would have liked, but they found God's grace was sufficient, and they praise and glorify His name. An outstanding example of this was the experience Bro. Scott told concerning losing his arm in a farm accident, and how the end of his life was so close. But God in His great love and mercy spared him for some reason. As we parted, I thought how encouraging it was to meet and be taught of our precious faith with our brethren and their friends.

### KANSAS, BERN Sally Strahm Lori Baumgartner

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

James 1:17

We are thankful for those who have been blessed with the gift of a new baby in recent weeks. Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sally Strahm welcomed their firstborn child, Tessa Jo, into their hearts and home on April 29. We rejoice with them as well as Tessa's grandparents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth Hartter (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Dale and Sis. Shelby Strahm.

Also welcoming a new daughter into their family circle are Bro. Christopher and Sis. Amy Menold. Ashlyn Rose was born May 12 and joins her older sister, Sonja, at home. Her grandparents are Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz (Silverton, OR) and Bro. James and Sis. Lou Menold.

Three from our congregation have had to spend time in the hospital during the past month. They are Sis. Mamie Strahm (Bro. Alphia), Sis. Stella Moser (Bro. Reuben) and Logan Fehr (Bro. Todd and Sis. Cynthia). We are thankful for those in the medical field who are there to assist when we suffer health or physical problems. Yet, ultimately we realize that the power to heal lies in the hands of our God. May He provide healing as He sees best.

Peace, perfect peace, In this dark world of sin? The blood of Jesus whispers peace within. Hymns of Zion #26

We rejoice with Lindsay Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) who was announced for receiving peace in her heart. We look forward to hearing her testimony the evening of May 31.

We wish to thank the visiting ministers that shared the Word of God with us on May 18. They were Bros. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristin, Alto, MI) and Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA). May the Lord bless them for their willingness to serve and may they feel welcome to come worship with us again anytime.

As Father's Day will soon be here, may we all remember our fathers and give thanks for all that they have done to raise us in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We realize that the task of being a father is not an easy one, yet we trust that God will supply His grace and wisdom as they fill their position as "priest of the home".

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

We apologize for failing to include two of our graduates last month. Bro. Anthony Esslinger graduated from Washburn University in Topeka, KS, and Austin Esslinger graduated from high school. Their parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty. We wish both of these graduates God's blessings and His direction as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

*Notice*: The Silver Lining collec-

tion for our congregation will be held during the month of June.

### KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Ruth Bahr

We wish to thank those that ministered to us this month. They were Bros. David Obergfel (Sis. Kathleen, Peoria, IL), Max Reimschisel (Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS), Al Langhofer (Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS), and James Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS) who brought the Mother's Day message.

A devastating tornado struck twenty miles south of Fort Scott. On Wednesday evening, May 7, we fellowshipped with two brethren from IL who came as a part of the World Relief Response team. Other helpers, over a five day period, were brothers and friends from here and our surrounding congregations. Their work was greatly appreciated.

Moving here from Tucson, AZ, we give a hearty welcome to Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Lemons. Already, they have shown their gift of Christian hospitality to this church group.

### KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY Eileen Bahr

Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) came home for Good Friday and Easter services with us.

Lamont-Gridley had the privilege of hosting the Midwest junior high school Sunday School classes yearly fellowship weekend. We thank Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) for his inspiring messages.

Congratulations to Bros. Aaron Luthi (Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane) and Kent Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy) on their high school graduation.

God blessed us with rain that has filled our ponds and revived the Flint Hills in all it's beautiful splendor. Our brothers have been helping with the tornado devastation's cleanup in surrounding areas. We have been spared. How well Rudy and I remember the storm's hail, sudden quiet, then the train roar as we went to the basement with our baby daughter in 1956. God had watched over our home and granted us help with the barn and shed and picking up the debris in the fields.

### KANSAS, SABETHA Mary Kay Wenger Jeanelle Plattner

At this time we discontinue our Wednesday evening services. Sunday evening singings are held every two weeks with the Bern congregation. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) had our Good Friday service. We appreciate his labor in the Lord's service.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Dan and Cheryl Wenger. Cheryl's grandfather, Virgil McClain, passed away on April 21.

A special thank you to the brethren at Gridley-Lamont, KS, for hosting our Junior Bible Class students. Many precious memories are left in the hearts of our youth.

April 20 was a special Easter for Bro. Kurt Grimm and Sis. Hannah Koehl who were united in Holy Matrimony in Morris. Their parents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm and Bro. Guy and Sis. Lynette Koehl (Morris, MN). A reception was held on Mother's Day, May 11. We welcome Sis. Hannah and hope she feels "at home" with us.

It is with much thankfulness to announce Travis Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon) has begun his repentance.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth Hartter are happy grandparents of their first granddaughter, Tessa Jo, born April 29 to Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sally Strahm (Bern, KS).

We are thankful Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel with the very important work of Holy Communion on May 3.

Some of our youth traveled to Franklin, KS, as part of the many volunteers who helped with disaster clean up following the May 4 tornadoes in that area. We are grateful for everyone's willingness to help. On the return trip, an individual in the group was questioned at a restaurant. After he learned of why they were there, he handed over \$100 to be used toward their meal. This example shows when we freely give of ourselves, not expecting a reward, in due time we will be rewarded.

We don't understand why some things happen as they do. We are just so grateful 11-year-old Ted Grimm (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl) is back home after a serious farm accident in which God spared his life.

At this time we say "thank you" to our fathers for all they have done. We especially thank those for raising their families as led by our Heavenly Father.

### KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

Recently, Elder Bro. John Lehman and Sis. Connie and Bro. Ed Strahm and Sis. Ramona were in Wichita on business and worshipped with us at the Wednesday night service. Elder Bro. Jay Luthi was here also. Because I do not drive any distance after dark, I was not present. I asked a sister in faith to fill me in on the details. She summarized it by saying, "We had a very pleasant evening." Thank you, Brothers, for sharing your time with the Wichita congregation.

Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel and Sis. Ellen and his parents were present in our assembly on May 11. We were blessed by their presence and again, we thank Bro. Gerry for his labor in the ministry.

A group of Sisters exercised their many talents and planned a Mother-Daughter dinner for the evening of May 10. The event gave those involved an opportunity to renew acquaintances in a spiritual setting. The theme for the evening was "Gardens". Today as I turned the page of my inspirational calendar, I found these words, "Love, consolation, and peace bloom in the garden of sweet contentment." May our spiritual gardens reveal this quality.

Our church neighbor and friend, Marie Geary, underwent corrective surgery on her arm and shoulder. She was injured in the early fall when she was struck by a car. Hopefully, the surgery will relieve some of her discomfort.

Samuel Glen Kelly was born April 23. He is the son of Josh and Glenna and the grandson of Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally Funk. Samuel and his brother, Hamilton, are a part of nine little boys in the pre-school age group. Won't that make an exciting Sunday School class?

### KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Glenda Neukomm

"As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is tried: He is a buckler to all them that trust in him. God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect."

II Sam. 22:31,33

We were privileged to have our former retired Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Sis. Marc, Francesville, IN) visit us the weekend of March 8-9 along with his son, ministering Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky). We enjoyed a potluck and singing on Saturday evening. It was a blessed time of fellowship. It is our prayer that the Lord will richly reward Bro. Wendell and his family for the many efforts and labors of love toward the Lexington church over approximately 30 years.

On Friday evening, April 11, we had our annual business meeting and the reading of the Memorandum. May the Lord richly bless our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) for his many efforts of love in shepherding our flock, and for coming to carry out the responsibilities of the evening.

We feel so blessed by the many visiting ministers who have brought us the inspired Word of God these past months. It is our prayer the Lord will richly bless them. They are Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Sis. Marc) and Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky) of Francesville, IN; Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL), Bob Pflederer (Sis. Eleanor, Morton, IL), Kenneth Weerts (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL), Randall Gasser (Sis. Susan, Detroit, MI), Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL), Ted Luginbuhl

(Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH) and Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL).

Starting the month of June, on the first Wednesday night of each month, we will be singing at a nursing home and/or visiting a shut-in instead of having our regular service. Please call us if you plan to visit Lexington on the first Wednesday night of the month. We'll inform you where we plan to be, and you can join us.

Over the summer months, 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.

### MEXICO, IXTLAN Penny Stahl

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

The Young Group showed their appreciation for their mothers at the annual Mother's Day program. Bro. Marshall used Samuel's and Moses' mothers as examples of how Godly training in the early years of a child's life is very important. We also enjoyed a time of singing, dinner and fellowship.

Bro. Bryan Stoller (Fairbury, IL) came the first week of May for the eye clinic. Each day Bro. Bryan performed eye examinations on more than fifty individuals. It was encouraging to see the many grateful individuals receive glasses for perhaps the first time. Many thanks to Bro. Bryan, those who assisted throughout the week and also those of you who have donated glasses in the past.

Bro. Javier Gonzales (Sis. Berta) had surgery this past month. We continue to pray that God will encourage him and his family during his time of recovery.

Meet Sis. Teresa Cervantes de Navarro:

To introduce myself, I am a daughter of Sis. Carmen Cervantes who was the first believer here in Ixtlan. I am 40 years old and the mother of three sons and one daughter, Berenice, who is also a believer. (see the Sep., 2002, Silver Lining)

When I was a young girl, about 18, my brother, Jose Cervantes, had just married Cathy (Novotny) and they would come home to visit the family. They shared many spiritual teachings from the Word with us that began to affect my way of thinking. At that time I was more interested in such things as jewelry and clothing, but when Jose shared the Truth of the Gospel, I was torn. Part of me wanted to leave and go to the plaza to be with my friends and part of me wanted to stay home and listen.

When I turned 19, I was married and we began our own family. The children enjoyed going to church with me when we visited Ixtlan, but I was beginning to experience an inner conflict. I recognized my responsibility as a mother of little children, but at the same time, I did not want to admit I was not a Christian. I was too embarrassed to tell

the minister of my conviction. My husband also threatened to divorce me if I was baptized. But then after he experienced a problem in his own life, he began to recognize his own need and began to attend with us. This did not last and eventually, he began to withdraw but told me (and Berenice) that we should do what we felt we needed to do. I also came under conviction for my attention to the external appearance and understood that my adorning should be a "meek and quiet spirit".

I found encouragement through letters and cassettes sent to me. The words of one of the hymns in particular spoke to my heart and moved me to tears. My brother continues to counsel and encourage me to stay firm in my convictions and to continue to do what is right and to not be affected by my circumstances. I was baptized on July 22, 2001.

'That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." I Peter 1:7

### MICHIGAN, ALTO Terri Huber Rose Watson

On Wednesday evening, May 7, our congregation had special guests, "Hand's In Praise". They were from The Caribbean Christian Community for the Deaf; it was a unique and special time to have them be with us for the evening. They are a choir, in which they use sign language to sing their songs. Thank you to all who organized this wonderful evening.

We had a clothes drive this month to support World Relief. We

would like to thank Bro. Carl Steffen for transporting the clothes to Bluffton, IN.

Our teens have been getting together for fun, games and fellowship monthly during the school year and last night was their final time for this school year. The group went ice skating in Grand Rapids for the evening. All had a good, chilly time. Thanks to all of the parents who initiate and took part in the "Teen Night" evenings.

Also, our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Loretta (Bro. Aaron) Steffen as she is now at home recovering from a fall she had, which landed her a brief stay in the hospital.

### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Sarah Knochel Janelle Ramseyer

God my life's Creator,
Grant me grace and favor
Not to live in vain.
Lord, Thy love so holy,
And Thy Spirit lowly
In my heart shall reign.
Thy likeness Let me possess;
With Thy care and Thy direction,
Bring it to perfection.

Zion's Harp #167

On April 25-27 the Bay City congregation was blessed to be able to host the National World Relief Committee Meting. Seeing the results of the labors of our many churches to those less fortunate around the world reminded each of us how much the Lord has truly blessed us. On Saturday evening, many of the visitors stayed and shared with our congregation in partaking in Holy Communion. It was an uplifting time of fellowship and sharing for all.

Because of the meeting, we were privileged to have many ministering brothers with us on Sunday. We thank each of these brothers for their labor of love and willingness to serve our congregation: Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI), John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Ron Messner (Sis. Pam. Washington, IL), Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), and Bros. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH), Arnie Gerst (Sis. Marjorie, Taylor, MO), Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL) and Roger Sauder (Sis. Judy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL).

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

Psalm 3:5-6

As the end of the school year approaches, we congratulate our high school and college graduates and pray that they may seek God's direction for whatever their future may hold. Those who will be graduating from high school include Emily Knochel (Jerry and Michelle), Jamie Knochel (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kay), Michael Schmidt (Mike and Sis. Cheryl), Bro. Pierre Szabo (Bro. Frank and Sis. Gail) and Brad Wackerle (Allan and Pam). Our university graduates are Bro. Josh Steffen (Bro. Derrell and Sis. Sue) and Sis. Julie Waibel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol). May each one look to Christ as they continue their schooling or enter the work field.

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven as Laurel Curtis (Bro. Fred and Sis. Delores Munsel) has answered Christ's call and has begun her repentance. We wish Laurel God's grace in the coming days.

Bro. Derrell and Sis. Sue Steffen are thankful for the safe arrival of their fourth grandchild. Abagil Leigh Ettinger was welcomed into Russ and Tonya's family, and older siblings are John-David and Rachel.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Sis. Audrey Hitz (Detroit, MI) as she has passed away recently. Her family from Bay City includes Sis. Maxine Virkler (sister), Sis. Alice Eisenmann (aunt), Sis. Marlene McNally (niece) and Bro. Derrell Steffen (nephew).

As we enter into the summer months, we pray that God's continued grace and mercy will be with us all.

### BAY CITY CENTENNIAL WEEKEND

September 13-14, 2003
The Bay City congregation will soon reach the milestone of one hundred years of regular church services in our area. We would like to invite anyone who regularly attended the Bay City Apostolic Christian Church to join us for our weekend celebration on September 13-14, 2003. More details will follow in the next issue.

### MICHIGAN, DETROIT Jamie Bahr Krista Wieland

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have been hospitalized this past month. Sis. Arlene Belsley's son, Ken Belsley, has been in the hospital with complications following the donation of a kidney. Sis. Anna and Sis. Maria Sabados are now home following hospitalization. Sis. Eloise Bahr (Bro. Willard, Sabetha, KS) came to our area for eye surgery and will be with us

while she recovers.

Following a long battle with illness, Sis. Audrey Hitz has gone Home to be with her Heavenly Father. Our prayers are with her husband, Bro. Leonard; and their children: Jim and Jill Hitz and family, Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz and family, Rick and Judy Hitz and family, and Bob Hitz.

We want to thank Bro. Randy Mogler and his wife, Sis. Evie (Washington, IL), for preaching the Word to us on a Wednesday evening.

Bro. Brian Knudstrup is away for the summer working at Gateway Woods. We look forward to his return in the fall. We also wish Bro. Kevin Rauhe God's blessings as he is graduating from high school and starting a new chapter in his life. He plans to attend Michigan State University in the fall.

We welcome Andy Bruellman from West Bend, IA, while he is stationed here with the military. We also welcome Bro. Matt and Sis. Nancy Rocke and family from Fort Lauderdale, FL, as they make their new home in the Detroit area. In addition, Bro. Josh Overmeyer (Francesville, IN) will be worshipping with us this summer as he works an internship with Ford Motor Company.

### MINNESOTA, MORRIS Cheryl Messner Katie Koehl

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

Zion's Harp #79

We rejoice with Bro. Kurt Grimm and Sis. Hannah Koehl as they were united in the Lord on April 20. Parents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Guy and Sis. Lynette Koehl.

The engagement of Bro. Kevin Joos (Bro. Harv and Sis. Debra) to Sis. Kelli Adams (Sis. Sharon and the late Bro. Terry, Forrest, IL) was announced. May God bless them as they look to Him for further guidance.

We are thankful to have visiting ministers this past month. They were Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel (Sabetha, KS), and Bros. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Darrell Stoller (Bern, KS), Brandon Plattner (Sabetha, KS), Jim Koehl (San Diego, CA) and Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN). We trust God will be their Rewarder.

Sis. Kristi Messner (Bro. Quinn), Sis. Gladys Koehl and Bro. Leonard Wulf (Sis. Violet) were hospitalized this past month. We trust God will continue to provide for each of them.

We extend sympathy to the family of Sis. Naomi Nohl as she has went to her reward. Also, we trust God will comfort Bro. Ken and Sis. Karen Koehl and their family with the passing of Sis. Karen's mother, Sis. Martha Greiner.

We are thankful for two new babies that were born. Justus Jon was born to Jon and Lori Moser. Justus was welcomed home by Jenna, Jacob and JoAnna. Grandparents are Sis. Norene Moser, Glenn and Nancy Knopp, and Harry and Corrine Kruize.

On May 16, Dawn Marie was born to Bro. Quinn and Sis. Kristi Messner. She arrived about two months early. We trust and pray God will continue to provide for them and keep them in His care. Grandparents are Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl Messner and Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn Koehl.

We wish God's blessings on the following High School graduates: Troy Backman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Cathy), Mitchell Fehr (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy), Brad Feuchtenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gwen), Jilaine Furrer (Bro. tom and Sis. Jill), Alexis Gramm (Bro. Rick and Sis. Julie), Amber Jones (Bro. Shane and Sis. Ruth), Kurtis Koehl (Bro. Roy and Sis. Jenell), Crystal Rinkenberger (Robert and Mary), Alan Schmidgall (Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda), Bro. Joshua Schmidgall (Bro. Dave and Sis. June), Byran Wulf (Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce), Lucy Wulf (Bro. Dave and Sis. Nancy) and Rachel Wulf (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda).

The following three graduated from higher schools of learning: Sis. Joan Schmidgall (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby), Sis. Kari Koehl (Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn) and Sis. Ruth Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen).

### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Marilyn Messner Ginny Stoll

Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) was inadvertently omitted as a visiting minister. We wish to thank him for his efforts.

Our college graduates are Sis. Carol Ann Messner's daughter, Sis. Stephanie Knobloch (Bro. Damon), from the U of M with a Master's in nursing as a family nurse practitioner. Ben Schmidt (Bro. Dick and Sis. Marylou) graduated with a two-year degree in Business Management from S.C.S.U.

Brendon Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda) and Sam Miller were hospital patients. We pray for God's healing hand in their recovery.

Proverbs 21 was read to honor our Mothers. May we always remember the love and guidance they so willingly provide.

Sunday School voting was held with Sis. Becky Braulick for a four year term and Bro. Derick Schmidt and Sis. Lindsay Schmidt as substitutes. Our prayers are with them as they fulfill their duties to teach God's love.

Our annual Winthrop and Minneapolis picnic was held at beautiful Baylor Park. What a blessing to fellowship with loved ones of like mind and faith.

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

"This is the day which the Lord hath made: we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord; we have blessed you out of the house of the Lord.

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

Psalm 118:24,26,29

We are so appreciative that God has set aside the Sabbath so that we can gather together around His Word and worship Him. Thankfully in recent weeks, we have been blessed with the following visiting ministers: Bros. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS), Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA), Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA), Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Roger Aberle (Sis.

LaVonne, Sabetha, KS). May God bless these brothers and their families for their labors.

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Stephanie Young and their daughters, Bethany and Sierra, recently moved to the Kansas City area from Bradford, IL. We pray that God may richly bless them as they begin a new occupation and warmly welcome this dear family to our congregation.

Please continue to pray for Ben Miller (Bro. Dennis and Sis. April) as he serves in the Marine Corps in the Middle East. He would appreciate any letters or notes of encouragement. His address:

LCPL Miller, Benjamin W. 51396 4478

**CSSC 135** 

**UIC 42386** 

FPO AP 96426-2386

On April 26, we had our spring work day at church. It is so edifying to see so many brothers and sisters working together to accomplish so much. May we work together in a spiritual sense also, for the good of the congregation and for our soul's salvation. Praise be to the Lord for the blessing of a wonderful place of worship.

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

It would be wise if these words of wisdom could be kept in the hearts of our recent graduates: Matthias Smith (Ron and Sis. Diane) from high school and Bro. Quinton and Sis. Heather Snyder (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara and Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz, Detroit, MI) from Kan-

sas State University. May God bless and protect these recent graduates as they pass this milestone in their life's journey.

Kalahan Aberle welcomes his new little sister, Klaire Zelma, as a wonderful blessing from God. Parents are Bro. Scott and Sis. Dorine Aberle and grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. LaVonne Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Eleanor Kurkowski (West Palm Beach, FL) and Don Kurkowski (Novi, MI).

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

Mark 10:14

#### MISSOURI, LAMAR Wendy Braker Becky Marti

We appreciate Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) being with us this month to assist in serving Holy Communion and to bring forth the Holy Word.

Bro. William Stefan (Sis. Hilda) was a surgical patient. We are thankful he is home and look forward to him being able to return to church.

We have three converts graduating this year. Venetta Banwart (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Carolyn) has completed her schooling as an Occupational Therapy Assistant. Nicole Marti (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kathy) and Nicole Braker (Bro. Jay and Sis. Sharon) have graduated from high school. May they seek to follow God's direction as they pursue employment and higher education.

#### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS Betsy Schrenk

We are blessed to welcome Bro.

Dave Roberts to St. Louis. He is a recent graduate of law school in Indianapolis, and has accepted employment here. We wish him God's continued direction and protection.

Each year in May we have a full weekend when we have our annual business meeting, are served Communion and the Memorandum is read. Our Elder Bros. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) and John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) and their families spent the weekend in St. Louis. We thank them for the love and willingness with which they served us.

Other visiting ministers were Bros. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO) and Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise, Bluffton North, IN). We were reminded to be aware each morning that "today" could be the day. Jesus could come for us today! But "when" He comes doesn't really matter. Being ready does.

#### MISSOURI, TAYLOR Susan Haerr

Congratulations to our high school graduates this month. They are Darin Heimer (Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan), Sis. Heidi Heimer (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Barb), Bro. Rick Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny), Joe Marquart (Bro. Dave and Sis. Lori), Krista McCord (Marcia Massner), Jesse Shuck (Leslie and Diana), Sis. Jenae Sutter (Dan and Sis. Tina), Jimmy Sutter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kris) and Carson Yackley (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jerilyn). Retired Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL) was here on Wednesday evening, May 14, to share a special message with our graduates. Thanks so much for the

words of wisdom, Bro. Joe. May God bless you and Sis. Shirley for making that effort to be here with us. To our graduates, we wish God's best for you as you move into a new phase of life. We love you so much.

Among those receiving medical attention in the last month is Sis. Marcia Sutter. May God bless you and heal you, Marcia.

Our congratulations to Mark (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joann) and Lisa (Scott) Wiegand who were married on Saturday, April 26. We wish you God's blessings for a long and happy life together.

Bro. Kenny Knapp (Sis. Phyllis) announced that he had just preached his last sermon on Sunday, May 18. We are so thankful for your many years of service to us, Bro. Kenny and Sis. Phyllis. We are thankful that you will be able to enjoy a slower pace but will miss you on the pulpit. May God richly bless you here and, more importantly, some day in Heaven.

#### NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We were thankful to have visitors with us on the weekend of May 3-4 and gathered together Saturday evening for a potluck dinner, followed by a singing. It is always so uplifting to blend our voices together in praise to our Lord and Saviour.

On Monday evening, May 12, we held our annual church cleaning and are thankful for each one that was able to help.

Our prayers went out to Sis. Linda Graves who was hospitalized this month. We are thankful that the Lord was with her and that she is again home.

#### OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

Our high school graduates are Patricia Demrovsky (Andy and Vera), Lea Greenbank (Ken Greenbank), Christina Palitto (Bro. Mark and Debbie), Christina Steidl (Bro. Don and Sis. Nan) and Kurt Steidl (Les and Judi). A dinner will be held for them and their parents to recognize their accomplishment. We hope each graduate will give priority to the right goals for their life.

Kevin and Martha Begly, who were from this area, are at Dover, DE, as Kevin is stationed there in the Air Force. Martha is one of our converts, and was able to slip away for a short visit to her home area, having with her their son born February 28, Benjamin Lee.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Steidl have become a mother and father with the birth of their baby girl, Mya Ruth, born May 6. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman and for the first time Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl are grandparents.

Mothers were recognized at church on Mother's Day as the upper classes of Sunday School prepared and served the noon lunch. They did a marvelous job with all the food and the serving.

Sis. Bonnie Bako and her mother, Kathryn Nagy, are both home from the hospital. Our prayers are with them for their health.

Don Graf has been in the hospital, and we hope he will soon be feeling better.

We were grateful to partake of Holy Communion. We appreciated the services of our Elder Bro. Dave Graf and Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL). Bro. Ron stayed over for Sunday and we were blessed with his ministry.

We also were blessed with visiting ministers, Bros. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) and Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH).

#### OHIO, COLUMBUS Nancy Banks

Our brethren were blessed to be served Holy Communion this month. Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) were with us as we remembered the Lord's Supper. May we be ever so thankful for the sacrifice that paid for our redemption.

Several families gathered to participate in our annual spring cleaning to prepare the church for the coming months.

#### OHIO, JUNCTION Cindy Schlatter

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

Zion's Harp #255

Our congregation enjoyed a blessed Invite A Couple weekend this past month. We want to thank all who made a special effort to be with us. A special thank you to visiting ministers, Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL). We trust God will bless you for your labors of love.

Bro. Ted Steffen (Alto, MI) also visited this month. May God continue to be with you and bless you as you minister His good and Holy Word.

April 26 was a special day for Bro. Sam and Sis. Shelby Manz. It was the day they became parents and welcomed sweet little Elyse Linn into their lives. Elyse's grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz. Elyse came several weeks early and to date is still in the hospital, but continues to make measurable progress. We are looking forward to welcoming her home and to church in the near future. We trust God will continue to be near her and her parents and all parents as we daily strive to bring up our children in God-fearing homes.

#### OHIO, LATTY Amanda Steffen Bonny Wenninger

"I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations. For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds, Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: let thy glory be above all the earth."

Psalm 57:9-11

How true these verses are in the tumultuous times we live in. We need only to open His Word anytime and receive a blessing from the words therein. We were blessed this past month with many visitors. Among them were the following ministers: Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), and Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN) and Ron Koehl

(Sarasota, FL).

We were doubly blessed to hear the testimonies and baptisms of two dear souls on May 4. New sisters in the faith are Sisters Kallie Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. Joanne) and Allison Stoller (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori). May they continue on in faith and grace and strive to be true followers of Jesus Christ. Following a baptism weekend, it is always wonderful to hear of new converts. We rejoice with Marti Schlatter and her parents (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky) as she has answered God's call.

This past month two of our congregation experienced auto accidents but were spared any major injuries. We pray that God's healing hand be upon Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Wayne) Stoller and Crystal Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol).

Our prayers are with Sis. Marie Feucht as she has recently learned that she has cancer. We especially think of her daughters and their families (Bro. Gary and Sis. Paulette Sinn and Bro. Steve and Sis. Joy Sinn) in this time of decision and togetherness.

Welcoming yet another grandchild is Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee Sinn. Bro. Sam and Sis. Shelby Manz anticipated their first child to arrive in June but circumstances made it necessary for little Elyse Linn to be born seven weeks early on April 26. May this tiny girl grow in grace both in body and soul.

As we reflect on Mother's Day when we remember our mothers, we can also look ahead to Father's Day, remembering not only our earthly fathers, but the Heavenly Father who gave more than we ever could give; His own Son.

As it is May, it is once again time for that hallmark period every

spring: graduation. Whether it be from high school or college, congratulations to all. Our high school graduates include: Michael Graf (Bro. Bob and Sis. Joan), Simon Keeling (Host parents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim Sinn and English parents, Howard and Pam Keeling), Brett Klopfenstein (Bro. Leon and Sis. Deb), Mark Offerle (Terry and Patty), Sis. Allison Stoller (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori), Brock Stoller (Brent and Angie), Caleb Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb), Esther Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth), Sis. Heather Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam), and Jeremy Stoller (Bro. Rod and Sis. Leann).

#### OHIO, MANSFIELD John and Marci Pfeiffer

Clair and Sis. Bev Keever were happy to announce the arrival of a new little grandson, Seth Daniel. He was born on April 25 to Bro. Chad and Sis. Laurie Keever (Tremont, IL). His brothers, Joel and Todd, were glad to welcome him home. His maternal grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lauretta Schafer (Leo, IN).

Spending time in the hospital this month were Bro. Richard Bricker and Sis. Enid Miller (Bro. Don). Our prayers are with them as they recover.

We thank Bros. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and John Grimm (Columbus, OH) for sharing God's Word with us on Mother's Day.

"Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

Psalm 124:8

# OHIO, RITTMAN Anna Schar Laurel Indermuhle

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head and gave up the ghost."

John 19:30

It is such a humbling time as we remember Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection. It is a time to possibly reevaluate our thankfulness for God's ultimate gift of sending His only Son to be that perfect sacrifice for our sins.

Two new little ones were born into this world. Allison Diane was born April 19 to parents, Bro. Joel and Sis. Katrina Steiner. Welcoming her as grandparents are Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail Steiner and Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane Gasser. Also first-time parents, Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Steidl (Akron, OH), have a new daughter, Mya Ruth. She was born on May 6. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl (Akron, OH) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman.

As the Lord gives life, there are times when it is His will that ones would leave this earth. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bro. Ralph Weber as his brother, Alton Weber, was called from this life.

We want to thank Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) for being with us to preach God's Word in April.

Hospitalizations this past month were Sis. Marsha Rufener (Bro. Kevin) and Bro. Irwin Klotzle (Sis. Jane), Bro. Ethan Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail) and Sis. Martha Maag (Bob). We rejoice with those that are back with us and continue to keep those in recovery in our prayers.

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

Luke 15:7

We rejoice with Dean Stoller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian), Todd Rufener (Bro. Jim and Sis. Pat) and Suzanne Steiner (Bro. Carl and Sis. Carol) as they have chosen to escape the world's destruction through starting a new path in repentance. May God's grace be with each one in striving to follow God's will.

Note of Thanks:

Sis. Dorothy Zollinger would like to thank each of you for your continued prayers and many deeds of love including the cards, letters, gifts and visits. She is residing at our Apostolic Christian Home. May God be your rich rewarder.

#### OHIO, SARDIS Terry Zollinger

"Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied."

Jude 1:2

Praise and rejoicing for Jami Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry) and Eric Hartzler (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan, Rittman) for they have found peace in repentance and look forward to being baptized in His name, Lord willing, on July 13.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth."

Psalm 127:3-4

To honor Mother's Day, the Sunday School children and the single members were kind enough to serve the noon meal. We would like to thank each one for letting us have time off from preparing, serving and cleaning afterwards. We would also like to thank the Sunday School Superintendent, Bro. Allen Indermuhle, and the Sunday School teachers, Bro. Alan Blough and Bro. Bob Dotterer, for helping to make it a blessed Mother's Day.

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he comes."

I Cor. 11:26

Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) and our Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda) served the bread and wine on May 3 in honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. Bless the Elder brethren for their works in the name of the Lord and may we always remember the suffering on the cross for our sins.

"I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech. Shew thy marvellous loving-kindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them."

Psalm 17:6-7

Prayers have been answered for our loved ones who spent time in the hospital. Bro. Dale Riggenbach (Sis. Virginia) had surgery and all went well for him. Malachi Blough (Bro. Alan and Sis. Renee') is improving, but is still in the neonatal wing at Morgantown, WV. May we praise our Lord for the miracles of health and life that is granted to each one.

"And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

Ephesians 6:19-20

Visiting ministers, which we were blessed to hear, were Bros. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH), Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) and Mike Baumann (Sis. Florina, Mansfield, OH). May the Lord richly bless each one for making the effort to visit and stand at the pulpit to serve the Word through the Holy Spirit.

#### OHIO, SMITHVILLE Carrie Stoller Ruth Gasser

Again we are rejoicing with the angels in Heaven that a soul has turned to the Lord in repentance. Our prayers are with Joel Landis (Bro. Harvey and Stephanie) as he makes a beginning to follow and serve the Lord. Also, we are thankful to hear that Craig Dotterer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Rose) has found peace with God after a conversion experience. We wish him a strong faith and grace as he continues to grow in the Lord.

Ministering Bros. Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH) and Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) were our recent visitors in Smithville. We appreciate their labors and trust the Lord will reward all His faithful servants who speak the Word "in season and out of season".

Elmer Zieker (Annabel) and Sis. Mildred Hartzler were hospitalized this past month. May they find God's strength "made perfect in weakness".

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it."

Isaiah 30:21

Our list of high school graduates is quite long this year. We pray that each one will hear and follow the voice of the Lord as He offers to guide their life. Our graduates are Aaron Bauman (Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda), Andrew and Elijah Beery (Bro. Norman and Sis. Audrey), Sis. Jessica Dotterer (Bro. David and Sis. Luanna), Brooke Gasser (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Deb), Adam Hanzie (Terry and Sandy), Jennifer Hofacre (Bro. Steven and Sis. Jollene), Jason Indermuhle (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shari), Sis. Jeni Klotzle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley), Sis. Katie Maibach (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Barb), Aaron Marty (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Marie), John Marty (David and Michelle), Derek Nieman (Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay), Sis. Megan Steiner (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue), and Nick Winkler (Bro. Charles and Pat).

Note of Thanks:

We would like to express our thanks for the many cards, gifts, and meals given to us over the past months during Wynn's time in the hospital. We are especially grateful for the prayers and words of encouragement from each one. We are thankful that Wynn is home and we continue to pray that God's will can be done in his life. May God bless you.

Bro. Kirby and Sis. Carrie

Stoller

#### OHIO, TOLEDO Rebecca Beard Dee Beard

"Her children rise up and call her blessed."

Proverbs 31:28

As we gathered for worship on Mother's Day, we were taught of the merits of a virtuous woman. We were reminded of how these teachings apply to fathers as well. As we honor our earthly mothers and fathers, we are also honoring our Heavenly Father.

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

Proverbs 4:1

Our dear Sis. Colette Harmon was recently moved from the hospital to the nursing home for therapy. Our prayers are with Bro. Howard and their family as the Lord continues to sustain them through this time.

With the closing of another school year, Sis. Tara Steiner (Rittman) has received her degree in nursing. Kent Schlatter (Junction) has also graduated with a degree in engineering. We wish them God's guidance as they start their careers.

Recently Bro. Micah Gherian (Junction) has found employment in the Toledo area. Also, Sis. Tara Steiner has accepted a position at Toledo Hospital. We welcome them to our congregation.

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

Proverbs 22:6

Greta Hope was born to Bro. Seth and Sis. Faith Beard on May 11. Greta is welcomed home by big sister, Olivia. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee Beard and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois Maibach (Smithville, OH). May they continue to seek the Lord's guidance in raising their family.

OREGON, PORTLAND Louisa Gallup

Greetings everyone. We have no news this month, other than the fact that we have enjoyed a steady stream of visitors. These visitors are definitely an added blessing to our Sundays! We appreciate especially the following visiting ministering brethren: Bros. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), Don Sinn (Sis. Linda) and Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer), all from Silverton, OR. May the Lord bless you for your efforts on our behalf.

#### OREGON, SILVERTON Kelsey Kuenzi

"...Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 19:14

On May 4 little Cora Ann was welcomed into the family of Monte and Kellie Kuenzi. Also welcoming their new little sister are Madisen, Nolan and Jenna. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. RosaLee Kuenzi and Woody and Shari Hill, all of the Silverton area. May the Lord give them continued wisdom and guidance in raising their family.

We rejoice with Cliff Kuenzi (Vi-

olet) who believes he has found the precious gift of peace from God. Our prayers are with him as he prepares for baptism.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz in the loss of Betty's oldest sister, Evy Yergler. Evy was the wife of Wally Yergler from Winter Park, FL. She passed away on May 13 at the age of 71 years. May the Lord be their ever present Comforter.

# PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA Nathan and MaryElizabeth Gasser

This month we were blessed to witness the testimony and baptism of our dear Sis. Emily Lanz (Bro. John and Sis. Kay). We rejoice with her and her family in a victory won over Satan and the world, and pray for her ongoing spiritual growth and development as she begins her walk with her Lord. We appreciated the many visitors who came to support her, especially Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) who assisted in the baptismal ceremony.

Additional visitors this month included Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and his wife, Sis. Bev. We thank Bro. Mark for sharing the Word with us and trust God will reward him for his service.

We were pleased to be able to take part in our annual spring cleaning, and thank all those who gave of their time and energy on a Saturday morning. It is especially rewarding to see little children so eager to help in any way they can. May we take continual care to preserve the faith and unity of our congregation so our children will always have a desire to contribute to its spiritual, as well as material upkeep.

#### TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

We are so thankful for our visitors this past month. The Living Word has been clearly brought to us by our visiting ministers: Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI), Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH) and Brace Wieland (Sis. Brenda, Leo, IN). We have also been blessed by fellowship with brethren and friends visiting from Chicago and Forrest, IL; and Bluffton, IN.

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: Athens, AL (6/22), Roanoke, IL (6/29), Bluffton, IN (7/6), Champaign, IL (7/13), Bern, KS (7/20), and Forrest, IL (7/27). We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service. If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946.

#### TEXAS, SAN MARCOS Carrie Beyer

"Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice"

Philippians 4:4

It's always a reason to rejoice when our church has the opportunity to welcome visitors to our Sunday services. We especially wish to thank the ministers who served in San Marcos over the past month: Bros. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend), Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville), Keith Beyer (Sis. Alisa, Detroit), Mike Baumann (Sis. Florina, Mansfield), and Leland Plattner (Zapata).

During July, our church expects to host a minister from each of the following locations: Remington (7-6), Bradford (7-13), Cissna Park (7-20), and Leo (7-27). We extend a hearty welcome to anyone else who may be in the area to worship with us. Please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch and other activities. If you are available for fellowship on Saturday evening, Sunday evening, or during the week, we'd be happy to plan something then as well. Please see the ministers' book for contact information.

Our congregation continues 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 southbound frontage road.

#### TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

Our summer season is now upon us and all of the residents here in South Texas are making plans to visit their families in the north and anxiously awaiting visitors that have made plans to come to the Zapata congregation this summer. We certainly do appreciate all the calls, letters and visits that we receive during the summer months.

Anyone coming to Zapata this summer is encouraged to contact Bro. Leland Plattner (956) 765-5612 or Bro. Lloyd Nohl, Mission, TX at (956) 581-8266 prior to coming to make certain on the service schedule. Because of the limited number of brethren in Zapata, services will at times be alternated with the Pharr, TX, location.



Sermon continued from page 2

live as Christ would. He said, "...Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..." (St. Luke 23:34) even to those who did crucify Him eventually.

It talked then about divisions. In the margin it says 'or factions'. If we are all Christlike we are all of one mind, aren't we? The Bible tells us we need to be that way. It seems like we need to be very careful that we base our life, we base our thoughts and convictions and doctrine upon the Word. If we start to have our own thoughts, if we start to take some of the Word and reject other parts of it, that is where divisions could rise up among us.

I am not sure what the divisions were there that Paul talked of. We can think of a lot of the things that that early church confronted there. I believe it was talked about just a couple weeks ago here, the circumcision and things like that. There were those who felt that the Gentiles really needed to submit to some of those teachings of the law. Those things were then worked on and divided. But I believe those were some of the divisions at that time and we can see that even yet today, within the church, there are divisions of doctrine.

So we have to be very careful and strive to be united. Really, unless we base everything on the Bible, there would be so many other different directions we could go, if we trusted in our own thoughts. So he pointed out then again that they were carnal.

He went on to say, and this is maybe one of the verses that kind of struck me when the Bible opened here to two or three different chapters. He talked about being of Paul or of Apollos. They kind of forgot that they really needed to focus, like we have been talking, on God or His Word. Some felt they were followers of one and had been brought to know God by one or the other. But he really writes it very clearly and plainly here. He points them all back to God needs to be the center of our life. The only way God can be the center of our life is if it is His Word that we have here upon this earth.

If we didn't have this Word, how

would we know God? How would we know what way to go or what to do? But here we have God's Word. We have that Spirit that speaks from within that is in agreement with that.

So then he laid it out there as we mentioned here, about himself and Apollos and their part in it. But again, God is the One that giveth the increase. I don't believe that any of us here today would go back and say that a certain man or brother in the church was the one that brought us where we were. Because we know that is not true. It was really the miracle and the transformation that occurred within our heart. It was the working of God, was it not? It was just that Spirit that spoke to us and guided us and chastised us or convicted us. It really molded and shaped us. But it was that inner feeling that we had from God that really formed us and worked that transformation from being of a carnal mind to being Christ-like and being spiritual.

Paul went on to say, "For we are labourers together with God..." I Corinthians 3:9. So we have talked that really it is not man's work that worked within us. But I think the other thing we need to think of is that God uses men. God used the Apostle Paul here. Evidently he used Apollos. Maybe with different people. We think even today that there are certain duties that are placed upon men and responsibilities within the church. We have our Elders who shepherd us.

Some of the things we run into nowadays, is people say they are still following God. They might leave the church and the faith but they are still following God. Yet rejecting those who labored there.

We read together that we are labourers together with God. So we have to consider that this really all works together. That is how God has laid out this way. That He has, actually from the beginning, from the Old Testament, used men here upon this earth, did He not, to speak to one another.

We think of men of God. We think of Moses who led the people out of Egypt. God used Moses. He had a purpose for him there. He used the prophets of old time. And here He uses the Apostle Paul and those who were disciples and who became apostles of the Lord, having witnessed His life here and His death. Then they went forth and they were useful for God. We have to believe even yet today, that the order of the church is established by God. There is a reason and a purpose that we have the church and the faith that we have.

June 2003

Then the Apostle went on and he said, "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder..." I Corinthians 3:10. So Paul gives God the credit. He says it is according to the grace that God has given. But because of that he was able to be a wise masterbuilder. Because he was a man of God. He was directed by God. He was given this power by God.

He says, "...as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation..." I Corinthians 3:10. We think today how really our spiritual house is built upon a foundation, is it not? He talks here about a foundation that was laid. We often think of Christ being our foundation. Being the cornerstone of our life. Being the cornerstone of actually the church. It is built upon that. So the foundation is laid and the way is based here upon the Word.

We haven't completed our spiritual house. We haven't completed our tenure here upon this earth, have we? Some of us are young in the faith and some have been in the faith many years. But I think we can all relate that as of tonight we are still building upon the foundation of Jesus Christ. That will continue as long as we live here upon this earth. We will be working on that building.

I think our intention, I hope it is for everyone, is that we are going to build a lasting house. A lasting spiritual house. We are not going to cut any corners. We are not going to allow ourselves to become discouraged over time and start to slack off. I think we all want to continue working very diligently, very carefully, very steadfastly on building a spiritual house. We are going to talk about that in the next few verses.

It says, "...take heed how he

buildeth thereupon." I Corinthians 3:10. So now we can just think, what have we built so far? "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 3:11. Now how is it that Jesus Christ is a foundation to us?

I guess we have to think of the life of Jesus Christ. That is really a good foundation, isn't it? We think of how Jesus lived here upon this earth. How He was free from sin by the grace of God. How He didn't lay up treasure here upon this earth, He did not call this earth His home. How He was willing to give of Himself for others. He was willing to heal the sick, to give forgiveness, spiritually to people who were in sin. Then He was ultimately willing to give His life upon the cross.

Really, in a sense we have experienced that too, haven't we? This carnal nature we had, really we had to get rid of. If Paul was going to be able to speak to us as of spiritual, that is what we would want, so we have to get rid of that carnal nature. That is something we found that we had to crucify when we began the walk of faith. In repentance, we had to deal with that nature. We had to deal with those things we talked about; envy, strife, divisions. We had to put them out of our lives. We really had to crucify them, didn't we? It would be best if we could be dead to those things. Or if they could be dead within us. Not coming back. It is the best way to deal with those things. If we wouldn't quite get rid of that from our life, then they are going to haunt us on a regular basis. So we have to just overcome and get rid of those things. So it was that Christ was an example by His willingness to die on the cross, to us.

And now it talks then about, "...if any man build upon this foundation..." I Corinthians 3:12, and there is really a little list of things that we might use. We have to wonder, what are we using to build this temple, this spiritual house for God?

It talked of gold. It seems like gold would be the best thing to use, wouldn't it? Gold is a very precious metal. It has a lot of value. I think we would

want to give God the best as we build a spiritual house. So gold would be first choice.

It talks about silver and precious stones. Also very good, valuable, lasting things. Then at the end there are other options. Evidently, we could choose to use wood, hay or stubble. I think all of us, if we pictured the best spiritual house, we would probably choose from the first items listed there, wouldn't we? Something that would stand the test of time. Something of great value.

The enemy of the soul would probably suggest to us that we could also use wood, hay and stubble. That there are other things which we could use to build our house.

The next verse talks then, "Every man's work shall be made manifest..." I Corinthians 3:13. I don't know that today we can really look around at one another and say, well, Brother so and so is certainly using gold and Brother so and so it seems is using hay or stubble. That is not our job or duty here. But it does say that every man's work shall be made manifest, "...for the day shall declare it..." I Corinthians 3:13.

Now I am not sure what that day is. We can think of judgment day. There the record of our life will be opened and we will be judged according to how we have lived according to this Word. But even over time - the day - time can declare how diligent we have been in building this spiritual house. If we have been careless, if we haven't given God the best, if we have been tempted to use those poorer ingredients, in time our spiritual house will not stand will it? We might be deceived, not even knowing it. We might be led away, drawn away back to the world. Back to partaking of those things that we once partook of when we were carnal. We could be taken back to being envious, setting our heart on things of this life.

We think of the parable of the seed. It was those who were choked by the thorns. Jesus went on and said that was what the world had to offer. Evidently, the seed sprung up, but in time they were just choked by the world. They were surrounded by it and finally

they were overgrown, overtaken. (Matthew 13:22) What a sad situation there. And that could all happen.

So we don't know if that day means just in time it will be revealed by fire, or on judgment day. But it talks here about being revealed by fire. It said, "...the fire shall try every man's work..." I Corinthians 3:13. We think, what is the fire? It could be what we have to face in our life. It could be the tests and trials. We might be called upon to endure sickness and disease and great suffering in the flesh. It might be that we would just be tempted by God. That might be the fire that would try us.

If we have not built using the very best and having a lasting faith, then we could yield to temptation and we could be led away by that. It says, "...the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."

Now we think back of those ingredients that could be used to make this spiritual house. All of us here know that if we build with the very best, the gold, silver, precious stones, that fire cannot affect that, can it? Only it would purify it, would it not, the gold? And would destroy that which would be the impurities within it. That is what fire is used for.

But we think if we have used wood or hay or stubble, we are just going to be completely destroyed and swallowed up. I wish I could just more specifically say tonight, this is gold, this is silver, this is wood, this is hay. I am not sure that we can even do that. I think what we have to think of is where we were when we were in sin and we were separated from God. The condition of our heart, the thoughts. The things we partook of. The things that were precious and dear to us at that time.

They are so different, aren't they, from when we became spiritual then. All of a sudden the things of this earth we no longer wanted to partake of. I am not saying we were not tempted. But we really did not want a part of that because we had something so much better. Because we had Christ as our foundation and our hope. We had a hope of heaven, being with God eter-

#### Sermon continued from page 45

nally, forever, versus being eternally lost. There is such a contrast. Don't we want to be so careful to make sure that we have this hope of heaven? If there is anything hidden within our lives, we want to deal with it on this side of the grave to make sure we have a hope of heaven.

It talked about, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God..." I Corinthians 3:16. So we think of all this work we have done. We have worked in building upon a foundation.

Really what we built, isn't it a temple to God? It says that our bodies are the temple of God in one place (I Corinthians 6:19). "...and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" I Corinthians 3:16. So we have to ask ourselves tonight. Paul was talking to those brethren that he had a concern about, didn't he? But he goes on in this same part of the letter to remind them that the Spirit of God should be what dwells within them.

It says, "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy..." I Corinthians 3:17. So we have worked, and I believe everyone here today that has worked out their soul salvation, that has sought God in repentance, that made restitution for their sin, that was transformed by God, at that

time used the very best and built upon Christ as the foundation. But we said we continue building, do we not? We don't know what the future holds. But a warning here, if any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy. So that can happen to us, can it not? "...for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." I Corinthians 3:17. So as a man, we could defile that which we have labored so hard to build if we are careless.

It says, "Let no man deceive himself..." I Corinthians 3:18. We think of the word deceive. Sometimes we see souls who are caught back into the world and we say they are deceived. We might talk to them. We might try to point out our concern and they can't understand us. That is really what deception is, isn't it? It is when we are no longer receptive to the Word that forms and shapes us. So then we become wise in our own conceits.

It says, "...If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise." I Corinthians 3:18. It is a very humbling thing, isn't it? Probably something we need to watch for. If we would ever begin to think that we are more wise than our forefathers, who established this church upon the Word, or the brothers today who shepherd us, if we take upon our self that

we are more wise than they, we are going the wrong direction.

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God..." I Corinthians 3:19. Several places in the Bible, it says - what does it say? What is the beginning of wisdom? The beginning of wisdom is the fear of God (Psalms 111:10, Proverbs 9:10). We think in our unconverted day when we heard the Word and we started to believe it, we recognized we were lost and we feared. That was the beginning of wisdom. That is when God could work with us and help us. God "...taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain." I Corinthians 3:19,20. Vain, empty.

It says, "Therefore let no man glory in men..." I Corinthians 3:21. The last verse says, "And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's." I Corinthians 3:23. I don't think we would be in error to add to that, that Christ and God and the Word we have together, are One.

It says, "Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come..." I Corinthians 3:22. It kind of lumps everything else together and reminds us to be based and built on that foundation which is Christ.

### **Mexico Work Teams 2003**

Location	Date	Project	Coordinator	Phone & (e-mail)
Rio Bravo	Jun. 14 - 21, '03	Construction	Chad Kaeb gal220@jvlnet.com	815-962-0612
Rio Bravo	Jun. 28 - July 5, '03	Construction	Joe Maller jmaller@adamswell	260-565-3211 s.com
Rio Bravo	July 5 - July 12, '03	Construction	Timothy Lehman timothy lehman@e	913-236-5721 y.com
Imuris	Aug. 28 - Sept. 2, '03	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann cherylh@mtco.com	309-385-1082
Juarez or Creel	Sept. 17 - 24, '03	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann cherylh@mtco.com	309-385-1082

#### **CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 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 <a href="mailto:thitzhome@juno.com">thitzhome@juno.com</a>. For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-925-2409 or E-mail <a href="mailto:ksss@dpc.net">ksss@dpc.net</a>.

	HAITI						
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY		
	JAMAICA						
CCCD	Jun 28 - Jul 5, '03	Deaf Village	Smithville, Akron, Rittman BC	Work Place			
CCCD	November 7-15, '03	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School			

#### WORK PROJECT OPPORTUNITY - Kingston, Jamaica

November 7-15, 2003

With the scheduled dates in November, we are hopeful that farming brethren and/or couples that would not otherwise be able to participate in frequent spring or summer teams will find these dates convenient. Interested brethren or friends should contact the team leader, Bro. Terry Miller for more information. Thanks for your support! Terry Miller - 309-923-9154

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL	
Jay Maibach	330-939-5234		jmmaibach@valkyrie.net	
Bob Beebe	574-291-2158	574-299-8173	rbeebe@surfpure.com	
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	734-454-9259	thitzhome@juno.com	
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885		
Greg (Beth) Herman	309-243-5610		gbherman@juno.com	
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	330-939-4591		
Terry Miller	309-923-9154	same as phone number	tbmiller@mymailstation.com	
Dean Pashak	517-662-7685	517-662-7099		
Bill Rager	419-263-2989			
Derek Sauder	309-925-7502			
Kevin Sauder	309-925-2409	309-925-2409	ksss@dpc.net	
Rich Bertschi	309-467-6110		lemangm@mtco.com	
Ted Habegger	260-694-6765		th@parlorcity.com	
Mike Reinhard	248-477-2287	248-427-0396	mlreinhard@msn.com	
Rick Wuethrich	219-567-9488	219-567-2542	topnotch@home.ffni.com	
Art Mueller	608-676-4365			

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

#### - NOTICE -

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

We have requests for a limited number of Zion's Harps. Please call before sending them.

Please get your books to us or the Goodfield World Relief Center.

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

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

# Apostolic Christian Counseling Services

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

877-370-9988 (toll free)

Counseling for depression, anxiety, relationship problems, etc...

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



Gateway Woods Auction August 16, 2003

#### **Family Services Assistant**

Gateway Woods Family Services is the counseling and seminar branch of Gateway Woods that operates from Central Illinois. This program has been growing with God's blessings since it started in 1995. This growth has led to another full time opening for a brother to join in serving families through this biblically based teaching ministry. The position will include opportunities to counsel and teach from the Word of God, as well as other duties in training material development or various organizational tasks.

Interested brothers may contact either:

Jeff Schumacher, Administrator (888) 443-4283

Jeff Thames, Family Services Director (309) 266-0767



At the recent elder conference, the elder body approved a request for a national World Relief Office. The staff at the office will perform the following duties:

- 1) Perform administrative duties for World Relief.
- 2) Answer questions concerning World Relief and work teams.
- 3) Warehouse and ship World Relief brochures, forms, and literature.
- 4) Provide information and vision of World Relief to visitors.

Everyone is welcome to contact this office if they have World Relief related questions or needs. The office is located in the lower floor of the Remington Fellowship Hall.

Contact Information: Administrative Coordinator Stan Virkler

Apostolic Christian World Relief 16448 S US Highway 231 Remington, IN 47977-8822 219-261-3200 (phone) 219-261-3280 (fax) information@acwr.org (e-mail)

#### **BIBLE DISTRIBUTION**

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

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

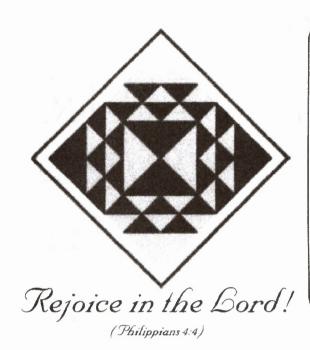
The book inventory is computerized, and the personnel at Bluffton can drop ship to nearly any address.

To order, contact, Apostolic Christian Church

#### **Bible Distribution**

PO Box 30 1254 S. Main Street Bluffton, IN 46714

Phone and Fax 219/824-5587 E-mail: bibledist@parlorcity.com



## **Events**

#### Saturday, August 16, 2003

Don't eat breakfast on your own!
7:30AM Hot breakfast begins (breakfast sandwiches, fruit, rolls, coffee
7:30AM Pre-priced crafts begin
7:30AM Kiddie Corner opens!
7:30AM Baked Sale begins
8:30AM Gateway Woods Presentations
9:00AM Auctions begin
12:00PM Specialty Items auction
\*\*\* Tours of our recently completed school

\*\* Tours of our recently completed school building will be available throughout • the day.

# What is the Gateway Woods benefit auction all about?

The Gateway Woods Auction is our biggest fund-raiser, accounting for a significant percentage of our budget. It is an extremely important source of funds, and anyone donating or purchasing an item has richly blessed us! In recent years our programs have expanded to include a fully-accredited school and a growing Family Services program in IL. Your Auction donations help us fund these vital programs. However, the Auction is about far more than just finances.

Your attendance at the Gateway Woods Auction is a chance for you to see our campus, get a sense of what we do, see our new school facility, and support your brothers and sisters who labor on behalf of troubled children and their families. For over 25 years, God has richly blessed us through *your* support; without it, Gateway Woods simply would not be able to reach the many needy and hurting families that God has so graciously trusted into our care.

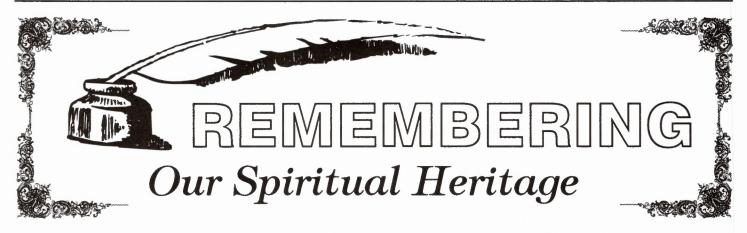
Our desire is not only to be blessed through you on Auction Day but to make the Auction a blessing to you as well. The Auction is a time when the brotherhood comes together and rallies around children who have been abandoned and neglected by the world. Any support you can offer at the Auction or throughout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

Why is this year's theme REJOICE IN THE LORD (Philippians 4:4)? It's because God has so abundantly blessed this ministry in the past year, because *your* support was so wonderful at the 2002 Auction, and because God is in charge - despite wars, weather, and an uncertain future.

The 2003 Auction will be a day of fellowship and blessings for everyone including:

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

May God bless you for your support!



This is the second installment of a two-part series of our brothers and friends serving in the United States military. The brothers and nearly all of the friends served as noncombatants. This section focuses on Korea and Vietnam, and is excerpted from Marching to Zion.

#### Military Service: Korea and Vietnam

Not only did young Apostolic Christian men distinguish themselves as noncombatants during both of this century's world wars but also during the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War.

Following the pattern established by brethren during World Wars I and II, the brethren and many friends of the church, based on deeply-held convictions that killing and violence are inconsistent with the teachings of Christ, served in the military in a noncombatant capacity. Like their forebears, they served with diligence (although unarmed) in any jobs they were asked to perform. Primarily, they served as medics.

During the Korean Conflict a young brother in the church from Ohio served as an ambulance driver. Among his responsibilities was to gather in the wounded or dead following battles and skirmishes. One time he received a package of delicious dainties from home. While sharing these goodies with his buddies, he over-indulged himself and awoke the next morning feeling sick. As he arose and prepared to make his regular ambulance rounds, a buddy said to him, "You look sick to me. Let me go for you today." His buddy did, and lost his life in a heavy barrage of machine gunfire which completely ruined the ambulance as well.

The young soldier from Ohio always kept a Testament in the ambulance. It was placed in a small toolbox. When he went out to retrieve his fallen buddy, he noted that the ambulance and the body were riddled with hundreds of bullets. Also, the small toolbox and its contents were riddled as well. But to his surprise,

he noticed the Testament did not have one bullet hole - a marvelous coincidence.

Edwin Lee Stoller, a member of the church at Fort Wayne, IN, was killed in a helicopter crash on March 16, 1969. This occurred during the era of the Vietnam War, but took place near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in Korea.

One of the brothers from the church who served in the military under dangerous and grueling conditions in Vietnam was with the 9th Infantry Division in Vietnam's Mekong Delta.

He was the subject of a feature story in the December 26, 1967, issue of *Look* magazine entitled "Pacifist on the Killing Ground".

The article described the life of a noncombatant soldier serving in war during very dangerous conditions. It described in detail the horrors of war and the duties associated with noncombatants who served as medics caring for and treating the wounded and dying.

The brother involved was quoted, "Too many people think a noncombatant is trying to get out of serving. I'll do anything short of bearing arms and killing. I'm no better than anyone else."

Over forty young men from church served in Vietnam. Two who were injured were Bro. Ron Koehl (Sarasota, FL) and Bro. Charles Sinn (Eureka, IL).

During the Korean Conflict young men of the church serving in the military were trained at Camp Pickett, Virginia. Most of the men served here for three to five months. Worship services were held twice a month. During the summer, services were sometimes held in wooded areas near the camp. Families of the service boys cooperated in bringing ministers to the area.

In the late 1940's, the U.S. Army began training conscientious objectors at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. With many members and friends of the church coming to this base for training, church services were held here

for many years. Services were conducted by visiting ministers under the jurisdiction of Elder Sam Anliker of Lamont, Kansas.

June 2003

Over the years, hundreds of the church's young men passed through "Fort Sam". A deep sense of brotherhood and fellowship prevailed at this camp as the young men took their basic and medical training.

Today, years later, several "Fort Sam" reunions are held and attended by men who served at this camp.

Even though the young men of the church have not taken arms to kill others, their record of medical service in the armed forces has won them the respect of their peers and of others who witnessed their service.

Many who engage in warfare often find it difficult to understand the position of those whose conscience, based on New Testament teaching, will not allow them to bear arms for the purpose of killing. The discourse written by the Apostle Paul in Romans 12:17-21 articulates very clearly the Scriptural direction for the redeemed child of God:

"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

By: Bro. Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next issue: "My Father's Conversion", the story of J. Andrew Braun of Schweinfurt, Bavaria.





#### "The Church as a Father"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Every child needs both a mother and a father. So in the church, the members of the congregation need both the loving, motherly, care of the church, but also the masculine, fatherly, care of the church. Since the members are the church, we are really helping each other.

Ephesians 6:4 reads, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." The duty of us fathers is to explain things so clearly and humbly to our children that we don't aggravate them when we tell them what they should do and should not do. In the church, great care is taken to put church guidelines in writing, in a loving way, with Bible references, so as to avoid giving the impression that those having guidance responsibility are trying to dominate other people's lives. We all are to be dominated by what the Bible teaches, not what another human being thinks or says.

I Corinthians 4:15 reads, "For

though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers." To be a good father requires sacrifice and humility. We must give of ourselves for our children. To be an instructor is not so. All that is required to be an instructor is knowledge. However, a fatherly instructor is best. That is someone who not only has knowledge but also a heart for the work. Someone who feels for the other person with love and genuine concern.

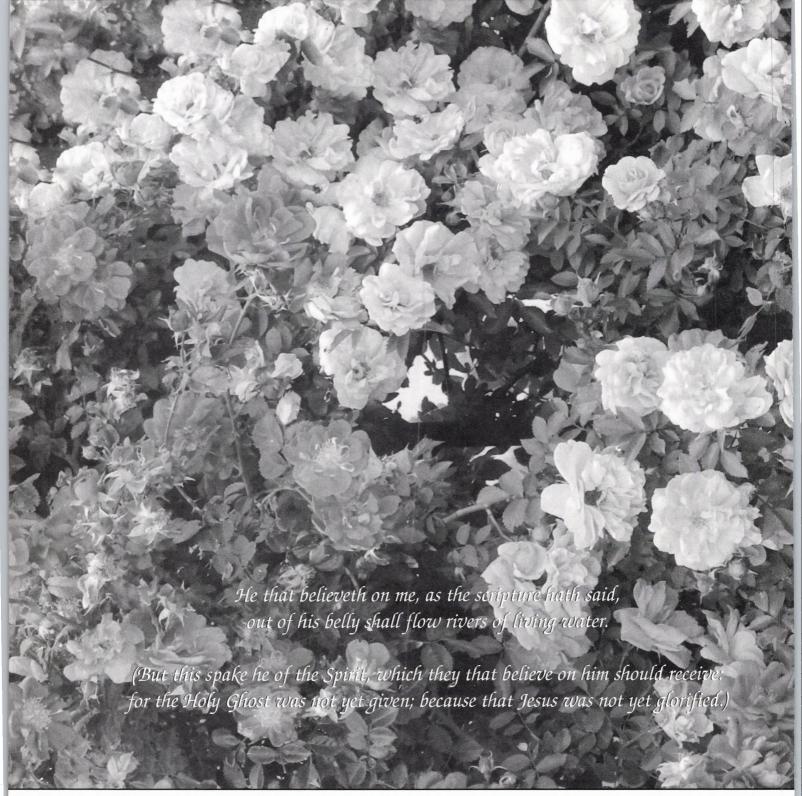
God is often referred to as "Our Father", such as in Matthew 6:9, "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." We know that God wants to work through us so we, who are the church, must act as a father to all the other members of the church. II Corinthians 5:20 reads, "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." If God beseeches others through us, then we are

acting for God.

James 1:27 reads, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Faith is this. To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." This no doubt refers to children and mothers who have lost their fathers and husbands, but it can be extended to those who are unable to attend church services. They might become disconnected from the church which is their spiritual father, and they need to be visited and encouraged by those of us who can move about with ease and comfort.

Fathers, try to be the bread-winners in the home. Likewise, the church, which includes you and me, is trying to keep each member nourished by daily Bible reading and prayer, and hopefully, daily hymn singing. We do have to pay attention to spiritual nutrition. We are the church and the church must be a good father.





# THE SILVER LINING 1389 County Road 1600 N, Roanoke, IL 61561

#### 

LK Seq:1363 P2 PK88 MRS. CHARLES WALDER 533 N 3RD ST CISSNA PARK IL 60924-9782