

# *The Silver Lining*

A black and white photograph of a vast field of white daisies in the foreground, leading to a body of water and rolling hills under a cloudy sky.

*Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.*

July 2003



Sermon by Brother Brad Gudeman, Bradford, IL

### Isaiah 16 & St. Mark 3

We don't read in the scripture too many places where Jesus became angry. We know that when He came into the temple in Jerusalem and found the money changers there, buying and selling in God's house, He fulfilled the Word, "For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up..." Psalm 69:9. He was angry at them for selling and buying in the house of the Lord. He drove them out with a scourge. The Word tells us that (St. John 2:14-17).

We read here that He looked about them and He was angry. If we read in another one of the Gospels this very same incident that happened here, it was because of their unbelief. They did not believe Him, they did not trust Him. They were seeking to destroy Him. They did not want Him to do good works. They were so steeped in the law and in their own righteousness that they could not see the righteousness of God. They were blinded to it.

He was angry with them because they would not believe. Because they would not accept the way of salvation. Because they would not allow Him to perform God's work to heal the sick, to bind up the broken hearted, to bring the day of salvation to mankind as they could read in the Word. As they well knew, it was prophesied that this was going to happen. He was fulfilling it and yet they would not believe and He became angry because of their unbelief.

The Word tells us that God never changes. God and the Lord Jesus are One. He hasn't changed. Does He still become angry because of unbelief? Dear friends, is the Lord angry with you because of unbelief?

The way of salvation is held out to everyone. He has given His life on the cross for every soul that has ever lived upon the face of the earth. The blood is there to atone the sins of all mankind. It is a free gift. All we had to do was accept it, loved ones. All we have to do is turn our hearts to the Lord. All we have to do is have a longing to be free from sin. It is there. He is holding it out. He is calling today.

The Word of God is not bound. The Word is still free, especially in our land and nation. Is He becoming angry with the unbelief of the nation? Is He becoming angry with those who know the way of salvation and reject it?

How long will the Lord tolerate sin and unrighteousness? How long will the Lord tolerate unbelief? How long will God tarry before He says to here and no further and sends the Lord Savior to redeem those who are the true and the faithful and the over comers? We don't know.

Let's not anger the Lord by our unbelief, dear friends. Seek Him while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is nigh. He wants to heal you of your sin. He wants to free you from the guilt of sin. He wants to give you that hope and that peace and that joy that we, His children, have and enjoy. He wants to give you salvation. He wants to walk with you through life so you don't have to walk alone. But you have to seek that you may be found of Him. You have to call upon Him.

It is humbling, isn't it? None of us want to admit that we need help. That is just the way of man. Because Satan is a part of our life when we are unconverted, loved ones. Satan is a part of every man's life because the original sin and Satan is pride - I don't need any help. I can pretty well handle things the way they are myself. That is what is permeating the world today. That is what is taught in the schools. That is the way Satan has gotten this world and this nation of ours. I can handle things myself, I don't need anyone else's help.

Who gave unto us the last breath we took? Do we look at God that way? Do we look at God as He gives us everything? Even the small things that we take so much for granted? We wake up in the morning and we are breathing. We just expect to step out of bed and go about our daily tasks and labors, whatever it is, and today to come to the Lord's house. We come here expecting a blessing. We just go about and we don't even think, do we, on a daily ba-

sis that God has given us the breath.

God has allowed this day to be created. It is a new day. It is a Sunday. Of course it is a Sunday. It is the first day of the week on the calendar. But this day has never been created before. God created this day. We get in a rut of just living our lives and everything just goes on and this is the way it is and

*Sermon continued on page 43*

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

## Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

July 2003

### Give Thanks Unto the Lord - I

"Now thank we all our God with heart, and hand and voices" (Zion's Harp, No. 236). Many of our hymns kindly remind us that we have so many reasons to thank God. The scripture encourages us many times to give thanks unto the Lord and gives us many reasons why we should be thankful. Numerous Psalms begin by encouraging us to give thanks or praise unto the Lord. "O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever" (Ps. 107:1). "Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good:..." (Ps. 106:1).

Although it would never be possible to list every reason for giving thanks and for praising the Lord, we are reminded in a hymn that there is much to be gained by spending some time and energy to focus upon the reasons we should thank God and to count our blessings. "When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed, when you are discouraged, thinking all is lost, count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done" (Count Your Blessings; Hymns of Zion, p. 116).

Among the many reasons to thank God are His power, His grace, and His mercy. We should also thank Him for sending His Son, for His Word, wisdom, compassion, orderliness, goodness, presence, love and protection. Other reasons to give thanks are for deliverance, triumph over Satan, victory over death and sin, forgiveness, His people, the Holy Spirit, life, sustenance and many others. The implications of the concepts in this list, which could be much longer, are almost beyond human comprehension.

To think of the power of a God as great as the one true God is somewhat overwhelming. His power to create the universe and all that it contains is evidence of a loving and gracious God. The earth is but a dot in

the vast universe, yet it contains all that we need for life and many luxuries that go far beyond "need". The air we breath, the water we drink and the food that is available are given in abundant measure. The

other planets would not sustain human life for one or more reasons. In addition to providing needs, the earth contains many of God's creations that make it a pleasant place to live. The vast array of color, the numerous kinds of plants and animals, the variety of formations and the seasonal changes on the earth all provide us with examples of God's goodness and power.

In spite of the magnificence and detail of the earth, God's power is so great that it took Him only six days to create it. Add to this the power of God to attend to all the details of keeping the earth and the life thereon going, the vastness of the universe, and the interrelatedness of the parts of the universe. Thus, we can soon understand that God's power is reason to give thanks.

Beyond the physical needs that He provides are many spiritual blessings. There are many times when we need love and help that we do not deserve. There are other times when we realize that we have failed to achieve the standards of His Holy Word. In the times of need He provides us with "...an abundance of grace..." (Ro. 5:17) that gives us love we do not deserve and help to serve Him in ways far beyond what we could do ourselves.

The Apostle Paul prayed fervently that God would remove his affliction. God's reply to this request was "...My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness..." (II Cor. 12:9). He was not granted relief but he was granted the assurance of strength to endure. There are times when we may be too persistent in making a request that is not good for us. God may give "...them their request; but (send) leanness into their soul" (Ps. 106:15). We must be thankful that God does have the compassion to say "no" to us from time to time because He does not want us to experience spiritual leanness.

Many times we fail and realize that justice would require that we pay a penalty for inappropriate behavior. In times such as these we should thank God "...that (we) may find mercy of the Lord in that day" (II Tim. 1:18). We can be thankful that He withholds from us many hardships that we

deserve as we err from time to time.

Although His great love for us is manifested in many ways, it is demonstrated most powerfully in His willingness to send His Son to earth to fulfill the old law and to open the way of salvation to those who will submit to His call and plan. He devised a plan of salvation that had a cost beyond our ability to pay. Knowing we could never pay the price, He sent His Son to pay it for us. This gift of His Son fulfilled a promise contained in His Word that has been preserved for us for thousands of years.

In addition to being thankful for His Son, we rejoice in knowing that He inspired faithful servants of old to write and to preserve His Word. His Word provides us with all of the instructions we need to work out our salvation. The unchanging stability of His Word enables us to know what is expected of us to truly be His child. He didn't make His Word so complicated that we can't understand it, nor does He change it every so often to make it impossible to know what is required. We can be thankful that His Word is so powerful that its truth and application fit all people for all times. Its timelessness makes it just as applicable today as it was at the time it was written.

The words that man writes need to be revised and refocused frequently and there is no end to what man will write. "...of making many books there is no end..." (Ec. 12:12). "But the word of the Lord endureth for ever..." (I Peter 1:25).

God's wisdom and His compassion assure us that He will provide for all our needs and yet withhold what is harmful if we will allow Him to do so. He knows our needs and in His infinite wisdom He "...shall supply all (our) need..." (Phil. 4:19) and eliminate from us some of the things that we desire that may harm us. He does not always grant our request, but "...no good thing will be withheld from them that walk uprightly" (Ps. 84:11).

The next article in "The Light From the Word" will continue this topic.





APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**

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

## European Board Visits Eastern Europe

From May 1 to May 20, 2003, a team of brethren from the USA visited the countries of Germany, Romania, and Ukraine. Those traveling were Elders Marvin Leman (Bradford), Andrew Stoller (Smithville), Bros Rod Stoller (Latty) and Bro. Gene Lehman with his wife sis. Verna (Wolcott).

### Breidenbach

Some of the group went already on Friday, May 2, spending a few days with the Ernst Pfister family, who is well known to the European Board. He is deeply involved in our efforts across Eastern Europe.

Bros. Andy and Rod Stoller flew into Frankfurt, Germany on Sunday morning, and managed to arrive in church just as services were beginning. The group spent the day together, everyone sleeping overnight at Pfisters. On Monday morning, the trip into Eastern Europe began.

### Budapest and Timisoara

Normal driving time between Breidenbach and Romania is about 17-18 hours. The last several times our groups have made these trips they have flown. While this does not allow us to visit in Hungary along the way, it saves time and energy, both of which seem to be always stretched to the limits.

The flight from Frankfurt to Budapest lasted about 1 ½ hours, and the next leg to Timisoara took 45 minutes. The group was met at the airport by Bro. Filip Augustinov, who speaks both Romanian and German. He is our contact from home via e-mail, and our driver and guide when we are in Romania and Ukraine. The group ate supper at his parents', the Ladi Augustinov's. Bro. Ladi is elder of

several Romanian churches. Monday and Tuesday nights were spent in a hotel in downtown Arad.

### The Romanian Corporation

Within the last couple of years, the European Board after much thought and prayer created a new corporation under Romanian law to manage our humanitarian efforts in the future. It is called in English, "Antioch International". Our brothers met on Tuesday in a building complex that was bought for this corporation and will serve nicely as a Distribution Center to handle and disburse the food packages that are being sent regularly from the Bluffton Distribution Center. Potential for future use is virtually unlimited, and the brothers were in agreement that this has been the hand of God working in our midst.

### Small self-help projects

In recent months substantial funding has come to help our suffering brethren become more self-sufficient. Wages are somewhere between \$85 and \$150 per month, with prices in stores and markets nearly as much as here. There is no way to make ends meet, and the families must do other things to survive.

Most of them have small parcels of ground, and we have purchased dozens of garden tillers with attachments to help them work their gardens. They have been of enormous aid. This program is ongoing not only in Romania, but also in Ukraine and Yugoslavia. We are working with the local leadership to make a fair disbursement of available assets in order to help the most people.

Another effort currently underway in Romania is the financing of small livestock projects. Those who have a place have already received three baby

pigs, with enough money set aside in an account with a treasurer who will pay all feed bills. When the animals are raised, the family will keep two of them, and the third one will be slaughtered to give to those who have no opportunity to care for animals themselves. This is also being done with chickens and geese. Upon leaving Romania, we had about 30 such projects in place. Bro. Filip reported that without exception the brethren wept when they learned of this new program of self-help.

Another way we are helping is by purchasing hand made needlework from old sisters. One old sister, a widow living in an apartment with no refrigerator, has a pension of \$38/mo. Her heat costs average \$31 per month, electricity is \$6 monthly and water is \$4. She made 17 pieces of hand work for which she received \$490. One can only imagine how great a help this must be.

Altogether the brothers purchased over \$2,200 of lovely hand needlework from poor and elderly sisters. Anyone having an interest in buying any of these, to share the costs of the program, may contact any of the brothers who went on the trip.

### Into Ukraine

The group also drove to Ukraine and visited the brethren whom we have been supporting there for over twelve years. The many projects we have had going for years were visited, new programs installed, and meetings held with the local brethren.

The new church at Ostrita has been completed, and was dedicated for use on May 25. It was not possible for any of our brethren to stay due to time constraints. The brethren from Eastern Europe, without exception, thank God first of all and then our faithful American brethren who do so much for them.





APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

## Mission Committee

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

### Our Churches In The Orient

**O**ur church began activities for the Lord in the Orient in January of 1951. The Korean War was underway and some of our brothers spent time in Japan. Our Brother Willis Ehnle was instrumental in sharing the Gospel in that nation, with the blessing of our church.

As a beginning effort, Scripture portions were distributed at a large train station in western Tokyo. In addition, an orphanage was visited and Bible stories were told to the children, with Japanese young people doing the interpreting. Through contact with a young man named Asakawa, children's meetings were begun in Yamanashi Prefecture, about 80 miles west of Tokyo. These efforts were well received.

#### Establishment of churches

In 1955, Elder Brothers Noah Schrock and Dave Mangold visited Japan to review this work. Later Elder Bro. Ben Maibach became very involved in these efforts. The elders were favorably impressed with the politeness and the humility of the Japanese people and with the many children who gathered out-doors for Sunday School lessons, in rural Japan as well as in Tokyo. The elders encouraged the building of a church house where the children could gather indoors. This was accomplished and the Shioda church was dedicated in July 1956. Adult services were held in the evening, as the farmers worked seven days a week.

In 1958 elders visited again. During that visit, ten people were baptized at the Shioda church and a Japanese brother was made a minister. It was

decided that a church building should be built in Tokyo, which was dedicated one year later. Three years later, a third church was built and dedicated in Tamahata, the home of the Inoue family.

The churches suffered a hard blow in 1963 when Bro. Yoshito Inoue, older brother of Bro. Akito, died of cancer. He was 23 years of age and was serving as a minister. Other losses were suffered in the mid-60's, but the Lord was always faithful to those who persevered.

Over the years the churches have recovered from their losses and have been blessed with spiritual growth and with the addition of a number of stable brothers and sisters. Also strengthening the church were the ordinations of Brothers Akito Inoue and Willis Ehnle in July 1977.

#### Visits to Japan

Through the years, there have been frequent visits to Japan by American brethren. Visitors included many service men stationed in Korea, and later, in Vietnam. In 1966 an American elementary school and an American kindergarten were started at the Shioda church, in which Bible stories were taught. The elementary school was primarily for American children associated with our church and the kindergarten for Japanese children living in the area.

The elementary school continued for eleven years and the kindergarten for 26 years. During this time many sisters and several brothers came to assist in the schools and to let their lights shine. Their families also came to visit. Brethren traveling to India have usually stopped in Japan as well. Visiting brethren have brought many blessings to the churches in Japan. Now there

are three young brothers from Japan who are studying in the US. They were sent with many prayers that they might grow in faith, learn from good examples in America, and eventually return to Japan.

#### Present condition of the churches

At the present time, the Shioda church has eleven members, most of whom are elderly. There are three members at Tamahata who attend services at Shioda. The church building at Tamahata is no longer used.

The Tokyo church has sixteen members. There is a very good relationship between the churches, and frequent visits among them are enjoyed. Twice a year the churches get together for a special fellowship meeting, and once a year they get together for the reading of the memorandum and to discuss other issues pertaining to the Japanese churches.

On January 5, 2003 an addition to the Tokyo church was dedicated. Previously the one main room was used for services, dining and fellowship. The dwelling house beside the church was removed and that area was made into a parking lot. Over the parking lot on the second floor, a dining room and Sunday School rooms were built. An elevator was installed making it easier to get to the dining room on the second floor.

All this was made possible by the support and encouragement of the American churches. When everyone works together, much can be accomplished. All glory belongs to God for the establishment of churches in Japan and for the opportunity for many dear souls to hear the Word and receive the wonderful gift of salvation.



## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

This is such a wonderful time of the year. The landscape is dotted with so many varieties of flowers that are blooming one after another; "...even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." (Matthew 6:29). The stiff branches of trees and bushes become limber with buds that burst into a mass of waving greenery. The bird baths are filled. All kinds of birds are busy with the new families and rejoicing with their unique songs. Open windows, especially in the morning and evening, usher in these lovely sounds to remind us of the precious Creation. It is "...God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy." (I Tim. 6:17)

Do you know someone who lives in a "long term care facility" who might enjoy these things or just spending some time with you? Driving about the countryside, especially at this time, would be a perfect "deviation from the norm" for these individuals. It seems we don't have much time for this type of activity these days. Even the price of gasoline may limit us. It takes time and effort to visit someone who cannot get about for themselves. After we "sacrifice" however, there is a great satisfaction that we can experience, and recognition by our Lord, Matthew 25:34-40, for having done something for someone else. Jesus makes a statement in Mark 9:41 about giving "a cup of water to drink in my name". The Word in Galatians 5 speaks of serving one another and loving our neighbor as ourself.

AUGUST birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550: Susan Landis (8/5), Mar-

tha Clymer (8/6), Nancy Eschmann (8/12), Shirley Pfeifer (8/23), Barb Perkins (8/30), Christopher Loughe (8/31). At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550: Daniel McDonough (8/2). At Linden Estate, 1000 Linden St., Morton, IL 61550: Stephen Coombs (8/20). At 1001 E. Idlewood, Morton, IL 61550: Wayne Leman (8/12). At 208 S. Indiana, Morton, IL 61550: Steven Holmes (8/18).

## GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

**Kevin Fiechter**

Last month was my turn to have our staff devotion. I did a small research on how to receive the Holy Spirit, how the Holy Spirit is revealed, and what the Holy Spirit can do for those who have received it. What I found out was very uplifting, especially regarding what the Holy Spirit can do for a believer. St. John 14:26 tells us it will teach us and help us to remember what we have been taught. St. John 16:13 informs us it will guide us to truth and show us things to come. Acts is a wonderful book about the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:8 says it will help us to receive power and help us to be a witness. Acts 4:31 & 33 tell us with the Spirit we will speak the word in boldness and great grace will be upon us. In Acts 6:5 we are told that Stephen was full of faith and of the Holy Spirit. A few other places in Acts say the Spirit will comfort us, help us to be good people, and will fill us with joy. II Timothy 1:7 states, "for God hath not given us the Spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." It was exciting to read of all of the benefits of the Holy Spirit. It was also convicting. It

helped me realize how important it is to ask God to fill me with the Holy Spirit and to understand my responsibilities once the Spirit is in me. Here at Gateway Woods it is vital that the Holy Spirit reign in us as we work with children and families. But it is just as important for all believers to allow the Spirit to work within us, as we carry out the Lord's work. St. John 14:12 is a very intriguing verse. Jesus says, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." Do we comprehend the power and might of the Holy Spirit? Are we doing the works of Jesus? Greater works than Jesus?

Summer is a busy time at Gateway Woods! Our school staff is very busy teaching summer school and Independent Living Skills. Bro. Kirk Plattner is operating a summer service company called Top Quality, which employs 6 of our residents. Bro. Tim Wiegand is working with several of our residents in cleaning up our woods. Please pray for our Houseparents, as summer is a very stressful time for them.

Gateway Woods School was pleased in May to present The Adventures of Tom Sawyer to the church and community. Over 200 people attended the performance, directed by Sis. Heather Merritt. Everyone was pleased with the result and we thank God for allowing everything to go smoothly.

We would like to welcome Tania G, Michelle C, and Renee B. to our campus. We would also like to say farewell to Stacie C. and Michael S. May God protect and bless them. Natasha W. has joined our Foster Care program - which brings the



number of foster children to 28. We praise God for this great opportunity!

Our summer volunteer program is in full swing. Please call Bro. Clinton Bahler at 888-443-4283 ex. 119 for details or you may email him at [clint.bahler@gatewaywoods.org](mailto:clint.bahler@gatewaywoods.org).

We are now accepting applications for a Foster Care/Adoption worker. Please see our ad in this month's Silver Lining. We are prayerful that God will provide this need.

Please remember that our Auction is August 16, 2003. We are always looking for volunteers, items, prayers, and attendees. See the enclosed Auction sheet in this month's Silver Lining for more information. There will also be plenty of information in the July/August Gate Post. We look forward to seeing everyone on August 16!

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**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
PRESCHOOL  
Athens, Alabama  
Bethany Gerber**

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;"

*Ephesians 5:20*

Summer time is here again and the children have been busy playing outside, swimming and working on building their characters. Our busy bees have recently talked about bee-ing thankful and sharing, bee-ing honest and truthful and showing respect. Our character building poem is:

Hey, look at me!  
I'm a friendly bee!  
I try to be polite and kind,

And help whomever I see.

I like to be fair,  
And always do my share,  
I want to be the very best bee  
That I can possibly be!

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 these precious little children, please contact your local Elder or you may contact Bro. Tom Schrenk, the preschool administrator at (256) 232-0037. We would love to have you come!

The staff and children at the preschool would like to thank Melinda Matuch for all of the time and dedication that she gave while she was here. She will be missed, but we want to wish her well as she moves back to Mansfield, OH.

On a personal note, I feel privileged to be here teaching at the preschool. The Athens congregation as well as the parents and children at the preschool have made me feel welcome and at home here. I know that this is where I am supposed to be and I am honored to be here.

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**ALABAMA, ATHENS  
Louise Hall**

You've left a print on me, Daddy,  
By the way that you talk to me  
Walk with me  
And hold me in your arm.  
By the way that you teach me  
And show me  
And protect me from all harm.

Thank you, Dad, for the print  
you've made  
A print from the Father above.  
Printing on me an impression of  
Him...

Of His grace and forgiveness and  
love.

—author unknown

We would like to recognize the fathers on this special Father's Day. They do not always get the recognition that the mothers do, but it would be very hard to manage without them. We are grateful that we have our dads and we would like to thank them for doing everything that they do.

We recently elected a new trustee to take Bro. Joel Schrenk's place. Bro. Joel is going off and Bro. Buddy Lynn is replacing him. The other trustees are Bro. J.R. Hall and Bro. Andy Witzig.

Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) was here recently along with visitors from Roanoke, IL; Forrest, IL; and Goodfield, IL.

Our congregation rejoices with Bro. Andy and Sis. Erin Witzig on the birth of their daughter, Zoe Elizabeth. She weighed seven pounds and nine ounces. Zoe is welcomed by big sister, Samantha. Grandparents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy Witzig and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth Mott, all of Morton, IL.

Sis. Ruby Ross has been ill recently and we would like to keep her in our thoughts and prayers.

We said good-bye to Sis. Melinda Matuch who taught at the preschool for more than two years. We are sad that she left us but we hope that God will bless her for her efforts and keep her in His care as she moves back to Mansfield, OH.

We would like to welcome Sis. Bethany Gerber (Wolcott, IN) to our congregation. She will be teaching at the preschool and we wish her God's blessings as she starts her new job.

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## ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

“Better is an handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit.”

*Eccles. 4:6*

Our monthly church suppers and singings are such joyous occasions for all. May 25 was our pizza supper and we thank Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Beres, and their food committee for the fine dining during their time in charge.

Our first singing at Mountain View Villas was held at the community center on May 31. What a blessed time to feel God's presence and to give thanks for all of His many blessings!

Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) served on our pulpit on May 28. We were richly blessed.

Visitation and memorial services were held for Sis. Emma Sanders on June 5. Sis. Emma passed away in Eureka, IL, on May 31. Internment is in East Resthaven Cemetery. Our sympathy to Sis. Emma's son, Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue Sanders and their family, and her nephew, Bob Farney and family.

Sis. Genanne Witzig had surgery and is doing well. David Maurer injured an ankle and is recovering. Caitlin Meiss broke her left ankle and will be wearing a cast for a while.

Bill and Shannon McClure, Natalie Knochel and Andy Knochel (Bro. Herb and Sis. Laurie) were announced for peace and are waiting for baptism. We praise God and continue to pray for our converts.

Joining our church family from Eureka, IL, are Bro. Greg, Sis. Lynn, Leah, Ellen and Laura

Wiegand. We welcome you.

Vacation Bible School began on June 12. Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) were the ministers scheduled to come and speak to us about being peacefully content. We were blessed. The Vacation Bible School program was held on June 18.

Sunday School vacation begins June 22 and classes resume on August 3.

Kari Riek (Niemeyer) was in church on Father's Day. Kari was on military leave from Kuwait. She is on her way to California for reassignment.

Our sympathy to Sis. Cindy and Bro. Erik Langhofer and family and the many other Phoenix relatives of our late Sis. Kathie Inoue.

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## ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

Bro. Tim and Sis. Janon (Fiechter) Furrer welcomed their first child on June 17. Their new daughter, Alexa Rose, weighed in at 5 pounds 9 oz. Alexa's grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena Furrer and Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie Fiechter (Bluffton, IN).

Our annual corn-on-the-cob picnic is being held on Saturday, August 2 from 3-9 p.m. at A.C. Williams Granite Creek Park in Prescott. Any of our brethren visiting in the area are welcome to attend.

Visiting ministers this last month included Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) and Tim Funk (Peoria, IL). May God richly bless them and their families for serving us.

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## ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

I reported in my last column that Sis. Martha Blessman had only days to live. God has since seen fit to release Sis. Martha from her earthly troubles and bring her home to Heaven to live with Him. We were reminded at her funeral service of the bright smile that always adorned her face and of the faithful service she gladly gave for the Lord. We are very thankful that Sis. Martha was finally granted her wish to go Home to be with Jesus. God does answer prayer, only He does it in His own perfect time. We pray that Sis. Martha's family will be comforted by the knowledge that she is in a far better place and safe in the arms of Jesus.

We were privileged to have Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), his wife, Sis. Sandy, and their family with us last Sunday as part of our visiting minister rotation. We thank them for their willingness to help out and give of their time. God bless you!

We have been enjoying our Vacation Bible School this week. Our theme is "Walking with Jesus Every Day". It's always so much fun watching the kids and their friends enjoy learning about God and Jesus through stories and crafts (of course, snack time is popular, too!). I just hope the kids receive as many blessings as the older ones do.

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## CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Robin Moser

“For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing and all the trees of the field shall clap their



hands.”

*Isaiah 55:12*

We rejoice with Rebekah Rokey as she has made known her desire to be baptized. The date has been set for August 3 in her home congregation of Bern, KS. She has been an energizing addition to our Altadena congregation and we will certainly be praying for her during this time.

Our church family is also glad to welcome Bro. Rod Steffen, who recently moved here from Chicago, IL. He is attending classes at LMU over the summer and we appreciate his presence and fellowship.

We were thankful for visiting brothers who shared the Word with us this month, including: Bro. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra, Alto, MI), and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), who assisted in sharing the Memorandum. May the Holy Spirit be our Guide as we receive loving counsel.

Our prayers are with Dale Graf, who suffered a stroke in early June, and his many siblings here in Altadena. Matthew Bailey's father, Steve, is still in a critical care unit so we continue to lift him up to the Father. We also extend prayers for Sis. Crystal Luthi (Bro. Reuben, Morris, MN) following a leg injury this month. In May, we were sad to say good-bye to Reuben and Crystal after their annual six months with us in Altadena. Our small congregation is grateful for those who are able to be with us for any length of time. Please consider a visit.

## KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

### Ingrid Fortenbacher

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL) and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH). We are so thankful that God's Word is still coming forth in truth and sincerity and that these brothers are so willing to drive many miles to serve us.

There are friendships that we cherish

In our daily walk of life

Friends with whom we meet and labour

In our earthly toil and strife  
Friends among the aged and youthful

Friends that live from us apart  
Friends of higher rank and station  
Find a place within my heart.

*Hymns of Zion #91*

The weekend of Memorial Day was special for all of us as we hosted our invite a friend weekend. There were many guests who we knew for years and some we had never met before and yet that instant bond of Christian friendship could be felt between all.

## COLORADO, DENVER

### Ann Gonglach

Recently, we said farewell to our Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Berg and their daughter, Kerry, as they have moved to Nebraska for Bro. Bill's work. We will miss this dear family and pray that God would continue to be with them. They plan to attend church in Sabetha.

God be with you till we meet again;

By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you.

God be with you till we meet again.

*Hymns of Zion #216*

We enjoyed having Sis. Mary Berg's and Bro. Rod Schmidt's mother, Sis. Betty Wirtz, worship with us for six weeks. We wish her God's blessings as she has returned home to West Bend.

Welcome back to Bro. Norm and Sis. Eleanor Geyer who spend their summers in Colorado. Also, we welcome to our church family Bro. Joel Baumgartner and Sis. Sarah Rumbold, who both have recently moved to Colorado.

During the summer months, we are blessed to have many visitors. Visiting ministers who have brought God's Word to us are Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA). We are thankful for these brothers who give of their time in service to the Lord and us.

On the weekend of June 14-15, some of us from Denver attended special services in Clyde Park, Montana. There were 185 brethren and friends from 15 of our churches that registered. Ministering to us were Bros. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), Tom Leman (Denver), Eugene Metzger and Wes Moser (Lester, IA), Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR). We would like to thank all those who had a part in this blessed weekend.

“There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.”

*Luke 15:10*

We rejoice with the angels that Tara Huber (Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcel) and Ema Gonglach (Bro. Bob



and Sis. Ann) have expressed having peace in their hearts and desire to be baptized. Lord willing, we will hear their testimonies and have baptisms on the weekend of August 23-24.

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**CONNECTICUT,  
ROCKVILLE  
Laura Virkler  
Amber Reutter**

Our congregation has certainly been blessed with the birth of children throughout this past year. As more and more bundles of joy are added amongst us, we are all the more reminded of how dependent we must be on our blessed Savior, as these precious babes are likewise, to their loved ones. Jeremy Kent was born to Bro. Kent and Sis. Karen Zahner and big sister Katrina on May 17. Grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally Zahner and Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary-Lou Goric. Rachel Lynn was born on May 19 to David and Heather Mangold, and sisters Leah and Allison. Rachel's grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Terry Mangold and Robert and Audrey Monte. Bro. Dale and Sis. MaryAnne Gerber gave birth to Jacob Christian on May 27. His sisters are Lydia and Rebekah, and grandparents are Bro. Everett and Sis. Nancy Gerber and Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Verona Schneider. Kaylee JoAnne was born on June 6 to Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori Bahler. Joshua, Bradley and JaNae are excited to have yet another sibling. Grandparents are the late Bro. Lee and Sis. Maxine Bahler and Bro. Ed and Sis. Beverly Gerber. Bro. Steve and Sis. Shannon LaPlante rejoice at the birth of their son, Kyle Steven, on June 9. Marissa and Tiffany now have a younger brother. Grandparents are Bro. Leo and Sis. Sherri

LaPlante and Carlo Bocchino and Sherry Bocchino. On June 11, Brandon Curtis was born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Katie Zahner. His big brother is Ryan and his grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally Zahner and Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Ryan. We pray for these couples, that the Lord will provide them the grace sufficient to continue to rear their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, as yet more God-given responsibilities are placed upon them.

As we rejoice with those who have given birth, we also rejoice with those who have gone on to their promised reward. However, we certainly wish to extend sympathy and support to all who have recently lost these dear loved ones. Bro. John Moser leaves his children, Bro. Doug (Sis. Carol) Moser, and Sis. LaNae (Bro. Richard) Aberle, as well as his sister, Sis. Alma Lanz, and extended family. Sis. Esther Kupferschmid leaves her brothers, Bro. Robert (Sis. Martha) Luginbuhl, Bro. Ed (Sis. Alma) Luginbuhl, Bro. Rudy (Sis. Evelyn) Luginbuhl, and sisters, Sis. Adele (Bro. Ron) Trueb and Sis. Betty Luginbuhl. She also left behind her sisters-in-law, namely, Sis. Florine Luginbuhl, Lillian Luginbuhl, Dorothy Luginbuhl, Sis. Charlotte Limberger, Di Kupferschmid, and many nieces and nephews. Her extended family, including the children and grandchildren of her late husband Bro. Werner, will dearly miss her. May God add His blessings and consoling grace to each who have suffered loss.

“And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, wilt Thou go with this man? And she said, I will go.”

*Genesis 24:58*

On June 1, Sis. Cherie Galat and Bro. Craig White (Princeville, IL) were united in Holy Matrimony. Parents are Bro. Dave, Sr. and Sis. Marlene Galat and Claude White, Indiana, and Sis. Gloria White (Princeville, IL). With us on this blessed day were Elder Bro. Jim (Sis. Marlene) Plattner and Bro. Glen (Sis. Audrey) Braker, from Princeville. Also with us, Bro. Brad (Sis. Teresa) Gudeman from Bradford, IL. May God richly bless the newlyweds as they begin their life together. We have certainly been blessed to have Sis. Cherie with us and pray she will feel the love and support of God's people in her new home.

We were blessed to have with us Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle) from Philadelphia, PA, on May 24, to once again minister God's Word unto us. It is always a privilege to have visiting brethren among us.

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

*Jeremiah 30:17*

Sis. Betty Virkler is recovering from a recent hip replacement and is now feeling well and is able to move about fairly comfortably. We thank the Lord. Sisters Gertrude Lanz and Peggy Bahler (Bro. Dave) also had brief hospital stays, and are now, by God's grace, on the mend. May the Lord continue to provide us each one an abundance of spiritual, emotional, and physical strength as we daily pick up His cross and follow Him. May the Lord be with you all.

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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON  
Henrietta Meyer**

If this article has a theme this month it is "Welcome".

We welcome Bro. Adam Merkle to our congregation. Bro. Adam has recently been employed in this area. We look forward to getting to know him better. He is originally from the Bluffton, IN, area.

Kouri and Nora Wysong and their son, Jax, welcome Zander to their family. Grandmother, Sis. Janet Wysong, is here from Lester, IA, to become acquainted with her new grandson.

This month welcomed several visiting ministers: Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy, Philadelphia, PA). We are grateful Bro. Shawn's family could come on such short notice.

We welcomed other visitors this month from Chicago, Elgin, and Eureka, IL, and the young group from Philadelphia.

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

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

please let us know that also. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

**FLORIDA  
NORTH FORT MYERS  
Mary Masters**

We have been continually blessed by visitors to our area so that our small congregation doesn't seem quite as small. One Sunday, we had quite a few from the Sarasota congregation as they were working on their church and were holding services in their dining area. Bro. Virgil Kaeb and his wife were here and Bro. Virg graciously lent himself in the ministry of the Word.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA  
Carol Koehl**

The Lord has richly blessed Bro. Mark and Sis. Tricia Koehl with the safe arrival of their first baby. Little Kyra Jean was born on June 1. Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice Gutwein (Francesville, IN) are the thankful grandparents.

Our hearts reach out to the family of Sis. Esther Kupferschmid (Rockville, CT) in their loss and especially to her two nieces here in Sarasota, Sis. Beth Roscher (Bro. Bill) and Sis. Jeanette Siladie (Bro. Mike). We miss both Sis. Esther and Bro. Werner, as they came here in the winter for many years.

We want to thank Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) for serving us this past month.

*Note of Thanks:*

I would like to express appreciation for the prayers offered, cards, gifts, assistance and meals brought

at the time of my broken wrists. It seems exceptional recovery has been granted. God has been good! May He bless for each outreach of concern.

*Sis. Mary Lou Joos*

**GEORGIA, ATLANTA  
John Brewer**

We are thankful for the visiting ministers this past month. They include Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN), Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL). We thank them for the time and effort given to come and share the Word with us.

We also are thankful that Bro. Darren Plattner gave a topical Bible study the Saturday before on Biblical greatness. As Christ reminded us that to be great in the Kingdom of Heaven that we must become as little children, willing to trust our Creator to guide us according to His good will and pleasure.

Congratulations are offered to Phillip Kaufman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Carol) for graduating from high school this past June. Our prayers are that God may guide him in the endeavors which are before him.

If you plan to be in the Atlanta area we would invite you to worship and fellowship with us. We start song service at 10:15. We also gather on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Our church is in Fairburn, Georgia off I-85 southwest of Atlanta. We are 15 miles south of the airport on exit 64 (Jonesboro Rd.) 4 miles due west after you get off the exit. Please contact Bro. Tom Waldbeser 770-463-4788, Bro. Keith Kaufman 770-304-8335, Bro. Linn Stoller



770-631-4554 or Bro. John Brewer  
770-304-8706 if you need more in-  
formation.

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### **ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE**

**Sheila McCoy  
Doreen Moser**

We don't change the message,  
the message changes us.

We were thankful for our two vis-  
iting ministers this month: Elder  
Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL)  
and Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit,  
MI).

Bro. Daniel Messner is doing an  
internship in Milwaukee this sum-  
mer so we appreciate that he can as-  
semble with us.

Dave McCoy (Sis. Sheila) has  
been a surgical patient. We are  
thankful for the Lord's healing. In  
times like these we are so apprecia-  
tive of the love and prayers of oth-  
ers.

Our Bible Class, along with Indi-  
anapolis' and several adults from  
each congregation, were able to go  
on a work team to Rio Bravo, Mex-  
ico. We are thankful for these op-  
portunities and often feel we receive  
more blessings than we were ever  
able to possibly give. "There shall  
be showers of blessing, this is the  
promise of love." (Tabernacle  
Hymns)

Our theme for VBS was "An-  
chored in Jesus" with our memory  
verse, "Therefore, my brethren be  
ye steadfast, unmoveable, always  
abounding in the work of the Lord,  
foreasmuch as ye know that your la-  
bour is not in vain in the Lord." (I  
Cor. 15:58)

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

We appreciate the visiting minis-  
ters we had this past month. Elder  
Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and  
Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan) and  
Bros. Randy Mogler (Washington,  
IL), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield,  
IL), David Marquart (Taylor, MO),  
Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL), Trent  
Meiss (Eureka, IL), and Tim  
Hohulin (Roanoke, IL). May God  
bless each of you for coming to share  
His precious Word with us.

Three couples were joined as  
husband and wife this month. May  
18 was the wedding day of Sis. Sara  
Knobloch and Bro. Chris Hattan.  
The following Sunday, Sis. Tamara  
Esteghamat became the bride of  
Bro. John Meiss (Gridley, IL). June  
8, in Morton, Bro. David 'Tater'  
Kieser and Sis. Haley Kruse were  
married. We trust that God will  
spiritually bless each of these dear  
couples as they begin their lives to-  
gether and look to Him for direction  
each day.

We were thankful for the visiting  
ministers who were here during our  
Vacation Bible School week, June  
2-6. Bros. Dave Zehr (Gridley, IL),  
Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN),  
Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL)  
and Jeff Neihouser (Francesville,  
IN). Many good seeds were planted  
in the hearts of our youth during  
this week. We appreciate all who  
helped with this very special week.

Our hearts were so deeply sad-  
dened when we heard of the sudden  
death (from a car accident) of our  
dear sister in faith, Sis. Kathie  
Inoue. What a beautiful example of  
Christian love and faithfulness  
Kathie was to our congregation and  
to all who knew her. Our deepest

sympathy goes to her husband,  
Hisato, and their three daughters,  
Sis. Rebekah (Bro. Matt)  
Kaufmann, Sis. Heidi and Sis.  
Tami. Kathie had a love for music  
and instilled this in her three  
daughters. Every heart was deeply  
touched at the cemetery following  
the funeral service, when the three  
girls courageously stood alone be-  
fore their mother's casket and sang  
the following final song to her.

"Maybe some other day, I will  
have more understanding,

But while my heart is broken I'll  
only trust in Him.

For I believe His Word, so I know  
He'll never leave me.

Although I feel so alone, I know  
His arms can reach me.

For He will give me wings, to soar  
as an eagle.

And I will run and not be weary, I  
shall walk and not faint.

For he will give me wings to soar  
as an eagle."

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### **ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Steve Endress**

Bro. Wendell and Sis. Linda  
Stahl were thankful for the birth of  
a healthy boy, Tobias Samuel, on  
May 20. Tobias is welcomed home  
by his two brothers, Joel and Ga-  
briel. Grandparents are Dean Stahl  
(Kewanee, IL), Sis. Charlotte Stahl,  
and Bro. Nathan and Sis. Esther  
Martin (Princeville, IL).

Our church has called upon two  
members to teach the young souls in  
our Sunday School. Bro. Bruce  
Endress (Sis. Elizabeth) was chosen  
to replace Bro. Ralph Joos (Sis.  
Jenny), and Sis. Shannon Pyles  
(Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky) will re-  
place Sis. Tracy Ehnle (Bro. Donn).  
We appreciate both those who have  
finished their service in this area,



and those who will assume this responsibility.

We were thankful to have several visiting ministers with us this month including Bros. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Lawrence Luthi, (Lamar, MO), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), and Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL). The fact that we can receive brethren from across the land and expect to hear the same, true Gospel is a blessing that we should not take for granted.

We also appreciated the labors of Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) the weekend of Phil Endress's (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky) baptism. We were reminded several times throughout the weekend that we need the church to help us grow and learn. Just as in the natural sense, we know that when new life is brought forth onto the earth, we don't expect the baby to live and function without help. It takes years of nurturing and teaching before such a child can live on his own. So likewise, the months of growth and preparation for the Spiritual Birth is not an end of our dependence on God and His Church. Once we are spiritually born, we still need much instruction and loving attention. We rejoice with Phil and wish him a life of faithfulness to our God.

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**ILLINOIS  
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA  
Janelle Schlipf**

"I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high."

*Psalm 17:7*

Sunday, May 18, was a special day of fellowship and song as we were privileged to host many brothers and sisters from our Gridley congregation. A special thanks to Living Waters, a group of brothers from Gridley, who shared their time and talents with us. Bro. Dave Zehr (Gridley, IL) was among our visitors and we thank him for sharing the Word with us.

We rejoice with Sam and Dawn Finch as they welcome home Braden James, who was born May 21. Braden's sister, Kirsten, and brother, Dawson, are very proud of their new little brother! His grandparents are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Darlene Steidinger (Fairbury, IL) and Wayne and Mary Finch of Mahomet.

A church picnic was held Sunday, June 1, out at Lake of the Woods in Mahomet. It was a beautiful day as we were reminded of the glory of God's creation and the blessing of unity we feel among our church fellowship. We were thankful to have Bro. Virgil and Sis. Mary Metzger (Chicago, IL) to share the day and minister to us.

"Inasmuch, as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

*Matthew 25:40*

The week of June 9 was filled with opportunities to serve those within our community. Working with World Relief and Empty Tomb, an organization here in Champaign, brothers, sisters and friends of all ages were able to work together on various tasks for several different local families. What a blessing when we are able to provide that living example of Christ's love for those in need!

It is a joy to welcome Sis. Karla Kieser to our congregation. Karla has been working in Champaign for some time and is moving to the area in July. We look forward to seeing her more often and appreciate her willingness to take her place in our small church. A special thanks to Karla as she assumes the responsibilities of Silver Lining correspondent.

Just a reminder: Our annual New Student Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 24. We welcome all of our students and their families to Champaign to spend the day with us as we look forward to another year! For further information, please feel free to contact Bro. Keith Schambach at or Sis. Heidi Knobloch at [kschamb@uiuc.edu](mailto:kschamb@uiuc.edu) or Sis. Heidi Knobloch at [hknobloc@uiuc.edu](mailto:hknobloc@uiuc.edu).

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**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO  
Rachel Meyer**

A shiver of fear ran through me when my husband pointed out my mistake several mornings ago. I had left our front door open all night. The weather had been nice that day and I wanted to catch the breeze. My heart jumped as I thought of the two of us sleeping peacefully, unaware of an open door in our urban Chicago home. As mortals, we had no idea who or what had passed our house that night. We lay inside all night, vulnerable, but unaware of our precarious and most definitely dangerous situation. What about our spiritual house? Is it possible that one day we could wake up, astonished by what has crept into our heart's door—a door we had planned on closing at a time most convenient to us? Let's be safe, finding our hope in God, and staying close to Him and



leaning on Him for His divine protection.

“And thou shalt be secure, because there is hope; yea, thou shalt dig about thee, and thou shalt take thy rest in safety.”

*Job 11:18*

Several in our congregation have seen their loved one safely laid to rest. Sis. Sara Ringger (Bro. Jeremy) said farewell to her grandfather, Bro. John Moser, of Rockville, CT. Bro. Dave Kiefer (Sis. Becky) said farewell to his grandmother, Sis. Della Kiefer, of Gridley, IL. We extend our love and sympathy to these two dear members of our congregation.

Recovering from knee surgery is our Bro. Paul Leman (Sis. Millie). We miss seeing him with us on Sundays and hope he may have a speedy and successful recovery. You have our prayers, Bro. Paul.

Life is a journey from one stage to the next. Moving on to life after high school are our three graduates: Leah Neu (Bro. Tom and Sis. Sandy), Jennifer Gudeman (Bro. Tom and Sis. Elaine) and Dwaine Dembry (Sis. Betty Schlatter). We love each of these souls and pray that God will lead them in His way. They are each the first to graduate in their families, and we are confident God will prepare each family member for this transition.

Transitions fill us with many emotions, both positive and negative. I said goodbye to four of my students this year. They are moving on to high school and I am moving on as well. I was telling a co-worker about the void and loss I was feeling in my heart. We agreed that it will be best to gently let go, and carry in our hearts the times we were able to

spend together. Very possibly, I may never see them again. Praise God that He stays with us through each step in our lives! We do not have to worry that He will leave us and expect us to wade through the rest of our lives on our own. If we stay true to Him and the vows we made, He will see us safely home to Heaven – the best transition of all.

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

We extend congratulations to our high school graduates. We pray that as they go to the work place or to school, they will look to God to guide and direct them. They are Trisha Young (Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb), Chad Kaeb (Bro. Eric and Sis. LouAnn), Brett Steffen (Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth), Nathan Anderson (Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee), Carl Eisenmann (Merle and Elsie), Matt Walder (Dave and Sue), and Justin Sinn (Loren and Nita).

We have had several in our congregation that were hospitalized. We pray God will provide healing for each one. Our prayers are with Bro. Dale Walder, Bro. Vernon Clauss, Sis. Joan Rudin, Sis. Laverne Farney, Bro. Bill Maul and Sis. Lila Winger.

We are thankful for souls that have made a beginning in repentance. What a blessing to know that God is still calling and there are those that are answering His call. We are praying for Whitney Anderson (Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee), Greg Maul (Mike and Sis. Kathy), Anthony and Megan Kaufmann and Justin and Jodi Sinn.

We were happy to hear of the engagement of Bro. Jess Walder (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon) to Sis.

Kelsey Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann) of Silverton, OR. We pray God will be with this couple during this special time and guide them as He sees fit.

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

*The Happiness Road*

Are you discouraged and perplexed  
 With focus out of view?  
 Think upon things that are lasting;  
 Think upon things that are true.

Lift your thought to higher planes  
 Where all is honest and just;  
 To find this road – the happiness  
 road –  
 Then surely and truly you must.

Harbor only thoughts that are  
 lovely,  
 Only thoughts that are pure;  
 Then you'll attain a nature  
 Christ-like,  
 Although in minutest measure.

Life seems amiss? –  
 Nature soon would hotly retort;  
 But faith calmly says:  
 “think only of things of good report”.

Think of things bearing virtue  
 And worthy of praise,  
 And your spirit will soar  
 And your glad voice you'll raise

To the great God of Heaven  
 Who holds world and all  
 In the hollow of His hand  
 And can keep from fall.

Daily follow these rules,  
 And you'll have success  
 And find the road that leads  
 To lasting happiness.

*(written by a sister in faith on  
 Philippians 4:8)*



We appreciated many visiting ministers proclaiming God's Word to us this past month: Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Bros. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Kim Sutter (Taylor, MO), Gene and Greg Lehman and Dale Banwart (Wolcott, IN), Don Gudeman (La-Crosse, IN) and Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL). Visiting ministers teaching the Bible Class at VBS were Bros. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN).

Our thanks to the Sunday School teachers who served their terms: Bros. Ed Leman, Mike Schieber and Sis. Gail Leman and Sis. Gayle Virkler.

More happiness has come into the lives of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cari Knapp since the birth of their first-born, Nathan Glenn, on June 4. Happy first-time grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gay Knapp and Bro. Charles and Sis. Vicki Leuthold (Lester, IA).

At this writing, Sis. Emma Schieber is recovering at the Apostolic Christian Home of Eureka following a short hospitalization. Chris E. (Betty) Miller continues to have health concerns. Our prayers are with them and may they also concentrate on Philippians 4:8.

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## ILLINOIS, ELGIN

### Amy Gasser

On May 17-18, the Elgin congregation heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Bro. Adam Young (Bro. Morris and Sis. Pat). Elder Bro. Tom Stock and Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) were here to assist in the services. Also visiting on a recent Sunday were Bros. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and Edwin Strahm (Bern,

KS). We had a blessed day.

We rejoice with Jenean Schambach (Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie) who has recently begun her repentance.

Andy and Lori Tobler welcomed a second son, Cole Andrew, on June 3. Zachary is happy for a baby brother. Cole's grandparents are Michael Buttuello and Pam Brown and Sis. Madelyn Tobler and Merle Tobler.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Julia Graf and Sis. Nina Willaert as their brother, Ed Graf, passed away on May 24.

Two young couples have recently announced their engagement. Jodi Schifferer (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy) and Rob Hammer; and Jennifer Gudeman (Bro. Tom and Sis. Elaine) and Rodney Ross. We wish them happiness in their new lives together.

### *Note of Thanks:*

We would like to thank everyone for their love, prayers, deeds of kindness and expressions of sympathy extended to us during the loss of our loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Precious memories, how they linger.

*The family of Sis. Martha Greiner*

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## ILLINOIS, EUREKA

### Janet Zimmerman

"With the love of God inspired, there is joy for us on earth..." (Zion's Harp #237). Sis. Kelli Leman and Bro. Brent Vierling were joined together in Holy Matrimony on June 8. Their parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Leman and Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda Vierling, all of Eureka. We wish them God's richest blessings as they

begin their married life.

God has blessed two families with new babies. Bro. Bill and Sis. Heidi Wettstein have been blessed with a baby boy, Burke Samuel, born on May 23. He is welcomed by his brother, Mitch, and sisters, Abbie, Molly and Darci. Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein and Bro. Sam and Sis. Pat Plattner (Goodfield, IL) are his grandparents.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Gail Getz and their children, Jennifer, David, Brandon and Trevor, lovingly welcomed Corey John into their family. He was born June 9. His grandparents are Bro. Allan and Sis. Nathalia Getz and Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach (Princeville, IL).

Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 9. Visiting ministers for our Bible Class students were Bros. Mike Rinckenberger (Congerville, IL), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) and Earl Beery (Rittman, OH). We thank each of these brothers for their time and efforts and pray God will be their rich rewarder. We were thankful to have Washington Bible Class assemble with us.

With much joy and thankfulness we heard the engagement announcement of Sis. Mindy Fehr and Bro. Justin Stoller. Their parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy Fehr and Bro. Jim and Sis. Janet Stoller, all of Eureka. May God continue to be with them and guide them as they plan their future life together.

We are thankful and rejoice that Blake Hoerr found the much needed grace to begin his repentance. His parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Carolyn Hoerr. We wish him God's continued grace and



guidance as he builds his faith upon Jesus.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue Sanders and their children on the death of their mother and grandmother, Sis. Emma Sanders. She died May 31. May God comfort them during their time of sorrow.

We thank each of our visiting ministers who ministered unto us recently. They were Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Bros. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), Craig Martin (Princeville, IL), Earl Beery and Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH). As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are so richly blessed to hear the Word of God spoken in truth and sincerity. We trust God will bless these dear brothers who stand before us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Marie Meyer as she recovers from a broken hip. We often think and pray for our loved ones who live at the "home" and have reached those twilight years of age. With love and prayers we trust God will provide for them and bless them in a very special way. "God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help indeed; He in the time of trouble sends His grace to meet our every need." (Hymns of Zion #4).

We bid farewell to Bro. Greg and Sis. Lynn Wiegand and their girls, Leah, Ellen and Laura. We certainly will miss them but trust God will be with them and provide for them as they assemble with the Phoenix congregation. We look forward to their visits back home.

Sis. Renee' Steffen moved to

Alto, MI, recently. We miss her presence among us. We wish her God's blessings and guidance in Alto.

Praised be the Lord, who gives us strength,  
Who leads and gives direction.  
My brethren, when you kneel in pray'r,  
for me make intercession.  
'Twill not be vain; Pray'r as a chain  
binds us in God together,  
and when we part, unites each heart  
in Jesus' name forever.  
*Zion's Harp #195, vs. 8*

*Note of Thanks:*

I would like to thank each one who remembered me with their prayers, cards and gifts of love during my recent knee surgery and recovery. May God richly bless you.

*Bro. John Hartter*

## ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Joann Zehr**

**Tammy Hinrichsen**

Greetings from Fairbury! Our congregation has been strengthened by the taking of Holy Communion together this past month. Serving us along with our own Elder brother were Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN).

Bro. Marion Meiss and our friend, Josh Runyon, have both spent time in the hospital. May our Lord hear and answer the prayers for their improved health and healing, and we look forward to worshipping with them again.

On June 8, Bro. Karl Steidinger was announced to be married to Sis. Carrie Steffen. Both have grown up and given their lives to our Lord in

the Fairbury congregation. What a joy to be able to report their engagement, knowing that God's will has been sought after and revealed in their hearts. His parents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn Steidinger. Carrie is the daughter of Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay Steffen.

On a very beautiful Sunday, June 15, Bro. Matthew Kaisner and Sis. Jodi Leman were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna Kaisner and Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol Leman (Forrest, IL). We wish them God's blessings on their new life together.

Three families in our congregation are enjoying the blessing of a newborn in their homes. On May 22, Arliss Glen Fehr was born to Bro. Randall and Sis. Janice Fehr. Anxiously waiting to hold him at home were big sisters, Sarah and Heidi, and big brothers, Troy and Marty. Grandparents of Arliss are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser (Washington, IL), the late Sis. Myrna Moser, and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr.

God delivered to Bro. Les and Sis. Sally Fehr a beautiful baby girl on May 30. She has been named Tanya Jo in remembrance of her dear brother, Tanner. We do rejoice with our dear brother and sister, even in the midst of continued sorrow, for this special gift from our God. Waiting at home for Tanya are big brothers, Marcus and Wade. Grandparents of Tanya Jo are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser (Washington, IL), the late Sis. Myrna Moser, and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr.

On Father's Day, June 15, Amanda Joann was born to Bro. Alan and Sis. Wendy Edelman. Since this is the first Father's day without Alan's dad, it makes



Amanda's birth even more special. Amanda will be welcomed home by Megan, Klint, and Eric. Grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys Slagel and Sis. JoAnn and the late Bro. Fred Edelman (Bern, KS).

We are thankful to the visiting ministers that were a part of our services this last month. Visiting us were Bros. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL), Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL). May the Lord richly bless each of you and your families for worshipping with us.

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### ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Linda Anliker  
Lori Dotterer**

Recently being reminded of the freedoms we enjoy in America, let us continue to be thankful and pray for those in authority as the Word commands, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life.

High school students graduating this school year are Brendan Bachman (Keith and Sis. Tamra), Sis. Kristi Bachtold (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary), Nick Bolliger (Bro. Mark and Sis. Ruby), Sis. Jessica Gerber (Bro. Alan and Sis. Marcia), Brett and Sis. Brooke Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy), Sis. Amber Kilgus (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise), Bro. Jacob Kuntz (Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda), Caleb Leman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Brenda), Jason Leman (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol), Ben Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida), Sis. Katie Rinckenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally), Bro. Jonathan Roth (Bro. Ken and Sis. Deb), Sis. Amy Schlatter (Sis. Sherri), Bro. Craig Steidinger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly), Isaiah Stork (Bro. Paul and Sis. Dawn), Jared and Jordan Walter (Pete and LaRae),

Amanda Wenger (Marvin and Rita), and Sis. Tiffany Zimmerman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy). May they be willing and ready to acknowledge the Lord in His righteousness and desire to have Him direct their lives.

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

*II Timothy 4:2*

We extend our appreciation to Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Bros. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) for serving us.

Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 9-13. We thank Bros. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL) and Chris Wuethrich (LaCrosse, IN) for taking the time to travel to teach our Bible Class.

Becoming united in marriage on June 15 were Bro. Matthew Kaisner and Sis. Jodi Leman. May they continue to look to the Lord for guidance in their lives. Their parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna Kaisner (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol Leman.

On June 1, some of the residents from the Home for the Handicapped spent the day with us. May we continue to pray for them and for those who care for them.

Lynell Schneider (Bro. Michael and Sis. Jodi) was born prematurely and had to spend a few weeks in the hospital. We are thankful she is able to be at home with her family. May

Bro. Dave (Sis. Alma Jean) Schmidgall continue to feel God's healing as he also spent a few days in the hospital.

May the Lord comfort Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger and Sis. Nathalia Wenger in the death of their sister, Edna Reber (Morton, IL). We extend our sympathy to Tom and Sis. Jane Bounds in the passing of his father, Olen Bounds (Fairbury).

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation for all the prayers, phone calls, cards and expressions of love offered on my behalf during my recent surgery and recovery. We could certainly feel the love and are very grateful.

*Sis. Lou Ida and Bro. Richard Steffen*

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### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Heather Hohulin  
Rita Bauman**

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

*II Timothy 4:2*

We are so thankful for our visiting ministering brothers as they so willingly bring forth God's Word. We have been blessed by the ministry of Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL), and Bros. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL), Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL), Glen Dill (Sis. Marilyn, Tremont, IL), Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL), Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL), Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), and Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki,



Francesville, IN).

Our hospital patients this past month have been Sis. Mary Wiegand, Sis. Laura Steffen, and Sis. Lydia and Bro. Bill Hohulin. We pray that they will be strengthened by the Lord according to their needs.

Carly Schrock (Chuck and Diane) and Dustin Cawley (Deb and Steve Hodel and Darcy Cawley) have announced their engagement. They are making September 6 wedding plans. Also engaged are Crystal Jansen (Ben and Sis. Lisa Wiegand) and Frank Lopez (Nancy Lopez). We wish them God's blessings, as hand in hand they face and share the joys and struggles of this life. May they remember God's promise, "My grace is sufficient for thee..."

We are going down the valley one  
by one,  
With our faces tow'rd the setting  
of the sun;  
Down the valley where the mourn-  
ful cypress grows,  
Where the stream of death in si-  
lence onward flows.  
We are going down the valley, go-  
ing down the valley,  
Going tow'rd the setting of the  
sun;  
We are going down the valley, go-  
ing down the valley,  
Going down the valley one by one.  
*Gospel Hymns #798*

The earthly life of Bro. Simon Wiegand was completed on June 12. Our sympathy is extended to his dear wife, Sis. Mary, and their children, Bro. Steve (Sis. Mary Ellen), David (Janet), Mark (Sandy) Wiegand, Lois (Ron) Underwood, Sis. Marilyn (Bro. Richard) Tanner, and Sis. Cheryl (Bro. Sid) Messner. We also extend sympathy to his two

sisters, Sis. Carolyn Rokey, and Sis. Marian Wiegand, and all the grandchildren and great-grandchildren. May the Holy Spirit comfort each family member.

Also, going Home to meet her maker was Sis. Laura Koehl. She passed away on June 15 and is the mother of our Sis. Jackie (Bro. Dean) Knobloch. May your family feel God's hand reaching out to comfort you.

On June 22, Sis. Bethany Wiegand (Bro. Art and Sis. Pam) and Sis. Brooke Monfre (Bro. Tony and Sis. Deonne) buried their old life in the waters of baptism, and arose as new sisters in Christ. We welcome them to the household of our precious faith.

### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

One by one we are going into eternity. Life is short, and fast. We were saddened to learn of the death of Sis. Adella "Della" Kiefer, 91, who passed away at the Eureka Home on June 2. Her funeral was in our Gridley congregation on June 5. Her grandson, Bro. Jeff Thames, Washington, was present and participated in the service.

Sis. Della is survived by twin sons, Bro. Richard Kiefer, Sr., Gridley, and Bro. Robert Kiefer, Wapello, Iowa; one sister, Sis. Lillian Witzig (Eureka home); eight grandchildren, and 26 great-grandchildren. She was married for 51 years to her beloved husband, Bro. Silas Kiefer, who passed away on January 2, 1983. She was preceded in death by two brothers and three sisters.

Sis. Della is remembered as having a friendly disposition, and a nice smile. Her cordiality will be missed.

Sis. Erin Witzig was married to Bro. Doug Hodel on June 15 in Gridley. Her parents are Bro. Curtiss and Sis. Norma Witzig. He is the son of Bro. Daryl and Sis. Deb Hodel, all of the Gridley congregation. Ministering brothers here for the occasion were Bros. Bill Hodel and Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL). We wish this dear couple the blessings of God, now and always.

Visiting ministers on June 8 were Bros. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) and Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL).

Our annual business meeting took place on Wednesday evening, June 4. The various offices filled were: Fellowship Hall Trustee, Bro. Lynn Stoller; Church Trustee, Bro. Stan Ringger; Sunday School Teachers, Sisters Amy Schlipf, Marcia Campbell and Deb Hodel; and Bros. Grant Descarpentrie and Sean Cornell. May God grant grace to all who serve in these capacities.

During June 9-13, Vacation Bible School was held. The theme centered on Prayer. Five invited speakers were Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH); Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL); Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL); Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL); and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA). As they depended on the Spirit, many good, edifying thoughts were presented. May God bless them — and add the increase according to His will.

We truly benefit by Spirit-directed sermons. It is God who knows what the congregation needs. Recently a minister (on Wednesday evening) quoted the Bible, "Man ought always to pray and not to faint." He indicated that often we turn it around. We faint first, and then pray. But in any and all sit-



uations we should pray first — and really, the Bible instructs us to “Pray without ceasing” and “In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” Truly God hears and answers prayer, so we should cast all our care on Him!

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## ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Julie Bahr  
Christie Zeller**

We rejoice in the marriage of our Sis. Haley Kruse (Bro. Doug and Sis. Gerry) to Bro. Dave (Tater) Kieser (Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma) of Bloomington, IL, on June 8. We wish them God’s blessings.

Our Vacation Bible School theme for this year was “I am the Light of the Word”. Our speakers for the week were: Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), “Walk in the Light”; Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL), “The Lord is My Light”; Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), “The Word is the Light”; Bro. Dave Oberffel (Peoria, IL), “Let Your Light Shine”; Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), “The Lord is the Light”. It was a very convicting and thought-provoking week. Thanks to all those brothers who so willingly gave of their time.

Father’s Day is a time of reflecting on our earthly fathers but let us never forget our Heavenly Father and His love for us all.

Our visiting brothers for the month were: Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria, IL), Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL), and Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL). May God bless all these willing servants.

### *Note of Thanks:*

Thank you to all our ministers and loved ones for all the gifts, cards, prayers and love shown unto me while in the hospital and at Restmor.

*Bro. Milt Yentes*

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## ILLINOIS, PEORIA Lou and Marjean Lonteen

“Charity suffereth long, and is kind; Charity envieth not; Charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. Doth not behave itself unseemly, Seeketh not her own, Is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil. Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, Believeth all things, Hopeth all things, Endureth all things, Charity never faileth.”

*I Corinthians 4-8*

On June 1, Bro. Gabe Stickling and Sis. Molly Meister were united in holy matrimony.

Parents are Ben Stickling and Sharon Wycoff and Bro. Paul II (Spark) and Sis. Rhonda Meister. “The Lord bless thee, and keep thee; The Lord make His face shine upon thee. And be gracious unto thee, And be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, And give thee peace. Amen.” (Hymns of Zion, #23)

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!

My sin, not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it  
no more,  
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord,  
O my soul!

*Gospel Hymns #573*

Rob Burroughs and Zack Nelson (Bro. Breck and Sis. Jane) have

made known their desire to walk with the Lord.

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

*Matthew 18:3*

Jesus loves a little child, Smiling in its childish glee:

Says of such in accents mild. LET THEM COME TO ME.

*Praises We Sing, #106*

Little Eli Joseph was born to Sis. Kristi (Hoerr) and Bro. Michael Rieker II on May 15. Aaron and Grace are happy to have a new little brother. Loving grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. JoAnn Hoerr and Bro. Mike and Sis. Carol Rieker.

Emma Olivia Kaisner was born on May 24 to Sis. Heather and Bro. Steve Kaisner (Portland, OR). Thankful grandparents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice Kaisner.

### *“Treasures of the Nile”*

Vacation Bible School was held from June 9-12. Three-year-olds through seventh grade students enjoyed learning about this topic. “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

### *“The Choice is Yours”*

VBS for the Bible Class, graduating eighth graders, and the Young Group were blessed by hearing the following visiting ministers: Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley), “The Value of the Family in 2003”; Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville), “Decisions, Decisions, Decisions for the Teen”. Family Night was on Wednesday night with Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington), “The Consequences of Seeking a Higher Rock”; Bro. Ron



Heiniger (Bloomington), "Friendships: Choose Carefully"; Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield), "Hungry? Why Wait?"

Our thanks to all who brought the Word and all who helped with VBS in any way! It was such a special week and what we learned left an impression on our hearts.

Thank you to the Young Group for serving a lovely lunch on Mother's Day. Your love and God's light in your life inspires all who observe it. Congratulations to Sis. Aimee Moser who received her Associate of Applied Science Degree in Business Administration. "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." (Proverbs 4:7)

Those appreciating special prayer are Bro. Paul (Sis. Rhoda) Meister and Bro. Kenneth (Sis. Edith) Plattner. Both have experienced recent hospital visits. "The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty;" (Zephaniah 3:17)

We express sympathy to the family of Sis. Laura (Dietz) Koehl. She passed away on June 16 and the funeral was held on June 18. Sis. Laura was residing at the Peoria Skyline Retirement Home.

I wish to die in my dear Jesus,  
In peace and with great joy con-  
soled,  
And through His wounds I shall  
inherit  
the robe of white He will unfold.  
In Jesus I will trust alway;  
In Him I live and pass away,  
In Him I live and pass away.  
*Zion's Harp #247*

"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and

morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

*Revelation 22:16,17*

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

In days of youth seek ye the Lord,  
His love and truth with one ac-  
cord,  
Go offer Him thy youthful days  
And walk within the Saviour's  
ways.

*Hymns of Zion #135*

Tristan Herrmann (Bro. Roger and Sis. Darlene) has begun his repentance. We rejoice with him and know the angels in Heaven are rejoicing too!

Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) was in our midst on June 9-10 for the proving and baptism of Cam Blair (Elder Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner). We are inspired by youth who are willing to give their all, and follow the Lord.

Many of our congregation were privileged to travel to Rockville, CT, for the June 1 wedding of Bro. Craig and Sis. Cherie White (Sis. Gloria White and Claude White, and Bro. David and Sis. Marlene Galat). The fellowship of the brethren across many miles is one of the special benefits of our church. We welcome Sis. Cherie to our Princeville church and encourage the Rockville brethren to visit her here often as the way opens.

Claire Anna was welcomed into the family of Bro. Brian and Sis. Renee Wieland and their children,

Ethan, Mikaela, Grace and Eli. The miracle of a new life is a joy to behold!

The engagement of Bro. Robert Herrmann (Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann) to Sis. Mary Leman of Roanoke (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen) was made known on June 10. We are gladdened to witness God's work of leading souls together in faith. May this faith carry them through the days ahead.

Hospital patients this month have been Ray Baer, Sis. Alvina Streitmatter and Sis. Mary Lou Scholl. May God's nearness and presence be felt as they recover.

Other visiting ministers throughout the month were Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN), Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH). "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:15) We are thankful for all of our ministers who continue to preach the gospel of salvation and the doctrines of holy living according to the Word of God.

On May 18, a breakfast was served to the high school graduates and their parents, at which time each of them were presented a Bible from the church. They were Megan Baer (Don and Carol), Ashley Ehnle (Bro. Phil and Sis. Barb), Heide Herrmann (Bro. Allan and Sis. Rose), Nathan Christ (Bro. Fred and Sis. Tina), Aaron Ehnle (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jane), Ben Martin (Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary), Travis Wieland (Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy), and Mark and Ryan Stoller (Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia).

College graduates include



Dustin Blunier (Sis. Joyce and late Bro. Dale) and Alex Stoller (Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia). It would be our sincere prayer that each of the graduates would come to know the deep love of Christ, and the fullness of God, for all success fails without Him.

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## ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Joan Leman  
Jenell Hodel**

“The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.”

*Psalm 34:18*

We are rejoicing to have two converts this month who have made a beginning in their repentance. They are Alan Burton (Richard and Joan) and Harold Presley (Gordon and Karen). May God be near them and may they feel the love and prayers of their church family.

We also had reason for rejoicing on the weekend of June 1 as we heard the testimonies and observed the baptisms of two new lambs of the flock. We welcome Sis. Bethany Leman (Bro. Clark and Sis. Lisa) and Bro. Brett Hodel (Bro. Curt and Sis. Jenell) into our church family. May the Lord ever bless and guide them as they continue to walk with Him each day.

Our congregation enjoyed Vacation Bible School the week of June 2. The theme for the week was “What is Truth?” It was a very encouraging and uplifting week. We want to thank all the teachers, those working with the crafts and treats, song leaders and all others who worked with our children to make the week a special one. We appreciate all your efforts.

We also thank the Brothers that spoke with the Bible class and our congregation each night. They were Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury) who spoke on the Theory of Evolution vs. the Truth of Creation; Bro. Fred Funk (Morton) whose topic was Seeking God’s Direction in All Your Decisions; Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington) with the topic Is Christ the Only Answer? There is No Side Door Into Heaven; Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley) spoke on Recognizing Sin and Evil – Is It Right or Is It Wrong?; and Bro. Scott Schafer (South Bend) whose topic was Are You Ready? The End May Be Sooner Than You Think.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Marshall Heinold (Ixtlan), Bro. Craig Martin (Princeville) and Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville). We pray that the Lord will richly bless each of these Brothers for their willingness to serve us.

On June 8, we heard the wedding announcement of our Sis. Mary Leman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen) to Bro. Robert Herrmann (Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann, Princeville). It is a joy to see God’s plan unfold for these young people. May they feel the love and prayers of our Roanoke congregation.

Our Bro. Chris Wuthrich has felt the call of the Lord to move to the Fort Scott, Kansas. We are confident that he will be a blessing to their congregation as he has been to ours. We will miss him here, but pray the Lord will bless and be near unto him. Our love and prayers go with him.

We are thankful for the arrival of three children to our congregation. Chloe Anne Yordy is the daughter born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Mandy on May 9. Big sister Brianna welcomes

her home along with her grandparents, Bro. Rob and Sis. Gina Luginbuhl and Larry and Edie Yordy. On June 10, Scott and Erin Leman, along with their daughter Bailey, welcomed Brady Michael into their family. His grandparents are Roger and Gloria Weber and Bro. Steve and Sis. Shirley Leman. Bro. John and Sis. Lisa Koehler became first-time parents on June 19 with the birth of their daughter, Adelyn Cydney. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sauder and Alan and the late Cydney Koehler. May God grant each of these families grace and strength to raise these children in His nurture and admonition.

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## ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Heather Rassi**

**LaVonne Wagenbach**

We were thankful for Bro. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) as visiting ministers this month. May they be truly blessed for their willingness to serve the Lord in ministering the Gospel.

Bro. Glenn Stuber (Sis. Dorothy) spent some time in the hospital recently. May God restore him to good health.

We rejoice with Bro. Mark and Sis. Renee Kaiser as they have welcomed a little girl from China into their family. Grace FeiHan Kaiser’s new siblings are Lucas, Morgan and Lance. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marlene Kaiser (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Eleanor Knobloch (Lester, IA). We are thankful God has blessed their travels and pray that Grace will feel at home here in Tremont.

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

"The prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up,"

*James 5:15*

Hospital patients this past month were Bro. Harold Meiss (Sis. Ann) and Kyle Streitmatter (Bro. Paul and Sis. Jean).

"The Lord is Our Shepherd" was the theme for Vacation Bible School. Many lessons were learned by the children as well as the adults about the goodness and mercies of our wonderful Saviour. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it," (Proverbs 22:6). Thank you to all who gave of your time.

We appreciate our visiting ministers this past month: Bro. Marshall Heinold (Sis. Jan, Ixtlan, Mexico), Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), Elder Bro. Chuck Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL), Bro. Ken Weerts (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL).

"...and weep with them that weep."

*Romans 12:15*

May our Sis. Pam Yudenfriend (Bro. Elliot) feel the Lord's nearness and comfort at the sudden passing of her sister, Sis. Kathie Inoue, from Bloomington.

"The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him"

*Proverbs 20:7*

Thank you to our earthly fathers for walking with Him.

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

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this month. Sharing the Word with us were: Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Sis. Beverly, Bloomington, IL), Bros. Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North), Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North), Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) and Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN).

We welcomed three souls into the fold on May 25. Bro. Joey Kline, Sis. Tammy Raber (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary) and Bro. Ryan Schwartz (Bro. Scott and Sis. Patti) shared their miraculous testimonies and confirmed their conversion through baptism. We are touched by their sincerity and wish them God's richest blessings as they serve Him with their whole hearts.

We rejoice with Bro. Mitch Aschliman (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Beth) and Sis. Dana Gerber (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay) as well as Bro. Clint Fiechter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny) and Sis. Sarah Gerber (Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb) as they have announced their engagements this month. Our sincere prayers are with them as they embark on their new journeys together.

Our earnest prayers are with those who have been hospitalized this month. We continue to pray for Sisters Marci Neuenschwander and Edith Stultz as they recover from their illnesses.

"The righteous shall be glad in the Lord, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory."

*Psalm 64:10*

Turning their backs on the world and humbling themselves in repentance this month were: Kevin Dailey (Bro. Doug and Sis. Susan), Rozanna Grube (Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda), and Alicia Steffen (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean). We ask the Lord's blessings on these dear souls.

Our congregation has been blessed with several bundles of joy recently. Jocelyn May Isch was adopted by Bro. Greg and Sis. Katie Isch. Her birthday is May 1. Jocelyn joins Kayla, Calvin, and Lauren at home. Her grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee Reinhard and Bro. Hubert and Sis. Judy Isch.

Evan Jeffrey McAfee entered the world on May 21. John and Lisa McAfee along with their son, Jacob, are excited about their new addition to their family. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Linda McAfee welcome their new grandson.

Scott and Jamie Johnson welcome a new daughter, Nikkole Ettalucille, born on May 30. Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise Maller are thankful grandparents, while Clayton is a proud big brother.

Bro. Chad and Sis. Jamie Gerber were blessed with a son, Spencer Chad. Drew and Hannah welcomed their new brother on June 1. Spencer's grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda Moser and Bro. Russell and Sis. Susie Gerber.

Adam ElNaggar (Osh and Erin) and April Schwartz (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joni) were united in marriage on May 17. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they begin their marriage in Anderson, IN.

June 8 brought many visitors to Bluffton as Bro. Barry Beer (South Bend, IN), son of Bro. Dan and Sis.



Deb (Milford, IN), took Sis. Myra Isch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny) to be his wife. We rejoice with them as they make their home in South Bend.

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**INDIANA  
BLUFFTON NORTH  
Tiffani Schladenhauffen  
Ann Meyer**

“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*

Another school year has passed and Bluffton North had many high school graduates that will be starting a new life. We pray they will let the Lord direct their paths. The graduates include: Luke Aeschliman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth), Lance Aschliman (Bro. Kelly and Sis. Lisa), Sis. Jane Braselton (Lee and Julie), Mitch Fiechter (Bro. Tony and Sis. Peg), Landon Gerber (Bro. Steve and Sis. Gayla), Beth Haiflich (Ron and Sis. Margo), Eric Mason (Sis. Diane), Sis. Ashlee Meyer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann), Megan Midaugh (Mark and Sis. Jill), Sis. Abby Ringger (Bro. Sam and Sis. Becky), Alicia Schwartz (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan) and Jordan Steffen ((Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlise).

Our annual two week Bible School was combined with Bluffton country church with the theme “We Believe”. It was a blessing to the 418 students that came. Many thanks to all the helping hands that made it possible.

Father’s Day is always a special day to stop and appreciate our fa-

thers and what they mean to us. This year it was a special day for Sis. Margo Stettner and Bro. Jeff Waibel (Leo, IN) because it was their wedding day. May the Lord bless their marriage and their new home in Leo. Their parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen Stettner.

We appreciated all the visiting ministers that came for the wedding: Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Sis. Marlene) and Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI), Bro. Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) and Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN).

I need the prayers of those I love,  
To help me in each trying hour,  
To bear my tempted soul to Him,  
That He may keep me by His  
power.

*Hymns of Zion #201*

There were many needing prayer this month. Spending time in the hospital were Sis. Rochelle (Bro. Rod) Gerber, Bro. Roger (Sis. Vi) Isch, Bro. Len (Sis. Mary) Francesi, Bro. Dale (Sis. Martha) Reinhard, Sis. Becky (Bro. Lonnie) Bertsch and Logan Aschliman (Bro. Kelly and Sis. Lisa).

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**INDIANA  
INDIANAPOLIS  
Sandy Lichtle  
Gail Bradford**

God’s healing mercies have been felt this month. Little BJ Blume is now well enough to come to church. His parents, Bro. Brian and Sis. Cherise, expressed appreciation for all the prayers on his behalf. Sis. Kim Bucher (Bro. Jim) had been un-

der treatment for a very serious condition. On her last visit to the doctor, he said that the condition has disappeared and called it a “miracle.” The song says, “We need the prayers of those we love.” These are two examples of God working in our lives.

Our children and their friends attended 5 evenings of vacation Bible school, learning about becoming Christians in Action. Lessons emphasized that Christians study the Bible, share God’s Word, and stand firm for what is right. On the final night parents and friends enjoyed songs and Bible verses and viewed crafts made by the students.

Some of us departed on June 14 for work projects in Mexico. We look forward to hearing about the week and what they accomplished for the Lord. Many prayers went along with the group, which included two ministers and their wives, as well as young people.

Some of our young adults traveled to Illinois to help with the high school summer camp. Examples of Christian behavior and faith are a powerful testimony to the students, who learn about Jesus and His saving grace in an atmosphere of friendship and cooperation.

As the above examples illustrate, all of us can be Christians in Action.

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

*I John 4:11*

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**INDIANA, LACROSSE  
Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold**

Trying to walk in the steps of the Savior,  
Trying to follow our Savior and King;



Shaping our lives by His blessed example,  
Happy, how happy, the songs that we bring.

*Gospel Hymns #185*

We were privileged to have three visiting ministers for Vacation Bible School this past month. We want to thank each of the brothers for sharing the Word with our students. Bro. Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North) spoke on the Difficulty of Understanding, Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North) spoke on the Cost in Waiting and Bro. Mike Baumann (Sis. Florina, Mansfield) spoke on the Benefits of being a living sacrifice.

Also visiting us this past month were Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City), Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto), Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto) and Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth, Wolcott). We appreciate the efforts of each of these brothers in sharing God's Word with us.

We welcome our new Bro. David Massner (Bro. Randy and Sis. Mary Lynn). We were encouraged to hear of God's work in his life, and in giving him peace. Bro. David was baptized on June 22. May God continue to grant him grace as he continues his walk of life with the Lord. Helping Elder Bro. Curt for this occasion was Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington). We thank him for ministering to us.

Julie Heinold (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie) and Greg Gorden (Gorden and Geneva Gordon) were united in marriage on May 24. May God direct their paths together in the coming years.

Our high school graduates this year were Bro. Rudy Troxel (Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn), Caleb

Heinold (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie) and Bro. Levi Wuethrich (Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla). We pray God will direct their paths as they move on from this important milestone.

We rejoice with Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller in the birth of another granddaughter. Lena Johanna was born to Bro. Ned and Sis. Heidi Stoller (Alto) on June 2.

Along with joyous times, we know there are those in sorrow. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Dale and Sis. Andrea Schneider and their family in the unexpected loss of Sis. Andrea's father in the past month. We pray they will feel God's nearness and encouragement from those around them during this time.

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### INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

"Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the Lord: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and the hole of the pit whence ye are digged... Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment rest for a light of the people. My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust... Awake, awake, put on strength. O arm of the Lord; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon?... Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and

mourning shall flee away."

*Isaiah 51:1,4,5,9,11*

"Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:"

*Hebrews 12:12-14*

What a privilege we have in the opportunity to worship together as often as we choose. May we not neglect any opportunity.

On May 25, Bro. Paul and Sis. Joyce Gasser visited us. We appreciated his effort to serve us in the ministry. June 1, Bro. James Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS) and Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) ministered to us. Some thoughts shared were: How can we understand how important Jesus is? Where Jesus is, is the power of the Creator. Jesus is all sufficient. If you look to anything other than Jesus Christ you are going to be disappointed. He is the bread from heaven. Jesus always sees us all the time. (John 6:33,35)

On June 8, we had many visitors from Goodfield, IL, who were volunteers at Gateway Woods on Saturday, and others who came for the graduations on Friday and Sunday. Bro. Steve Stieglitz had the morning service and talked especially to the young people who joined us from Sunday School. II Tim. 1:2, We should desire "Grace, mercy and peace" the source of all three is "God". Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN) ministered to us in the afternoon.

Bro. Matt Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Sis. Bridget and children vis-



ited on June 15. His ministry was a blessing. Many of the congregation were in Bluffton, IN, for Bro. Jeff Waibel and Sis. Margo Stettner's wedding, including Bros. Steve Stieglitz and Brace Wieland. Bro. Matt read from II Sam. 23 and Acts 25. Come in the name of God and we are assured victory. God will be with us. There is only one way "no man cometh to the Father but by Jesus..." (John 14:6)

Bro. Marvin Fischer (Sis. Pat) had surgery on his lung, and is in the hospital at this writing, but is improving. Peter Fischer (Bro. Paul and Sis. Leanne), Bro. Marvin's grandson, was hospitalized following an auto accident. He is now home recovering from a fractured pelvis. We are thankful he is mobile. Our prayers are for complete recovery for both and that Peter will seek the Lord as King of Kings.

We are thankful with retired Elder Bro. David Bertsch for God's healing. He attended services on Father's Day, June 15.

At our June family sing we had a men's quartet from Bluffton, IN, "Psalm 100". We would like to have them return as it was an enjoyable evening as they sang with and for us.

#### *A Thought...*

You have received God-given talents, not to be laid up for self, but to be laid out in service.

Our vacation Bible School is in progress this week - June 16-20. The seed is good. We pray for fertile ground.

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### **INDIANA, MILFORD** **Paula Haab** **Cap Beer**

We enjoyed a blessed week of Bi-

ble School which we shared with South Bend. The theme was "The Depths of Calvary's Love". Our speakers were Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Al Schambach (Remington, IN), Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. John Zeller (Morton, IL). Collectively they made us more appreciative of God's wonderful love. We were also encouraged to love one another more.

We have had several guest ministers who have helped our home brothers and also encouraged the whole congregation. They were Bro. Chris Wuethrich, Bro. Larry Wenninger and Bro. Alan Stoller. It shows wonderful love and devotion when the brothers, along with their wives and sometimes families, will love us enough to travel the many miles to help us.

On May 31, Matt Haab (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol) exchanged vows with Amy McGowan in Indianapolis. Sis. Myra Isch became the wife of Bro. Barry Beer at the Bluffton church. We wish these young couples God's richest blessings.

We have had sufficient spring rains and our lawns, trees and flowers are beautiful. These remind us of God's wonderful creation. As much as we appreciate them, we try to worship the Creator instead of His creation.

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### **INDIANA, REMINGTON** **Beth Virkler** **Rochelle Ward**

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

*Psalm 32:8*

God's promises are always true and we can always trust Him for guidance in the direction for our lives. It is our prayer that each of our graduates will seek God first in all of their decisions. We had four high school graduates this year. They were: Evan Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb), Sis. Melanie Bahler (Bro. Mark and Sis. Benita), Sis. Alisia Kilgus (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna) and Sis. Rachel Virkler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth). Also, Sis. Lea Nieman (Bro. Dana) completed her nursing degree from St. Elizabeth Nursing School. We thank Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. MaryBeth, Wolcott, IN) for being with us and sharing Godly instruction with our graduates.

We are thankful for God's healing touch. Both Sis. Norma Wasner and Bro. Stan Virkler are recovering from recent surgeries. May they feel renewed strength day by day.

We held our Vacation Bible School June 9-13 at our neighboring Wolcott church. Our topic for the week was "Dare to be Different". Each night a visiting minister shared a special subtopic.

On Monday, Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) gave us "Examples of Godly People Who Dared To Be Different". Tuesday, we heard instruction on "Making Choices: Worldly vs. Godly Choices" from Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL). Wednesday, Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN) gave much encouragement on "Standing Away From the Crowd: Being An Example". Thursday's topic, "Choosing Right Friends: The Road to Better Relationships", was shared to us by Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL). And finally, Friday night we appreciated the exhortation of "Seeing the Big Picture: Where Do You Stand In



God's Plan?" by Bro. Ted Steffen (Alto, MI).

Thank you, brothers, for your time and effort spent in preparing and for making the trip to be with us. Thank you also to the Wolcott congregation for everything that was done to make the week a blessing.

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

The depth of Calvary's love was the theme for our Vacation Bible School. The ministers who spoke were Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott), Bro. Al Schambach (Remington), Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke), and Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton). We all were encouraged and blessed and we pray that God will bless each of you for your efforts.

He left the splendor of heaven,  
knowing His destiny  
was the lonely hill of Golgotha,  
There to lay down His life for me.  
Even in death He remembered  
the thief hanging by His side;  
He spoke with love and compassion

Then He took him to Paradise.  
If that isn't love the ocean is dry,  
there's no stars in the sky  
and the sparrow can't fly!  
If that isn't love then heaven's a  
myth,

There's no feeling like this  
if that isn't love.

*Country and Western #17*

Noah Christian Schafer arrived June 14 to Bro. Luke and Sis. Andria Schafer (West Lafayette). Joyful grandparents are Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer and Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette Bahler

(Remington).

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**INDIANA, VALPARAISO**  
**Ed Lester**

Greetings to all of our beloved brothers, sisters and friends.

In this past month we were privileged to take part in Communion service. It was a blessed time as Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus and Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein served us bread and wine. What a joyous time to partake in remembrance of what our Lord has done for us.

I want to ask everyone reading this to take a few moments to lend his or her prayers and support for Bro. Brady Moser (Bro. Andy and Sis. Diane). Bro. Brady has been confronted with a life threatening disease. Following God may bring us different challenges and tests in our lives but it is important no matter the challenge, to continually obey God. I am struggling with the news but have found a nice peace in  
*Matthew 8:23-26.*

"And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, in so much that the ship was covered with the waves: but, he was asleep. And the disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us; we perish. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm."

I am keeping faith and believing that God will see Bro. Brady and the rest of us through this and, Lord willing, there will be a calm soon!

The Valpo church would also like to thank the following ministers for

sharing God's Word with us: Bro. Todd Feller (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN).

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

Our visiting ministers have been Bro. Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN), Bro. David Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL), and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Sis. Marcella, Francesville, IN). We are so appreciative of the love and support our West Lafayette congregation has been shown from our ministers and churches across the land. We continue to meet every Thursday evening throughout the summer, so if you are in the area, stop and worship with us.

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

*Prov. 22:6*

This past week our Sunday School children enjoyed Vacation Bible School. A special thanks goes to the Purdue students and teachers who all pitched in to make this possible.

Noah Christian arrived June 14 to bless the home of Bro. Luke and Sis. Andria Schafer. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette Bahler and Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer from South Bend, IN.

We are going to miss Bro. Luke and Sis. Jenny Gutwein as they



move to Indianapolis to continue their studies. Bro. Nicholas, Sis. Sandra and Elijah Waibel are relocating to the Bloomington, IL, area where Nicholas has employment. Bro. Lon and Sis. Sara Vogt are spending the summer in Mexico doing missionary work. We send our prayers with these couples as they move on to other phases in their life.

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## INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Luann Gerber  
Heidi Bahler**

Graduation Sunday brought visitors into our midst, and we were blessed with the ministry of Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN). Our own Bro. Gene Lehman served us in a special way on Wednesday evening by presenting an overview of his recent trip to Europe and the help needed in that land.

The week of June 9-13 held much in store for our neighboring Remington congregation and us, with Bible School here each evening. Thanks to the ministers and their wives from afar who came to share many good teachings with the Bible Class and church. On Monday, Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso) spoke about daring to be different. Tuesday evening was Bro. Art Mueller's (Belvidere, IL) turn to talk of worldly vs. Godly choices. The mid-week service by Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton) was on being an example away from the crowd. On Thursday, we heard Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) expound on choosing right friends and better relationships. And Friday brought Bro. Ted Steffen (Alto, MI) to tell us of the "big picture" of God's plan. We also express our heartfelt appreciation

to all the Sunday School teachers so dedicated to Bible stories and accompanying crafts, and the kitchen help who night after night served cookies and drink to young and old alike.

Our condolences go to Sisters Nancy Christopher and Karla Bahler (Bro. Lowell) whose brother of Lafayette passed away on June 9. May God be your source of comfort each day.

"For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord."

*Proverbs 8:35*

There is rejoicing in our church that Austin Harris (Mike and Sis. Nancy Scott) has found the One and only true and living God for his life. We trust God to favor him with grace as he experiences conversion. Surely it's the most important decision in our lives!

Several from our congregation have made moves recently. Our dear Sis. Irene Radcliffe is now settled in her home in Monon and her mailing address is Box 146, Monon, IN 47959. Sis. Bethany Gerber has accepted the teaching position at our church preschool and resides at 13510 Hastings Rd., Athens, AL 35613. And Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Natalie Freed moved into a different home at 8351 W. 100 S., Wolcott. Their phone number is 279-2431.

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## IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Lana Metzger  
Brenda Schulz**

We are thankful again for our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) visiting us this month. We had our Sunday School elections and our new teachers are Bro. Dave

Schaer, Bro. Dallas Massner and Sis. Dixie Messner. We prayerfully support these brethren in their new duties, that they might teach the children the ways of truth.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail Massner and Sara are moving up to West Bend, as Bro. Dennis has found employment there. We are very sad to see them go, but trust this move will be good for their family, as it is God's will. May they always feel the love and prayers of the Burlington brethren, and we hope they feel at home there soon. When we see some of the "old faithful's" moving away, we just have to have more faith that God will continue to provide for our congregation as He sees fit.

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## IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

What a precious heritage is our Apostolic Faith! What a special bond we share with others of like mind and faith as we greet and then exchange names. How encouraging it is to visit one of our other churches or have visiting ministers come to our home church and hear the same truths, teachings and warnings. We were blessed with two "visiting ministers" this past month.

Bro. Lee Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) was with us on May 25. It was the last Sunday that his mother-in-law, Sis. Ruth Metzger, was with us before moving to West Bend. We are certainly going to miss Sis. Ruth but was encouraged when Bro. Lee reminded us that, though miles may separate us, we can still be close in the Spirit.

On June 15, Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City,



MO) expounded God's truths to us. We are thankful that he and his family included Elgin in their vacation plans.

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

We are so thankful for our visiting brothers this month. Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Darrell Stoller (Bern, KS) traveled the miles to be with us. Their labors for our edification are deeply appreciated. We also appreciate every visitor who fellowships with us, and welcome you to spend an hour or several days with us if you are passing through the Midwest on your summer vacation.

We wish God's richest blessings in the home of newlyweds, Sis. Nancy (Zaugg) and Bro. Jeremy Leman of Des Moines, who were married in West Bend on June 22. We look forward to having them with us united as one under God.

Work for the night is coming,  
work through the morning hours...  
Give every flying minute  
something to keep in store.

*#315, Tabernacle Hymns.*

A copy of this hymn has been tacked to the wall in the new home being built near Garden Grove, and the constant stream of volunteer workers indeed work for the glory of God, and through the goodness of His Spirit. Every minute shows progress, and the smiles and warmth of the workers show the love of God, and that they are sharing that love with fellow man.

The home is built as a World Relief project for me, Willa Clark. Although I have often longed to be a part of a work team, I surely didn't

anticipate being the on the receiving side of such great gifts as have been given to me this spring and summer. I would much rather be on the giving end.

But my home was in poor condition, and several brothers convinced me that I should be willing to accept help offered in God's name, so that others could have the opportunity to give. It is very humbling.

I certainly wish to thank the many who have volunteered labor, both here in my home or on portions that were completed in your community. Many also came bringing food for the workers, and sisters sent food or came to my home to cook and serve. Again, thank you so much. It has also been a blessing to our entire community, as neighbors and friends see this work being done in the Lord's name, and see the World Relief trailer with the verse, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." (Psalm 127:1).

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

We are thankful God has provided the means to send 500 health/hygiene kits to Iraqi families. Volunteers from Oakville and Burlington, as well as many local families and friends, spent a Wednesday evening assembling the kits. We would also like to give a special thank-you to Bro. Tim Gerst and Sis. Amy Gerst for their extra work in preparing for this project.

This year we have one high school graduate, Matt Landherr. We have three college graduates: Chris Landherr, Stephanie Reker, and Bro. Tim (Sis. Melisa) Gerst. We wish them the best as they go on to college or jobs.

We will miss Bro. Tim, Sis. Melisa and Anelyse Gerst when they move to South Bend, Indiana, to fulfill Bro. Tim's residency requirements. We trust God will work through him to heal others as he works and learns in this new location.

We appreciate Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) joining us recently as we shared Holy Communion. We are thankful for Bro. Jon's Eldership and support of us.

We also appreciate Bro. Floyd Frieden's (Sis. Jan, Elgin, IA) willingness to visit and speak the Truth recently when both of our home ministers were gone.

With the annual Brotherhood Conference coming up soon, we will keep our Elders and ministers in our prayers as they gather in Morton, IL. We trust the Lord will show them His will.

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

There are many families in our congregation who are experiencing the joy and blessings of a new baby in their homes. On May 20, Laban Roger was born to Bro. Jared and Sis. Carla Metzger. Laban has a sister, Leah, and a brother, Logan. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Kristy Metzger and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter (Sabetha, KS). Isabelle Diane Metzger is the daughter of Bro. Justin and Sis. Jodie. She arrived safely on May 22. Bro. Art and Sis. Kristy Metzger are her grandparents. Bro. Isaac, Sis. Melissa and Rebekah Rinkenberger welcomed Noah Benjamin into their family on May 26. Noah's grandparents are Bro. Pete and Sis.



Susan Van Wyhe, Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Sis. Zelma Knobloch is his great-grandmother. May 30 was the birthday for Dayton Ernst. His parents are Bro. Lance and Sis. Kristi Knobloch. Dayton has three big brothers, Kelwin, Keegan and Gabe. Loving grandparents are Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie Knobloch and Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley Ifft (Forrest, IL). Maranda, Thomas and Tanner Oleson are delighted to have a new sister, Morgan Ann. She was born on June 18 and her parents are Kevin and Janet. Bro. Art and Sis. Kristy Metzger are grandparents for the third time this month.

Hospitalized this past month were Sis. Emma Meyer, Sis. Viola Kellenberger and Blake Meyer (Bro. Dean and Sis. Linda). We are very thankful that they are all home and doing better.

Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) was our visiting minister this month. Thank you for being spent on our behalf.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held on June 6 to mark the end of another year. A special thank you to the teachers who have completed their terms and we lend our prayerful support to those who will be teaching next fall. They are Sis. Joanne Meyer, Sis. Betsy Doorneweerd, Bro. Stan Warner, Bro. Stan Knobloch and Bro. Denis Meyer. Bro. Tom Metzger will fill the position of superintendent.

We say farewell to Bro. Dale, Sis. Diane and Dava Stickling as they are moving to Morton, IL. They will be gathering with the Bloomington-Normal congregation. May God be with them as they make this transition in their lives.

Bro. Wilbert and Sis. Helen

Knobloch, Sis. Pauline, Sis. Emma and Sis. Vera Knobloch have said farewell to a brother-in-law, Marvin Hooegeveen. He passed into eternity on May 25. Bro. Paul and Sis. Betty Leuthold, Sis. Estelle and Elsie Leuthold feel the loss of their sister-in-law, Carolyn Leuthold. Tina Moser is grieving the sudden loss of her brother, Henry LeLoux. We extend our sympathy to each of these loved ones in our congregation and their families.

My mind goes to the upcoming Brotherhood Conference in August to be held in Morton. There is a serious battle waging for true faith. How will it be when we meet our God?

"O that were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children forever!"

*Deut. 5:29*

### IOWA, PULASKI Katrina Knobloch

We were blessed to have many visitors among us this past month. A special thanks to the brothers who shared God's Word with us: Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA), Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA). A special thanks also to those that labored on our new church.

Our congratulations go to Tammy Joos (Bro. Ron and Sis. Christy) as she was joined in marriage to Charles Lucie on May 17. Jamie Townsend (Danny and Sis. Lynn) and Jan Lynch were married May 10. We wish them both God's richest blessings in their life together.

### IOWA, WEST BEND Lori Skoglund Berniece Banwart

There were many blessings showered upon us when we recently hosted the annual Sunday School Youth Fellowship for the churches in northern Iowa and Minnesota.

"Be Ye Also Ready" was the theme of the weekend and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) laid many thoughts to ponder onto the hearts of our youth. The message is applicable to all.

Are you ready, are you ready for  
the coming of the Lord?

Are you living as He bids you in  
His Word?

Are you walking in the light?  
Is your hope of Heaven bright?  
Could you welcome Him tonight?  
Are you ready?

*Gospel Hymns #290, vs. 1*

Other visiting ministers this past month have been Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN), Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN) and Bros. Rod Bajema (Sis. Twyla, Lester, IA), Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN), Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL) and Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar, MO).

Jacob Johnson (Bro. Curt and Sis. Bev Knapp), who is working and making his home in West Bend, has found peace and is awaiting baptism in July in his home church in Cissna Park, IL. We are thankful he has chosen the better way.

Sis. Edna I. Banwart again submitted to surgery for her hip and is now recuperating at the West Bend Care Center. May we learn by her



example and have a good attitude to accept our lot when things do not always go as planned. Sis. Judy Fehr (Bro. Dennis) also spent a short time in the hospital for medical care.

As our country celebrates its independence, may we ever be thankful for all the freedoms we have in this land. We can worship, live and labor wherever and whenever we choose. May we never forget the price that was paid so we can be free from sin, all because of God's love and the gift of His Son on the cross.

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

*Galatians 5:1*

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

Greetings once again from Tokyo. We are in the midst of the rainy season, with the weather so changeable you never know when it will suddenly turn to rain, then sun, then rain again. However, that well describes our experiences here in Tokyo this month, a mixture of great sadness, then great joy. What sorrow we felt when we heard of the sudden passing of Bro. Akito's sister-in-law, Sis. Kathie Inoue, wife of his younger brother, Bro. Hisato Inoue (Bloomington, IL). We extend our love and prayers to Hisato and his whole family. We believe they do not "sorrow as those having no hope" and what comfort and even joy that can bring. Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie along with Sis. Junko Saegusa (Shioda), Hisato's sister, were able to spend a few days in Illinois to attend the funeral and receive much comfort, love and

fellowship from many loved ones there. We cannot help but see God's hand in the timing of the visit to Japan from Bro. Hisato and Sis. Kathie and all of their children this past January. It was the first time Sis. Kathie had been back since moving to the USA 14 years ago. We feel greatly blessed to have had that time with her yet.

And then, just this past weekend, June 21 and 22, we had the flipside, great joy, as our young friend, Ikumi Watanabe, gave her testimony of coming to know the Lord Jesus Christ and received baptism. How refreshing and uplifting the time was! In this land where so few come to the understanding of their sinfulness and how it can be forgiven through the sacrifice their Lord and Creator gave for them, it was just so wonderful to hear Ikumi tell of her experience with a sincere heart. We praise God over and over and ask Him to work mightily through her now in her new life. Her mother and several of her college friends were able to witness her baptism and she sincerely desires that they too could come to know this wonderful freedom and peace she now knows. We thank Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois for coming in from Shioda and giving of themselves over the weekend. They brought along Sis. Reiko Furuya, also from Shioda, who had first given Ikumi a Bible and invited her to church while she was her student at the college where Reiko-san teaches. We just never know how our actions will affect someone down the road.

Javon Steffen (daughter of Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori, Bluffton North, IN) worshiped with us on Ikumi's baptism Sunday, meeting Ikumi for the first time, but no doubt soon

feeling a bond with her, as she too awaits baptism in the very near future upon her return to the States. Javon is here on a trip with her high school Japanese class learning about the culture of Japan and getting a chance to use and hear the language firsthand. We are just thrilled she chose to study Japanese, appreciate her efforts in getting to church and invite her back anytime to sharpen her skills!

We were also thankful to see Bro. Akito's mother in Tokyo Church again as she had gone back to her home in Yamanashi a few weeks ago. We all just thank the Lord for bringing healing upon her to the point where she can live on her own again. As she continues to give of herself in service to her Lord, may He give her strength and peace.

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

Our hearts rejoice as another lamb is added to the fold. Sis. Lindsey Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) gave her proving and testimony and was baptized the weekend of May 31-June 1. May God's blessings be with her as she begins her walk with Christ as a Lamb of Jesus.

Our prayers are with Derek Kaeb as he has sought the Lord in repentance. We pray he will look to the Lord for guidance and direction as he begins to build a solid foundation. Derek's parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane.

We are thankful Rebecca Rokey (Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy) has found peace and is awaiting baptism. Rebecca is currently attending church in Altadena while attending school in California.



Ministers visiting us this month were Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO), Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) and Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS). We thank these brothers for being willing servants and preaching the Word of God.

Our prayers have been with Jared Rokey (Bro. Todd and Sis. Sheila) as he has been hospitalized. We pray God will be with him and his family and provide during this time.

We would like to welcome Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Berg and family to our Bern congregation and pray they will feel welcomed here. They have moved from Denver, CO, to our area.

Our Sis. Stella Moser (Bro. Reuben) is living in the Apostolic Christian Home in Sabetha for the time being. We pray God will be with her and heal according to His will.

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

We wish to welcome Bro. Chris Wuthrich (Roanoke, IL) to our congregation. He has found employment here and is making this his church home. Also, Sis. Betsy Gutwein (Francesville, IN) is employed in Bartlesville, OK, for the summer and has been worshipping with us. Every one makes a difference in our small church group.

The Sunday School children had a week of Bible School. Their program, June 8, at Gunn Park, preceded an all church picnic. Thanks to the teachers, students and extra singers for their efforts.

Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Bro. Brandon Plattner (Sis. Rhoda, Bern, KS) and Bro.

Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) brought God's Word to us this month. We appreciate their coming and for the visitors they brought with them.

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

Harvest time is here and what a bountiful harvest it is. All those combines, trucks and grain carts are traveling the fields and roads. It is a busy time for everyone. We pray for everyone's safety and thank God for His generous blessings.

The junior Bible class and younger Sunday School classes enjoyed a day of learning and fun. We had our annual Vacation Bible School on Saturday, May 24. Bible lessons, crafts, and songs were enjoyed by all. Thank you to all whom helped teach and prepared food.

We had an eighth grade graduate this year. Clare Wagenbach (Bro. Ken and Sis. Laura) was our only graduate. We wish her well on her new journey into high school.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Mildred Farney and Bro. Elmer Tanner. Bro. Elmer suffered a stroke and remains in the hospital. Our prayers are with them both and we pray they regain their health and strength.

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### **KANSAS** **LAMONT-GRIDLEY** **Eileen Bahr**

The morning of May 24 started out raining, but it stopped and was a beautiful day for the wedding of Stacie Zimmerman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Barbara) and Aaron Kuenzi (Bro. Jim and Sis. Barbara) of the Silverton congregation. May the

Lord guide their steps in their marriage as they start their home in Salem, OR.

Ministering Bros. Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN) and Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA) blessed us on Sunday.

Our sympathy is with Ilene (Grimm) Rogers in the loss of her husband, John.

I recently heard a discussion on dressing modestly. The speaker felt it was the father's responsibility as spiritual leader of his family to observe from a man's viewpoint their daughter's dress. He emphasized dressing for the glory of God with modest dress, showing spiritual adornment and good works. "Dress tells where your heart is." His wife and daughter spent two hours looking for a shirt and had purchased one. It did not meet his approval—too low. He thanked them for the time invested and "it gave you and Mom more time to spend together" (From my woman's viewpoint I sometimes wish men had the job of shopping for modest clothes). To end his story, the mother and daughter returned the shirt and God blessed them with finding three suitable shirts for the price of the first one.

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

We extend congratulations to our high school and college graduates. Our high school graduates include: Scott Edelman (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Joleen), Maggi Eisenbise (Bro. David and Sis. Shari), Lafe Grimm (Bro. Rodney and Arlene), Tyler Huber (Bro. Gordon and Sis. Sharlyn), Derik Keim (Curtis and Valerie), Bro. Keith Grimm (Bro.



Doug and Sis. Jeryl) and Bro. Seth Hartter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen). A Sunday morning breakfast was held for these graduates, their parents, Sunday School teachers and ministers on May 25. Many thanks to Bro. Tom and Sis. Carrie Strahm and Bro. Dave and Sis. Beth Hartter for hosting this special meal. Todd Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon) and Josh Krogmann (Diane) have completed their college degrees. May God bless each graduate as they finish one phase of life and begin another.

Many thanks to our visiting ministers that shared God's precious Word with us this past month. Those ministers included: Bros. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI), Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Edwin Strahm (Bern, KS). We appreciate those who are willing to serve us.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter are the happy grandparents of Laban Roger Metzger. Laban's parents are Bro. Jared and Carla Metzger (Lester, IA).

Gwen Grimm (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl) and Troy Metzger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte, Lester, IA) have announced their engagement. We wish Gwen and Troy God's blessings and guidance as they make plans for their wedding.

Our newly elected Sunday School teachers were recently announced. We certainly give Bro. Rick Aberle, Bro. Korbin Beyer and Sis. Angela Beyer our support as they have been given this important responsibility of teaching our youth. Young and old alike had the opportunity to gather together for our annual Sunday School picnic held at our local high school on June 1. We appreciate all the efforts put forth from the Sunday School

teachers and their spouses as they make this event possible.

We welcome Susie Nohl (Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice Nohl, Morris, MN) to our congregation. Susie has found employment in this area and is living with her aunt, Sis. Jeanette Huber.

We continue to keep Bro. Oliver and Sis. Marie Weiss in our prayers as Sis. Marie spends time in a nursing home in Aiden, SC. What a comfort to know that God is with us wherever we go. Though many miles may separate us, we hope they can feel the love and prayers from us back home.

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### KANSAS, WICHITA

#### Emma Miller

Bro. Milton Bowers has been hospitalized in ICU on several occasions this past month. He is so faithful in his church attendance, therefore when we see that vacant bench toward the front of the assembly room, we can surmise that he is having health problems. We praise God each time we see him walk into the assembly.

Sis. Ann Greiner was chosen to receive the Good Apple Award from the Wichita public schools for her service as a volunteer in the classroom. Sis. Ann has been a volunteer at the same school for over forty years. A newspaper account of her award cited her love for the children as a strong element for her success as a tutor. Our Lord and Saviour used numerous examples of the importance of children and their training. Surely Sis. Ann's dedication is a blessing to those whose life she touches.

Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and his wife, Sis. Sandra, and our Elder Bro. Jay Luthi

worshipped with us on June 8. In lieu of afternoon services, they and Bro. Max Reimschisel shared the recent Memorandum with the congregation. We appreciate all the effort that goes into preparing the material and then presenting it.

Our hearts go out to Emily and Derek Funk whose infant son was stillborn June 11. May they be comforted by the many prayers that are being offered in their behalf. Derek had been deployed in the Iraq conflict. Thankfully, now he is back in the States.

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### MEXICO, IXTLAN

#### Penny Stahl

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

*Col. 3:23-24*

On May 16, a large number from the church gathered for our annual church cleaning. It was exciting to see all the enthusiasm and camaraderie. In just a few short hours the church was clean. It's amazing to see how much can be accomplished as we work together! After the cleaning, we enjoyed a time of fellowship and eating.

A brother (Mihaly Marton) from the sister church in Szeged, Hungary, has been with us for three weeks. This is his third visit to Ixtlan. He visited many of the families and assisted in various electrical projects. We were grateful for his help. He spent an evening sharing pictures of their church building project as well as pictures from various churches in the Ukraine.



**MICHIGAN, ALTO**

**Terri Huber  
Rose Watson**

We would like to congratulate all of our high school graduates: Heather Blough (Bro. Martin and Sis. Michelle), Stephanie Gerst (Bro. Wally and Sis. Donna), Ruthanne Oesch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle), and Holly Plattner (Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen). Also, Aaron Plattner (Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen) graduated from Kansas State University this year. We pray that God will richly bless all of our graduates as they start their new journey in life.

Also, we have a few new blessings to add to our congregation. Lena Johanna was born to Bro. Ned and Sis. Heidi Stoller; and Nathan Luke to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Susan Steffen. Sam and Randi Oesch welcomed new granddaughter, Shelby, born to Bruce and Jessica, and Stan and Elaine Wingeier are excited to welcome their first grandson, Andrew, born to Robin. All the brothers and sisters are excited about their new siblings being here.

June 22 was a truly blessed day as we witnessed the wedding of Bro. Brett Plattner to Sis. Laura Blough (Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen and Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie). We would like to wish them many blessings as they begin their new lives together. Congratulations.

Sis. Helen Steffen was hospitalized this month for several days for illness, but thankfully is home on her way to recovery. Sis. Kate Wheeler is also recovering from an auto accident in which she received minor injuries. Our prayers are with you both as your healing continues.

**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**

**Sarah Knochel  
Janelle Ramseyer**

We rejoice with first-time grandparents, Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn Wieland. Graham Joseph was born to Bro. Jesse and Sis. Bonnie Bedolla (Detroit).

On Wednesday, June 4, Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) and Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Beverly, Detroit, MI) exhorted us by the reading of the Memorandum. We wish to thank these dear brothers for their continued support and encouragement to our congregation. We pray that the Lord will bless each of them.

We lift up in prayer those from our congregation who have been hospitalized in the past month. We trust that Bro. Derrell Steffen (Sis. Sue), Gerald Meier (Sis. Edie) and Sis. Loretta Mosher (Bro. Windsor) will feel God's nearness as they recover.

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.

This union of our hearts  
Shall stand through grace in Jesus;  
We walk the path of life,  
While cheer and trust increases,  
Where God in truth abides,  
Where two join hand and heart,  
We find a threefold cord,  
Not lightly rent apart.

*Zion's Harp #79*

We rejoice with Bro. Jeff and Sis. Margo Waibel as they begin their

life together. Their parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Waibel and Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen Stettner (Bluffton North, IN). May Christ remain at the forefront of their lives as they take their place in the Leo, IN, congregation.

We extend a fond farewell to Bro. Josh Steffen (Bro. Derrell, Sis. Sue) as he is relocating to the Philadelphia, PA, area to continue his schooling. We pray that the Lord will be near him and guide him.

How sweet the privilege of prayer,  
When we our cares and sorrows  
share.

*Hymns of Zion #205*

These words began our theme song for our 19th annual Vacation Bible School, the week of June 16-20. This year's theme was the "Power of Prayer". In addition to our classes for the children each day, we were very blessed to have a visiting minister each evening to exhort us and encourage us in our prayer lives. Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) spoke to us on the topic of "Lord, Teach us to Pray". Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) exhorted us on the topic of "How did Jesus Pray?" On Wednesday, Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra, Alto, MI) encouraged us to "Pray like David Prayed". Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN) taught us about "Praying for Others". To close out the week on Friday, Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) talked to us about the "Me Prayers". We sincerely thank each of these brothers for giving their time and energy to come and speak to us. Some of these brothers had to drive long hours to come and share with us and we deeply appreciate



each one's sacrifice on our behalf. As a congregation, we had a truly blessed week as we were both reminded and encouraged by what we were taught. May we all continue to seek the Lord in prayer, with sincerity and humility in our hearts.

May the Lord comfort the family of George (Joe) Pashak as he has passed away recently. We pray for his wife, Kay, and brother, Bro. Dean Pashak (Sis. Connie), from our congregation.

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### **MICHIGAN, DETROIT** **Jamie Bahr**

In recognition of 25 years in our current church building, we enjoyed a special weekend of fellowship during our 25-year Detroit reunion. All who had ever worshipped with us in Detroit were invited, and many came. Bro. Hartzell Kaisner, Bro. Jim Barton, and Retired Elder Bro. Ben Maibach, three brothers who have worshipped in Detroit the longest, shared some of their memories with us. Sis. Martha Gleichman assembled a memory book for the weekend, which served as an educational and entertaining record of our spiritual heritage. It is humbling to see how God has worked in our area over the past 55 years. Thank you to all who traveled many miles to make this a wonderful weekend!

We thank visiting ministers, Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, La-Crosse, IN) and Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) for their service to the Lord. Thanks also to Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. and his wife, Sis. Donna (Morton, IL), for taking time to educate us on issues related to spiritual and emotional health for women, and depression. We appreciated learning how we

can better understand these important topics, look to the Bible for truth, and in a godly way support and encourage each other.

Baby Graham Joseph Bedolla was welcomed home by first-time parents, Bro. Jessie and Sis. Bonnie Bedolla on May 30. Grandparents are Jesse Sr. and Theresa Bedolla, and Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn Wieland (Bay City, MI). We are so happy to have him as a special part of our church family!

We pray that God will guide the steps of Stephanie Meyer, daughter of Sis. Kristie Meyer and Mark Meyer (Lansing, MI), as she has recently graduated from high school and will be starting college this fall. We also pray that Bro. Kevin Rauhe will feel God's guidance as he graduates and goes on to college. He is the son of Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay Rauhe.

Many of us were blessed to witness the vows of Bro. Brett Plattner to Sis. Laura Blough (Alto, MI). We are excited to have them here while Brett continues his medical school and pray that Laura will quickly feel at home. Their parents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen Plattner (Alto, MI) and Bro. James and Sis. Julie Blough (Alto, MI).

Our prayers continue to be with Sis. Ann Tacher and Sis. Kathryn Losiewicz as they have both recently been hospitalized.

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

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Jeff Luthi (Altadena, CA). God bless them for their labors.

Our congregation is thankful

when all of our senior citizens are well and attending church. We need them to make our church family complete.

High School graduates are: Sis. Meg Dill (Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae), Josh Messner (Jason and Nancy) and Anna Kahnt (foreign exchange student of Bro. Rick and Sis. Brenda Messner). From college with an MBA from Cardinal Stritch is Cory Bergstrom (Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie). Our prayer for our graduates is that they may embrace God's love and direction in their future decisions.

We'll never say goodbye in Heaven, but parting time has come for many in our congregation. Anna Kahnt will be returning to Berlin, Germany. God bless her. Bro. Dick, Sis. Gail, Mason, Connor and Chase Metzger will be making their new home in Morris, MN. Bro. John, Sis. Jane, Tiera, Jenna, Kendra and Kyla Wiegand will be moving to Silverton, OR. We have so enjoyed laboring and fellowshiping with these families and Anna and have many fond memories. We wish them Godspeed. How thankful we are that they have so fully shared their God given talents with us.

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### **MINNESOTA, MORRIS** **Cheryl Messner** **Katie Koehl**

Thy Holy Word does teaching give.  
In faith, and hope, and love to live;  
For this, O Lord, I thank Thee.  
Should I not seek within this time  
A foretaste of the joys divine  
And for Thy home prepare me?  
Salvation is the noblest part;  
Impress this deeply on my heart.

*Zion's Harp #102*

We appreciate God's Word



brought to us through Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Jim Furrer (Prescott, AZ).

Rachel Luthi (Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte) and Adam Bjerketvedt (Ted and Gloria) were united in marriage on May 31. We trust God will bless them and that they will look to Him for direction in their lives.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with those who have been hospitalized this past month. They include Neil Joos, Emil and Arlene Greiner, Sis. Crystal Luthi (Bro. Rueben), Sis. Lillie Luthi, Bro. Leonard Wulf (Sis. Vi) and Sis. Gladys Koehl.

Our thoughts and prayers have also been with Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl Messner and family as Sis. Cheryl's father, Bro. Simon Wiegand (Sis. Mary Ellen), from Goodfield, IL, was laid to rest.

*Correction:* Baby girl Crystal, born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Amber Nohl, middle name is Mae (not Marie). *Error in April's issue.*

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### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Marilyn Messner**  
**Ginny Stoll**

Our medical patients this month were Bro. Mike Messner (Sis. Joyce) and Idabell Witt. May God's mercy sustain them.

Our Sunday School had two blessed events this month. Children gathered at a local park to celebrate the ending of Sunday School for the summer. The five church gathering was held at West Bend, IA. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) was the guest speaker. The theme was "Be Ye Also Ready". We wish to thank the teachers for their efforts.

Dan and Karen Messner, along with Lukas, Ellie, and Matthew, welcome baby Nickolas Herman. Thankful grandparents are Duane and Mona Messner. May God guide them as they enjoy this new blessing.

Our Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn) spent 12 days visiting Eastern Europe with Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) and Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA) for a church dedication at the Padina Serbia Yugoslavia. They also visited churches in Romania and Hungary. Bro. Leroy especially enjoyed the hymns they sang together in several different languages. What a blessing to share our faith in song. The faith of the brethren was a very uplifting experience.

Special blessings to our fathers for their love and dedication as we honor them on Father's Day.

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### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

**Garry and Marty Rokey**

Visiting ministers have been Bros. Ben Wysong (Sis. Janice, Sabetha, KS), Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN), David Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS).

We are so thankful for their labor of love on our behalf in bringing the true Word of God to us without preparation and depending on the Holy Spirit to guide and direct them.

O God of wisdom, life and love,  
Thine is the blessed plan.  
In holy bonds of love to join  
The twain created man.

*Hymns of Zion #286*

We welcome our friend, Patrick Funk's bride, Joanne, who hails from New Zealand. We certainly pray for God's richest blessings and guidance for them as they begin their walk together.

Following Vacation Bible School, June 2-6, Bro. David Marquart (Taylor, MO) taught a Bible study on Saturday evening. Hopefully, this was a time when the seeds of faith could be planted and nurtured. It is always good to learn even more and understand more fully the Word of the Lord. Many thanks, Bro. Dave.

"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness; for he is a babe.

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

*Hebrews 5:12-14*

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### MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Becky Marti**  
**Wendy Braker**

"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*

Believing it is God's will, the engagement of Bro. David Dotterer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon) to Sis. Carol Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis.



Judy) was made known to us. May they continue to look to God for direction in their lives.

Our prayers continue to be with Bro. Willie Stefan, as he has spent time in the hospital this past month.

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### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

#### Betsy Schrenk

With schools being out, and summer arriving, the number of our guests is increasing. We are richly blessed by worshipping with those from other congregations. The fellowship we have with those from across our nation is an encouragement to our little church.

Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA) labored alone on our pulpit on Memorial Day weekend. We thank him for his willingness to serve our congregation. Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL) also ministered to us in June. We are so appreciative of our visitors' loving service.

It is unusual to have more visiting ministers on a Sunday than can have one of the services. On June 8, Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL) were all here. A group of us had spent the weekend at Washington State Park near DeSoto, MO, and all attended church in St. Louis on Sunday. Our Christian friendships are a foretaste of the love and joy we will experience for all eternity in Heaven.

Our family is growing this summer with two of our children getting married. Our son, Peter, and Elizabeth Versgrove (Mike and Joan Versgrove) of Barrington, IL picked July 5 as their wedding day. Also, our daughter, Rachel, and Joshua

Miller (Alan and Nancy Miller) of Wawarsing, NY, plan to be married on August 16. We pray for God's blessings on these unions.

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### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

#### Susan Haerr

Our Sunday School had a busy month with their picnic and program on Sunday, June 1, and Vacation Bible School the following week. Thanks to all who made these events possible and to our children, for blessing us by taking part in them.

Father's Day weekend brought about the annual Father/Son Campout at Mark Twain Lake. Again, many thanks to those who helped to organize this and to those who chose to be part of that special time. We know that this time is a special one for fathers and sons alike and helps to focus the attention of everyone on our Father in Heaven.

Ministering to us in the past month were Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Jim Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS). Thanks for being with us. May God bless you and your families.

Among those receiving medical attention in the last month were Sis. Marge Sutter (Bro. Gerald) and Garrett Yackley (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jerilyn). We pray that both of you will heal completely. Sis. Marge, we look forward to seeing you back in church.

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### NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

#### Hope Graves

We had an invite a guest weekend with a potluck and singing at

Cape Vincent following church services on Sunday, May 25. We were thankful that the rain held off and that the Lord provided for us so bountifully over the Memorial Day weekend.

Our high school graduates this year are Luann Cardinal, Marcy and Sarah A. Farney, Buffy Graves, Casey Hirschey and Daniel and Sarah Virkler. May the Lord direct them now as they begin this next portion of their lives.

We were joyful to hear that peace has been given to Kenneth Farney and Norma Conde. May the Lord continue to be ever present at their sides as they now await baptism.

O let us exalt our dear Lord and  
proclaim,  
In songs of true gratitude,  
Praise to His name!  
As songs of the angels in sweetest  
accord,  
Our thanks and our praises shall  
rise to the Lord.

*Zion's Harp #165*

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### OHIO, AKRON

#### Joyce Gasser

We rejoice for two souls each giving testimony of their faith that through the blood of Jesus they received peace with God. They made a covenant with God and were baptized. Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Dave Graf with the testimonies and baptismal service. The two were Melissa Connone and the late Elder Bro. Rudy Graf's daughter, Margi Gallagher (John).

Bro. Leo Heib passed away June 4. He was born August 23, 1919, in Yugoslavia. His wife, Sis. Elizabeth, preceded him in death. Their children are Hans and Brigette.

We welcome Bro. Aaron Stoller



to assemble with us as he had a job location change. His parents are Bro. James and Sis. Tamera of Latty.

Bro. Bob Graf is home from the hospital after having surgery. Bro. John Palitto had an overnight stay at the hospital. We are thankful these brothers were able to return home and we wish for them God's continuing blessings and comfort in their afflictions.

Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Dale Banwart (Wolcott, IN) were guest ministers recently.

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## OHIO, COLUMBUS

### Nancy Banks

We are thankful for the many visitors that the summer season brings. Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Bros. Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH), Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT), Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and Lester Huber (Lexington, KY) ministered unto us this month and we appreciate their efforts.

What a blessing to have three new converts to report this month! Casey Banks (Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy), Holly Harritos (Mrs. Dottie Cooper) and Matthew Saurer have made the decision to turn their backs on Satan and live their life for the Lord. We rejoice with them.

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## OHIO, JUNCTION

### Cindy Schlatter

Our high school graduates this year include: Thor Etter (Rob and Barb Brink, and Chip Etter), Greg Gasser (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue), Henry Manz (Bro. Roger and Lisa),

Sis. Janice Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) and Sis. Gina Schlatter (Bro. Ray and Sis. Corrine). We wish them the blessings and guidance of our Heavenly Father as they start new jobs or plan to further their education in the future.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) for his visit this month and his labors in the ministry. May God richly bless you.

Our congregation enjoyed a blessed weekend May 17-18 when we had an Invite A Guest Weekend. We trust God will richly bless those who made the special effort to come be with us. What a precious fellowship we have, may we all strive to hold fast!

Bro. Rex Boroff was hospitalized this month for surgery. We pray for God's healing hand to heal the body that he may be able to assemble with us again in the near future.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Manz are the thankful grandparents of a new little granddaughter, Abbie Lynn (Bro. Trent and Sis. Jodi Stoller of Latty, OH).

We wish God's blessing and guidance to Daniel Manz (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn) as he has finished his schooling and will be starting work as a medical doctor.

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## OHIO, LATTY

### Bonny Weninger Amanda Steffen

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

*Proverbs 22:6*

Our children enjoyed a week of Vacation Bible School this month. What a blessing it is to see the little

ones' enthusiasm to learn and be taught about the Bible. It's humbling to realize the responsibility we have as we train our children and teach them of God's ways.

This month we have been blessed with three new arrivals. Trevor Ray was born on May 28 to Bro. Gary and Sis. Paulette Sinn. Welcoming him home are sisters, Natalie, Briana, and Lily. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn and Sis. Marie Feucht. Riley Truman was born to Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam Stoller on June 4. His siblings, Bro. Gary and Sis. Heidi Nohl (Morris, MN), Bro. Ryan, Sis. Heather, Holly, Hannah, and Haleigh, welcome him into the family. On June 9, Bro. Trent and Sis. Jodi Stoller were blessed with their first child, Abbie Lynn. Grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller and Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Manz (Junction, OH). May God give each couple the wisdom to raise their little ones in the fear of the Lord.

We are thankful and rejoice with Jill Krzesinski as she has begun her repentance. Our prayers are with her and her husband, Vinc (Bro. Keith and Sis. Connie Krzesinski).

On June 15, Bro. Tony Stoller and Sis. Mary Beth Rufener were united in marriage in Smithville, OH. Parents of the couple are Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne Stoller (Rittman, OH) and Bro. John and Sis. Emily Rufener (Smithville, OH). For the past couple of years, Bro. Tony has assembled with our Latty congregation. May God bless them as they begin their walk together with the Lord.

We did not have any visiting ministers this month, but want to take the opportunity to thank our home ministers for their continual labor



of love for us. It is such a blessing to hear the Word of God spoken to us by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Thank you, and may God bless you.

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**OHIO, MANSFIELD  
John and Marci Pfeiffer**

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

*Matthew 6:33*

Congratulations to the graduates of 2003! Our graduates are Sis. Erica Boliantz (Bro. Doug and Connie), Bethany Hill (Bro. Chip and Sis. Sieda), Aaron Masters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine), Sis. Abigail Ramsey (Bro. Ed and Sis. Laura), Elizabeth Sabo (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharon), Adam Sauder (Bro. Dave and Sis. Joy), Blake Sauder (Gary and Vicki), Heather Stricker (Doug and Karla) and Maria Tucker (Dan and Sis. Barb).

We enjoyed a Senior Recognition Breakfast at church for these graduates on May 18.

Bro. Ken Beer went to his eternal reward on May 22. May God comfort his wife, Sis. Pat; his children, Randy (Sherry) and Laura (Roy) Campo; his mother, Sis. Kathryn; his brothers, Delbert, Dennis (Sandra), Bro. Rex (Sis. Marilyn), Bro. Alvin (Sis. Janet); and his sister, Kathy Stacey.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the family of Henry Enderle. The funeral services were held at Wappner Funeral Home.

Bro. Clarence Pfister passed away on June 5. Our sympathy and prayers are also with his sons, Jerald (Jean), James (PJ), Timothy (Elizabeth), Thomas, Joseph; and

his daughters, Pam (Doug) and Brenda.

Hospital/medical patients in the last month include Sis. Catherine Armstrong, Roma Them (John), Sis. Stephanie Hill (Bro. Jared), Sis. Brenda Beer and Sis. Millie Gerber (Bro. Wilbur). We thank God for His comfort and healing mercies.

We wish Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller's family well with their new responsibilities in Tennessee. May God continue to bless their family.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this past month! Bro. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) brought God's Word to us.

The following ministers were here for Vacation Bible School the week of June 9-13:

Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) – Dealing with Emotions

Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) – Deception and Distraction

Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH) – Regular Church Services

Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) – Signs of the Times

Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) – Integrity

We wish to thank all our visiting ministers, Sunday School teachers and many others for all their efforts for a blessed week. It is always so encouraging to see the children so excited to show their projects and tell us the Bible stories they read about during VBS!

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**OHIO, RITTMAN  
Laurel Indermuhle  
Anna Schar**

We are glad to report that another soul, Ryan Gasser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary), has turned his back to the world and is seeking to serve God.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Joy Stoller welcomed a fifth child to their family. Elsie Mae was born on May 24 and came home to sisters, Laura, Rachel and Ann, and a brother, John. Elsie's grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Hope Gasser and Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeannette Stoller.

Rustin Philip was born to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Sue Hartzler on May 30. Mason, Baylor, Tory, Kya and Bennett are probably very willing to hold their new brother. Bro. Vincent and Sis. Jane Hartzler and Sis. Irma Stoller (Latty, OH) are Rustin's grandparents.

Sis. Lucy Gasser has a new granddaughter, Ressa Greer. Ressa was born June 4 to Chris and Angela Gasser.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Ellen Saylor are grandparents again as Riley Truman was born on June 4. Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam Stoller (Latty, OH) are Riley's parents.

Clark Steven is the new grandson of Bro. Everett and Sis. Marjorie Stoller. Clark was born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene Stoller (Smithville, OH) on June 15.

My apologies as two births were not reported when they should've been! Leah Renae was born to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Anita Steiner on February 26. Leah has a big sister, Hannah, to help love and watch her. Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail Steiner and Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Maletich (Smithville) are Leah's grandparents.

Lonnie and Lisa Tanner had their first baby, Hayden Mack, on March 14. Hayden is welcomed into the arms of his parents, and also his first-time grandparents, Joe and Sis. Karen Riegenbach.

We had several graduates this year and we wish each one of them God's direction in their lives. It is



our prayer that they will seek the kingdom of God and that all needful things will be added unto their life. Graduates were: Sis. Sarah Bauman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha), Chad Beery (Bro. Walter and Sis. Lynda), Michael Dotterer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn), Jenelle Hanzie (Kevin and Jeannette), Lisa Hartzler (Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie), Tyson Hartzler (Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane), Alicia Hilty (Frank and Ginny), Curtis Ingold (Bro. Arthur and Sis. Bonnie), Joanne Maibach (Bro. Alpha and Sis. Denise), Tara Miller (Mervin and Dawn), Amanda Murray (Gary and Sis. Susan), Stephen Powell (Don and Sis. Carol), Amy Raifsnider (Doug and Sis. Diana), Bro. Joshua Riggenbach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorrie), Justin Rufener (Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori), Myles Rufener (Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen), Amanda Rupp (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol) and Eric Steiner (Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat).

On June 3, Mary Hubacher passed away. Mary was a friend and bright spot to many. Probably, her most prized possessions was her Bible and her prayer list (which should be an inspiration to me to check my priorities!).

Bro. Tony Stoller (Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne) and Sis. Mary Beth Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Emily, Smithville) were married on June 15. We welcome the new couple to Rittman.

We were privileged to be visited by ministers, Bro. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN). We thank them for their labor in the Word.

Sis. Delores Bauman (Bro. Marion) had surgery this past month. We trust she is feeling better.

### OHIO, SARDIS Terry Zollinger

“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.”

*Matthew 5:4*

Prayers are for Sis. Terry Zollinger (Bro. Gary) and her family for the loss of her grandmother, Rosetta Vicars, on May 26. Rosetta was 89 years old and was blessed with a large family, including 7 great-great-grandchildren which made five generations. “Thank you for the prayers, cards and thinking of us during this mourning time.”

“Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivered him out of them all.”

*Psalms 34:19*

Several loved ones had to visit the emergency room, but all, thankfully, are at home recovering. They are: Sis. Janet Indermuhle (Bro. Allen), Amanda Alrutz (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet), Ben Zollinger (Kelsey), and Steve Miller (Kati). Malachi Blough (Bro. Alan and Sis. Renee) is still improving at Ruby Memorial Hospital in the neonatal wing. May the Lord continue to have a Healing Hand on each of these beloved.

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

*John 14:26*

On June 1, the honored high school graduates and families were

served a delicious breakfast. Sis. Charla Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry), Sis. Kristy Miller (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Doris) and Doug Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam) are the graduates. All three plan to continue with higher education with prayers of the Lord's blessings.

“The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.”

*Psalms 19:9*

Ministering Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lana, Toledo, OH) talked to our Sunday School children at the annual picnic, on June 14, about anger, guilt and fear. He reminded each one to count to ten when angry and it is good to be fearful of the Lord. Many blessings for Bro. Doug and his family for making the effort to visit and giving his service unto the Lord on this blessed weekend.

Other visiting ministers for the month were Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget) and Bro. Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte), both from Chicago, IL; and Bro. Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose, Smithville, OH). May they, that serve the Lord so diligently, be blessed abundantly.

“And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.”

*Acts 16:4-5*

Let's continue to pray for the Elders and the ministers of our faith as the Conference is coming upon



us. May each one be safe in their travels and we would also like to bless the Morton, IL, congregation for their labors.

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### OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Ruth Gasser  
Alyssa Miller**

Sis. Darla Nieman (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Kay) and Bro. Greg Henico (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah) of Akron, OH, have announced their engagement, trusting that the Lord's will for their lives is to become one in Him.

On June 15, Sis. Mary Beth Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Emily) became the wife of Bro. Tony Stoller (Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne, Rittman, OH). May the bond of Christian charity which unites them as one, grow deeper and richer through the years.

If thou wilt seek Him, His angels  
around thee will hover;  
In their communion great happiness  
thou shalt discover,  
If thou wilt stay with Him until  
thy last day,  
Who is thy bridegroom and lover.  
*Zion's Harp #168*

We are thankful that Jenna Older has begun her repentance and we pray that she will find grace to seek her Saviour diligently.

It is always a blessing to receive the humble preaching of the Word. This month we are especially grateful for the brothers who traveled from a distance and allowed themselves to be used by the Spirit. Visiting ministers were Bros. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL), Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL), Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN), John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH), Steve

Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH), Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH), Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH) and Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH). Thank you for your willingness to preach the Word!

Barbara Rhoads (Steve) had our sympathy and prayers since the passing of her father, Vincent Besancon.

Also, our thoughts and prayers turn to Tammy Marty (Bro. Ron) during her recent hospitalization. We are thankful Lynelle Stoller (Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene) could quickly return home after a farm accident landed her briefly in the hospital.

Open arms welcomed several bundles of joy into their family circles this month. Mark and Michelle Zollinger, along with Alissa, Ella and Jock, were happy to meet Boaz Adam who was born June 9. His paternal grandparents would be Bro. John and Sis. Marjorie Zollinger.

Daniel and Amy Blough and daughter Holly also welcomed a boy, Evan Daniel, into their home on June 5. Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lorene Blough and Evelyn Kaufman are the new grandparents.

Clark Steven (Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene) came to bless the Stoller family on Father's Day, June 15. His excited siblings are Doyle, Lynelle, Nelson, Warren and Tobias.

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### OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard  
Dee Beard**

With the end of another school year upon us, there will be many who will take summer vacations. Please consider our church as a stopping place to worship. We wel-

come all visitors.

Our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) visited us this month. May he continue to feel God's grace and direction as he leads our flock. Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) visited us also this month. We appreciate his willingness to serve us.

Ryan Sancraint (Dave and Sis. Connie) and Kristie Roop announced their engagement. May they seek the Lord's guidance as they plan their future.

We are thankful for all who attend the universities in our area. Jennifer Sancraint (Kevin) has received her nursing degree. Also, graduating from high school this year was Lance Harris (Sharon Harris).

Kevin and Jennifer Sancraint (Dave and Sis. Connie) recently moved their little family to Medina. We will truly miss them in our assembly. God bless them as they make their move.

Hospitalized this month was Sis. MaryAnn Weigele (Bro. Al). Our love and prayers go out to her as she recovers.

Through God's grace and mercy our Sis. Colette Harmon (Bro. Howard) continues to improve. We look forward to her returning to our assembly.

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### OREGON, PORTLAND

**Louisa Gallup**

Recently it was time again for our annual spring cleaning of the church building and the grounds. We appreciate everyone who came to help. It was nice to fellowship and get work done at the same time. Last month we had a Sunday School picnic at a nearby State Park which is situated in a beautiful wooded



area by the Clackamas River. Even though the weather wasn't too warm yet, the children enjoyed the games. Everyone had a nice time of fellowship and shared a potluck meal afterward.

We are thankful that a second time of surgery for Bro. Ray Moser seemed to have gone well. We hope and pray the Lord will continue to heal his shoulder as time goes on. It is good to have Bro. Ray able to assemble with us again.

We have again been blessed with a number of visitors this past month. Among them were the following ministering brethren: Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) and Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer) from Silverton, OR, and Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda) from Burlington, IA. May the Lord bless these faithful brethren for their efforts and support. We surely appreciate them all.

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## OREGON, SILVERTON

### Kelsey Kuenzi

On May 22 we rejoiced with Bro. Cliff Kuenzi (Violet) as he gave his testimony and was baptized at the Benedictine Nursing Home. He continues to be in our thoughts and prayers as he remains in the nursing facility.

We share in the joy of Aaron Kuenzi (Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb) and Stacie Zimmerman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Barb, Gridley, KS) as they joined their hearts and lives in marriage on May 24 in Gridley, KS. We wish them the Lord's blessings in their lives and also want to give a special welcome to Stacie as she makes Oregon her home.

A graduation potluck was held on June 1. The graduating seniors are Rick Dietrich (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan), Katy Kuenzi (Bro. Lynn and

Sis. Marilyn) and Evan Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie). May each of them find God's direction in searching for occupations or preparing for further education.

On June 8, Bro. Todd Haun (Dorothy) and Sis. Richelle Kuenzi (Bro. Rich and Sis. RosaLee) were united in marriage. May the Lord be with them and make that "three-fold cord (that is) Not lightly rent apart." (Zion's Harp #79).

This month we selected five new Sunday School teachers. Our prayers and support are with Sis. Melissa Kuenzi (Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb), Sis. Tami Dettwyler (Gary), Sis. Kari Kuenzi (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marilyn), Bro. Dean Sinn (Sis. Heidi), and Bro. Art Kuenzi (Sis. Mary Beth). A heartfelt thanks to those who have completed their terms for their years of labor and service.

We rejoice with Katy Kuenzi (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marilyn) as she has found the precious gift of peace with God and man. May she feel the support, prayers and encouragement from the congregation as she prepares for baptism.

Feeling God's direction in their lives, Sis. Kelsey Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann) and Bro. Jesse Walder (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon) from Cissna Park, IL, announced their engagement. Lord willing, they plan to be married on August 24. (Correspondent's note: We ask for the prayers and support of each of our congregations as we continue to seek God's direction in our lives.)

This month we were blessed to have several visiting ministers, including Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA), Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eu-

reka, IL), Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barb, Gridley, IL), Bro. Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy, Rockville, CT), and Bro. Walt Herrmann (Sis. Betty, Princeville, IL). May God bless each one for their willing service of bringing the Word to us.

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## PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

### Nathan and MaryElizabeth Gasser

This month we enjoyed gathering at the home of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda Isch for a Saturday evening singing. What a joy to share time with God's children, making "a joyful noise unto the Lord."

We enjoyed welcoming many visitors this month; friends and relatives, visitors from nearby and from far away, even some who've lived in our area before. We were thankful that Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) and his wife, Sis. Nancy, came to minister the Word on our behalf. May the Lord bless him for his labors!

It also came time to bid farewell to Sis. Krista Banwart who spent a few months worshipping with us in Philadelphia and now moves on to other pursuits. May the Lord bless her in her endeavors ahead, and may the many souls who've spent a time fellowshiping with us always feel the love for the brethren in Philadelphia, feel welcome in our congregation, and feel a desire to gather with us again.

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## TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

### Mike and Monica Fritz

We are thankful that the Lord has so richly provided willing brothers to minister to the Nashville congregation from His Word:



Bros. Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL), John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA) and Tom Schrenk (Sis. Joan, Athens, AL). Our congregation has also been privileged recently to enjoy the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Athens, AL; Chicago, IL; Lester, IA; Sabetha, KS; Alto, MI; and Junction, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Bern, KS (7/20); Eureka, IL (7/27); Forrest, IL (8/3); LaCrosse, IN (8/10); Fairbury, IL (8/17); Remington, IN (8/24); and Tremont, IL (8/31). 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

Attending such a small congregation means that special occasions, like baptisms and weddings, are celebrated rarely, if at all. However, in July, our congregation hopes to have the privilege of witnessing the baptism (a first in our Central Texas group!) of Serenity Ringger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy). We're thankful that Serenity can make the bold claim that "being justified by faith, [she has] peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5.1)!

We also wish to thank those who have ministered in San Marcos over the past month: Bros. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele, Silverton), Max Reimschisel (Sis. Judy, Wichita), Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City), and Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury).

August's calendar shows visit-

ing ministers from the following churches: Milford (8-3), Sabetha (8-10), Eureka (8-17), Elgin, IL (8-24), and Wolcott (8-31). 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.





*Sermon continued from page 2*

we expect it that way.

Do we give God thanks for the small things? He has given us everything. All He asks is that we give our life back to Him in return. He has created us. He has given us a soul that will live forever. Originally, when He created heaven and earth, there was only one destination for the soul. That was heaven. Because we were created for His glory, He wants us to be there to honor and to glorify Him forever.

But Satan lifted himself up in pride. Now there are two destinations. There is heaven and hell. And the soul will live forever. The soul will never die because the soul is of God. It is created of God. It is eternal. The choice is ours. He holds out salvation. Let's not make Him angry. Let's believe unto salvation.

The devils believe, we can read that in different places in the Word. The devils believe. They know there is a God. We read it here a little bit, about the devils that were cast out. They said, "...Thou art the Son of God." St. Mark 3:11. They understood that. They know that. They believe but they are still condemned to hell. They don't have a hope.

We that are humans that dwell upon this earth, we have a hope. We have life and breath. As long as we have life and breath, there is hope. There is still a way of salvation available. But it is up to us to take advantage of it by faith.

We all believe, in this room, I am quite convinced, that we all believe that God is the only God. The Creator of heaven and earth. That Jesus Christ is His Son. That He died on the cross and shed His blood for the sins of all man. We believe that. But it is not enough to just believe that. We have to believe unto salvation. That belief has to become so much a part of our life that we commit our life into His hand. That we give ourselves unto Him. That is believing in something.

There is an illustration I have heard and we have all heard before about the man who went to a school and he would throw knives at things and he was very good at it. He had an assis-

tant who placed something on his head and he would throw a knife and split it. He did it several times and the children believed they were wonderful. He said, "do you believe I can do it again?" They said, "yes we believe you can do it again." He said, "okay one of you stand up there." None of them would do it. They saw it. They did not have to have any faith at all. They believed it. But none of them were willing to stand in front of that knife.

We have the way of salvation before us. We believe it. But are we willing to stand before a righteous God and acknowledge our sins and let that knife cleanse us and cut away that which is evil? And purify our hearts and free us from that sin? Are we willing to acknowledge our sin before God? Until we get to that point, we don't believe. We say we believe, but it is a false belief. It is not a saving belief. While He is near, call upon Him that we may be saved.

What about us that are His children? How much do we believe? How firmly do we believe in God? We read in the Word, "...all things are possible to him that believeth." St. Mark 9:23. And the man who had a child that he wanted Christ to heal, the Lord said, "...If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." St. Mark 9:23,24.

Is that our prayer, to help our unbelief? Because there are things that go on around about us and we wonder and we doubt and we fear. Fear has torment, the Word tells us that. But perfect love casts out fear (I John 4:18). What is that perfect love? God is love. God can cast out fear. When we have a love for Him, enough to believe unto salvation, to give our self completely into His hand, all the fears vanish. Because we are then safe in the hands of Jesus. He carries us on and provides for our needs. But do we believe enough to simply give our life freely into His hands? Not fearing the future.

So often we look ahead and we see things go on around about us, or pres-

ently in our lives and we analyze things. Now if I respond this way, this is going to happen. If I go this way, this is going to happen. We analyze and try and choose the best way.

What is faith? "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6. If we diligently seek the Lord and have faith to simply give our life into His hand, He will reward us. Not in any way that we want to be lifted up. We don't want to be lifted up. But He will reward us. How? He will answer prayer. He will provide for us. He will sustain us and fill us with His peace.

Do we believe enough when the trials of life are upon us to simply sit back and place our life in the hands of Jesus? Or do we look at what might happen if we do so? Do we look at what might come our way if we go this direction or that and not have faith? Unbelief is not just for the unbeliever. It is for the believer also. We have to believe everyday. BELIEVE everyday and have that faith that God will provide.

God is in control of our lives. Why should we not trust Him? He created us. He knows all of our anxieties. He knows all of our fears. He knows all of our temptations because God became flesh and dwelt among us. So He knows all those things and He intercedes for us. He knows the end from the beginning. So why shouldn't we trust in Him? Why do we hesitate to simply give our life into His hand? He knows the future. Let's let Him lead us to the future. Let's let Him lead us this day and not worry about the future. Because He will be there. And if we don't make it there, then we are more blessed than ever. Because then we have left this life and we have left it in faith, believing that He has redeemed us and that we are His children. Let's not anger the Lord by unbelief in any way.

So He healed the man and the Pharisees went forth straightway to destroy Him. Satan is so powerful. Satan is so in control of this world and the

*Sermon continued next page*



*Sermon continued from page 43*

people of this world that he is opposing God an every side. We are God's children. He is opposing us. He is trying to deceive us. Because, loved ones, all we have to do is simply miss the mark. We don't have to miss it by a long shot. Just simply miss it. It is like a target with a bull's eye. If we don't hit the bull's eye, we missed the mark. We may be right beside it, but we've missed it.

When it comes to judgment day, there is one judgment. It is final, it is eternal. It is righteous and it is perfect. We can't be as Agrippa and be almost persuaded (The Acts 26:28). We can't almost make it to heaven. There is no such thing. We either make it to heaven or we don't make it to heaven. There is not an almost. There is nothing in between. It is salvation or it is death. It is heaven or it is hell.

Satan is trying to deceive us, loved ones. Trying to dilute our faith. Trying to dilute the church. Trying to bring in false doctrine. Trying to broaden the way, cause our understanding to waver. Looking out unto the world. And Christianity says its so popular in the world. There are many Christians out there. And we are not going to judge any of them, loved ones. But for us to reach out and embrace them, we are dropping the standard that God has set - not us, not the church, not man, but God has set the standard.

What is the way to salvation? There is one way, there is one faith, there is one hope, there is one baptism. There is one Spirit, there is one church. What is the way to salvation? Repentance; sorrow for sin, a Godly sorrow, a turning away from sin. Being converted by the Spirit of God, and being born again out of water and of Spirit and walking a separated, sanctified life. Those are the true believers.

Let's not lower the standard by saying that all people that profess Christianity are Christians or brothers or sisters of ours. We don't know where they are at. God will judge that. We don't know what they have gone through. We of this church and household of faith know where we stand. We

know what we have been through. We know what the Word says. We know the doctrine that we embrace. Let's not cheapen our faith. Let's not try and drop the standard of God because God has set it and it will not change.

There is not almost a Christian. There is not almost a believer. We either are or we are not. Unless we have come that way through the door into the sheepfold, we are not. It is that simple. The Word says that.

Let's not let Satan destroy us. They tried to destroy Christ here and He got away. He understood it and He knew it. He fled from them. That same Spirit of Christ is within us. We can flee those things. We don't have to put up with those things. We can separate ourselves from the things of this world. We are to separate ourselves. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." II Corinthians 6:17,18. That is what He wants of us. Let's believe it enough to do it and obey it.

"For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had plagues. And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God." St. Mark 3:10,11. The unclean spirits... Every man that is born is born pure in the sight of God. They come to the age of accountability and they transgress the law of God. They go their own willful way. It is the nature within us. And they become guilty before God. All flesh is guilty before God.

So we all have that unclean spirit within us then at one time or another in our life. Because we all come to that point. That unclean spirit is of Satan and it has to be cast out. God and Jesus are the only Ones that can cast that spirit out. We cannot. We simply cannot. We are flesh and blood.

We are that temple. The Word tells us we are the temple of the living God (I Corinthians 3:16,17). When we are called and sanctified and purified, the

Spirit dwells within us. God dwells within us. We are the temple of God. So our body is a temple. This flesh and blood, this earthen vessel is a temple.

Until it is purified, it is the temple of Satan. It has to be cast out. It has to be changed. It has to be done away with. That evil spirit has to be put out. It is a spiritual thing, loved ones. We ourselves as humans are merely the temple. There is a spirit dwelling within us. It is either the spirit of the anti-Christ or it is the Spirit of God. The Word is plain in that. And only the spirits dwell there.

So if we have the spirit of unbelief, if we have the spirit of anti-Christ, it has to be driven out by another spirit. We can't by ourselves. It is Christ, as He drove out the evil spirits here. When they fell down and acknowledged that He was the Son of God, then they had to leave because He commanded them to leave. That is the way it is in our lives. That is the only way to salvation. When we humble ourselves before God, when we beg of Him to free us from sin, then He can cast out the spirit. But we have to be willing. We have to be desirous. Then that spirit is cast forth. That temple is changed. It is purified.

Just like the woman who swept her house and garnished it and it was clean and spotless. But she did not fill it up with the Spirit of God. She left it vacant and empty and the spirit of unbelief came back seven times worse than the first.

We can't live in a state of in-between. We are either for or against the Lord. The choice is ours. That Spirit has to fill us completely, loved ones. And only God's Spirit can reside there. He is a jealous God. He will not take up residence with a partial heart. Even though it might be 98%. He is a jealous God. So when we come to the Lord, we have to come completely, that we can be cleansed completely. That that evil can be cast out completely, 100%, so God can dwell freely within us.

Acknowledge that Jesus is the Lord and walk in the straight and the right way. As the man that dwelt among the



tomb. He cut himself, he was in chains and he broke them asunder. Remember that? And Jesus healed him. Jesus cast out that evil spirit. And the people of the town were amazed when they came because he was clothed and in his right mind and he was contented (St. Mark 5). That is what happens when God casts out the spirit. That is what happens when we become a part of the family of God. That is what happens when our temple is holy and pure and when God lives within us.

He continued casting out devils and the scribes blasphemed. They said, "...He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils." St. Mark 3:22. They understood the spiritual end of this warfare. They understood the spirits about them. But they accused the Son of God of casting out evil spirits by the power of Satan, the anti-Christ.

What did Jesus tell them? "...How can Satan cast out Satan? And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand." St. Mark 3:23,24. Something very simple, isn't it? Just take an earthly kingdom. If our nation is divided against itself, it cannot stand. It is simple.

It was evident during the Civil War. The nation was torn asunder. There wasn't a unity there. It was not a nation any longer. It was two separate factions warring against each other. It was still in one land, but it was divided. It did not stand until unity came back in again. Until there was one government, until there was one thought

and process.

Satan cannot cast out Satan. Only God can cast out Satan. And they blasphemed and said to Jesus that thou art casting out Satan by the prince of the devils. That is a fearful thing, loved ones, to blaspheme against the Holy Spirit.

"...All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost bath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:" St. Mark 3:28,29.

I don't understand completely the blasphemy of the Holy Ghost. But how close do we come when we deny the power of God in our lives? How close do we come, brothers and sisters, when we say to God that this is not going to work? The way you are leading me on is not the right way. I don't want to go there because I can see ahead what is going to happen. I don't want to follow. We don't know how close we come, do we? Are we denying the power of the Spirit within us?

Let's walk humbly before our God, that we don't have to worry how close we are. Let's walk submissively to God and to the Word and to the church. Let's give ourselves wholly to Him that He might dwell in us and reign in our hearts. And not fear what is ahead of us. Especially we don't have to have it in our mind, wondering, do we blaspheme against the Holy Ghost? Do we deny the power of God?

When we overcome sin, let's not

take credit to ourselves. That is of God. Let's not lift ourselves up. That is blasphemy when we make ourselves equal to God. Satan did that and was cast out into eternal darkness without a hope, because he lifted himself up to God. Let's never be caught in that. Satan would like to have us do that. Let's humble ourselves every day.

"There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him. And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee." St. Mark 3:31,32. Isn't this precious, loved ones, and haven't we found it so? Those of the household of faith, our brothers and our sisters, those are our family. That is what the Lord said here. He said, "...Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother." St. Mark 3: 34,35.

Let's do the will of God, loved ones, willingly. With a desire even in our hearts to do the will of God. Obediently, submissively. Let's do the will of God. So when that judgment day does come, when Christ leaves that mercy seat and goes to the judgment seat, and we appear there before Him, that He says to God, "That is my sister, that is my brother. They are part of my family." God is the Father and heaven is the home.

## Mexico Work Teams 2003

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Phone &amp; (e-mail)</u>
Imuris	Aug. 28 - Sept. 2, '03	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann <a href="mailto:cherylh@mtco.com">cherylh@mtco.com</a>	309-385-1082
Juarez or Creel	Sept. 17 - 24, '03	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann <a href="mailto:cherylh@mtco.com">cherylh@mtco.com</a>	309-385-1082

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



**NEW  
CHURCH BUILDING  
Construction for the Pulaski,  
IA,  
congregation**

The framing of the new edifice began on Monday, June 9, 2003. By June 21, the building was completely enclosed with shingles, soffit and fascia, waterproof wrap, and roughed in plumbing installed. The exterior doors and windows are expected to be installed by July 4. Brick laying will begin in early July, as the bricks are to be available after July 1. The installation of drywall will take place in August. The HVAC and electrical will be by local contractors, all of which have agreed to use volunteer help.

Volunteer needs are:

Carpenters (immediate)  
Brick Layers (after July 1)  
Drywall installers (after August 1)  
HVAC and electrical helpers

Volunteers should contact:

Bro. Arnold Gerst  
Phone 217-223-8424  
Fax 217-223-0116  
e-mail [agerst@rnet.com](mailto:agerst@rnet.com)

**U.S.A. BOARD WORK PROJECTS**

For area work projects, please contact the following Disaster Work Project Committee Representative:

**Kansas:** Paul Kaeb  
Phone: 785-284-3261  
Cell: 785-547-5269  
E-mail: [paulkaeb@ksiconveyors.com](mailto:paulkaeb@ksiconveyors.com)

**Iowa:** Martin Zaug  
Phone/Fax: 515-379-1693  
Cell: 515-320-2404

**Illinois:** Marvin Sauder  
Phone: 309-925-4171  
Fax: 309-925-2409  
Cell: 309-241-8171  
E-mail: [mmksblf@dpc.net](mailto:mmksblf@dpc.net)

**Indiana:** Gerry Waibel  
Phone/Fax: 219-279-2582  
E-mail: [glwaibel@hotmail.com](mailto:glwaibel@hotmail.com)

**Ohio:** Ken Zollinger  
Phone: 330-925-6370  
Fax: 330-927-6370  
Cell: 330-466-2247

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
HOME OF EUREKA**

610 W. Cruger Avenue  
Eureka, IL 61530  
(309) 467-2311

The Apostolic Christian Home of Eureka is looking for a candidate for the position of Director of Nursing at our 119 bed nursing facility. The position is responsible for overseeing the nursing care activities of our residents and supervising the stable staff of 40 nurses. This is a wonderful career opportunity for a qualified person (R.N. required) who wishes to work in a caring Christian environment. Competitive salary and excellent benefits. Interested individuals should contact Bro. Tom Hoffman, Administrator, at the above address.



**FOSTER CARE/ADOPTION  
WORKER NEEDED**

Gateway Woods has now started an Adoption Program and has an immediate need for a full-time Adoption/Foster Care Case Manager. The Case Manager would work with the Adoption Program as well as case management in our Foster Care Program. In this position, there would be opportunity not only to work with foster and adopted children, but also foster parents and adoptive parents. We would prefer a Bachelors Degree in Social Work, but would accept a Bachelors Degree in a related field such as Guidance, Sociology, or Psychology.

Please prayerfully consider our need and contact Bro. Jeff Schumacher or Sis. Jan Baumgartner for more information concerning this position. This is an opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of children.

Bro. Jeff Schumacher  
888-443-4283 ex. 110

Sis. Jan Baumgartner  
888-443-4283 ex. 108



## 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 [thitzhome@juno.com](mailto:thitzhome@juno.com). For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-925-2409 or E-mail [ksss@dpc.net](mailto:ksss@dpc.net).

HAITI					
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY
JAMAICA					
CCCD	November 7-15, '03	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	--
CCCD	January 1-10, '04	Montego Bay	Greg Herman	Deaf School	40
CCCD	January 10-17, '04	Kingston	Kevin Sauder	Deaf School	40
CCCD	March 13-20, '04	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40
CCCD	April 8-17, '04	Kingston	Roanoke BC - Kevin Fischer	Deaf School	50
CCCD	May 20-28, '04	Deaf Village	TBA	Work Place	40
CCCD	June 26 - July 3, '04	Knockpatrick	Mansfield - Pete Webel	Deaf School	40

### 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		<a href="mailto:jmmaibach@valkyrie.net">jmmaibach@valkyrie.net</a>
Bob Beebe	574-291-2158	574-299-8173	<a href="mailto:rbeebe@surfpure.com">rbeebe@surfpure.com</a>
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	734-454-9259	<a href="mailto:thitzhome@juno.com">thitzhome@juno.com</a>
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885	
Greg (Beth) Herman	309-243-5610		<a href="mailto:gbherman@juno.com">gbherman@juno.com</a>
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	330-939-4591	
Terry Miller	IL Phone: 309-923-9154	FL Phone: 941-485-4302	
Dean Pashak	517-662-7685	517-662-7099	
Bill Rager	419-263-2989		
Pete (Linda) Webel	419-756-2587		
Kevin Sauder	309-925-2409	309-925-2409	<a href="mailto:ksss@dpc.net">ksss@dpc.net</a>
Rich Bertschi	309-467-6110		<a href="mailto:lemangm@mto.com">lemangm@mto.com</a>
Ted Habegger	260-694-6765		<a href="mailto:th@parlorcity.com">th@parlorcity.com</a>
Mike Reinhard	248-477-2287	248-427-0396	<a href="mailto:mlreinhard@msn.com">mlreinhard@msn.com</a>
Rick Wuethrich	219-567-9488	219-567-2542	<a href="mailto:topnotch@home.ffni.com">topnotch@home.ffni.com</a>
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: Sunday School Superintendents:** Now is the time to reserve your place for a 2003 Sunday School work project at the Caribbean Christian Center of the Deaf in Jamaica, which is already filling its 2003 project calendar. We do not want you to be disappointed by not getting the schedule date you want. All interested in scheduling a project should feel free to contact Bro. Kevin Sauder, PO Box 354, Tremont, IL 61568-0345. Phone/Fax (309) 925-2409 or e-mail: [ksss@dpc.net](mailto:ksss@dpc.net).



**- NOTICE -**

**Repair and Distribution of  
Worn Bibles,  
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 Cen-  
ter.

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, anxi-  
ety, 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



**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
World Relief**

At the most 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**

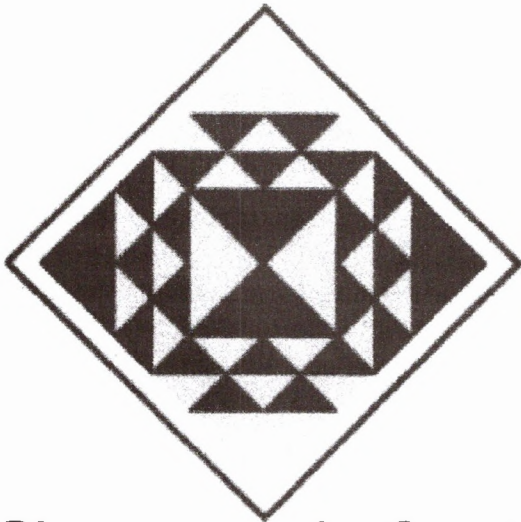
*The Bible Distribution Center which  
was formerly in Leo, IN has been  
moved to Bluffton, IN.*

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 260/824-5587  
E-mail: biblelist@parlorcity.com





*Rejoice in the Lord!*

*(Philippians 4:4)*

## 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 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!





*The following is an account of J. Andrew Braun's spiritual experiences in 1844 as told by his son, S.J. Braun, who later served as a church official in America. It reflects the religious scenario in Switzerland as our faith was being established in the 1830's and 1840's. J. Andrew Braun's pathway reflects how souls were thirsty for the truth, and after hearing a true doctrine, repented for their sins and became converted. A deep loyalty to their new faith (and godly order) is a strong message for us today.*

### **My Father's Conversion**

The following is an account of the conversion of my father, J. Andrew Braun, which occurred about 1844, and by his having told it so often in my presence, it is still fresh in my memory.

He was born in Schweinfurt, Bavaria, about 1825 where he preached the Gospel for a number of years under much persecution from the Catholic and the Lutheran Clergy, which jointly ruled the government of Bavaria. He emigrated to the United States about 1854; living a number of years in the vicinities of Eureka and Morton, Illinois, from where he moved to Wauseon, Fulton County, Ohio, about 1863; about 25 years later to Toledo, Ohio, where he died in 1907. He preached the Gospel both in Europe and America in many of our meeting places and in private houses, for approximately 60 years. He often told about his conversion, and that it took place in the following manner:

#### **A Shoemaker**

He had learned the shoemaker's trade, and as was customary and even compulsory in those years became a journeyman shoemaker. Those acquainted with the conditions at that time know that such who had learned a trade had to go from place to place for a number of years for the purpose of be-

coming better acquainted with their trade by knowing from experience how things were done in various parts of Europe; thereby becoming masters of their trade. From this may have originated the word "Journeyman".

#### **"Thou Art A Sinner"**

At the age of nearly 19, he worked in Switzerland, where from his bedroom window one still night he could notice the little lake, near the house, making great waves even though there was no wind to set the little lake into such commotion.

After debating in his mind these observations, he concluded that this little lake must be connected with a body of water in the depth of the earth, and compared the little lake to a funnel filled with water which would also make miniature waves if one blew in the stem of the funnel, and while he made these conclusions a voice came to him in his heart "and thou art a sinner".

He knew this to be true, because he was not only a lively young man, but also proud. His condition caused by the fall of Adam became more sinful as he grew older. This together with the revelation in his heart "and thou art a sinner" prevented him from enjoying much sleep that night, and in only a few days afterward his time for seeking work in another town or city came about when he had to take up his journeyman staff.

The mode of travel with most of the journeymen was on foot. While on his way, without any premeditation, he had to pray that the Lord would lead him into a house where he might hear the truth. This caused in him a certain aggravation because he considered himself so well acquainted with the Bible from his childhood that he did not need being lead into such a house where he would hear the truth, believing that he

already knew the truth.

However, he went only a little way when he had to pray a second time; without any forethought or premeditation that the Lord should lead him into a house where he would hear the truth. This time what had aggravated him before now caused in him much concern knowing that he prayed that both times without having had any forethought for any such a prayer.

#### **Meets a Brother in Faith**

It was by providence that at the first house at which he asked for work both the proprietor and his assistant were Brothers in our faith. When he asked for work, the assistant told him that he believed he could get work there, but that the proprietor had gone out for a while.

After my father had waited long enough as he thought, he began to be impatient saying to this assistant that he thought he would not wait for the proprietor to return because he wanted to go to Basel, and might as well go there now as later.

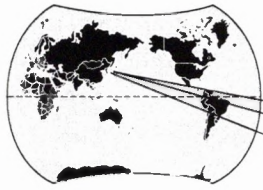
In reply to this, the assistant said, "No doubt you want to go there to join the Young Men's Association" (Jungling's Verein). This remark caused embarrassment to my father which the assistant noticed. Both looked at each other without saying anything, and the more that my father showed embarrassment, the more this assistant looked at him. Finally the embarrassment became so great to my father that he said, "I do not have to be ashamed of the name of Christ."

*By: Perry A. Klopfenstein*

#### Next issue:

*To be continued. The end of this section will be explained in the next issue.*

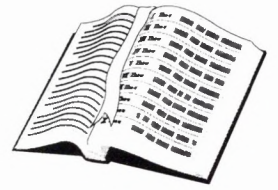




# The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

## 希望の光



### “The Other Person’s Feelings”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

As I look back over my life, I realize that I have sometimes said things, or done things, or written things, without thinking about the negative effect it might have on the person or persons being addressed. This is in spite of the fact that as a young believer, I promised God that I would always take the path that would bring Christ the most glory, regardless of personal will or desire in the matter. This makes me think that I must be more careful what I say, or do, or write, to others, including those of my own family, especially my spouse. What seems like something humorous to me, may not seem very humorous to the person being spoken to, or being spoken of. I wonder if you have ever experienced anything like what I’m speaking about.

If we are going to say, do, and write what brings Christ the most glory, we must be careful. The same applies if we are going to follow the golden rule as recorded in Luke 6:31, “And as ye would that

men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.”

It is important that we avoid putting ourselves above others. “In lowliness of mind, let each esteem others better than themselves.” Even with the best of intentions to follow that teaching, we may inadvertently put ourselves above others by what we say, do or write.

How can we rebuke or admonish others without putting ourselves above them? “These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority.” (Titus 2:15). Our authority is in the Word of God. We can say, “The Word of God teaches this, and this, and this. Therefore, we encourage you, and exhort you, to discontinue your present conduct and activity.” I know from experience that to say, “According to the by-laws of our church you need my permission to use our church for this purpose,” does not carry much weight. I should have said, “According to the Word of God, you should not use our church for this purpose,” and then quoted the

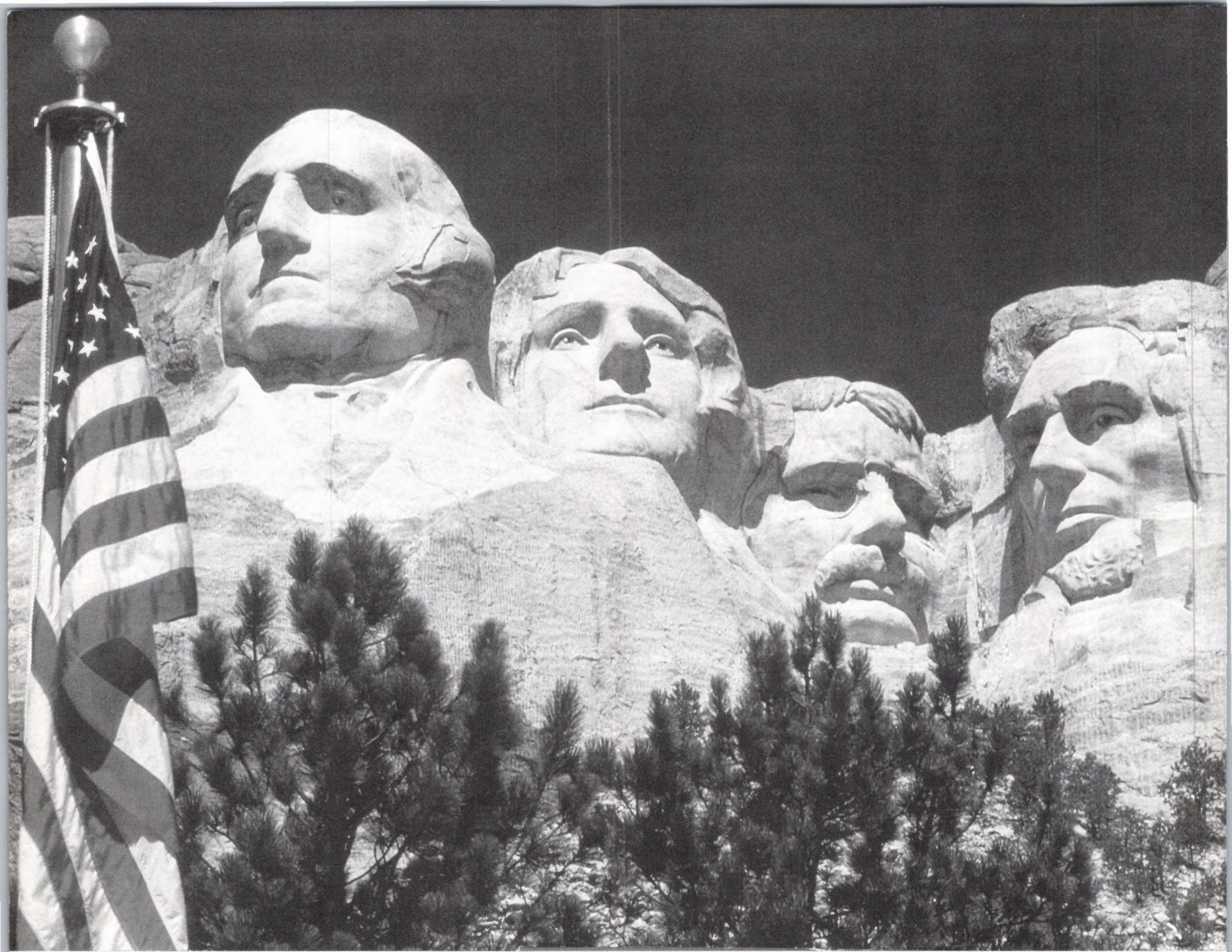
appropriate scripture.

Even after having learned some lessons about how to treat others, in a light-hearted manner when we are feeling good, we may hurt another person’s feelings. For some reason this has come to my mind recently and I simply wanted to share it with you, just in case it might be helpful. Let’s hope and pray that you don’t make as many mistakes as I do, or have done in the past.

If the other person is very secure and successful, he or she may be able to laugh it off, even if we are negligent in showing proper respect. However, if the other person is suffering from insecurity and lack of self-worth, he or she may feel we hold ourselves too high. Or if we write or say something that is not clear in what we mean, the other person may lie awake at night wondering what we meant. Brothers and sisters, these things ought not to be. Let’s consider the other person’s feelings.

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*It is the duty of nations as well as of men to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord.*

**Abraham Lincoln - 1863**

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