

The Silver Lining



Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.

August 2003

Sermon by Brother Tom Schrenk, Athens, AL

Psalm 17 and Titus 2

The Psalm that we read together was a cry for God's protection. As the Psalm of David started out, he said, "Hear the right, O Lord, attend unto my cry..." Psalm 17:1. How often do we, dear ones, cry out to the Lord to hear our prayer. Sometimes we don't even know maybe what to pray or what to say. Aren't we glad and thankful that God knows our needs and whatever it is even before we would bring a petition unto Him.

I had to think as we went down through these verses, there were so many thoughts. I look here and I see in verse 8, it says as David was praying and asking for protection, he said, "Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings," Psalm 17:8. David wanted to feel that protection. He wanted to feel that God was there and that he was secure in that encircling of the arms of God.

Have you ever thought and wondered, does God really maybe even like we read and I am often reminded in Job - when Satan came there and when God asked him, "Where have you been and what have you been doing?" He said he was walking up and down throughout the earth. God asked him if he had observed His servant Job. What did he say? Yes he had. When God asked him if he had seen how Job, of all the things that Job had, if he noticed that and how Job loved God and how Job worshipped God. Satan said, "Yes and why shouldn't he because thou has put a hedge around him." He circled him and He protected him (Job 1:6-10).

God does that for us today. He puts that hedge around us. Here even as David could ask, to be kept even in that special place. He could be hid under the shadow of the wing of the Almighty power of God. We

have that same opportunity. We have that same God who loved then who loves us now. He wants us to use, doesn't He and take advantage of all the things that He has to offer us.

Then as we went down here a little bit further, in the last verse David said this, "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness." Psalm 17:15. He said he would be satisfied. That certainly goes against our nature, doesn't it? Our nature is to always be maybe wanting more and wanting more. Satan would tell us in his own way and remember Satan comes in many forms. Satan comes even as an angel of light. So he wants to deceive us and he will try any way that he can. Just any way that he can. Deception.

Deception in the world today is probably one of the greatest things that he uses. One of the greatest avenues of approach that he has to you and to me is deception. Coming as an angel of light. Coming with things that look good and would be maybe in our mind, if we don't really stop and think about it and read and pray, we could be deceived.

So we have to be so very, very careful dear ones. Even as David could say that he would behold the face of God in righteousness and that he would be satisfied. So may we just take those thoughts and just hide them here in our heart. Just remember, just remember that we serve a God who is true and is faithful. Where there is no wrong, there is no sin. We need to always remember that, do we not dear ones?

As the Apostle Paul here to Titus wrote words here and we could have read the first chapter and the last chapter and it would have been a message that agreed even with the

message that we read.

We find here that he began this chapter by saying, "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:" Titus 2:1. Evidently even in the time of Paul - Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles. Paul was a man who was very zealous. We know his life history because the Word goes

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

August 2003

Give Thanks Unto the Lord - II

In the previous article in "Light From the Word" a number of reasons for us to give thanks unto the Lord were reviewed. This article is a continuation of that theme.

Our lives would be so very confusing if God would not have created orderliness in the world. We know that spring will follow winter, day will follow night, and harvest will follow seedtime. "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease" (Ge. 8:22). The physical laws that He has set in order make many things in our lives very predictable. Without this predictability (gravity, freezing, boiling, etc.), many of the things we take for granted would not be possible and would, therefore, remove many of the conveniences we enjoy. We can count on the orderliness of God's creation knowing that it is good.

How can we possibly show enough appreciation for the goodness of God? Jesus reminded us of the specialness of God's goodness when He said "...there is none good but one, that is God:" (Mt. 19:17). Perhaps we can come close to appreciating God's goodness by meditating on some of the evidence of His goodness that is contained in His Word. "O taste and see that the Lord is good..." (Ps. 34:8). "The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble..." (Na. 1:7) and "...knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance" (Ro. 11:22). These three passages, which are only a few of the many that could be cited, instruct us that the goodness of God can be a blessing to us physically (by what we taste and see), emotionally (by being a stable force to us in time of trouble) and spiritually (by allowing us the privilege of repentance).

One of the results of God having sent His Son is that it gives us many additional reasons to be thankful. Because Jesus Christ was faithful, withstood all of Satan's temptations, died for our sins, and conquered death, we have the opportunity to be delivered from sin. Jesus came

to "...preach the gospel to the poor; ...heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives,..." (Lk. 4:18). Not only can we be delivered from past sins, we can find the grace to overcome future sins and to triumph over Satan if we will follow His teachings. "...Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. ...Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Ro. 6:1-4). Just as Christ conquered death, we by the grace of God, can conquer sin. If we are faithful and conquer sin, we can also have victory over death and sin. "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? ...But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 15:55-57).

Among the blessings we have is the opportunity to obtain and give forgiveness. Perhaps there is no reason to be thankful that is of greater importance than knowing through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, we can be redeemed and find forgiveness for our sins. We do not need to carry the burden of sin to the grave nor do we need to hold on to the disappointments that others may have caused for us. Numerous times in the scripture we are reminded of the opportunity to "...forgive, and ye shall be forgiven" (Lk. 6:37).

In many situations in life, if we share something with others we have less of that item for ourselves. Our relationship with God is different. We can share the bounty of God's mercy, the gift of conversion, the power of His Spirit, our faith, love and zeal with others and not diminish what we have for ourselves. In all these cases when we share we have more than we had when we started.

Therefore we can readily see that one of the powerful blessings we can appreciate is the privilege of being with God's people. We can feel an increase in our blessings by sharing what we have with those who are in need. We can also feel

an increase in our blessings as others share with us. This sharing, of course, is not limited to the material blessings. We can share with one another the emotional and spiritual blessings which are even more precious than the physical blessings.

In addition to the blessings we have previously mentioned, we can be thankful for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the power that accompanies this gift. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:..." (Ac. 1:8). The Holy Ghost will serve as a constant source of comfort and as a guide to keep us from evil. "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:" (Jn 15:26). "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:..." (Jn. 16:13).

The very fact that we are alive is a gift from God. If we would have never lived and had not become a "...living soul", (Gen. 2:7) we would not have the opportunity to spend eternity with God. Jesus came that we "...might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (Jn. 10:10). God gave us life and He will sustain us. "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever..." (II Tim 4:18).

Although we realize we cannot list nor even bring to mind all of the reasons we have that should make us thankful, we would do well to pause from time to time and think upon the many gifts we have from God and the many reasons we have to be thankful. We know that "...God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:19). Therefore, "Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God" (II Cor. 9:11). Our thanksgiving to God should know no bounds "... for his mercy endureth forever". Psalm 136 reminds us of this 26 times.



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

Mission Committee Meetings in 2003

Meetings were held in Chicago in January, May and July. As is customary, one elder brother from the World Relief Committee is present at each meeting. Bro. Mark Bahr is currently serving as the Chairman and Bro. Phil Stettner as Secretary/Treasurer. There is a full agenda for each meeting, with numerous project reports, disbursement of funds and review of new proposals. The Committee is also increasing its efforts to communicate with brethren who have been sent to the Mission field by inviting them to meet for special briefing sessions. This report will combine various topics covered at the three meetings.

Mission policies

A new brochure on Mission Policy and Guidelines for the Apostolic Christian Church has been completed and will be distributed to all the churches. This document should be consulted by all who are seeking to become involved in serving the Lord in the many different mission opportunities.

The Committee is developing an Evaluation Program to gather information for ongoing mission assignments and an interview process after individuals have completed their tour of duty.

A Position Paper was approved at the July meeting which provides guidelines for major mission projects proposed by local churches. The objective is to cooperate with local churches to determine if projects should be appropriately brought under the national umbrella and to provide direction for this process. Each elder will receive a copy of this document.

Financial accountability

Detailed financial reports of contributions and expenditures are reviewed at each meeting. During the current year disbursements have been made to a variety of projects including: Ixtlan, Imuris, RGMML, Loving Shepherd International, Bible Distribution, Berean Prison Ministry, Braille Bible Foundation, Christian Aid Ministries and the Athens Preschool.

We continue to be blessed with contributions from charitable brethren, but the needs far outweigh our ability to meet them. Unfortunately the needs do not diminish in times when the world economy has slowed. Even though many of us are affected by this as well, we will be blessed if we do not neglect giving the first fruits to the Lord.

Interviews and reports

At the November 2002 meeting, Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy Huber (Francesville) were interviewed and approved for duty to provide spiritual support for the Casa de Elisabeth orphanage at Imuris, Mexico. Bro. Marshall Heinold attended that same meeting and presented an extensive report on his many experiences with the mission effort in Ixtlan, Mexico. The Committee was pleased to see the good fruits of this effort and assured Bro. Marshall of their continued support and prayers.

Sister Sandy Leman met with the Committee at its meeting in May. She is serving as a physician's assistant in a clinic near Ixtlan. Her interaction with patients affords an opportunity to develop a relationship and to give spiritual input when appropriate.

Sis. Penny Stahl gave a report at the July meeting. She teaches

English classes and assists at Ixtlan in numerous other ways. Sis. Penny shared many insights based on her experiences during the past 1 ½ years in Ixtlan. Both of these sisters serve under the authority of the Ixtlan church as well as the Mission Committee. The Committee assured them of ongoing support and prayers. It is very helpful to the Committee to receive first hand reports of experiences and special needs.

Church building projects

There has been a good response to the ongoing collection for the European Church Building Fund. There are great needs remaining in a number of Eastern European countries for providing places of worship for needy believers and friends. There are also several ongoing domestic projects being supported by the North American Building Fund.

Bro. Peter Petrovic reported on behalf of a group of brothers who returned recently from attending the dedication of a new church in Padina, located in former Yugoslavia. This growing congregation had very poor facilities which have now been replaced by a modest but commodious edifice. Bro. Gene Lehman was invited to the July meeting to report on a recent trip by several brothers to Romania and the Ukraine. A large new church has been completed in Ostritia, Ukraine which comfortably accommodates the 450 souls who make up this congregation.

The Mission Committee is very dependent upon and appreciative of the prayers and financial support of our entire Brotherhood as it seeks to identify appropriate opportunities to present to the lost the Gospel message of salvation.

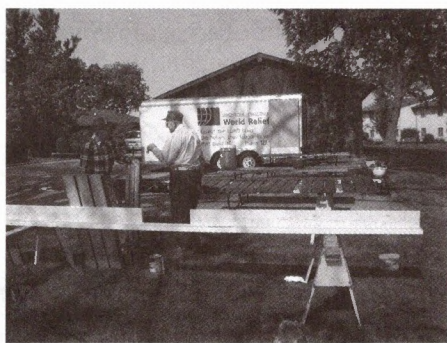


APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

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

Let Us Do Good Unto All Men

The verse in Galatians 6:10, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith", is only a collection of letters and words, unless their combined meaning is absorbed by heart and mind, and acted upon as the opportunities become available.



The promoting of opportunities, for this purpose, is one of the basic purposes for which the U.S.A. Board was established. Our Father in Heaven has always provided the opportunities. Often these opportunities are overlooked and go unrecognized, until His children are prompted to be observant of and empathic to the needs of others. These opportunities may be as near as needs of family, Brethren, friends, and neighbors. They may be shown in dramatic ways by damage, destruction, earthquake, storm, flood, or fire. They may be due to less dramatic conditions that have existed for a long time.

The vision is developed

While the work team projects in Haiti and the rebuilding project in Mexico City after an earthquake seems to be the awakening of our

World Relief spirit to be directly involved, the effort in the U.S. began with the Hurricane Hugo project in Andrew, SC. Since then the Hurricane Andrew project in Homestead, FL and the disaster work projects in Camilla, GA (2000) and Pontotoc, MS (2001) have been major work team opportunities.

During year 2001, the Gateway Illinois Family Services recognized the need for work assignments to assist their needy clients. Projects were selected and work teams from many of the central Illinois congregations provided skills and labor.

These blessings continued during year 2002 when World Relief and Gateway Illinois Family Services shared in the effort of promoting local projects in most of the Illinois congregations. In the year 2003, Gateway Illinois Family Service turned all the work project efforts over to the U.S.A. Board of World Relief. This is being directed by the Disaster Work Projects Subcommittee, which is chaired by Bro. Jerome Witzig.

Opportunities in 2003

This year, thirteen of the Illinois churches have scheduled a summer work project. These vary from roofing to remodeling and new additions. Some of the projects may help individuals, while others are maintenance projects for some of our church home facilities. Volunteers from our Ohio and Eastern Indiana congregations are helping with the Van Wert, Ohio Tornado Work Project.

Local work projects

An effort is being made in Kansas, Iowa, Indiana, and Ohio to promote local work projects, with the selection of a representative from each state to the Disaster Work

Projects Committee. The representatives and their phone numbers are:

Illinois	Bro. Marvin Sauder (309) 925-4171
Indiana	Bro. Gerry Waibel (219) 279-2582
Iowa	Bro. Martin Zaugg (515) 379-1693
Kansas	Bro. Paul Kaeb (785) 284-3261
Ohio	Bro. Ken Zollinger (330) 925-6370

Individuals are encouraged to contact the representative from their area if they have any questions regarding work projects, or suggestions for possible new opportunities.



World Relief has equipped a donated box van truck for the First Response Projects. It is equipped with tools, including air compressors, pumps, saws, and hand tools for use in tree and debris removal, and general cleanup after storm and flood. For the disaster and non-disaster work teams, three tool trailers have been purchased and supplied with equipment for building, remodeling or repair projects. One of the trailers is being used in Indiana and Ohio, one in Illinois, and the other in areas where there are needs.

Thank you for your interest and support to assist our neighbors and to "do good unto all men."

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Just as you enjoy summer and all that accompanies it, so do the residents of Apostolic Christian Services. At the Timber Ridge facility, our residents spend time in the two courtyard areas relaxing on the wheelchair swing, bench swing or outdoor chairs. In one courtyard our south-end residents enjoy working with plants in horticulture therapy. Many walks are taken with wheelchairs around the lovely grounds by our staff and residents that are non-mobile. Once a week a group is transported to the Easter Seals warm water pool in Peoria, IL, for swimming. Also, a group of residents called "Free Spirit" participate in summer Special Olympics activities. Another highlight for some Timber Ridge residents is going to Central Illinois Riding Therapy (CIRT). Horseback riding is an excellent way to cheer up someone and loosen tight muscles all at the same time. Small groups are taken on picnics, to the Dairy Queen, and to the A&W for quick get aways. Other warm weather activities Timber Ridge residents have gone to are the hot air balloon festival and a variety of fairs.

The residents that live in our other facilities: Oakwood Estate, Linden Estate, Community Integrated Living Arrangements (CILA) and Community Residential Services (CRS) also plan special summer activities. Many summer evenings are spent by taking walks around the village of Morton and many include a stop at the at the Dairy Queen or the A&W. They, too, take one-day trips that are within short driving distances of our facilities. This year day-trips have been

taken to: Chicago for sightseeing at the Brookfield Zoo, etc.; Rockhome Gardens in Arcola, IL; a shopping trip to Bloomington, IL; and two separate trips on the Spirit of Peoria river boat to Starved Rock state park. Occasionally residents have special invitations for weekend trips to Apostolic Christian churches. Forrest, IL, church annually hosts such a weekend and this year Oakville, IA, church will be the site of a weekend trip for several CRS residents. Additionally, this group will travel to Nauvoo and Dixon Mounds for sightseeing.

June 19 was our bi-annual Volunteer Dinner at the Morton church fellowship hall. In an effort to thank individuals who had volunteered their time and services to our agency during the 2001 and 2002 calendar years, we invited a large number of people to a volunteer dinner. The approximately 100 people who attended were only a small portion of the many volunteers who have helped us. The guests were treated to a delicious meal of American cut pork chops, Texas potatoes, rolls and a beautiful array of fruit. For dessert three flavors of layer cakes were served. The tables were decorated in patriotic red, white and blue colors and featured large red roses in the centerpieces. Ron Messner, our executive director, spoke for a few minutes to the volunteers. He not only thanked them for past efforts, but also explained how very necessary prayers, volunteer services and donations are to the ongoing mission of our agency, serving adults with developmental disabilities. He told them that economic uncertainties of the times have forced the State of Illinois to be ambiguous in financial support. To

end the evening, a men's quartet from the Morton Apostolic Christian Church sang praises to the Lord. All who attended enjoyed the evening.

SEPTEMBER birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550 are: Edward Green (9/3), Judith Vicic (9/3), Marta Graber (9/9), Michael Culkin (9/10), Richard Harvey (9/14), Janet Christensen (9/16), Glenn Getz (9/20), Cynthia Sigulas (9/22), Michael Bedford (9/26), and Ethel Borinstein (9/29). The Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550 birthday is Nancy Theis (9/25). At Linden Estate, 1000 Linden St., Morton, IL 61550 birthdays are: Kristy Dotterer (9/1), Brent Rebuck (9/24), James Maupin (9/24), and Doug Steffen (9/26). CILA and CRS birthdays are: at 652 Detroit Ave., Morton, IL 61550: Angela Massner (9/9); at 338 E. Hazelwood, Morton, IL 61550: David Taylor (9/13); at 208 S. Indiana, Morton, IL 61550: David Maupin (9/20); at 241 S. Minnesota, Morton, IL 61550: Janet Schweigert (9/10); and at 207 Wagler St., Morton, IL 61550: Marlene Esslinger (9/8).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Lauretta Schafer

"The voice of the Lord is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the Lord is upon many waters. The Lord sitteth upon the flood; yea, the Lord sitteth King forever. The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace."

Psalm 29:3, 10-11

Recently some of our brethren experienced flood waters in their lives in Northeast Indiana. Ten years ago our brethren near Taylor, MO, experienced flood waters in their lives when the Mississippi River flooded. The morning after the 1993 flood a Brother and his family received comfort when he opened to the above Psalm before taking his daughter six miles by boat from Taylor to the Mississippi River bridge to her job on the other side of the river. "The Lord sitteth upon the flood." "The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace."

God knows everything that we go through and wants us to know that He is in charge—He is in control. What benefit could come from a flood in our lives? What benefit could come from having lightening strike your home and standing by helplessly as you watch it burn to the ground? What benefit could come from seeing little ones snatched from our arms in death? What benefit could come from—you fill in the blank. We may not know answers in this life, but we must continue to trust Him. Put one foot ahead of the other and keep going. Elijah experienced God speaking to him in a still, small voice after the thunder and the earthquake. God can also speak to us after the flood, the lightening, and other heartaches. Listen for His message. Do all God calls you to do and be all He wants you to be while you live on this earth. At the same time keep your eyes focused on your heavenly home. Keep looking up.

Gateway Woods would like to welcome Sarah B. to our Foster Care program. We would also like to say congratulations to Amber J, Angie J, Jenee L, and Rebekah P. All of these girls are now graduated

from high school! Three of them are going to college. We are very pleased with the success they've experienced.

As the summer winds down, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers who served us this summer. It was truly an excellent year! We would also like to recognize some volunteers who spent a great deal of time on our campus during the summer: Sis. Jody Kaeb, Sis. Sarah Rassi, Bro. Mick Gerber, Shaun Gerber (convert), and Bro. Ben Knochel. We hope and pray that all of our volunteers received a blessing for their selfless service.

Anyone who does not receive our newsletter, *The Gate Post*, but would like to should call Sis. Patsy Stoller at 260/627-2159. *The Gate Post* comes out 3 times a year and contains all of the news and happenings of Gateway Woods – Apostolic Christian Children's Home.

Our annual Benefit Auction is August 16, 2003. We are so thankful to all of those who make this event a success year after year. In September, we will let everyone know how the Auction did in 2003. We certainly covet your prayers for this annual event!

May God richly bless each of you with a fullness of His Spirit and a peace that passes all understanding as we press on together to do our Savior's will. Thanks for your support and prayers!

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

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

Proverbs 22:6

We are finishing up the summer program here at the Preschool and getting ready for the school session to begin. There are several children who are moving on to Kindergarten and we hope that they will hold fast to the Bible verses and teachings that they have learned here. We are looking forward to the challenges and changes that a new year will bring, as well as the chance to get to know new students. We ask for your prayers as we begin a new school year.

The Preschool staff would like to send a special thank you to Sis. Deb Blunier (Eureka, IL) for everything that she did for us this summer. She has been coming down here for a week or two every summer for many years. Her niece, Lauren Blunier, joined her for part of her time here this summer. May God richly bless Sis. Deb for all her love and effort.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

"The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry."

Psalm 34:15

This is one of four verses that the children memorized for Vacation Bible School. Our theme was "Treasures of the Nile". It was a blessed week for all who attended and the children had a nice time. We would like to thank everyone who participated and helped to make Vacation Bible School possible. We couldn't have done it without the many willing hands.

We rejoice with Tommy and Dana Mayo on the birth of their little son, Tommy Dale. He was born

on July 15 weighing six pounds and seven ounces. This is the great-grandson of Sis. Corrine Thomas and the grandson of Brenda Mayo. Dana has been coming to church for over 17 years now. We pray that they will be blessed on this joyous occasion.

Our church enjoyed visitors from Milford, IN; Fairbury, IL; Nashville, TN; Eureka, IL; Wolcott, IN; Remington, IN; and Morton, IL. Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) had a service for us at the end of June. Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH) also served us and Bro. Earl Steffen (Bloomington, IL) had a Sunday School lesson. We would like to thank these brothers for their love shown by being here. We appreciate their efforts.

There have been several people either hospitalized or sick this month. Bro. Ed (Sis. Louise) Haggemaker had a stint put in his heart and is recovering nicely. Sis. Louise (Bro. Ed) Haggemaker was sick as well as Sis. Ruby (Bro. Don) Ross and Sis. Katherine King. We wish them all a speedy recovery and keep them in our prayers.

If anyone is passing through this area and would like to visit us, please do. We love to have visitors!

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord."

Psalm 122:1

Congratulations and best wishes to Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mary Jo Schmidgall as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on

June 21.

We gathered on July 5 to hear the testimonies of four converts and the re-affirmation of faith of one who had been separated from our faith for a number of years. On Sunday, July 6, we witnessed the baptisms of Bill (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sharon) and Shannon McClure, and Andy Knochel and Natalie Knochel (Bro. Herbie and Sis. Laurie). We welcome Sis. Eunice Dotterer into the fold. A church fellowship dinner and singing followed.

We thank Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA) for assisting Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich in this wonderful occasion.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Ken Lawson (Sis. Sharon, Dallas), Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North), and Bro. Kenny Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford).

Sis. June Tooley and Dakota Thorpe were hospital patients and Mary Ella Klopfenstein suffered a bone injury.

Anne Kieser (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie) is in Brazil until August 19. We pray for her safe return.

We welcome the Gutwein family, Nick and Suzanne and their children, Chet, Whitney, Andre and Madison. We also welcome Vladimir and Carmen (Langhofer) Okhmatovski and baby Spencer.

Our appreciation to Sis. Marie Kieser (Bro. Chuck) for her work preparing World Relief work projects.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

When the dew point in Arizona hits above 50 for three consecutive days, they announce that the "mon-

soon" season has arrived. It usually starts around July 4 and lasts through August. It was only a week late this year and so far, except for the Tucson area, hasn't brought much precipitation, but storms with lightning that has started several fires throughout the state. The Prescott National Forest has lost thousands of trees to the drought and the pine bark beetle. We are so thankful every time the rain starts to fall.

Bro. Henry Volz and George Kornja (son of Sis. Elena) have still been having health problems and are not always able to attend church. Sis. Rowena Furrer (Bro. Jim) was hospitalized a couple days and at this time is still not feeling well. Pray for God's healing touch on their lives.

We are thankful for the visiting minister this last month, Bro. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), and pray the Lord will richly bless him and his family for serving us.

ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

We enjoyed having Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix) with us for the day recently. He was traveling alone as Sis. Nancy and their son, Tim, were in Illinois visiting a new grandson. Whatever the reason, we were glad to have him with us and we thank him for his work on the pulpit.

We have finally been receiving our monsoon rains for which we are thankful. We are badly in need of rain so we are hoping for storms like we had last night. We're settling in for a nice, long monsoon rain season, Lord willing. The cooler temperatures are an added blessing also.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Robin Moser

“Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Romans 12:21

If we could only all abide by this verse, how much peace and love we could sow to those around us. However, in the heat of the day, how easily our pride gets wounded and we forget who our enemy really is.

Our congregation was thankful for the visiting brothers who came to assist with the ministry in Altadena this month, including: Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie, Silverton, OR), Bro. Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy, Rockville, CT) and Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI).

We also appreciated Bro. Tim Sauder (Sis. Jenny, Leo, IN) and Bro. Ed Graf (Sis. Deb, Leo, IN) presenting to us the God-centered purpose and current developments at Gateway Woods Children's Home in Leo. It was very informative and based on their presentation and fellowship, we can better focus our prayers for their efforts.

Our church family enjoyed Sunday dinner in the form of a mountain-top picnic mid-July. What a beautiful creation God has blessed us with.

We are thankful for Alan Crockett's recovery (Bro. Bob and Sis. Judy) after a bout with pneumonia in June. We continue to pray for Sis. Judy Crockett (Bro. Bob) as she continues testing and treatment for her illness.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Peggy Jevremov

The past two months have flown by. We rejoice with Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy Fulop and their family with the arrival of little Matthew Joseph on May 29. Although he arrived 7 weeks early, we thank the Lord he is doing okay. We all are enjoying having a little one in our midst!

As we rejoice with each addition to our little congregation, we also feel the loss as those among us feel the leading to move elsewhere. Bro. Jim and Sis. Hildy Koehl with their daughters, Stacy and Ashlee, have moved back to the Morris, MN, area. We wish them the Lord's blessings there and look forward to their winter stays with us. Taylor Wine's employment has taken him to the Dallas, TX, area. We surely will miss him and wish him the Lord's guidance and blessings also. We know the small group at Dallas will appreciate his coming.

Among our many visitors have been the following ministering brothers: Bros. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL), Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty, OH), and Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ). May the Lord be their Rich Rewarder for their service to us.

We also wish to thank Bro. Ed Graf (Sis. Deb) for visiting to share with us about the work in the Gateway Woods Children's Home in Leo.

We are so glad to welcome Bro. Rory Strahm back to our assembly. He has not been able to assemble with us for several months. May the Lord's healing hand continue to be upon him.

The results of our annual elections are as follows: Bro. Terry Koehl, trustee; Bro. Phillip Petrovic, Sunday School superintendent and teacher of grades 3-6;

Sis. Rachel Petrovic, grades pre-K through 2nd. We currently have no one in the Bible class. We pray the Lord's guidance and wisdom for Bro. Phillip and Sis. Rachel as they teach the tender hearts of our future church and for Bro. Terry as he assists in the care of our physical church building.

CANADA
KITCHENER, ONTARIO
Ingrid Fortenbacher

We are so thankful that Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) was able to worship with us on Wednesday, June 18. That evening, our congregation rejoiced after hearing Deanna Livingstone's (Bro. Mark and Sis. Myra) desire to repent and walk with the Lord. We wish her much grace as she seeks her soul's salvation.

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

Hymns of Zion #135

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held at the home of Henry and Sis. Astrid Schlauch on June 22. What a beautiful day we had to enjoy the fellowship of brethren and share with our many children the love of God.

Our prayers are with our Elders as they meet for the General Conference in August.

COLORADO, DENVER
Ann Gonglach

We believe that the Lord has led us to let go the land that we had intended to buy for a new church building, so we plan to stay here un-

til we receive further leading from Him. Please continue to pray that that leading would be clear to us.

Again, we've been blessed with many visitors this summer. Visiting ministers were Bros. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA), Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Sue Ellen, Sarasota, FL), and Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ), and Elder Bros. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA), Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA), Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) and Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA).

On the weekend of July 18-20, Bro. Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington, IL) visited and presented a parenting seminar to us. We were thankful for this very informative and helpful seminar. Thanks to all ministering brothers who are willing to do as Paul instructed Timothy and "preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine." (II Timothy 4:2)

We welcome Meg Butikofer (Elgin, IA) to Denver. She has accepted a job in Denver and is assembling with us.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Amber Reutter
Laura Virkler**

This month we congratulate those who have graduated from high school. The graduates are Ivy Bernier, Sis. Amy Carlson, Brianna Connor, Sis. Sarah Gerber, Sis. Jennifer Hoffman, Dan Hoffman, Josh Hartman, Justin Luginbuhl, Philip Schneider, Bro. Josh Virkler and Crystal Willis. We wish each one the Lord's blessings as they begin a new chapter in their lives and hope they will seek the Lord's guid-

ance in their endeavors.

Bro. Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield, OH) was with us this past month and we were privileged to hear the Word spoken once again. It is always a blessing to have visitors with us and we did have many this past month.

Sis. Esther Gruenig was hospitalized recently, and is now back home. We pray that God will heal and restore as He sees fit.

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Bro. Wally Carlson and Sis. Judy as Bro. Wally's father, Walter Carlson, recently passed away. He leaves his children: Gail Wiese, William Carlson (Lois), Carl Carlson (Robin), Jane Carlson (Walter Berra), Jan Conway, and Bro. Wally (Sis. Judy), as well as his affectionate grandchildren and his siblings, Herman Carlson and Olga Carlson, as well as other extended family. May God be near to each one in this difficult time.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Henrietta Meyer**

This month is again a time of "Welcome".

After hearing her testimony we welcome Sis. Liz Meister as our sister in faith. We are glad to have her assembling with us.

We welcome Trisha Bates from Roanoke, IL, to our congregation. She is a part of the Subra household for the summer.

We welcome Bro. Howard and Sis. Gloria Leman from Morton, IL. Sis. Gloria has a temporary assignment in this area for the next few months. We are glad to have folks for however long they are here.

We rejoice to hear the announcement of the engagement of Sis. Liz Meister (Mark and Becky, Wilmington, DE) and Bro. Adam

Herman (Dennis and Sis. Ginger, Morton, IL).

This month our visiting ministers were: Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL).

We welcomed other visitors this month from Lester, IA; Cissna Park, Eureka, Fairbury, Morton, Peoria and Princeville, IL; Rockville, CT; Portland, OR; Philadelphia, PA; Detroit, MI; Wolcott, and both Bluffton, IN congregations.

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, FT. LAUDERDALE

Renee Mangold

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers over the past two months: Bro. Marvin Steffen (Sis. Rhea, North Ft. Myers, FL), Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton,

IN), Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Sis. Jeanne, Bluffton, IN). We pray that God would bless His servants for their service.

Welcome back to Sis. Delores VanNorman who has moved back to our congregation.

There was a recent review of those holding positions within the church. It has been agreed that those holding office will continue for another year.

Sis. Elena Zurz is recovering from her recent surgery. We pray that God would grant her a full and speedy recovery.

Recently we bid farewell to Bro. Matt and Sis. Nancy Rocke and their three children. Bro. Matt was transferred with Caterpillar. We will miss them and we pray that God will bless them in their new church and new home in Detroit.

FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS Mary Masters

Again this month we have been richly blessed by visitors including ministering Bros. David Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL), Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Sue Ellen, Sarasota, FL), Ron Koehl (Sis. Carol, Sarasota, FL) and Jeff Streitmatter III (Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL). We thank these brothers for their willingness to help out our small congregation and ask God to richly bless them.

Among the teachings we heard is that we need to remain alert to Satan's tactics of playing in people's minds to walk back into the world with it's lurings. We were reminded that when Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, He was mindful

that obedience to God was the principal objective, not life itself. Jesus was willing to pass up food for His body, glory without suffering, and the lust of the eye in the kingdoms of the world to obey His Father. Just as we are not as tempted to do evil when our earthly father is near, we are more able to overcome temptations when we are aware that our Heavenly Father is near. We must always remember to pray earnestly for God's power and we will have victory in Jesus.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Carol Koehl

Our Fellowship Hall addition is finally near completion. Lord willing, by the time you read this, we will be moved in! The Sarasota church wishes to sincerely thank anyone and everyone who helped make this Fellowship Hall a reality. We are humbled by all the support of our northern friends and brethren – donations of materials, time, physical labor, finances, food, and of course, your prayers. We are looking forward to our winter residents returning and being able to enjoy the fruit of their labors.

We were thankful to have Bro. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI) so willingly bring us the Word this past month.

Many of us attended several church outings recently. Sarasota took a bus to the annual Alabama-Tennessee Fellowship Weekend. The Sunday School and their families enjoyed its second annual 4th of July weekend at Lake Okeechobee.

We were richly blessed on the weekend of July 19-20 with the testimony and baptism of Sis. Kelly (Price) Hebert. Our Elder Bro. Dale

Eisenmann was assisted by retired Elder Bro. Ben Maibach in carrying out this sacred work. We rejoice with Sis. Kelly and her family and praise God for another wonderful miracle which He has performed.

We rejoice with Ryan Rankin and Jeremy Calame who have humbled their hearts before the Lord and are seeking by faith to follow God's plan so that they too may rejoice in the gift of salvation.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA John Brewer

We as a congregation are always thankful when we have those of our faith move down to become part of our assembly. But when one has felt the call of the Lord and decides to turn their back to the world and repent, this is a cause for rejoicing and celebration. Our love and prayers goes to Benjamin Stoller (Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda) as he begins his walk with Christ and seeks out his repentance and salvation.

We are thankful for the visiting ministers that have come down for the month of July. They include Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Bro. David Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL), and Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH). The Word that was brought forth and the effort to come down to our small gathering blessed our church.

"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, faith: against such there is no law."

Galatians 5:22-23

On the week of July 21, we held our annual Vacation Bible School,

which the Fruit of the Spirit was the theme. Even though we were blessed with the teaching and the participation of the crafts the students put together, we were encouraged and blessed more abundantly with the fellowship we had with one another that past week. It is amazing that as a body of believers we could grow even more closely together between the adults and students.

As always, we enjoy visitors that are passing through or visiting the area. It is an encouragement to meet brethren from other churches and enrich our daily walk with the experience. If you do come, our church is in Fairburn, GA. We are located off I-85 (south of the city) on exit 64. We are west of the interstate exactly four miles and the building will be on the left. Church services start at 10:15 for singing. If any questions or just want to alert us of your arrival please call either Bro. Tom Waldbeser 770-463-4788, Bro. Ted Hirstien 770-632-1287, Bro. Linn Stoller 770-631-4554 or Bro. Keith Kaufman 770-304-8706.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Doreen Moser
Sheila McCoy

It may not be on the Mountain's
 height,
 Or over the stormy sea;
 It may not be at the battle's front
 My Lord will have need of me
 But if by a still, small voice he calls
 To paths I do not know
 I'll answer, dear Lord, with my
 hand in Thine,
 I'll go where you want me to go.

Going where the Lord lead them
 and believing they would be blessed
 were testimonies shared by our

Sunday School class, teachers and parents. We as a congregation gathered to meet through pictures, the children, the workers, and to see the work done on the recent Rio Bravo trip. As one of the Moms said, "you will never understand the blessings of going on mission trips until you really experience it." How true that is of most things in life. If only those outside the fold could experience the joy and peace of serving the Lord. It cannot be explained, one must experience it.

Perhaps today there are loving
 words
 Which Jesus would have me speak;
 There may be now, in the paths of
 sin,
 Some wand'rer whom I should
 seek,
 O Saviour, if Thou wilt be my
 Guide,
 Tho dark and rugged the way,
 My voice shall echo the message
 sweet,
 I'll say what you want me to say.

Every Sunday we hear words of love, chastisement, or encouraging words over the pulpit as the Lord always knows what we need to hear. Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) were the visiting voices this month. May they have the prayers of the congregations and speak what the Lord wants them to proclaim.

There's surely somewhere a lowly
 place
 In earth's harvest fields so wide
 Where I may labor thro life's short
 day
 For Jesus, the crucified,
 So trusting my all unto Thy care,
 I know Thou lovest me!
 I'll do Thy will with a heart sin-

cere,
 I'll be what you want me to be.

Naomi Schock (Bro. Ted and Sis. Heidi) is trusting her all unto the Lord's care as she begins her repentance. As she labors in the Lord's vineyard, may we remember her in our prayers.

I'll go where you want me to go,
 dear Lord,
 O'er mountain, or plain, or sea;
 I'll say what you want me to say,
 dear Lord,
 I'll be what you want me to be.
Melodies of Praise #218

ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Ann Kellenberger
Rebekah Kaufmann

Once again, we are so thankful for the visiting ministers who came and shared the precious truth with us. They were Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke), Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis), Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke) and Bro. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso). May God reward each of you as only He can reward.

We gladly welcomed another dear soul into the fold. Joyce Sauder (Court) gave her testimony on June 28 and was baptized on June 29. It's so uplifting to hear of the beautiful way God works in the hearts of those repenting. Those soft and tender hearts that want so much more than what this world has to offer. We pray that many more will heed the call while the day of grace remains open. May God bless our new Sis. Joyce with many spiritual blessings as she continues to look to Him for guidance each day.

We are happy to have two new baby girls in our congregation! Bro.

Trace and Sis. Denise Brim welcomed little Autumn Mae into their home and hearts on June 17. Thankful grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Mark and Sis. Barb Brim.

Also, little Mya Joy was welcomed with open arms into the home of Bro. Kory and Sis. Megan Kaeb. Her thankful grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy Kaeb (Roanoke) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla Ringger (Gridley). We trust that God will bless these new parents with much wisdom as they lovingly teach and instruct their children.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our dear Sis. Sandy (Larry) Kupferschmid, who is recovering from surgery. We trust that God will grant her a quick recovery and the blessing of good health in the future.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD **Steve Endress**

We appreciated having several visiting ministers with us this month. Bros. Jim Plattner, Walt Herrmann, and Glen Braker from our Princeville congregation visited during mid-week services. Bro. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) also were used by the Lord to bring us the Gospel of Truth. We are always thankful and appreciative of the sowers of the Seed of Truth.

Our sympathy is with Bro. John Tanner as his beloved wife, Sis. Margaret, was laid to rest. Also surviving are her two sons, Bro. Richard (Marilyn), Bro. Harold (Imogene), and two daughters, Sis. Wilma (Bro. Melvin) Knobloch, and Sis. Nancy (Bro. Herbert) Stoller.

May God comfort them in their time of sadness.

Our Sis. Lottie Stisser (Bro. Loris) underwent surgery this past month. We hope for a speedy recovery.

Note of Thanks:

Since Sis. Bonnie's aneurysm surgery, she and Sis. Lucille would like to thank everyone for their many deeds of kindness during her hospital and nursing home stays, and now at home. Sis. Bonnie feels that the prayers of God's faithful pulled her through. May God bless each of you.

In Christian Love,
Sis. Bonnie and Sis. Lucille
Kieser

ILLINOIS **CHAMPAIGN-URBANA** **Karla Kieser**

"Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvelously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you."

Habakkuk 1:5

During the month of July, we are doing a Bible study on the book of Habakkuk. It has been a reminder to us all that even when it seems like sin is prevailing, God still has a plan.

The children enjoyed Vacation Bible School June 23-27. Many thanks to Bro. Chad and Sis. Linda Kupferschmid for organizing it and many thanks to all who helped! Our children are our future and it is our duty to teach them to fear the Lord.

We rejoice with Matt and Heidi Miller as they welcome their first child, Owen Matthew, who was born on June 24. His grandparents

are Bro. Carl and Sis. Rebecca Kieser (Fairbury, IL) and Steven Miller and Pamela Bowen of Collinsville, IL. Our prayers are with them as they prepare to move to Kansas City, MO, where Matt will begin medical school in the fall.

The Champaign-Urbana church welcomes a new family, Bro. Nicholas and Sis. Sandra Waibel and their son, Elijah, who recently moved to Mahomet, IL, and worship with us. Bro. Nicholas finished his degree at Purdue University in May and has found employment in this area.

We are thankful for visiting Bros. Kenneth Weertz (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) for sharing God's Word with us this month. We really appreciate all of our visiting ministers!

On July 12-13, three of our college students gave their testimony and were baptized in Forrest. We welcome our new Sister in Christ, Jennifer Kerrins (Darren and Peggy), and new Brothers in Christ, Trent Johnson (Bro. Harry and Sis. Matilda) and Mark Schneider (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra) into the fold.

May the Lord keep them in the palm of His hand as they continue on life's journey.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO **Rachel Meyer**

Working with children is always an educational experience. Not only do we learn about them, we often learn about ourselves. This summer, I am working at a local camp with approximately 120 grade school age children. Several weeks ago, I was playing a game with some of the girls. The leader started out by casually saying, "Name someone you hate, Mrs. Meyer." I was some-

what stunned. I thought this was going to be an innocent clapping game but somewhere along the line it took a drastic turn. Needless to say the game started, and ended, right there. Who did I hate? Could I give them a name? I thought about this later because I realized hate is used in such a casual manner today. "Oh, I hate this food, I hate this song, I hate that book," and so on. You can fill in the blank. But the Bible says to hate is to live in darkness. "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light..." (I John 2:9-10). The darkness that comes with physical blindness is not something most of us would choose. Can we afford then to risk spiritual blindness through hating? As the song says, let us walk in the light!

We held our Sunday School Picnic June 22 in a local park. Food and good fellowship were enjoyed by all, and the Sunday School children presented an excellent program. Thank you to Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean O'Shea for making the arrangements.

Vacation Bible School started the following day. Our theme was "Following in the Footsteps of Jesus." Each evening the children and adults learned how Jesus set the way for us to follow. On Monday, Elder Bro. Charles Hemmer (Peoria, IL) taught about "Being Ready". Tuesday, Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL) spoke on "Believing". Wednesday, Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL) encouraged us to "Be Obedient", and Thursday, Elder Bro. Robert Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL) spoke on "Being Prayerful". We wish to give a heartfelt thank you to each of these

brothers and their wives. We know it takes much time and effort to travel back and forth, and we truly reaped a benefit from the lessons. Finally, the children presented a program on Friday evening and exhibited the projects they had each worked on all week. Thank you to each and every person who helped with VBS this year. We know a lot of work was put into the planning and teaching.

We also want to thank Bro. Tim Sauder (Leo, IN) for giving us a very informative presentation on the work being done throughout Gateway Woods. This organization has been a help and encouragement to so many of us and we continue to support the work being done.

We rejoiced with George and Velda Foxe on June 28-29 as we were privileged to hear their testimony and witness their baptism. We are so happy for this dear couple and wish them God's blessings as they continue in their Christian walk. We want to thank Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL) for his willingness to help with the sacred work.

Jennifer Gudeman (Bro. Tom and Sis. Elaine) became the wife of Rodney Ross II on July 12 in Elgin. We love her and pray God's blessings on them both as they begin their life together.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Dave and Sis. Becky Kiefer on the passing of his father, Bro. Bob, of Oakville, IA. We also send our sympathy to Bro. Paul and Sis. Milli Leman on the loss of his brother, Robert Leman. Let us remember to lift up these loved ones in prayer.

Our friend, LaVirra Lehman, continues to struggle with pain and is currently in a nursing home. She asks for our prayers and support as

she struggles through this time. We all know that pain, whether physical or otherwise, can be lightened when we know others care and are lifting us up to God – especially when it is hard to do it ourselves.

A friend was telling me about something that she was doing for a family member. I thought it was quite admirable and she simply said, "That's just what families do." So let us end remembering that praying, sending a card, visiting, and doing things that help each other need not be one-time occurrences. We can love each other and do these things because we are the family of God – and that is what the family of God does.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Denise Walder
Susan Waldbeser

Trying to walk in the steps of the
Saviour,
Trying to follow our Saviour and
King;
Shaping our lives by His blessed
example,
Happy, how happy, the songs that
we bring.

Chorus: How beautiful to walk in
the steps of the Saviour,
Stepping in the light, Stepping in
the light;
How beautiful to walk in the steps
of the Saviour,
Led in paths of light.

Tabernacle #160

This year "Stepping in the Light" was our theme song for Vacation Bible School which was held 9-20. We pray that the seeds that were planted those two weeks will remain in the children's hearts for years to come. The Bible class and

Single group met four evenings during this time to listen to topical Bible presentations. We want to thank the brothers that came and lent themselves for our precious young people. The brothers and their topics are as follows: Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) – Application of the Bible to Our Lives; Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) – The World and it's Influence; Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) – Guilt vs. Conviction; and Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) – What's Right, What's Wrong.

We would also like to thank Bros. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) for bringing the Word of Life to us this past month.

We were blessed once again as a congregation to welcome a new brother into our precious faith. Bro. Jacob Johnson (foster son of Bro. Curt and Sis. Bev Knapp) gave his testimony and was baptized this past month. Bro. Jacob is making his home in West Bend, IA, and we pray that God will be his constant companion throughout life, wherever He may lead him.

It is with gladness in our hearts that we bid farewell to a dear Sister in Faith, Sis. Mary Anderson. She has moved to the apartments in Eureka. Sis. Mary will be sorely missed here in Cissna Park and we pray that she can feel our love and prayers go with her.

Our prayers are also with Bro. Kenny Bauer (Sis. Loretta) as he has spent time in the hospital this past month.

July 13, God gave us a beautiful day to have our annual all church

picnic at the park in Cissna Park.

Babies are truly a blessing sent from Heaven above. This month we rejoice with three couples who have added precious little bundles into their hearts and home. Jared and Julie Yergler are first-time parents of a sweet baby boy, James Robert. Grandparents are Urban and Sis. Judy Edelman and Kevin and Becky Yergler.

Justin and Jodi Sinn also welcome home their first child, Carson Joel. Grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Joan Rudin and Loren and Nita Sinn.

Welcoming home Audrey Jo is Bro. Todd and Sis. Valerie Kaeb, Amber, Nathan, Justin, Trevor and Abbie. Grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marylou Kaeb and Bro. Sid and Sis. Sandy Kaufmann. We pray that God will give the needed grace to all three of these dear couples to raise these precious little ones for Him.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Arlene Banwart

Recently in a sermon we heard: "Instead of wondering why this happened, wonder instead how is God going to use it for His honor and glory. Then expect in faith and watch God work."

We rejoice in the workings of God in Ben Craig's heart as he started repenting. His parents are Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol Craig.

"Is God there during the day in the schedules we keep?" This was another point brought to us in a sermon. There are people to pray for, to visit, and write to. Sis. Kathe Hasty has moved to: Cottage 6, Sunrise Cottages of Rochester, 4220 55th Street N.W., Rochester, MN 55901. At this writing Sis. Lulu

Zimmerman is hospitalized. Bev Schieber spent a few days in the hospital.

We welcome to our congregation Bro. Josh and Sis. Tina Walder and Hannah who have moved from Lester, IA. May we help each other on our way to Heaven.

"There's strength in numbers when we draw together." This was another truth mentioned in a sermon. Thanks to Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) and Bros. Jay Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) for their services this past month.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Amy Gasser

Our congregation rejoices with Rebekah Braun (Bro. Gene and Sis. Sue) as she has recently started repenting.

We were thankful to have Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) visit us and bring forth the Word this past month.

Sis. Julia Graf and Dorothy Jones (mother of Sis. Sandy Kinsinger) have recently spent time in the hospital.

Jennifer Gudeman (Bro. Tom and Sis. Elaine) was married to Rodney Ross on July 12.

Sis. Kay Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida) and Bro. David (Sis. Paige) Stieglitz have been selected as our new Sunday School teachers. May God bless Sis. Debbie (Bro. Chuck) Kellenberger and Bro. Jeff (Sis. Sara) Dietz for their years of service.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Janet Zimmerman

Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna

Wettstein became parents of Joseph David born on July 11. He is welcomed by his sisters, Sis. Cyndee Stoller (Bro. Jeff) of Gridley, IL, and at home Sis. Christy and Ellen and brothers, Sam, Ed, Curt, Keith, Andy, Gary and Tim. His grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein and Sis. Mildred Bauman (Goodfield, IL).

Bro. John and Sis. Gloria Cottrell were blessed with a son, Silas Edward, born on June 16. He has two brothers, Samuel and Eli, and one sister, Maria. His grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie Zimmerman, Sis. Judy Cottrell of Eureka and Bill Cottrell of Washington. May God continue to be with these families and grant them Godly wisdom as they raise their children.

Our Sunday School picnic was held on June 22 at the Farm Bureau Park. A potluck meal was enjoyed by all.

We were thankful to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four dear souls the weekend of June 29. We welcome Bros. Toby Fehr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy), Michael Blunier (Bro. Myron and Sis. Elaine), Trent Leman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn) and Sis. Trudy Zimmerman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Sue). Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Bros. Vernon Wettstein and Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL), Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN) and John Grimm (Columbus, OH) were our visiting ministers for this blessed occasion.

Bro. Eric Leman (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge) became engaged to Sis. ReKeeta Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane) of Morris, MN, on July 6. We wish them God's blessings as they plan for their future life to-

gether.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Ruth Feucht and Sis. Lyola Ringger (Bro. Jim) on the death of their brother, Bro. Reuben Feucht, of Princeville. He died June 17.

May God bless visiting ministers, Bro. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) for visiting us recently.

Bro. Ben Knapp, Sis. Eileen Blunier (Bro. Duane) and Sis. Melba Mangold spent some time in the hospital recently. May God be with them and heal them according to His good and perfect will.

July 23 we heard the engagement announcement of Bro. Wade Wettstein (Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary) to Sis. Hallie Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary) of Congerville. We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they plan for their marriage.

We rejoice with Keith Wettstein (Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna) and Alan Wettstein (Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary) as they begin their repentance. May they always look to Jesus for strength and guidance as they build a firm foundation.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Tammy Hinrichsen Joann Zehr

Three homes have been blessed with new babies during the last month. On June 25, Clint and Jenny Steffen had a baby girl, Katherine Kei Leilani. The grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay Steffen and Kenneth and Beatrice Masuda of Pearl City, Hawaii. We are thankful that mother and baby Katherine are doing well now as Jenny did spend some time in the hospital before Katherine's birth.

Also on June 25, Kaden John was

born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Marie Stork. He has one brother, Kyler, and one sister, Michaela, to welcome him. The grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Eunice Stork and Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi (Silverton, OR).

Logan Dennis was born to Bro. Michael and Sis. Holly Steidinger on July 2. His big brothers and sister are Colton, Katelyn, and Wyant. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger and Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey (Bern, KS).

May God be with each of these dear couples as they raise their children and teach them about God and Jesus.

Sis. Blanche Runyon, 83, died on June 30. We extend our sympathy to her two sons, Jerry Wayne Henry (Joan) of Cincinnati, OH, and Wayne Runyon (Sheryl) from Morris, IL. Also, we want to remember her two sisters, Sis. Esther Kiefer from here and Sis. Dorothy Wenger who resides in Texas. May God be with them all.

We had two children from our congregation who spent time in the hospital: Chloe Steidinger (Bro. Philip and Sis. Lana) and Arthur Moser (Bro. Doug and Sis. Julia). Esther Koehl (Dick) had some eye surgery and is recuperating at home. We wish them all God's healing mercies.

Kelli Hinrichsen (Bro. Keith and Sis. Tammy) has turned her heart and soul to God and we are so thankful and happy for her. We know God stays true to His promises to help each soul who will come in repentance.

In June, we have our annual Sunday School picnic and our new Sunday School teachers are Bro. Randall Fehr (Sis. Janis) and Bro. Matt Knapp (Sis. Dana). They re-

place Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda) and Bro. Nathan Fehr (Sis. Marsha). Sis. Karen Steffen (Bro. Albert) and Sis. Gladys Slagel (Bro. Raymond) have completed their terms and were replaced by Sis. Carol Kafer (Bro. Ben) and Sis. Cinda Fehr (Bro. Ivan).

We thank all the retiring teachers for their faithful service to the children and may God bless both them and our new teachers as they start their terms. Bro. James and Sis. Brenda Fehr and family moved to Tremont and we miss them in Fairbury.

A special thanks to Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) who spent a Sunday morning with us and brought us God's precious Word.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Linda Anliker
Lori Dotterer**

"Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine..." (Zion's Harp #209). July 12-13 was a blessed weekend when we were able to listen to the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four new brothers and sisters. We warmly welcome Sis. Laura Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill), Sis. Jennifer Kerrins (Darren and Peggy), Bro. Mark Schneider (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra) and Bro. Trent Johnson (Bro. Harry and Sis. Til) into the fold. May God continue to be near them and guide them on the pilgrim pathway. We thank our Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) who assisted our Bro. Wayne in this work. Other ministers that shared our pulpit this month were Bros. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA), John Hartman, Dennis Rassi, Dale Stoller and Rick Plattner (all from Fairbury, IL), Brian Huber

(Francesville, IN), Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO), Jeff Grimm, Jaye Rinkenberger, Wayne Wiegand (all from Goodfield, IL), Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL).

We were also blessed with several weddings in our congregation. On June 21, Jenna Walter (Pete and LaRae) became the wife of Matt Kilgus (Lisa). The next day we rejoiced with Bro. Nate Kelson (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sherri) and Sis. Paula Bachtold (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary) as they were joined as one. July 6 was the wedding day of Bro. Mike Grimm (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth) of Goodfield and Sis. Amber Adams (Sis. Sharon). May God richly bless all of these new couples.

We've also been blessed with a couple of new babies this month. Bro. Shawn, Sis. Tami, and Aaron Aberle welcome home Abigail Jane. Her grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne Aberle and Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane Brown. Anthony Alan was born to Bro. Joel and Sis. Lana Lanz. Also welcoming him home was big sister, Alexandra. Anthony's grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane Brown and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne Lanz.

Hospital patients this month are Sis. Emma (Bro. Elmer) Ifft and Josh Schmidgall (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary). We pray that God's healing hand will be upon both of them and that they can soon be assembling with us again.

God has blessed our Bro. Henry and Sis. Marge Friedman with 50 years of marriage together. May He continue to bless them in the years ahead.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Elder Brothers as they will soon be assembling for the Brotherhood Conference. May God grant

them wisdom and grace to seek out His will, and may we as the flock be willing to submit to them.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Rita Bauman
Heather Hohulin**

Bro. Mike and Sis. Amber Grimm (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Grimm and the late Bro. Terry and Sis. Sharon Adams) were united in Holy Matrimony. We pray that God will bless their marriage and new life together.

We were excited to hear of three engagements this month. Bro. Dan Wiegand (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lori) to Sis. Kayla Joos (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Deb) of Morris MN; Sis. Lexi Blunier (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Lucy) to Bro. Ben Ginzler (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary) of Peoria; and Bro. Howard Zobrist to Sis. Helen Hermann of Morton. We pray for each of these couples as they grow toward each other and towards the Lord.

Our prayers are also with those that were in the hospital or had injuries this month. Sis. Elsie Hohulin, Sis. Clem Joos, Bro. Tony Monfre, Sis. Marci Schieler, Donna Rocke and Whitney Wiegand. We pray for each of them that they could feel God's healing hand.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Lydia (Bro. Bill) Hohulin in the loss of her brother, Robert Leman. May God's comfort be with her.

How very thankful we were for our visiting minister this month, Bro. Ed Fritz, and his wife, Sis. Sally. May God bless them for their service to us.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank everyone for the prayers and many cards I received

since my surgery.

Raymon Wagner

**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein**

We enjoyed a nice day of fellowship on Sunday, July 27, when 32 former soldiers met for a "Ft. Sam" reunion. Close ties still remain after 40 years. Three ministers were present: Bros. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA). Each commented how they entered the Army unconverted, and were so glad to attend worship services with the brethren. Surely — as we look back — all the ministers who traveled to San Antonio to conduct worship for our boys were doing the work of God, because many souls turned to the Lord in repentance. Their travels and labors were not in vain.

Sis. Marilyn Schieler was hospitalized a few days due to a slight stroke. She is back home. Also in the hospital were Bro. Bill Butikofer and Bro. Mike Butikofer; and Ron Kinder (husband of Sis. Linda). We pray for a recovery (in each case) according to God's will.

On July 2, Victoria Ranee Witzig was born to Bro. Brandon and Sis. Ranee Witzig. She is their first child. Grandparents are Ron and Judy Schallmo, Chicago, and Bro. Roger and Sis. Elaine Witzig, Gridley. Great-grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marjorie Witzig, Gridley. We offer our best wishes to Bro. Brandon and Sis. Ranee, and may God help them in nurturing this dear child in the ways of the Lord.

A girl was born to Bro. Kyle and Sis. Monica Edelman on June 24. She was named Miah Dailey. She

has two siblings, Drew, 5, and Kyler, 3. Grandparents are Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna Edelman, Fairbury; and Joe Rodriguez, Cropsey. Her deceased grandmother was Debra Dailey Rodriguez. Great-grandparents are Raul and Maria Rodriguez, Oswego and Edna Mueller, Fairbury. May God bless this family, and give grace to the parents as they train up these precious children in God's ways.

In view of family life today (in the world), it is encouraging to note that children can be born into "in-tact" families where God is the center of a marriage, and the family attends worship on Sunday and Wednesday evening. Although the world reels in darkness, true believers can thrive amid the oasis of God's Word and Spirit. And yet, we all must strive to "make our calling and election sure."

May God's Word ever be our guide in this life. Negative influences abound in our nation, not the least of which were the recent Supreme Court decisions. More are likely to come. Perhaps, as never before, the believer in (and follower of) Christ Jesus, has a high calling to be a light. May God help us in this.

**ILLINOIS, MORTON
Julie Bahr
Christie Zeller**

Our Sunday School picnic was held at the Fellowship Hall on Sunday afternoon, June 22. Many enjoyed lots of good food and fellowship.

We are saddened by the move of our Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail Mayo and two of their children, Bob and Molly, to Switzerland. Let's all remember them in prayer.

"Ring the Bells of Heaven..."

Two more dear souls have repented of their sins and were announced for baptism. They are Louise Winemiller and Debbie Warner. May we continue to pray for these dear souls.

Our Elder Bro. Ted Witzig brought us our Family Worship for July on "The Greatest Fish Story Ever Told" from the book of Jonah. These stories can be told over and over again and we never tire of them and their lessons for us all.

Several loved ones have gone Home to be with the Lord. Elmer Stoller passed away June 22. He is survived by his wife, Vivian; one son, Keith; and a daughter, Linda. Brian Spangler of Atlanta, GA, passed away. He is a brother to our Bro. Roger (Sis. Dawn) Spangler. Sis. Louise Koehl of the Peoria congregation passed away. She was a sister to our Sis. Edna Kahler. Robert Lemman of Glendale Heights, IL, passed away. He was the brother of our Sis. Mary Ann Klaus. May our Heavenly Father surround these dear families with His love and comfort.

Our visiting ministers for the month were Bros. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Atlanta, GA), and Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS). May God bless these dear brothers and their families.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Marie Hauter wishes to express our gratitude for the many acts of kindness shown not only in her passing but also during her stay at Restmor. May God bless you for your numerous expressions of love to her.

Her Family

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Lou and Marjean Lonteen

"Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:14

Thank you, visiting ministers: Bro. Brad Baurer (Tucson, AZ), Bro. Fred Funk (Morton), Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), and Bro. Jay Knapp (Tucson, AZ). Bro. Mike Reiker ministered on Family Night, July 2. His topic was "Our Most Precious Freedom".

In times like these you need a Savior,
in times like these, you need an anchor;

be very sure, be very sure,
your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock.

This Rock is Jesus, yes He's the One,

this Rock is Jesus, the only one,
be very sure, be very sure,
your anchor holds, and grips the Solid Rock.

Gospel Hymns #231

Sis. Erin Aupperle (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cindy) and Sis. Julia Stickling (Chris and Sis. Marsha) have found their anchor in Jesus Christ. They shared their testimony of faith with our congregation on June 21 and were baptized on June 22. To God be the glory, great things He hath done.

Andi Gerst (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane) has given her heart to the Lord. The angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents. God grant you wisdom to grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ...with reading His Word, the Holy Bible, speaking to Him in prayer often, and allowing the Holy

Spirit to lead and guide.

Our Wednesday night service was unique. While Bro. Tim Funk was reading the Bible as he ministered to us, the lights went out. When they stayed out, it was suggested that we sing a hymn. There was some light streaming in through the stained glass windows when we joined in singing. "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness, I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest on His unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the vale. On Christ the Solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand." (Hymns of Zion, #99)

Our God has answered many prayers on behalf of Sis. Wendy Menold (Bro. Derek). Sis. Wendy was hospitalized due to a head injury from a fall. In times like these, we have an anchor in Jesus Christ. He is our strength, courage, Helper, and Healer. May God be merciful and allow Sis. Wendy to recover fully. Pray, Oh Church!

Sis. Loretta Eisenmann received a broken arm in a fall. Bro. Dave Hoerr has been a hospital patient and Bro. Paul Meister has had to submit to hospitalization on more than one occasion since his heart surgery. Prayer changes things!

Sis. Margaret Tanner (Bro. John), a resident of the Peoria Skylines, passed away. Our church extends sympathy to her family: Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy Stoller, Bro. Harold and Sis. Imogene Tanner, Bro. Richard and Sis. Marilyn Tanner (Bradford), Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch (Lester, IA), and Sis. Emily Tanner (sister-in-law).

May you know God's comfort in your times of loneliness.

Little Eli Benjamin and Samuel Tate were born on June 26 to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Sara Streitmatter. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane Streitmatter (Princeville), and Bro. Roger and Sis. Vicky Steffen (Remington, IN). Jesus loves the little children!

On June 26 the Sunday School students enjoyed a picnic with their church family following their last classes for the season. Thank you teachers for your diligent service to these little ones. Thank you students for your willingness to learn about our Lord. Thanks congregation for your continued love and support of the Sunday School.

Let's pray together for our nation!

We need...the Ten Commandments, One Nation Under God, In God We Trust, and freedom of religion to be upheld in our land. The Chosen of the Lord can be vigilant in prayer and God will hear and answer.

"And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint." Luke 18:1

"And so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish." Esther 4:16

"And shall not God avenge His own elect which cry day and night unto Him? Though He bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

Luke 18:7,8

There is still room at the inn!
Our retirement home on Skyline Drive has openings of apartments

and assisted living. Whether you can live independently or choose assistance, we have various living arrangements at competitive rates to match your finances. Enjoy wonderful fellowship. You can listen to church services from your apartment or enjoy church via our door-to-door services. Meals, laundry, housekeeping, and assistance are options you can choose. Phone toll free to 877-691-8091, and ask for Matt Feucht or Roger Herman.

Peoria Apostolic Skylines

Found: A coat was left in the back foyer of the church. It is a tan ¾ length Field and Stream coat, size 44. If it belongs to you, please call one of our ministers.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Phyllis Knobloch
Crystal Streitmatter

Though often the heart with
 storms be oppressed,
 Afflictions do smart by Satan distressed,
 "Oh, what shall befall us," We
 wearily sigh;
 Still He who protects us, the Lord
 will provide.

Zion's Harp #86

Our dear Bro. Reuben Feucht, 87, passed away on June 17 after many struggles. We mourn his passing along with his daughter, Elaine Paris, of Agoura Hills, CA; and two sons, Roger (Lynn) and Bro. Jordan (Sis. Kathy), both of Princeville; three sisters, two brothers, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. We miss his Godly countenance and gentle ways.

We heartily welcome Sis. Cheri White to our congregation after her marriage to Bro. Craig White from

here. Her smiling disposition is a blessing to all. I am sure the congregation at Rockville will miss her.

Our church is very grateful for the many visiting ministers we have had this past month, including Bros. Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL) and Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL).

Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) conducted a Bible study on Christ-like Conversation. Thank you for sharing with us many Godly teachings.

Zachary Rumbold, 14, son of Bro. Rick and Sis. Joyce, was hurt in a four wheeler accident. We are thankful he is healing nicely.

Ben and Esther Cozadd, Galesburg, are happy parents of their first child, Gage Benjamin. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Lynn Streitmatter from here and Gale and Bonnie Cozadd from Galesburg. God be with you as you raise your little one.

John DeWolfe, brother of Sharon Eberle (Marvin), of Princeville passed away. Our prayers go out to them.

Alex Stoller (Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia) married Cassie Ritzman (Ike and Karen Dowell) on July 12. The new couple will live in Savoy, IL. God's blessings to you!

Note of Thanks:

I sincerely want to thank you all for the beautiful birthday cards, notes, gifts and flowers I received for my 80th birthday. God's blessings to all!

Sis. Edith Stahl

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Jenell Hodel
Joan Leman

Out of my bondage, sorrow and
 night,
 Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
 Into Thy freedom, gladness and
 light,
 Jesus, I come to Thee;
 Out of my sickness into Thy
 health,
 Out of my want and into Thy
 wealth,
 Out of my sin and into Thyself,
 Jesus, I come to Thee.
Tabernacle Hymns #203,
Verse 1

We are thankful that three more souls have come to Jesus in repentance. They are Gordon and Karen (Brown) Presley and Betsy Riddle. May they feel God's grace as they begin their journey on the narrow way that leads to Heaven.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), and Bro. Dan Beer (Milford, IN). May the Lord richly bless these brothers and their families for their labors on our behalf. Our prayers and support are with our Elder Body as they will be gathering in Morton for the Brotherhood Conference. May they ever feel the power of the Holy Spirit as they strive to preserve our most precious faith.

We rejoice with five couples as they look forward to being united in holy matrimony. They are Bro. Jay Braker (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge) and Sis. Jackie Heimer (Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO); Jamie Hodel (Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy) and Ross Ahrens (Mike and Janet); Jodi Aeschleman (Bro.

Steve and Sis. Jill) and Matt Gordon (Rich and Sharon); Lisa Ott (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marilyn) and Joe Adams (Don and Joan); and Jeffrey Neukomm (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sharon) and Brandi McAdams (Gregory McAdams and Diane McAdams). May the Lord shower His blessings on each of these couples as they make plans to become one in Him.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Pearl Leman, Sis. Leigh Getz (Bro. John and Sis. Lynn), and Jacob Fehr (Bro. Jon and Sis. Jill) as they have spent time in the hospital this past month.

We pray for God's continued blessings of strength and healing for each of them.

We rejoice with Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy Kaeb and Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla Ringger (Gridley, IL) as they have been blessed with a granddaughter. Mya Joy was born July 3 to Bro. Kory and Sis. Megan Kaeb. Also blessed with a little girl are Bro. Reggie and Sis. Lora Wuethrich. Emma Rose was born July 12 and was welcomed home by her siblings, Olivia, Alex and Isaac. Grandparents are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Martha Braker and Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich of Francesville.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you for the prayers, cards, gifts and wishes at the time of my surgery. God bless you.

Sis. Pearl Leman

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Heather Rassi

LaVonne Wagenbach

We appreciate our visitors this month and especially visiting ministering Bros. Andrew Klaus (To-

kyo, Japan), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), and Elder Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL).

We are happy and thankful to welcome our new Bro. Brent Sauder (Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary) and our new Sis. Michelle Mueller (Walter and Peggy Stuber Mueller) into the fold. May they continue to grow as they take their place in the body of Christ.

We rejoice with Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carrie Rocke and big sister, Christina, as they welcome Kaia Lyn into their family. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb Reinbeck and Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth Rocke (Eureka, IL).

We continue to remember our dear ones who have been in the hospital this month. May God's healing hand be upon Bro. Ken Huetter (Sis. Arlene), Bro. Leslie and Sis. Betty Schweigert, Sis. Pauline Sauder (Bro. Willis) and Levi Kaiser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth).

We sympathize with Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb Reinbeck and family on the passing of Larry's brother. We also want to remember Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynette Menold and family on the passing of Ron's mother, Sis. Tillie Menold (Sabetha, KS).

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Dianne Wyss

Marcia Koch

"Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus."

II Cor. 7:6

Recently as our Elder Bro. Ron Messner read from this chapter, he

exhorted us to consider the importance of our roles as comforters and encouragers and to have an awareness that God often uses others to bring comfort to us in return.

We extend our sympathies to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda Thames and their family at the death of Brenda's father, Bro. Robert Kiefer (Oakville, IA). We also extend them to Sis. Kay and Gary Monagle as Gary's father, Alton Monagle, also recently passed away.

We want to thank Bro. Andy Klaus (Sis. Jana, Tokyo, Japan) and Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Sis. Gloria, Cissna Park, IL) for bringing us admonitions and encouragements from God's Word this month.

The Sunday School is our delight, we love it more and more;
'Tis here we learn to do the right and live forevermore.

Hymns of Zion #73

At the completion of another year of Sunday School, our congregation enjoyed a picnic and evening at the park. Sunday School will resume again the end of August.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Elizabeth Frauhiger

Tiffany Aschliman

We were blessed this month to observe the 50th wedding anniversaries of two dear couples. Bro. Claire and Sis. Mary Jane Yergler and Bro. Dwight and Sis. Beverly Troxel each celebrated this milestone in their lives. We wish them God's richest blessings in the coming years.

Our congregation has had the opportunity to hear from several visiting ministers this month. Bros. Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise,

Bluffton North, IN), Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN), and Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) allowed the Holy Spirit to work through them as they ministered to us. We are thankful for their willingness to share the Word with us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have spent time in the hospital this month. We wish God's healing hand upon Sis. Barb Pfister and Bro. Elmer Isch if it would be His will for them.

Several young people have recently turned their backs on the world and decided to serve our Lord in repentance. Regan Reimschisel (Bro. Todd and Sis. Lori), Amanda Isch (Bro. Jim and Sis. Rachel), Amy Neuenschwander (Bro. Dee and Sis. Laura), Kole Meyer (Bro. Greg and Sis. Bev), Lance Pfister (Bro. Courtney and Sis. Jodi), Brad Steffen (Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen), Brandon LaFontaine, and Kevin Isch (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Karen) have all begun their new walk of faith.

"For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living."

Romans 14:9

Bro. Tim and Sis. JaNon Furrer (Prescott, AZ) welcomed their first-born on June 17. Little Alexa Rose came into this world and her excited grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie Fiechter and Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena Furrer (Prescott, AZ).

Keegan Lee Harshman was welcomed into the world on July 9 by Mike and Kristi. His happy grandparents are Bro. Jack and Sis. Diane Schwartz.

Our earnest prayers are with the families in our congregation who

have lost loved ones in the past month. Ryan Heyerly (Bro. Arlin and Sis. Roxanne, Bluffton North) passed away suddenly and we are prayerful for his grandmother, Sis. LaVera Heyerly, as she mourns the death of her young grandson.

Sis. Alice Geisel slipped peacefully to her heavenly home on July 5. Our prayers are with her family, which includes three daughters: Sis. Joyce Yergler (Bro. Rick), Sis. Fonda Fiechter (Bro. Steve) and Sis. Carla Girod, and one son, Marlin. Sis. Alice also left behind one brother and two sisters, Bro. Herman Baumgartner (Sis. Mary, Bluffton North), Sis. Violet Meyer (Bro. Harold) and Sis. Nova Steffen (Bro. Robert). We wish them the comfort of the Holy Spirit in the coming weeks and months.

We rejoice with four dear souls that have entered the fold this month. Sisters Kim Kaehr (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Connie), Jacki Moser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda), Nicole Fiechter (Bro. Brian and Sis. Deb) and Alisha Rager (Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise, Latty, OH) gave their testimonies and were baptized on July 12-13. We were thankful for Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) as he assisted Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz with the testimonies and baptisms.

June 22 was an exciting day for our Sis. Jami Imel as she and Bro. David Pfister (Leo, IN) were joined together in marriage in Leo. Their parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon Imel and Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon Pfister (Leo, IN). We pray a special blessing upon this couple as they make Leo their home.

We were reminded of the might and power of our God this month as we experienced some severe flooding in the Bluffton area. We are so

thankful for the protection that God granted us as we battled the floodwaters. Several members in our congregation were directly affected and experienced first-hand the devastation of the overflowing river. It was an overwhelming sight to see our church and community come together to combat the violent waters. We are grateful to our Lord for His helping hand and for once again bringing us to our knees in prayer as we were struck by the awesomeness of His nature.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Ann Meyer
Tiffani Schladenhauffen**

"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."

Matthew 24:42

Four more souls are ready for the return of our Lord. We rejoiced with Sis. Hannah Rauch (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Jessica Yergler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg), Sis. Javon and Bro. Bryan Steffen (daughter and son of Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori), as we listened to their testimonies and witnessed their baptisms. We pray they will continue to grow in the Lord's grace.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) to assist our Elder Bro. Phil with the testimonies and the baptisms. Also sharing in the weekend with us was Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN) and Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN).

Our prayers are with Bro. Arlin and Sis. Roxanne Heyerly as they mourn the loss of their son Ryan.

We pray that they will seek the peace and comfort that only the Lord can give in these difficult times. We are also prayerful for Bro. Herman Baumgartner (Sis. Mary) in the loss of his sister Sis. Alice Geisel (Bluffton, IN).

Bro. Mick and Sis. Connie Cupp are the thankful grandparents of another little girl, Sophia Michelle Cupp. Sophia Michelle is the daughter of first time parents, Rob and Bridget. Another set of thankful grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Cathy Bussel for a new little grandson, Krew Michael Bussel. He is the son of Bro. Travis and Sis. Missy (Leo, IN).

Visiting the hospital this month were Sis. Becky Bertsch (Bro. Lonnie), Sis. Darlene Habegger (Bro. Sam), Sis. Imogene Aeschliman (Bro. Walter), and Sis. Gladys Fiechter. We lift them up in prayer and hope they can feel the Lord's hand upon them. Our prayers also continue to be with Sis. Rochelle Gerber (Bro. Rod).

The Bluffton area was hit with a flood the first part of July. We pray for all those that were affected. It was an encouragement to see the community pull together. The flood was a good reminder of just what Jesus meant when He said:

"But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great."

Luke 6:49

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Barbara Huber

The following news was sup-

posed to be in the July Silver Lining issue, but was inadvertently omitted:

This month's article will run the gamut from joy and accomplishment to sadness and loss. How thankful we are that we serve a faithful God who provides the grace to live through the cycles of our human life. "For I am persuaded, that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come.

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

May 18 will always be a special day in the lives of our Bro. Michael Anliker and Sis. Mindy Rumbold as they became one in the Lord in the Roanoke Church. Michael is the son of Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karol Anliker of our Francesville congregation and Mindy is the daughter of Bro. Roland and Sis. Carol Rumbold of Roanoke. We wish them God's blessings and bounteous joy as they establish a home centered on Jesus Christ.

On May 28, we enjoyed an inspiring graduation program in honor of our seniors. Many wonderful readings and songs were presented and the graduates were given Bibles by our Sunday School Superintendent, Bro. John Huber. Our graduates are: Sis. Britni Gudeman (Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky), Sis. Joy Gutwein (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice), Andrew Huber (Bro. John and Sis. Bev), Phillip Huber (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki), and Dustin Wuethrich (Bro. Rick and Sis. Judy). We send them on from high school with our love and prayers that they will seek the true growth

and wisdom that comes from God alone. "By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life." (Proverbs 22:4).

We were shocked and saddened at the sudden passing into eternity on June 11 of our beloved Sis. Kathie (Huber) Inuoue of Bloomington, IL, as the result of an automobile accident. Kathie is the daughter of our dear Sis. Carol (Bro. Wayne, deceased) Huber and the sister of our ministering Bro. Brian (Sis. Jacki) Huber. We extend our wholehearted sympathies to all of her dear family as they continue on without her. Hurt and loss such as this is only bearable because of the Holy Spirit's aid. May we all become more committed to living each day as if it were our last in the love, knowledge and service of God the Father through Jesus Christ, His Son. We pray as a Church that her precious family will take comfort from the scripture which they held dear which states: "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Corinthians 15:57)

Our dear Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emilie Anliker have temporarily moved into Parkview Haven. May God's peace and grace carry them through each crossroad of life's journey.

We are blessed and rejoice that the Holy Spirit has beckoned souls to repentance once again in our congregation. May we all consistently pray for the outpouring of grace to all of us to live worthily of Him whose name we bear.

Note of Thanks:

In humility and thankfulness, I wish to express to my dear family, my dear Church family, neighbors and friends my sincere appreciation

to all for remembering me on my birthday. May God bless one and all!

Sincerely, Sis. Minerva Wuethrich

In closing, my beloved readers, we behold the circumstances and events of life through the full spectrum of joy and sorrow. I came across this thought in one of our books that can reassure us of God's constancy and ultimate good will for our lives:

*There's Peace and Calm in the
Twenty-Third Psalm*

With the Lord as our shepherd we
have all that we need
For if we follow in His footsteps
wherever He may lead,
He will guard and guide and keep
us in His loving, watchful care,
And when traveling in dark val-
leys, our Shepherd will be there.
His goodness is unfailing, His
kindness knows no end,
For the Lord is a good Shepherd
on whom we can depend.
So when our hearts are troubled,
we'll find quiet peace and calm
If we open up our Bible and just
read this treasured Psalm.

—Author Unknown

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; he maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

Psalm 23:1-3

The following news was submitted by Sis. Jessica Murray for the August Silver Lining issue:

"And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and showing the glad tidings of the kingdom of

God: and the twelve were with him."

Luke 8:1

We had a great privilege to hear about the "Good News" during our Vacation Bible School. What a great reminder of what we need to be basing our lives on. The Editor of the Bible has the news that we need to be filling our hearts, minds and souls with daily. I found it reassuring that every news article that talks about what is happening in our Nation can be found in the Bible, just how God planned it to be. For those hearing this for the first time, were you not thinking how great is that? The "fact" as we heard about is that our daily news is already outlined from the Top Editor. I had to ask myself, "Am I being the best reporter of the news that I can be?" This is what Jesus wants us to be doing.

"Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

Psalm 127:3

Paul, Anna, Timothy and Emma, along with their parents, Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam Huber, were blessed with a precious baby boy on June 24. Dylan James is a wonderful gift from our Father. May the Lord continue to bless your family.

Our prayers are with Bro. Sid Leman (Sis. Fern) as he spent some time in the hospital this past month. We also offer up our prayers for those who have undergone tests, and some health issues in the past month. May the Lord strengthen you as you seek His will.

We greatly appreciated the ministering brothers who took the time

to prepare, travel and bring us God's Word this past month. May the Lord richly bless you and your families as we continue to pray for you. Thank you Bros. Andy Moser (Sis. Diane, Valparaiso, IN), Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL), Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington, IL), Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), Jim Rinkenberger (Sis. Jeanne, Bluffton, IN), James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ) and Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL).

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank my church family and community for the love, visits, prayers, cards, flowers and food extended to us during Joe's long battle with Lymphoma. Your love and support really made an impact and your thoughtfulness will never be forgotten. A special thank you to our daughters and families for being there when we needed them.

*Sincerely,
Sis. Esther Gray*

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Gail Bradford
Sandy Lichtle**

We want to sincerely welcome Bro. Clint Steffen (Milford, IN) and Bro. Nathan Bertsch (Bluffton, IN) to our congregation. They both have new jobs here in Indy.

We are thankful for the safe return of the group who traveled to Rio Bravo, Mexico, for a work project. They helped with construction on the deaf school there. Also, they held a Vacation Bible School for some children in the community.

We rejoice with Bro. Matt and Sis. Missy Ackerman as they have

been blessed with a daughter, Anna Stratton, born June 17. Welcoming her home are big brothers, Jacob and Joshua, and her grandparents, Bro. Roger and Sis. Margie Ackerman (Morton, IL) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Stratton (Taylor, MO).

Also rejoicing are Bro. Bert and Sis. Karen Aeschliman on the birth of their new granddaughter, Olivia Grace, born June 24. Olivia's parents are Michael and Shannon Farrar of Midland, TX.

Our new Sunday School teachers are Bro. Stan Katanic, Bro. Lee Hoffman and Sis. Shalome Hoffman, and our new Assistant Superintendent is Bro. Jerry Leuthold. May they be granted much wisdom from above as they teach our children.

A picnic was held July 4 at Fort Harrison State Park. A day of delicious food and blessed fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Our congregation was blessed to hear the Word brought forth by two visiting ministers this month. We appreciate the servant hearts of our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN).

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold

The Sunday School is our delight.
We love it more and more.
'Tis here we learn to do the right
And live forevermore.

Hymns of Zion #73

Many thanks to our outgoing Sunday School teachers, Bro. Brad Rocke, Sis. Judy Gudeman and Sis. Bobbi Ann Heinold. We pray each

has felt God's blessing for their efforts. We also are thankful for our new teachers, Bro. Glen Heinold, Sis. Deb Nuest, and Sis. Shirley Frank, and trust God will give them the wisdom to teach our youth.

This month brought joy in La-Crosse as a new baby boy was born to Bro. Brad and Sis. Julie Rocke. Jonathon Bradford was born on July 20. He will be welcomed home by his older sister, Virginia. Grandparents of Jonathon are Bro. Bill and Sis. Jo Frank and Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth Rocke (Eureka, IL).

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

Bro. Gene Stoller has returned to Covington Manor after being admitted to the hospital for congestive heart failure. While hospitalized he had skin grafting on his feet, and is doing much better.

On June 24, Bro. Travis and Sis. Melissa Bussel welcomed their second son, Krew Michael. His brother is Kaden and grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Cathy Bussel (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Jeffery and Sis. Debbie Frieden (Lamont-Gridley, KS).

Bro. David Pfister and Sis. Jami Imel were united in marriage on June 22. Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz pronounced them as one in the Lord. Their parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon Pfister and Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon Imel (Bluffton, IN). Bros. Lynn Fiechter and Ron Kipfer of Bluffton, IN, shared from the Word on this special day. Thoughts shared were decisions we make affect others, Satan does not want our lives to be abundant. Are we people of compassion that really want others to know God? Do we have a message that is

worth sharing?

On July 6, Bro. Fred Eberhardt and Sis. Kathy (Burlington, IA) brought their daughter to serve at Gateway Woods for a couple of weeks as a volunteer. We appreciated his message shared from Psalm 119 and Ephesians 6, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (Eph. 6:10-11). Attack Satan with truth (God's Word), breast plate of righteousness is to protect our heart cleansed by the precious blood of Jesus and the helmet of salvation is to protect our minds from Satan's games.

Bro. Ben Manz and Sis. Carolyn (Junction, OH) visited us on July 13. Bro. Ben supported Bro. Steve Stieglitz who was alone for the day. Some thoughts gleaned from the messages the Spirit prompted through reading of John 10, Isaiah 14 and Matthew 23 were: the Good Shepherd (God) calls us and trusts us to follow Him, we choose. In both Isaiah and Matthew we read of God's rejection of pride. Pride is the believer's greatest danger. Worship is an attitude we produce from what we hear.

Bro. Marvin Fischer is home, but is still in a lot of pain. Our prayers are with you both, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Pat.

INDIANA, MILFORD Carlton Beer Paula Haab

Our annual church picnic is always a time of good food but more importantly an evening of good Christian fellowship with our church family. It was the same week

as our World Relief project so Bros. Jeff Moser and Joel Virkler were able to attend. We thank them for spending the week to help us, as a church, make home improvements for our friend, Jeanette Vice.

Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Haab became grandparents to a second granddaughter, along with Greg and Susan Koutsoursos, when Hannah Grace was born to their daughter, Kelly, and husband, Greg, on June 27. Hannah will receive TLC not only from parents and grandparents, but also from big sister, Kylie.

Once again we've been blessed with ministers willing to come spend time with us and teach, admonish and encourage us in God's Holy Word. Bro. Allen Stoller and Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Todd Stoller and Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) have all visited Milford recently along with their wives. We have also enjoyed so much those that came with them and our usual summer lake visitors.

Bro. Ray (Sis. Paula) Haab fell and developed other health problems and has been hospitalized several days. May he feel God's divine healing as he recovers.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank our church family, both far and near, for all the love shown to us during Ray's recent hospitalization, and especially for all the prayers uttered in his behalf. The many cards, phone calls, visits, and gifts were greatly appreciated.

Ray and Paula Haab and family

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Rochelle Ward
Beth Virkler

Ring the bells of Heaven, there is joy today,
 For a soul returning from the wild.
 See the Father meets her out upon the way,
 Welcoming His weary, wandering child.

What appropriate words to sing whenever we hear of a soul turning their back upon the world. Janessa Wahl (Bro. Fred and Sis. Libby) has decided to seek Jesus in the days of her youth.

Sis. Norm Wasner was moved to Rensselaer Care Center, 1309 E. Grace Street, Rensselaer, IN 47978, to complete her recuperation from surgery.

On July 19-20, Remington along with Wolcott and West Lafayette churches hosted all the high school Sunday school students and teachers of the Indiana churches. This is commonly called Christian Endeavor. This year, approximately 90 students gathered on Saturday at our local World Relief distribution center to work together doing several hours of World Relief projects. Then the usual supper and evening of games where they mix and meet youth from other churches.

On Sunday, a Sunday school lesson was presented on "what makes us, as humans, truly significant and full of purpose in our lives." After sharing various forms available in our culture in finding temporal significance, Jesus Christ was clearly presented as the one who could fulfill our greatest human need for significance. We thank each parent and student who yielded their talents in a multitude of ways to create

two days of fellowship. Many of us can trace some of our current friendships as brethren back to these Sunday school gatherings where we first met as strangers.

As you read this August Silver Lining issue, school bells are ringing loudly. As our youth prepare to return to the schools of learning, let us all pray that God will continue to show us how to train our children to put on the full armor of God that they may withstand the spiritual warfare all around them.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Samantha Gramm
Kara Beebe

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Psalm 133:1

We welcome two new couples to our South Bend church family: Bro. Tim and Sis. Melisa Gerst and their little daughter, Anelyse, from Iowa City; and Bro. Barry and Sis. Myra (Isch) Beer (Milford/Bluffton) who were recently married and are making their home in South Bend. It is a blessing to have each of you in our congregation.

We wish God's blessings and guiding hand upon Ila Langhofer and Benjamin Woolet who were married on July 5. Parents are Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer and Ted and Cindy Woolet.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Ed Lester

Greetings of love and joy to all believers around the world. We at Valpo have had an underlying theme being pressed on us by the

Holy Spirit lately (at least that's what I have felt). Living your life Godly, soberly, and righteously. Keeping yourself actively pursuing God's Word, praying and being diligent. On a personal experience I was doing some work in Peoria. My day had been an absolute disaster, and just when I least expected it God showed right up! He gave me an opportunity to help spread the message. With a lot of help from above I was able to help a homeless man to lunch and a brief message of God's everlasting grace. Wow! was I scared. I have never done anything like this before. I am not sure if my words were taken to heart; but looking back maybe that lesson was for me, not the person I was trying to help? You see a lot of people are called but so few these days respond. That's just the way God has it planned out. Maybe we could take a few more steps outside of our comfort zone and enlighten someone else about Jesus? Never pass up a chance to let God work in you!

This past month we have been planting some seeds of love for our children's benefit at Vacation Bible School. We want to thank Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI), Bro. Neal Widmer (West Lafayette, IN), and Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) for being with us and their fellowship. Everyone had a great time.

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

Proverbs 8:17

Also we would like to thank Bro. Nile Bucher and Sis. Phyliss (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), and Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) for worshipping with us and review-

ing the church Memorandum.
God bless.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Nettie Haab
Diana Houston**

"One Lord, one faith, one baptism..."

Eph. 4:5

"Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul."

Psalms 66:16

We heard precious testimony and witnessed the baptism of Nathan and Kelli Pritts (Waibel), whom we now call Brother and Sister in the Lord. We heard God's grace described as "the Lord's assistance". Our reward is "a trip to Heaven". Such precious testimony to hear and learn from.

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"

Romans 5:1

We thank the visiting ministers for sharing in this special weekend: Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN) and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), and in the past month sharing the Word with us were Bros. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN), Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL) and Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN).

Greg and Kelli Koutsouros had a little girl Hannah born June 27. Kylie is her sister. Kelli's parents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Haab (Milford, IN).

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Heidi Bahler
Luann Gerber**

After a week of heavy rains every day, we are very thankful for the beautiful sunshine! Whether we receive heavy rains or drought, we must always remember that God is in control and He knows what is best for us. Let us not murmur and complain, but give thanks for whatever comes our way!

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held June 29 and was enjoyed by young and old alike! It is always such a blessing to be together in a more casual setting and enjoy catching up on each others' lives! There is always plenty of delicious food and beautiful singing! The children enjoy the playground and basketball court! During our program, our graduates are recognized and the children are promoted to the next Sunday School class. It is something we all look forward to every year!

Our recent ministering brothers have been Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN), Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA). May God bless them for their labors of love!

Our dear Sis. Josephine Kyburz's earthly race has been run and she is safe in the arms of Jesus! We will all miss her sweet smile! May God comfort her dear family in our congregation: Bud (Fran) Klopfenstein, Sis. Edna Kyburz and Sis. Vi Kyburz.

**IOWA, BURLINGTON
Lana Metzger
Brenda Schulz**

Greetings! We rejoice with Bro.

Gary and Sis. Melody Schulz who were married this month. Parents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy Schulz (Oakville) and Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie Knobloch (Lester, IA). We welcome Sis. Melody to our congregation.

Also, we are happy that Sara Massner has been granted peace from God. She is the daughter of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail; they all just recently moved to West Bend. We miss them, but wish them happiness at their new church home. We look forward to her testimony and baptism, Lord willing, in the near future. It is planned to be held here at Burlington.

We are sorry we inadvertently left out last month that our high school graduates this year were Sara Massner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail) and Adam Heiniger (Tim and Gena). We wish them God's blessings in their future.

We also enjoyed a visit from Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen) from Champaign, IL, several weeks ago. May God bless them for their efforts.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

To have and to hold, from this day forward...
 For better, for worse. For richer, for poorer...
 In sickness and in health, forsaking all others...
 Till death do us part.

Nathan Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet) and Melissa McNally (Terry and Kaylene) were married July 5. They took their vows before God and man, promising to be faithful to each other. May

they look to God for wisdom as they begin their life together.

Sharla Schneider (Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue) has been announced for peace and is looking forward to making her vows of faithfulness to God in the baptismal waters. We rejoice with her coming to this point in her journey with God.

Again, students are preparing and looking forward to returning to school. May we remember them in our prayers, especially our young converts and members who desire to witness for the Lord in a place where so much emphasis is placed on achievements in extra-curricular activities and when peer pressure is at a peak.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Willa Clark

Visiting ministering brothers this month have been Bros. John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO), and Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Gerry Hertz (Sabetha, KS) who shared the Memorandum. We thank each one for their diligence pointing us down the pathway to Heaven as they teach the true Word of God.

Visitors approaching our Garden Grove church for the first time may find the road signs confusing, because they don't match the directions given in the church directory. The road name has been changed to 320th Avenue, and now has new street signs marking it as such. Signs bearing the name given in the directory have been removed.

This brings to mind this thought: What if we had directions for the path to Heaven (the Bible), but the markers along the way (words of our ministers) didn't match?

We might wander around and find our way to Heaven without good road signs, but how blessed we are that our ministers guide us faithfully! Praise God for His faithful servants!

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer

September 21 will be our annual picnic for the college students in the Iowa City area. We encourage the students and their families/friends to come visit us for the day and attend the picnic after worship services.

We want to thank our Sunday School teachers for this past year and encourage our newly elected teachers for the coming year. Our new teachers are Bro. Ben Weyrick (Sis. Wendy), Sis. Becky Snodgrass (Bro. Wayne) and Sis. Sharon Gerst. We will pray for them throughout the year as they teach our children about our Lord and Saviour.

IOWA, LESTER
Dawn Knobloch
Dawn Metzger

Three couples exchanged their marriage vows this past month. We pray that God will bless these couples and will be ever present in their married lives. On June 22, Bro. Gary Schultz and Sis. Melody Knobloch were united in marriage. Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy Schultz (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie Knobloch are the parents. Travis Dettwyler and Tammy Wulf were married on June 28. Parents of this couple are Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene Dettwyler (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky Wulf. Exchanging their

wedding vows on July 6 were Bro. Jeff Leuthold and Sis. Amber Metzger. Bro. Harvey and Sis. Mary Metzger and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki Leuthold are their parents.

Because of these joyous occasions, our congregation was blessed with many visitors. Among these visitors included the following ministers: Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Bro. Dale Banwart (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS).

Bro. Mychal and Sis. Dawn Van Wyhe's lives were blessed with the arrival of Jordan Mychal on June 27. Megan is now a big sister. Grandparents are Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Wyhe and Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon Koehl (Morris, MN). Sis. Zelma Knoblock is a great-grandmother to Jordan.

Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Linda Meyer (Bro. Dean) and Isaac Knobloch (Dustin and Michelle). We trust God will share His healing power with these loved ones.

We want to extend our sympathy to Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch and their family in the death of Sis. Wilma's mother, Sis. Margaret Tanner (Bradford, IL).

Our congregation welcomes Bro. Greg Johnson (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Micah Gherian (Junction, OH) into our fellowship. As we welcome these brothers into our midst, we bid farewell to Bro. Josh and Sis.

Tina Walder and Sis. Katie Kellenberger. May God's blessings go with them as Bro. Josh and Sis. Tina move into the Congerville, IL, area and Sis. Katie looks for employment in the Gridley, IL, area.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

We welcome three dear lambs to the fold. We recently heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of our new Sisters Alicen Wagenbach (Bro. Colin and Sis. Barb) and Rachel Gerst (Bro. Fred and Sis. Susan) as well as our new Bro. Jeremy Steiner (Bro. John and Sis. Carol). We are so thankful for each one and pray they can continue to feel the Lord's grace and guidance and that we can continue to be good examples to them as we walk this narrow way.

We recently held our Sunday School elections. New teachers for this year will be Bros. Aaron Schmidgall, Ron Lanz and Sean Gray and Sisters Kelly Lanz and Rosemary Larson. Our prayers are with them as they look to the Lord for help in instructing our youth. We also want to thank those who've completed their terms. May the Lord bless them for their years of service.

Our prayers and sympathies are extended to three dear families:

Bro. Bob Kiefer recently was called to his eternal home after a battle with cancer. He will be greatly missed by his dear wife, Sis. Delores, and his children, Mark and Mindy Kiefer, Mary Lou Grimm, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda Thames and Bro. David and Sis. Becky Kiefer, as well as his grandchildren, twin brother and a large host of fam-

ily and friends.

Bros. Paul Wagenbach (Sis. Dorothy), John Wagenbach, Jr. (Sis. Marilyn), Gerald Wagenbach, Sr. (Sis. Bonnie) and Sisters Verna Woodward (Bro. Marvin), Dorothy Schulz (Bro. Myron), Teresa Marti (Bro. Erv), Ada Massner (Bro. Earl), Barbara Massner (Bro. Virgil), Bertha Lee Massner (Bro. Doss) and Delores Anliker (Bro. Dan) have recently laid to rest their dear earthly sister, Sis. Edith Wagenbach. May they look forward to that reunion day when they can join together again with their parents and now their two dear sisters that have gone before.

We truly want to remember our dear Sis. Lorraine Whipple in the passing of her husband, Lawrence. Our sympathies are extended also to his children, James and Denise Whipple, Gail Bennett, Twila and Todd Martin, Martha and Rick Noll, as well as his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and two sisters, as well as many others that knew and loved him. May the Lord be near each one.

We just sincerely pray the Lord can comfort each of these dear families in their loss.

We would like to thank each of our visiting ministers who have labored on our behalf. May the Lord truly bless each one. They include Elder Bros. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Bros. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA), Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Vern Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA).

IOWA, PULASKI
Katrina Knobloch

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

Nehemiah 4:6

Even though in Nehemiah's time, the wall was the one that surrounded the city, it still served much of the same purpose that the wall of our new church does. It defines the boundary and keeps out danger and marks a place of refuge and safety.

We were thrilled and humbled at the same time as we watched and worked together with many brethren from many places as the walls were raised and the roof was built upon them. Interior walls were assembled and began to give our new church building specific meaning, especially to certain areas, just as the plans had called for. Each of us can see also, how in our own spiritual walk, as we are to be a temple of the Living God, that exterior walls for protection, and interior walls for meaning and edification are so useful and necessary.

Windows and doors are put in where the plans have determined they might serve a purpose. Our Master builder also puts in windows and doors of opportunity in our lives to use them for good. Nehemiah more than once prayed to God, that he might be remembered for good. And just as the people in the city then, had the blessings of goodness of Nehemiah to oversee the work, we also feel the blessedness and goodness of our fellow laborers as our project moves along.

Much needs to be done yet, perhaps by the time you read this bricks will be starting to rise on the outside. Most of the interior remains to be done yet, and hopefully will never be done till the Lord comes, because it is indeed a house of prayer and our prayers toward our Heavenly Father for each other will never cease from within the walls. Thank you all for your help and prayers.

A special thank you also to those who shared God's Word with us this month: Bros. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) and Kim Sutter (Sis. Vonette, Taylor, MO).

Our prayers go out to Bro. Robert Wuthrich, Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Sis. Karoline) and Bro. Joel Wuthrich (Sis. Shirley) in the loss of their brother-in-law, Bro. Robert Kiefer (Sis. Delores, Oakville, IA).

IOWA, WEST BEND
Berniece Banwart
Lori Skoglund

It was a beautiful Sunday on June 22 when Bro. Jeremy Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee) and Sis. Nancy Zaugg (Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly) exchanged vows and became one in Christ. They have established a home in Grimes, IA, and plan to assemble with the congregation in nearby Garden Grove. We wish them godliness and contentment in their new life together.

Visiting ministers this past month have been Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Fort Scott, KS), Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Dan

Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL). We appreciate all of their efforts on our behalf.

Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane Luthi and family from Lamont-Gridley, KS, visited relatives in our area and many gathered to enjoy an evening of singing and fellowship with them.

Many traveled to Cissna Park, IL, to the home church of Bro. Jacob Johnson (Bro. Curt and Sis. Bev Knapp) to witness his baptism. He is appreciated in our single group and congregation.

Thankful first-time parents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Denise Fehr with the arrival of Damon Carl on July 4. Nearby grandparents to welcome him are Bro. David and Sis. Yvonne Bruellman and Bro. James and Sis. Sharon Fehr.

We welcome Sis. Ruth Metzger who has recently moved from Elgin, IA, to live in our community's new assisted living facility. Also, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail Massner and Sara have moved here from Burlington, IA. Sara has been announced as having found peace. May these loved ones feel a warm welcome as they adjust to the changes in their lives.

Sis. Teresa (Bro. Larry) Bruellman was briefly hospitalized for treatment of an eye condition. One can always appreciate good health even more after a time of trouble.

JAPAN, TOKYO
Marie Inoue

Our rainy season continues on and on, so we have had very little sunshine in the last two months. We really have enjoyed the cool weather, though. In a few weeks the rains will diminish, and our hot

weather will be here.

Our ministering Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana Klaus and family have gone to the States for three months with Andrew returning periodically for his work. While there they await the birth of their new baby. We miss them already, and our prayers for them include many joys and blessings as they reunite with many relatives and friends in their home churches. Sis. Grace Klaus will leave shortly to join them. They are all looking forward to attending a wedding in the Klaus family.

We enjoyed a picnic at Kinuta Park on Sunday with our single group. We finished by singing hymns on the picnic benches. It is always special to enjoy God's creation and even more special to sing of His wondrous love for us.

We are keeping several families in our prayers at this time as Bro. Kan Umemura's father recently underwent cancer surgery. The Hashimoto's daughter-in-law is seriously ill with cancer also. Our hearts go out to them as the needs of their body and soul are great.

KANSAS, BERN

Sally Strahm

Lori Baumgartner

We have been experiencing very hot temperatures here in northeast Kansas. Yesterday, as the thermometer climbed to 101 degrees F., the crops in the fields and the flowers and vegetables in the gardens looked very wilted and parched. It was obvious that everything was under a lot of stress. As the sun went down and a cool front blew in, we were blessed with a little rain. It was encouraging to awaken this morning and see the vegetation looking renewed and refreshed. It reminded

me of a passage in God's Word:

"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22-23

How often we as Christians have experienced the Lord's compassion new every morning. Each and every one of us has had those days when we feel the extreme heat and stress of Satan's darts. As we have kneeled by our beds at night, we have pleaded for God's mercy and His sustaining grace to withstand another day. So many times we have awakened the next morning to feel once again God's mercy and compassion. The problems of yesterday have gone down with yesterday's sun. We feel renewed and ready to face another day. It is then that we feel humbled at how great is the faithfulness of our God.

We rejoice with those who have welcomed new babies into their families. On July 2, Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane Strahm were blessed with a son, Spencer John. He joins his sisters, Malerie, Michaela and Shayna, at home. His grandparents are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie Strahm and Bro. James and Sis. Lou Menold.

We rejoice with Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois Hartter on the birth of a new grandson, Jackson Mason. Jackson was born on June 9 to Jeff and Stacia Bone (Lawrence, KS). He is welcomed home by his sisters, Sophia and Elena.

We appreciated the visiting ministers that have shared God's Word with us this past month. They were Bros. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), Jeff Streitmatter III

(Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL) and Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS).

Hospitalized during the past month were Tara Rokey (Bro. Joe D. and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Marie Grimm. We pray that the Lord may provide healing according to His will.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held on July 2. We wish to thank the Sunday School teachers who were involved in organizing this event. We as parents appreciate all of the time and efforts that each teacher has given throughout the year.

Our last Sunday of Sunday School for this term will be July 27. The new term will resume on September 7. The teachers whose terms will be ending are Bro. Duane Meyer (Sis. Holly), Bro. Adrian Strahm (Sis. Harriet) and Sis. Jana Strahm (Bro. Faron). The teachers replacing them are Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori), Bro. Todd Rokey (Sis. Sheila) and Sis. Edie Strahm (Bro. Richard). May each teacher feel the Lord's guidance and direction as they instruct our youth.

Several from our Bible Class as well as teachers and parents were able to go on a work team to Rio Bravo, Mexico, on July 5-July 12. Many that went expressed the many blessings that they experienced and the beautiful relationships that were built. We are thankful that many from our congregation had the opportunity to go and give of their time and talents in a place of need.

"The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him."

Lamentations 3:25

We rejoice with Waymer and Pauline Esslinger who have been announced as having found peace with God. May they feel the Lord's nearness as they await baptism.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Ruth Bahr

This month God's Word was proclaimed through Bro. Walter Herrmann (Sis. Betty, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL). We are thankful for their coming.

Turning their thoughts to helping others, Tom Byler and daughter, Kimberly, and Sis. Alyssa Banwart joined a group from our area churches going to Rio Bravo July 5 - July 12.

"They helped every one his neighbor; and every one said to his brother, be of good courage."

Isaiah 41:6

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Eileen Bahr

The Lord has blessed us with a bountiful wheat harvest and we're grateful to have it completed with no accidents or storms. Grandson Krew Michael Bussel timed his entrance into the world just right. Grandpa Jeff and Sis. Debbie Frieden finished their wheat harvest the day before. Krew was born June 24 and was welcomed into the home of Bro. Travis and Sis. Melissa Bussel and brother, Kaden, at Ossian, IN.

You can retire the librarian but you can't take the library interest out of the librarian! I recently read the new biography of Grace

Burnham, "In The Presence of My Enemies". She and her husband were held hostage in the Philippines. Widowed, she now lives with her three children in Rosehill, KS, close to Wichita. This moving book can be requested through an inter-library loan at your library.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger
Jeanelle Plattner

Bro. Roger and Sis. LaVonne Aberle are thankful for the arrival of their granddaughter, Klaire Zelma, born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Dorine Aberle (Kansas City, MO). Klaire has a brother, Kalahan, to also welcome her home.

Sis. Tillie Menold went to her reward on July 12. Although it was a blessing for her, it really leaves an empty place for those left behind. We extend our sympathy to her son, Bro. Ron, and wife, Sis. Lynette, and family (Morton, IL) and hope they often return for a visit.

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

Sunday, July 13, was our designated visiting minister day and the Lord provided. Bro. Byron Stoller and Sis. Carol made the long trip from Gridley, IL, to Wichita where we were refreshed and nurtured with the messages he delivered through the inspired Word.

Last month I reported that Bro. Milton Bowers was experiencing health problems. Now this month, I must tell you that his dear wife, Sis. Lillian, is homebound with her health problems. Bro. Milton Bowers has been to morning services this past month.

I would like to devote the rest of

this column to the Bowers' son, Bro. Phil. Phil's life is one remarkable testimony of the wonders God works in a soul. Due to a teenage accident, Phil has been confined to the life of a paraplegic. Most of us would think that such a future would be a dismal experience. But because Phil was born into a loving family which refused to submit to defeat, Phil was able to continue his education. Not only did he graduate from high school, but in the years from 1982-1991 he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education and a Master's Degree in Educational Psychology from Wichita State University. Not only did Phil go to classes but an aide, usually some family member, accompanied him. They were responsible for getting research materials for him and turning in his papers.

While in graduate school, he was a teaching assistant in the Learning Resource Center. That opened the door for him to have a permanent teaching position until that department closed in the spring of 2000. But God opened the door for another position as Academic Advisor and Study Skills Coordinator for the TRIO Disability Support Services program. TRIO programs are federally funded programs that identify promising students, prepare them to do college-level work, and once these students enter college, offer tutoring and support services to retain and eventually get them to graduate with a BA degree. This program at Wichita is one of fourteen federally funded disability support services in the USA and the only one in the Midwest!

Phil's list of responsibilities is mind boggling. He advises and monitors forty students and is also responsible for planning and

scheduling all the study skills and life skills workshops for the 115 students in the program. It is his responsibility to have the necessary technical materials available as students need them.

Phil is required to attend two training workshop/conferences each academic year. This year he attended a conference in Maui, HI. Six family members went with him and provided the assistance that he needed. They had four days of sight-seeing and three days spent in training. Phil's most lasting memories of the trip include the colors of all the flowers and the ocean waters.

In conclusion, not only did God provide family support, but He placed Phil in a location with opportunities for service. The path has not been easy and was often beset with health problems. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Glenda Neukomm

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ... That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ."

Phil. 1:6,10

The Christian's Vegetable Garden

First, plant four rows of peas:
Presence, promptness, perseverance,
preparation.
Next, plant three rows of squash:
Squash gossip, Squash indifference,
Squash unfair criticism.
Then plant four rows of lettuce:
Let us be faithful to God, Let us
love one another,

Let us be true to our obligations,
Let us obey the rules of Christian
stewardship.

No garden is complete without
some turnips:

Turn up with a smile, Turn up
with bright new ideas,

Turn up with determination to
make every minute count.

Let's plant these as early as possible
so they may be enjoyed all
year long.

These "vegetables" when planted
and carefully cultivated will re-
ward you with

A RICH HARVEST!

—Audrey Stott

On Sunday, June 29, we were able to share Communion. Our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) and Elder Bro. David Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron, OH) led us in this holy sacrament. We also enjoyed a potluck and singing on Saturday evening at the church. A rich blessing was received by all those who were present. May the Lord bless our Elder brothers who came and carried out this important work.

The weekend of July 19-20, we hosted a group of U of I young people from Champaign; also a carload of sisters from Iowa, Kansas, Indiana and Illinois; and a carload of brothers from Kansas joined us. Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) also came with the Champaign group and ministered the Word to us. We were so blessed by the ministry of the Word. May the Lord richly bless him for bringing the inspired Word of God to us.

We appreciate also other ministering brothers who came to Lexington recently. They are Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN), Bro. Chris

Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, LaCrosse, IN), and Bro. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL). May the Lord richly bless them for their many efforts put forth for our small flock in Lexington.

Our congratulations go out to Bro. Philip Germann, as he has completed his high school studies. We wish him the Lord's guidance and rich blessings as he seeks the Lord's will for the future.

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

MEXICO, IXTLAN Claudia Gonzalez

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Isaiah 1:18

We could rejoice with thankful hearts as we heard the testimony of Roberto Sanchez on July 12. Once again we were witnesses of the power of the Holy Spirit working in the life of this soul, until his sins were as white as snow. We welcome Bro. Roberto Sanchez as a new member in our spiritual family as he was baptized on Sunday the 13th.

"This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."

Luke 22:19

Our little congregation was very privileged to take Holy Communion, which was served to us by Elder Bros. Mike Leman (Denver, CO)

and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) who also came down for the baptism. We were reminded about the suffering and the price that our Saviour had to pay for our sins. We also were encouraged to serve the Lord and be close friends to Him and also to our brothers and sisters in Christ like He was a close friend to His disciples. May the Lord bless these Elders who were able to worship and fellowship with us this weekend.

We have been very blessed with many visitors this summer. Thanks to all of you who have come to share God's love and Word with us.

This month little David Cabrera had surgery but, thanks to the Lord, he has been recuperating very well. We can see he runs again. His parents are Bro. Efrain and Sis. Ana Cabrera.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Terri Huber

Rose Watson

The angels in Heaven are rejoicing! The believers in Alto are also rejoicing over the repentance of two souls. Victoria Schlatter (Bro. John and Sis. Stephanie) and Isaac Blough (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Liz) have both at a tender young age made known their desire to serve the Lord.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Myrna Steffen (Bro. Carl) on the death of her brother, Joe Pashak, of Bay City, MI.

Hospitalized but on the road to recovery last month were: Sis. Helen Steffen, Sis. Melva Oesch, Sis. Kate Wheeler, Bro. Paul Jackson, little Maria Blough (Carl and Brenda) and Craig Huber.

Congratulations are in order for Bro. Ben Kaeb (Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne) on his graduation from

Michigan State University. We will also be saying goodbye to him for a couple of years as he begins further studies and work at Iowa State University in the specialized field of Entomology.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation go to the Martin family for including Alto as a stop on their reunion vacation. As a result, we were able to enjoy a time of fellowship at an all-church potluck dinner and the blessings of visiting ministering Bros. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) and Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN).

Finally, we have truly enjoyed getting to know Bro. Robert Herrmann during his summer stay in Alto. We will miss his fellowship as he returns to Illinois in August.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Sarah Knochel

Janelle Ramseyer

We rejoice with first-time parents, Brad and Gina Senkowski, in the birth of their son, Samuel Arthur, born July 4. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol Meylan from our congregation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Erin Munsel (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lynette) and Sis. Emily Rechsteiner as they both received medical attention this past month. We pray for restoration of health and comfort for both of these dear ones.

May the Lord richly provide for Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) as he recently spent a Wednesday evening with our congregation. We are thankful for the warmth of summer and the blessings we receive by having visitors in our presence.

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love!
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are
one,
Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in
heart,
And hope to meet again.

We pray for Sis. Maryann Ramseyer (Bro. Neil and Sis. Sharon) as she has felt led to move to the Phoenix, AZ, area where she has accepted a teaching position. We pray that the Lord will be with her as she worships with the brethren there. She will surely be missed by our congregation.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Krista Wieland

We are happy to announce that Brice Gasser (Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue) has been announced for peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing his testimony of faith in Jesus Christ.

We wish to thank all who participated and helped out with our annual Vacation Bible School, especially ministering Bro. Keith Beyer and co-chairs, Sis. Kristine Krieger and Sis. Pam Gleichman. It was a true blessing to everyone involved and our prayers are for the seed to blossom in each young per-

son's heart who attended.

July 13 was our annual Benefit Day program for Woodhaven Retirement Community and Woodpointe. We wish to sincerely thank everyone who attended and supported this worthy mission, including visiting ministers, Bro. Bill Waibel from Bay City, MI (Sis. Carol), Bro. Howard Plattner from Alto, MI (Sis. Kristen) and Bro. Akito Inoue from Tokyo, Japan (Sis. Marie). Also visiting our congregation this month was ministering Bro. Duane Rocke from Minneapolis, MN (Sis. Bonnie). Thank you all for preaching the Word to us.

We recently had our church business meeting and the following brethren were asked to serve in their respective responsibilities: Sis. Martha Gleichman is our new secretary; Bro. Scott Bahr is our new Sunday school teacher; Bro. Tom Hitz is our new trustee; and our new substitute Sunday school teachers are: Bro. Andy Wieland; Bro. Phil Bahr; Sis. Kelly Ramseyer; and Sis. Crystal Frank. Thank you to all whose terms have expired.

We bid farewell to Bro. Josh Overmyer who will be going back to Purdue for schooling in August and wish him God's blessings in the year ahead.

We wish to remember Sis. Kathryn Losiewicz as she has undergone hip replacement surgery. Please pray for her recovery.

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Diane Stewart**

We so appreciate our many visiting ministers: our Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN), Bros. Al Schambach (Sis. Sa-

rah, Remington, IN), Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL), Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL), and Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA). God bless them for their words of wisdom and their willingness to serve.

College graduates include Sis. Stephanie Knobloch (Bro. Damon) with a M.S. in nursing as a nurse practitioner and Rick Tilbury (Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb) with a bachelor's degree in computer science. May they use their newly acquired skills and knowledge to the honor of God.

Hospitalized this past month have been Sis. Kathryn Blunier for insertion of a pacemaker and Bro. David Stewart (Sis. Diane) for treatment of pneumonia.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Katie Koehl
Cheryl Messner**

A special joy was added to two young families when they were blessed with babies. Jed Allen Feuchtenberger was born to Bro. Craig and Sis. Paula on July 7. He will be enjoyed by his brothers, Max, Alex and Ty. Bro. Chris and Sis. Shelly Koehl welcomed Grant David into their family on July 8. Olivia Kaitlin, Anthony and Candice are happy to have a baby brother. May God continue to grant these couples Godly wisdom.

On July 6, the engagement of Bro. Eric Leman (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge) from Eureka, IL, and Sis. ReKeeta Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane) was made known. May they continue to seek God's will as they plan their future together.

The betrothal of Bro. Dan Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Sis. Kayla Joos was announced on July

13. Parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Lori Wiegand and Bro. Harv and Sis. Deb Joos. May God grant heavenly guidance in their future.

Sis. Gladys Koehl and Sis. Edith Joos (Bro. Albert) remain in Hospice care. Sis. Esther Koehl and Sis. Crystal Luthi (Bro. Reuben) spent time in the hospital. Bro. Paul Wulf suffered an arm injury, but seems to be healing well. They all appreciate our love and prayers.

Visiting ministers included Bros. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH). We are thankful our ministers, inspired by the Holy Spirit, bring forth God's true Word.

**MISSOURI, LAMAR
Wendy Braker
Becky Marti**

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

July 5-6 we were privileged to hear the testimonies and then witness the baptisms of two dear souls. We welcome Sis. Dana Braker (Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller) and Sis. Venetta Banwart (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Carolyn) into our fellowship. We were thankful to have Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) serve us from the pulpit that weekend. This month we also appreciated the visits of Bros. Neal Widmer (West Lafayette, IN) and Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS)

and their willingness to be used in the Lord's service.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

Visiting ministers this summer include Bros. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL), Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL), Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA), Jon Zeller (Sis. Christy, Morton, IL) and Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL). They, along with many other visitors, blessed our St. Louis congregation, and we say "thank you". We have had some typically hot, humid weather this summer, which makes the indoor attractions like the Arch, the Science Center and the Magic House more attractive to some of the visitors than the Zoo, Grant's Farm, or the Botanical Garden.

Visitors are encouraged to call the St. Louis Convention and Visitors' Commission (800) 325-7962 to order a packet of helpful information before their trip.

Due to completed road construction between I-70 and our church, we have new directions. Hwy. 94 is still under construction, and you can still come that way, but the following is easier:

From I-70 take Exit 229A (Fifth Street South). Follow signs to the Family Arena; name of road changes to River Road at 2nd stop light. Turn left at the next signal onto Arena Parkway. Keep going past the Arena for 3 miles. The church is down on the right. If you get to Jung's Station Road, turn around and go back ¼ mile. The church is 5 miles south of I-70.

One visiting minister commented on how the landscape had changed with all of the construction

on Hwy. 94. They were relying on memory to make the right turns to get to church, but everything looked different to them since the last time they had been in St. Louis. Not keeping track of the distance from I-70, they missed the turn, had to drive a ways before they could turn around, and arrived after services had started. He reminded us that spiritually, we are not to rely on our own understanding. We need to keep going back to the Word and reading God's directions to reach our goal. We can be deceived by Satan, who is a master of twisting the Scripture, if we don't go back to the Bible to be reminded of, and learn more of, God's plan. Unlike the earthly landscape, the truths of the Bible don't change. But relying on our memories can be hazardous.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Susan Haerr

Due to our annual July Bible studies, as well as a busy, summer travel season, we have been blessed with many visiting ministers this month. They include Bros. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA), Dave Obergfel (Sis. Kathleen, Peoria, IL), Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN), Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL), Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL), Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) and Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL). We thank each of you for being willing to use the gift that God has given you to bless us.

We are excited to announce the engagement of Sis. Jackie Heimer (Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan) to Bro. Jay Braker (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge) of Roanoke, IL. We love you and are praying for you during this special time in your lives and are

looking forward to your wedding day.

The weekend of July 12-13 was a wonderful one here in Taylor. We had the privilege of hearing the testimony of Bro. Brian Sutter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kris) and witnessing his baptism. It really blessed us to hear how God has worked in his life and to see the peaceful countenance he has. May God continue to bless you and keep you in the center of His perfect will, Brian.

Among those receiving medical attention in the last month were Bro. Scott Hoerr (Sis. Anna) and Annalyn Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny). We pray that God will completely heal you.

During our Bible Studies this month, we are being encouraged to "exercise our faith". How are we doing with the deep knee bends (prayer), lunging (into Christian service), 100-yard dash (to those in need), sit-ups (sitting under the teaching of the Word daily), push-ups (lifting up others), stretches (beyond our comfort zone into obedience) and our marathon that is this Christian walk? May God bless each one as we exercise our spiritual muscles in order to grow closer to God.

NEW YORK

CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

Hope Graves

We were thankful for the many visiting brethren that were with us on the weekend of June 22. With us were Elder Bros. Arthur Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Andrew Stoller (Smithville, OH), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and retired Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH). Sunday afternoon we were blessed to share a meal together in the

church basement.

On the weekend of July 6, we had with us ministering Bros. Ronald Palitto (Akron, OH) and Timothy Gerber (Mansfield, OH). A potluck and singing were held at church on Sunday afternoon. Our hearts are always filled to overflowing with the love that we can feel between brethren that we have never met and those that have been with us many times. May the Lord bless these brethren for tirelessly laboring on our behalf and providing us with such rich, Godly instruction.

“But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundred-fold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Matthew 13:23

May our hearts be full of this good ground and may our ears be receptive to the many teachings we hear Sunday after Sunday as we sit around the sound of the Word.

On Monday evening, June 23, we held our annual hot dog roast at the Croghan Park. It was a beautiful night and we were thankful for such a large attendance.

Our prayers go out to Gertrude Herzig who has been hospitalized and is now receiving care at home. Our thoughts and prayers also go out to Sis. Polly Farney and family in the death of her sister, Wanda Wetmore, as well as to Linda (Martin) Hirschey in the death of her father.

Why grieve my soul, must thou suffer great pain?

Trust in your dear Jesus, He'll strengthen again.

Endure, and be still,

Believing it is thy dear Saviour's good will.

Zion's Harp #241

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

We have two new baby boys to report. One of the babies is Samuel, who was born to Bro. Sandor and Sis. Gyongyi Hegedus on June 24. Samuel has brothers: Ruben, Sanyi, Daniel and Janos. Grandparents are Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy Bako.

The other new baby boy is Ethan Christopher born to Thomas and Christine Demrovsky July 9. Ethan has a brother, Thomas, and grandparents are Andrew and Vera Demrovsky.

Christina Steidl went on the work project to Jamaica, which included juniors and seniors, and they have returned home safely.

Sis. Diana Vidakovics moved to Connecticut and will be assembling with the Rockville church. We miss Sis. Diana and we hope the Lord's blessings continue upon her.

Bro. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH) ministered to us and we thank Bro. Jerry and his family for visiting us.

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

OHIO, COLUMBUS Nancy Banks

The summer months are such a blessing for our church with loved ones stopping in on the way to or from vacation. We appreciate their visits so much. Our visiting minis-

ters were Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and ministering Bros. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH). We thank them for being with us to preach God's precious Word.

Our prayers are with our Elder brethren as time for the Brotherhood Conference approaches. May they feel the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

OHIO, JUNCTION Cindy Schlatter

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;
Lord, I will forever and always be Thine,
For Thou hast created and purchased me too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest me new.

Zion's Harp #209

July 20 was a very special day for our new Bro. Kurt Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) as he was baptized into the death of our Lord Jesus. It was a blessing to come together the evening before to hear of another miracle of how the Lord works in the hearts of men and converts the soul. May God continue to be with our new brother, and we pray many more will hear and answer the call. We want to thank ministering brothers who came to be with us during the weekend, Bro. Walt Rager and Bro. Doug Harmon (both of Toledo, OH) and Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH). We trust God will continue to bless each of you.

Many from our congregation were able to travel to Sardis the weekend of June 22 to attend the wedding of Bro. Scott Manz (Bro.

Don and Sis. Connie) and Sis. Sara Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam). We welcome Sis. Sara to our congregation and hope that she feels at home here.

Bro. Micah Gherian (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon) has found employment in the Lester, IA, area and his brother, Bro. Justin Gherian, is doing summer work in the Congerville, IL, area. We pray for God's nearness and direction to each of you and pray God will open the way for you to visit us often.

OHIO, LATTY
Bonny Wenninger
Amanda Steffen

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

Psalm 51:10

We are blessed to have another convert in our congregation. Jeremy Stoller (Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnn) has yielded his heart to the Lord and has begun his repentance. May God guide and bless him.

On July 2, Sis. Beulah Stoller was laid to rest. What a comfort it is to know that she went Home to be with the Lord. We pray that God will comfort and bless her family in their loss.

A precious little daughter was born to Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cherry Klopfenstein on June 18. Bethany Lynn joins her sister, Angela, and brothers, Abram and Jacob, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein, and Bro. Merle and Sis. Bev Rocke (Eureka, IL). We wish them God's guidance as they strive to raise their family in the fear of the Lord.

We were thankful to have Bro. Mike Rinkenberger visit us this past month. We want to thank him for his labor of love in preaching God's Word to us. May God bless him for his servitude.

Bro. Judd and Sis. Ruby Stoller's and Roger and Sis. Eunice Gerber's children, Bro. Scott and Sis. Rhonda Gerber (Smithville, OH), have recently adopted a precious little child from China. May God bless them as they raise Macy Mikayla Gerber.

Our area has experienced extremely heavy rains over the past month which led to our church basement being flooded. We were forced to have lunch and Sunday School in the fellowship hall one Sunday, but we are thankful there is no significant damage.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
John and Marci Pfeiffer

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

Hymns of Zion #26

We rejoice with Betsy Rufener (Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay) who has found peace with God and man. We look forward to her testimony and baptism.

The annual Sunday School picnic was held on July 13 at the home of Bro. Mike and Sis. Florina Baumann. We thank Bro. Mike and Sis. Florina, Bro. Mike and Sis. Lilly Baumann, Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Sauder and all the Sunday School teachers for a blessed evening of fellowship.

Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger

(Congerville, IL) visited and shared God's Holy Word with us. May God richly bless them.

Our prayers are with Courtney Sauder (Greg and Sis. Missy) who was admitted to the Children's Hospital in Columbus for a burst appendix. May our merciful God look down upon this dear family.

Ben Sauder and Molly Thomas plan to be married on July 19. Ben is the son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Joy Sauder. Molly is the daughter of Fred and Joyce Thomas. We wish them God's richest blessings in their married life together.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Anna Schar
Laurel Indermuhle

Come now, ye great, before Jehovah,
 Bring honor to His Majesty!
 His mighty voice is heard with thunder;
 Sink down into the dust and pray!
 The mighty God shows forth His power,
 The thunders roll in clouds on high;
 His lightning flashes on the waters,
 And sudden torrents from the sky.
Zion's Harp #67

God has certainly shown His power through the many storms that have crossed the area. Yet throughout this time He often brings sunshine after the rain. It reflects on life's trials and afflictions, where sometimes God's light or plan for us is not revealed until after the storm.

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall

not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

John 8:12

We rejoice with both Amanda Rupp (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol) and Jeremy Calame (Bro. John II and Sis. Jody) who have chosen to come out of the path of darkness and start anew in the light of repentance. May God continue to show each one His will.

On July 7, the engagement of Bro. Shawn Acker (Boyd and Barb) to Sis. Judy Hartzler (Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie) was made known. Also Kara Gasser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane) is engaged to Ben Emch (Erich Emch and Jennifer Emch). Their wedding is planned for October 3. May God be the guiding light in each of these marriages to be.

On July 21, Rebecca Beery (Bro. Stan and Sis. Karen) and Michael Bowlby (Ken and Ginny) were united in marriage. May God grant them grace to do His will in their lives.

There is such a miracle in the birth of a child. Four newborns have been brought safely into this world. On May 16, Joel David joined Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer Hartzler's family of Wendy, Tresa, Rachel and Troy. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Schambach (Akron, OH). Bro. Fred and Sis. Joyce Stoller welcomed a new granddaughter on July 2. Heidi Ann was born to Marty and Wendy Stoller. She joined her older sister, Hannah. Skyler John was born on July 8 to John and Sis. Sheila Kries. Jacob and Gabriel welcome their new little brother. Grandparents are Tom and Eula Kries and Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna Rufener. Also

born on July 8, Morgan Alexis joined the family of Debbie and Brian Stoller and older brother, Blake. Grandparents are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jeanne Stoller and Bro. Steve and Sis. Karen Ramsier. Our prayers are with the parents, that through them each child may be brought up under the direction of God's guiding hand.

Our prayers and thoughts go out to each of those who were hospitalized and in recovery. Bro. Melvin Beery (Sis. Elizabeth) was hospitalized and Sis. Ruth Ingold is recovering from surgery. If it is God's will, may He grant each one full recovery.

On May 23, Evelyn Chambers, Sis. Brenda Zollinger's (Bro. Rudy) mother, passed away. Bro. Vernon Landis' (Sis. Lib) dad, Clarence Landis, passed away this past month. Also, Bro. Henry and Sis. Bertha Kiser's grandson, L. Dean Kiser, son of Lonnie Kiser, passed away. Our prayers and sympathy go out to each family.

OHIO, SARDIS Terry Zollinger

“Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.”

Joel 1:3

Steve and Kati Miller are happy first-time parents on June 16 to Dillon Jacob. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Doris Miller and Bill and Ruth Ann Cook. Great-grandmother Martha Indermuhle is also thankful that Dillon arrived safely.

Pure love leads to perfection,

Joy of our soul and guide,
Gives us true satisfaction,
And leads to heaven's light.

Zion's Harp #137

Many witnessed the marriage of Bro. Scott Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie, Junction, OH) and Sis. Sara Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam) on June 22. Even though Sis. Sara was residing in the Rittman area, we will still miss her, even as the Junction congregation will welcome her.

“According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereon.”

I Cor. 3:10

On June 29, it was a very blessed day for all who attended the New Martinsville, WV, Memorial Service. Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) did their service by reading the Word in the name of the Lord.

“Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

Isaiah 1:18

Two converts were taken into the fold on the weekend of July 12-13. What a wonderful blessing! Our new sister and brother in faith are Jami Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry) and Eric Hartzler (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan, Rittman, OH). Elder Bros. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) were present to do the Lord's work along with our El-

der Bro. Ken Indermuhle. Bless each one that made the effort to come and be a witness and supporter for these dear souls.

Other visiting ministers for the month were Bros. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Ted Luginbuhl and Joe Dotterer (Smithville, OH), Greg and Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL), and Ron Palitto (Akron, OH). May the Lord bless these servants as they continue to work in His name.

Bow Thine ear, Gentle Jesus;
Bow Thine ear
Graciously to hear my lisping,
May, O may to Thee be pleasing
What thy child would ask and
pray;
Hear, oh, hear my pray'r today.
Zion's Harp #152

Loved ones who were afflicted and spent time in the hospital are Sis. Janet Indermuhle (Bro. Allen) and Malachi Blough (Bro. Alan and Sis. Renee'). May the Lord continue to watch and heal over the ailing.

School may have started for some children and soon for others. May the Lord watch and protect each one. May we do our part taking care of our children which is a precious gift from above.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Alyssa Miller
Ruth Gasser**

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

Matthew 6:33

We are so thankful that God is still calling souls to Him, and that souls hear and answer that kind in-

visitation. We wish God's grace and peace to Matthew Saurer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue) as he seeks his salvation.

We appreciated the labors of Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) in his recent visit when he shared the Word of Life with us. May we always be prayerful for the Word and appreciate the Spirit's direction.

Several of our congregation have experienced sorrow and affliction this past month. Our prayers of sympathy have been with Bro. George and Sis. Carol Schuster in the loss of their nephew, Lonnie Dean Kiser. Also, Bro. Harvey Landis (Stephanie) has lost a loved one as his grandfather was laid to rest. May God comfort and heal the broken in heart.

Hospital stays were necessary for the following: Kori Bauman (Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda), Sis. Mildred Hartzler, Sis. Delphine Nieman (Bro. Charles), Bro. Dean Maibach (Sis. Bonnie) and Wynn Stoller (Bro. Kirby and Sis. Carrie). We are thankful where healing has taken place, and pray for those who still suffer physical distress.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard
Dee Beard**

Our prayers are with our Elders as they meet for the yearly Conference.

Our recent visiting ministers were Bros. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and Earl Beery (Rittman, OH). We appreciate their willingness to serve our congregation.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. MaryAnn Weigele (Bro. Al), Sis. Colette Harmon (Bro. Howard) and Bro. Gene Fetter (Sis. Marilyn).

Our prayers are with them as they recover.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup

As the summer unfolds, we have been able to enjoy some beautiful weather here in the Northwest. We thank all visitors for coming to worship with us from far and near. Special thanks to the ministering brethren among them: Bros. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) and Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele) from Silverton, OR; and Bro. Walt Herrmann (Sis. Betty) from Princeville, IL.

Note of Thanks:

To my dear Brothers and Sisters throughout the Brotherhood,

I've been greatly humbled and blessed receiving many beautiful birthday cards for my 80th. Thank you very much and God bless you richly.

In Christian Love,
Pearl Miller

OREGON, SILVERTON

Kelsey Kuenzi

We rejoice with Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Kristy Kuenzi in the birth of their son, Micah James, on June 23. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich and Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi, all of Silverton. Also welcoming a new daughter are Bro. Chad and Sis. Megan Walter. Kathryn Raye was born on June 27 and is welcomed by her sisters, Andrea and Lorena. Grandparents are Mike and Anita Massey and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall

cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Genesis 2:24

June 28 was the day that Travis Dettwyler (Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene) and Tami Wulf (Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky) were united in marriage in Lester, IA. We pray that God will be near them and direct them in every step they make in life. We wish to extend a warm welcome to Tami as she makes Oregon her home.

We are thankful for Bro. Brian Dietrich (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan) and Sis. Amanda Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda) as they have felt God's direction to each other and announced their engagement. They have our prayers as they prepare for their wedding on August 17.

We want to welcome Bro. John and Sis. Jane Wiegand and family as they have moved back to Oregon.

In the hospital this month was Bro. Lee Kuenzi (Sis. Janet). While visiting in Silvertown, Bro. Wilbur Schneider (Sis. Marge, Rockville, CT) was hospitalized. We are thankful both are doing better and are able to reassemble with us.

We've been thankful to have many visitors over the summer months. This month we had the Word shared with us by visiting ministers, Bros. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO) and Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA).

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

**Nathan and MaryElizabeth
Gasser**

We were blessed to have many visitors this month, including Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT), Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) and Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN),

who all shared the Word with us. In reading the wisdom laid down by Solomon in the Proverbs, we were exhorted to have focus in our days, months, years, and indeed, our life. Following the whims of the moment rob us of the valuable time and resources given to us by the Father. Only by striving for focus, whether in a few spare hours, or in our entire life, can we make any progress toward the goals to which He has called us, and only then can we be a blessing to others and pleasing to God.

Let your whole life be an offering,
to God and to Christ the Lord.

Zion's Harp #159

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

We are thankful to have Bro. Thadd and Sis. Molly Walter (Gridley, IL) and their children, Avery and Vivian, in the area this summer for temporary employment. We pray that the Lord will be mightily with them during this time.

We have been blessed in this past month by the Word shared with us through our visiting ministering brothers: Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) and Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), and Bros. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL), Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN) and Ed Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS). We were also privileged to have retired Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) with us for a Sunday. We have also enjoyed the fellowship of many brethren and friends visiting from Rockville, CT; Belvidere, Champaign, Elgin, Fairbury,

Gridley, Roanoke, Tremont, and Washington, IL; Bluffton, Bluffton North, Francesville, and Leo, IN; Bern, KS; Lexington, KY; Morris, MN; Kansas City, MO; and Junction, Latty and Smithville, 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: Remington, IN (8/24); Tremont, IL (8/31); Francesville, IN (9/7); Princeville, IL (9/14); Rittman, OH (9/21); Morton, IL (9/28). 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 Amy Ringger

How often do you think about eternity? At our house recently, the subject of time and eternity arose after a scripture reading. Dad asked the children if they thought about eternity much or if they thought about how it would be to have no time. While they were considering the question, he rephrased it and specifically asked the youngest child, "It is 7:15 now. What if, after that, there would be no more time, what would it be then?"

Without delay the little one replied, "Go to bed."

Obviously he is too young to understand the concept of "no time", but I'm sure I don't completely understand it either. In fact more we think about it, the more amazing it seems that God exists outside of time. So, it seems we can profit from

thinking about eternity, even without full understanding, because it causes us to ponder the magnitude of God!

We've had a blessed time this month of visitors and wish to thank these Brothers and their wives for their ministry and fellowship: Bros. Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN), Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN) and Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL).

We look forward to hosting visiting ministers from the following churches in September: LaCrosse (7), Phoenix (14), Bloomington (21), and Bluffton (28). We extend a hearty welcome to anyone else who

may be in the area to worship with us. Please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch and other activities. If you are available for fellowship on Saturday evening, Sunday evening, or during the week, we'd be happy to plan something then as well. Please see the ministers' book for contact information.

Our congregation continues to meet for services at the Quality Inn in San Marcos, TX. San Marcos is located on IH-35, approximately 20 minutes south of Austin or about 50 minutes north of downtown San Antonio. Take Exit #206; the hotel is on the southbound frontage road.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

Summer is passing quickly in South Texas and most all of our residents have been traveling this summer visiting family. We have continued to alternate services with the Pharr, TX, location. This location is close for our brethren in the Valley and Rio Bravo, Mexico, area. We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen) from Sabetha, KS, minister the Word to us. They traveled to Pharr for services and we appreciate his willingness to minister the Word to us.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl in the loss of their great-granddaughter.



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through and explicitly points out that Paul was a sinner. Paul was a man who persecuted the church of Jesus Christ. He was a man who had authority. He had the ability and the authority to go into wherever he wanted to go in that part of the world at that time. Wherever he found someone that was preaching Jesus Christ or who followed Jesus Christ, he had the authority to either lock them up in prison or even to have them killed. He persecuted the way of the cross of Jesus Christ. He was zealous. (The Acts 9:1,2)

But he had an experience. We read about his conversion. He had an experience. He met Jesus Christ face to face. When the Lord spoke to him, he realized the error of his way. Isn't it wonderful how that is recorded that he did not argue. He did not find excuses. He did not ask to wait a little while longer. When he was confronted there by Jesus Christ as he lay there on the ground, he asked what he needed to do. (The Acts 9:3-6)

Isn't it wonderful how God can work in the hearts of men and women? As He worked in the life of Paul, He also works in our lives, does He not? In your life and in mine. He continues to call and to reach out to the lost in many different ways. None of us had a conversion probably that was as dramatic as what Paul's was. But yet in our lives it was dramatic, was it not? When we finally could come to the knowledge of the truth.

We had a measure of knowledge, did we not, for a long, long time. Most of us probably in this assembly grew up in church and went to Sunday School. And had a Mom and Dad at home who loved and cared for us and who taught us from this Bible. We were so blessed and yet we did not know it. We didn't realize it. Or we didn't care about it or what-

ever. We went our own separate ways.

Finally, thanks to the goodness of God and through His mercy and His grace we were able to come to the knowledge of the truth that we were lost. We came to realize that we were separated from God. If we didn't let God change our life, then we were doomed for a terrible, a terrible eternity. We were doomed for hell, weren't we? No question. We were doomed. We were forever separated from God.

An example of that is Lazarus and the rich man. When you read that account, how can there be any doubt that there is a separation? The rich man begged the angels to give his family a chance. It was not granted. (St. Luke 16:19-31) We won't have another chance, will we dear ones?

So he starts out, "...speak thou the things which become sound doctrine." Titus 2:1. Sound doctrine is very simple, dear ones. It is Jesus Christ and Him crucified. That's it! It is not a mystery. It is not something that we need to spend hours and hours and hours studying. It is Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

He goes on to remind all of us. First he talks to the aged men. I, years back, didn't think that time would ever come for me. But it has arrived. We all grow older, don't we, one day at a time. The years slip by. If the Lord, if it is His will, we become older. Here he has some advice for us who are older.

"That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience." Titus 2:2. So we have something to do, don't we brothers? We have something to do. Something that will occupy our time through the rest of our days.

Why is it important? Why is it important to be sober and to be grave and to be temperate? To be sound in the faith and charity - that's love -

and in patience?

Patience - we tend to learn that through tribulation the Word tells us. Tribulations are not always pleasant. Sometimes they are pretty hard. But they serve a purpose.

As we look around about and we see the younger generations coming along, we know, we know that if God permits time to go on and the generation which are children now, to get to the point and age in time that many of us are now, they are going to see a lot of changes. Because when we look back over our lives, we have seen a lot of changes too. They have not all been for the good.

But in our most holy faith, which we love and cherish so much, as I look back over my life and I remember some of those old brothers and those old sisters who were pillars in the church when I was in Sunday School, that generation is gone. But I remember their steadfastness as we read here of all of these things that are mentioned. Sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in love and in patience. And I draw from that a great strength today. Because I know now those dear souls went through trials and tribulations too. And they endured and they went on to their reward. A blessed reward.

Likewise for us, only our battle is not over, because we are still here. We are still facing that adversary, Satan. We are facing him every day. But probably most of you, as I have, have kind of followed a little bit of what is going on over in the middle east, in the battles that rage. That is a physical battle and there are people dying and there is great turmoil and distress in that area of the country and of the world right now. They are facing trials and tribulations that we don't know anything about, for the most part.

But, dear ones, our battle, in addition to the things that go on in our

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physical lives, is our spiritual battle. Our spiritual battle. That is where being sound in the faith, that we can portray that, not only to our children but to our grandchildren and then to those even outside of our family. To our church family. It is so important. If we don't portray Jesus Christ and His love and what He does in our life, if we can't portray that and get that message across, then the message they are going to get is the one that the world wants them to have. And the one that the world wants them to have will lead them down a road that they really don't want to go. But they don't know that. So we have a lot of work to do.

The next verse talks to the sisters, to the older, "...aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children," Titus 2:3,4. There is no more important thing, I believe, as I have viewed the situation where, in my surroundings, where we see men and women running here and there, doing things, having families, children scattered here and there, single parents or whatever. And why? Oh, we could think of a lot of reasons. Compatibility possibly. But a lot of it comes down to the point, they were never taught. They were never taught. Dear ones, we are so blessed because we have not only the knowledge, but we have the ability even as the Word tells us. For the older to teach the younger.

We don't want to leave the teaching of the most precious thing that we have, our children, to somebody who doesn't believe in Jesus Christ and our God. But our children are going to learn something. They are

going to learn whatever they learn from somebody. From somebody. That somebody needs to be those who care.

Verse 5 tells us, "To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." Titus 2:5. So it is a teaching process, isn't it? I remember when I was younger, and I am sure you all do too. We wanted to learn but we didn't always want somebody telling us what to do. Remember those days? Maybe you were not as stubborn as I was. But I didn't always like to be told what to do. But I learned over the years, some of the things, some of the lessons that I learned that you might say the hard way were probably some of the best lessons I ever learned. But it is an ongoing process. We are still learning today. None of us in this assembly can say I have learned all I need to know. Because we haven't. There are things we will learn as we continue down life's way.

It talks to young men. We have a lot of young men in our assembly. "...likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you." Titus 2:6-8. There are a lot of words that were said there that have a lot of meaning. A lot of meaning. It was addressed to the young men but I think we can all take parts of this and apply it to our life. For example, sound speech that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed.

As we go about our lives, wherever that may be, in whatever area of whatever we do, some of us probably stay pretty close to home. Some of us may travel quite a bit and get

into lots and lots of different places throughout the week. But wherever it is, it does not make any difference. God has given each one of us a place, a spot where we need to be. Because that is where we are right now. In due time, God may change that. But right now, wherever you are or wherever I am, that is where we need to be, because that is where God has put us.

So taking that into account, what do we need to do? We read a lot of things, but I think this verse eight, sound speech - that means that we are on track. We are not saying something else just because our brother or our sister or somebody that knows us because we claim to be this or that, is not there so we might veer off into something else. Dear ones, that is not sound speech. Sound speech is what the Apostle Paul was warning Titus, and he is warning us today, that we need to stay on track. We don't need to go off on a side track. We need to stay on the track. We need to head towards the goal. That goal is heaven. We want to get there. The Word tells us how to get there. But we have a deceiver.

Then he says, "Sound speech, that cannot be condemned..." Titus 2:8. So nobody can say, well you know, this guy or this woman, they say two different things. One time it is talking this way and that is not sound speech. We want to be very, very careful because there are those who are watching us. There are those who are watching us.

In my workplace and no doubt in yours, people view us, if they know us, because they see us every day. They know for my part that I am a minister. They expect, because they know me, they expect certain things of me. If they see me do something else, they are going to think, what is going on? Believe me, they do. So we need to be careful. Because we are a

minister. You are a minister and I am a minister of God, not because we are on a pulpit, but because we are in the world and we live here and we are God's children. We don't want to forget that and that is what he is saying. That he that doesn't believe, or she, won't be able to stand up and say, I don't want to be like them because look how wishy-washy they are! Sound speech.

Likewise, if they can't find something wrong, then they are not going to speak evil of us, are they? And thoughts can be placed in their hearts and in their minds. That they would question: what are they doing? What have they got? I would like some of that. It is an opportunity to share the gospel. But if we are wishy-washy, it will never happen.

There are so many in this world that need Jesus Christ. And you and I, you and I dear ones, God has placed where we are to be a minister for Him.

It goes on and he tells here to, "Exhort servants to be obedient

unto their own masters..." Titus 2:9. Back in the time when Paul wrote this there were many who were slaves. To be a slave, it is hard for us to relate to what that would be like. We read about things that happened, even in this country years and years ago where there were slaves. But that was common practice. And here there is an exhortation to them.

In verse 11 we read, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men," Titus 2:11. We know that because God has revealed that to us through His Word. He sent Jesus Christ. We know the story. We know how He came and how He was born and how He lived a perfect example. And He died on the cross.

Elder Brother Andy Stoller was just with us Wednesday night. He shared the Memorandum with us. I am sure you have had that done here. But as he shared that with us and went through some of the statistics that were in there of how many people that claim to be Christians don't believe that Christ ever

rose from the grave. And how many people that claim to be Christians don't believe in the Holy Spirit. Amazing, isn't it?!

And we think Satan hasn't been successful with his message of deception? Sounds like he has been very successful. But you know what? He is not satisfied with maybe 48%. Because he doesn't have you and he doesn't have me. So he wants us. He wants us to be part of that group that believe parts of this Bible but don't believe it all. He wants to destroy you and he wants to destroy me.

How does he want that destruction to come about? For us to be separated from God. He wants to take us all to hell. That is what he wants. It will only be by the grace of God and our diligence to remain true and faithful that will prevent him from being successful.

Dear ones, we have a lot to do, don't we? Not just to be the light and an example in the world that we live in, but to keep ourselves the example of a true child of God.



**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

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

Iowa: Martin Zaugg
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

Indiana: Gerry Waibel
Phone/Fax: 219-279-2582
E-mail: 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. For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-925-2409 or E-mail ksss@dpc.net.

HAITI						
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY	
AWA-FRW	Oct. 16-24, '03	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4	
AWA-T	Oct. 16-24, '03	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5	
AWA-B	Oct. 16-24, '03	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2	
MEBSH	Nov. 6-14, '03	Les Cayes	Jon Zeller	Construction/Maint.	11	
SEED	Nov. 13-21, '03	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	11	
MEBSH	Dec. 4-12, '03	Les Cayes	Ted Habegger	Grade School	11	
MEBSH	Dec. 11-19, '03	Les Cayes	Craig Emch	Grade School	11	
AWA-T	Jan. 22-30, '03	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5	
AWA-FRW	Jan. 22-30, '03	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4	
AWA-B	Jan. 22-30, '04	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2	
MEBSH	Feb. 5-13, '04	Les Cayes	Dean Pashak	Grade School	9	
Palm Grove	Feb. 20-28, '04	Puit Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11	
MEBSH	Mar. 4-12, '04	Les Cayes	Rich Bertschi	Grade School	9	
MEBSH	Mar. 11-19, '04	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	9	
SEED	Mar. 18-26, '04	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	9	
Palm Grove	Mar. 19-27, '04	Puit Sales	Mike Reinhard	Grade School	11	
AWA-FRW	May 6-14, '04	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4	
AWA-T	May 6-14, '04	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5	
AWA-B	May 6-14, '04	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2	
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 8-16, '04	Kingston	Roanoke BC - Kevin Fischer	Deaf School	50	
CCCD	May 20-28, '04	Deaf Village	TBA	Work Place	40	
CCCD	June 4-12, '04	Deaf Village	Taylor/Princeville	Work Place	50	
CCCD	June 26 - July 3, '04	Knockpatrick	Mansfield - Pete Webel	Deaf School	40	

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
Jon Zeller	309-266-9009		jzeller@mtco.com
Derek Sauder	309-925-7502		Sauder_Derek_A@cat.com
Jay Maibach	330-939-5234		jmmaibach@valkyrie.net
Bob Beebe	574-291-2158	574-299-8173	rbeebe@surfpure.com
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	734-454-9259	thitzhome@juno.com
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885	
Greg (Beth) Herman	309-243-5610		gbherman@juno.com
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	330-939-4591	
Terry Miller	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	ksss@dpc.net
Rich Bertschi	309-467-6110		lemangm@mtco.com
Ted Habegger	260-694-6765		th@parlorcity.com
Mike Reinhard	248-477-2287	248-427-0396	mlreinhard@msn.com

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

- NOTICE -

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

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

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

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

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

Apostolic Christian Counseling Services

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

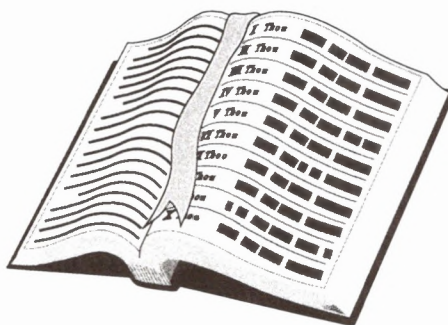
877-370-9988 (toll free)

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

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

DALLAS/FORT WORTH Prospective Services

In the past year, several individuals have expressed interest in starting regular services in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Therefore, with the support of the elder body, we hope to hold an initial service in September or early October. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in attending church near D/FW, please contact Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson (817.431.0832). Please join us in prayer as we seek God's direction.



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

Bay City Centennial Weekend

September 13-14, 2003

The Bay City congregation will be celebrating 100 years of church services with a special "Memories" weekend in September. Everyone who worshiped at our church in the past, or who attends at present, is invited to join in the planned activities.

Saturday, September 13

Williams Township Hall

4:00pm	Fellowship Hour
5:30pm	Potluck Dinner
6:30pm	Sharing Memories

Sunday, September 14

Bay City Church

10:30am	Church Services
11:45am	Lunch at Church
12:30pm	Church Services

Overnight accommodations will be available.

For further information, contact: James Ramseyer
2012 Oakfield Drive
Midland, MI 48640
989-835-5579
jarinc@tm.net

Mexico Work Teams 2003

Location	Date	Project	Coordinator	Phone & (e-mail)
Imuris	Aug. 28 - Sept. 2, '03	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann cherylh@mtco.com	309-385-1082
Juarez or Creel	Sept. 17 - 24, '03	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann cherylh@mtco.com	309-385-1082

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

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



"My Father's Conversion" continues. It tells of the religious experience of J. Andrew Braun in 1844 in Switzerland. He had his own ideas, but then God directed him according to His will. In last month's issue reference was made to the Jungling Verein, which was (in some ways) the Swiss equivalent of the YMCA. He continues his conversation with a man at that place.

My Father's Conversion - Part II

Searching

"I want to go to the Missionary House in Basel to become a Missionary." This desire became stronger and stronger in my father's heart; for from that time on when the voice above mentioned told him that he was a sinner, he wanted to begin a better life.

In reply to this the assistant asked, "Have you inclinations for things of this kind?" to which my father answered in the affirmative. In answer to this, the assistant further said, "You have come in the right house, for here you can become a Missionary without studying."

This claim so surprised my father that he said to himself he had better not stay here because these people must be religious fanatics, which at best would mislead him; for he contended in his heart that it was unheard of that a man could become a Missionary without studying in a school. But before he could tear himself loose, the proprietor arrived, and this assistant told him of the religious inclinations of this young man and that he had also applied for work.

The Word of God

The proprietor at once promised to give him work and also entered into a conversation with him opening to him the Bible where the Lord said to His disciples in Matthew 28:18-20: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." These verses my father read quickly, and closing the Bible handed it to this proprietor saying, "I find nothing very striking in this";

then this Brother said, "Let me read it to you."

When this Brother read it to him my father said, "Now I do see something in it, for according to the word of the Lord, men should first be taught and through such teaching should be convinced of their lost condition and of the necessity of being baptized that they should ask for baptism after having been thoroughly convinced of the necessity of the same, and that it should come of their own free will and that after souls had been baptized they were then to be taught to observe all things whatsoever He had commanded His disciples."

Witness of Truth

To this the Brother replied, "That is the entire message of reconciliation to God and unto future living in newness of life." My father meditated over this a little while, and then said, "According to this message of scripture the Lutheran Church of which I am a member does not stand on the ground of the Word of God, for they baptize infants that cannot renounce the world nor yearn for newness of life."

To this the Brother said, "The Lutheran Church does not stand on the ground of the Word of God." This was so repulsive to my father that he resolved not to accept work here, but to go further because it was inconceivable to him that a church so numerous as the Lutheran Church could be wrong, but this Brother easily convinced him by the life of many of the Lutherans and the conviction that my father had in his heart that he was a sinner helped very much to this conviction so that he admitted in his heart and to this Brother that the Lutheran Church must not be founded and grounded upon the Word of God. But alas, at the same moment he looked across the Rhine and saw the monument of Martin Luther, which caused him to say, "If the Lutheran Church is not founded upon the Word of God, then it must be that Luther himself was not what he should have been." To this, this Brother said, "Luther was not what he should have been." This was another severe trial for my father because he loved Martin Luther to such an ex-

tent that he would have gone to war for him, and again he resolved in his heart not to accept work here but to go further.

Making a Change

At this last resolution however, he was reminded of the fact how on his way he prayed twice without premeditation that the Lord should lead him into a house where he would hear the truth. So he accepted work. This Brother then gave him literature written by Bro. S.H. Froehlich. When he had read this he was through with the Lutheran Church, and Martin Luther whom he loved so dearly he commended to the Lord. Shortly after this he said to this Brother, "I would like to become converted also, but I do not know how to go about it." To this, this Brother replied, "That is not so inconceivable; do just the same as I did. Namely, ask the Lord to show you all of your sins and to give you a penitent heart that you can repent for your sins and that the Lord forgive you your sins so you can have peace with God in your heart, but above all things ask the Lord to give you grace that you can become liberated from the power of Satan, for I know out of my own experience and also from the Word of God that you as well as every natural man is bound in one way or another to sin against his better judgment and will."

Proving and Baptism

This my father did and in the course of about six months he was proved and baptized by Bro. S.H. Froehlich in the congregation at Strassburg where he gave a good testimony of his firm belief in Christ Jesus as his Saviour.

After this he remained in Strassburg for several years enjoying the spiritual care of Bro. Froehlich together with the blessing which the Lord gave in the church at Strassburg; all of which had its good results.

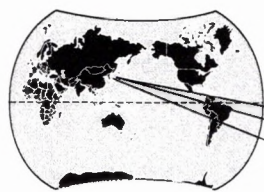
By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue: The final installment of "My Father's Conversion"

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“Out of the East”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Several years ago I was visiting my Aunt Martha Heubach in Morton's Restmor Nursing Home when I noticed that she talked repeatedly about watching the eastern sky for the Lord's return. I neglected to ask her what makes her think our Lord is coming from the east, but I've done a lot of thinking about it. I've never been able to find the words, "eastern sky" in the King James Bible, so I assumed there was no scriptural basis for the statement. However, recently I've been thinking that Matthew 24:27 may be the basis for it. "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be." This scripture indicates that Christ will indeed appear much as lightning which comes out of the east and is visible all across the sky, even all the way to the western horizon.

Other references in the Bible to "the east" include this scripture which was spoken by the wise men who came looking for the Christ

child. Matthew 2:2, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." Also, the previous verse reads, "There came wise men from the east to Jerusalem." The wise men came from the east and they saw Christ's star in the east.

In Revelation 21:13, the heavenly city Jerusalem is described as follows: "On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates." The eastern gates are mentioned first, as if they are the most important.

To add to the mystery I sometimes find myself singing spontaneously the song, "The Eastern Gate" written by I.G. Martin, copyright 1933. The song begins with the statement, "I will meet you in the morning, just inside the eastern gate." The second verse begins with the words, "If you hasten off to glory, linger near the eastern gate." Where did I.G. Martin get the idea that the eastern gate is such a good place to meet?

It must have something to do with the concept of morning, and of heaven being a new beginning. In the morning, the sun comes up in the east, not in the west. When we speak of sunset, it may mean the end of life here on earth, but that sunset is closely followed by a gorgeous sunrise, if we belong to the Lord. The words of songs are not scripture but the authors of hymns usually get their inspiration from scripture.

In European and American cultures, historically, it is western civilization which has been emphasized. However, I would classify Israel as more eastern than western.

The conclusion of the whole matter is that the east is emphasized in the Bible and in spiritual thinking in general. Indeed, it may be well for us to face the east when looking for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ and it may be a good idea for us to meet just inside the eastern gate when we reach Heaven.

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The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.

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