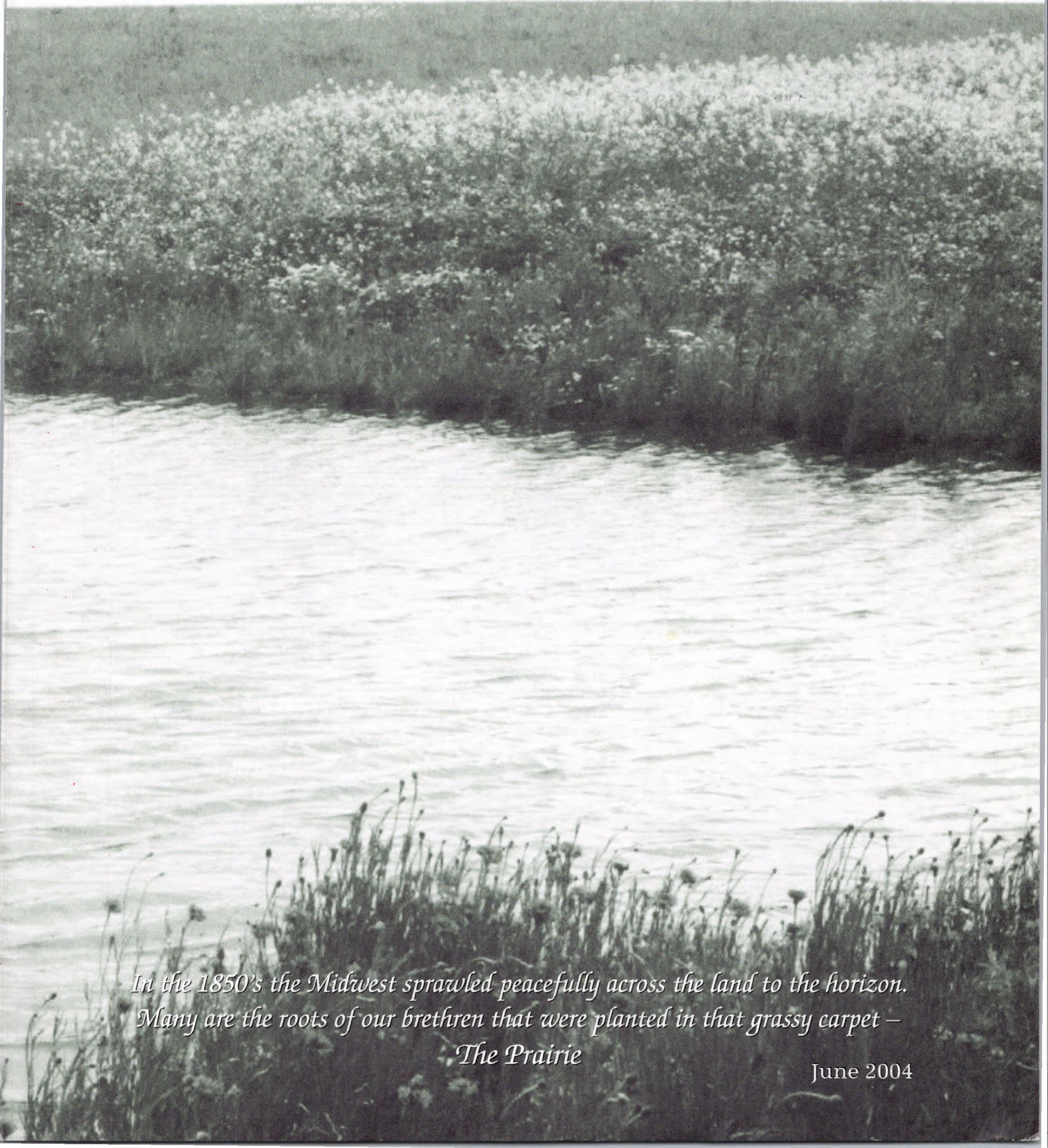


The Silver Lining



*In the 1850's the Midwest sprawled peacefully across the land to the horizon.
Many are the roots of our brethren that were planted in that grassy carpet –*

The Prairie

June 2004

Sermon by Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi, Lamar, MO

Zephaniah I and Romans 8

We are reminded of a very sobering time, dear beloved ones all. The day of the Lord's judgment (Zephaniah 1). If we could read on further into the next chanter, this chapter gives a final warning. Dear ones, as we consider the Word of God, let's take it to heart that He would give us understanding. That we can recognize the great day of the Lord is near and hasteth greatly. The time of the Lord's coming again, the last day - we think of the last day when there is not going to be another day, another chance to make things right. How it is in that day will determine then how it is going to be in all eternity.

Then, dear ones, we are comforted because God gives us His Word then in the New Testament reading. Many places, but in this particular chapter it says, now there is no condemnation (Romans 8:1). We cannot understand what that is like until we have experienced the forgiveness of sin. We cannot experience the forgiveness of sin until we have felt the condemnation of our sin because of our sin.

But here it encourages, "There is therefore now no condemnation..." Romans 8:1. Just stop there. That would just make it really pretty easy, couldn't we? But it says, "...to them which are in Christ Jesus..." Romans 8:1. That could also be a comfort. To those who are in Christ Jesus. Then we need that Spirit and the Word of God, do we not? Who are then those that are in Christ Jesus? It says, "...who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Romans 8:1.

So again, dear ones, as we go through, it's very elementary perhaps. But the way of salvation is meant to be simple. The devil tries to make it complicated. So if we can keep it in its simplicity, and that is how we must do, because it seems as this weak servant here, unable to grasp it if it is a difficult way or the depths of it. So as we take the simple

Word and apply it then, okay it is not after the flesh. We cannot walk in the flesh. If we are not walking in the flesh, we are walking after the Spirit.

But again, don't we need help then, dear ones, to distinguish what is the flesh and what is the Spirit? "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh." Romans 8:2,3.

Isn't that really the root and the foundation? That Jesus Christ is chief cornerstone? It all goes back to Christ, doesn't it? When we want to build, it doesn't matter what we do in this life, no matter how much effort we put forth to build this ship of faith or to build this temple which we are - the Word tells us, His holy temple which ye are (I Corinthians 3:17) - as we go building it by the grace of God, it doesn't matter how good it is built if it is not on a solid foundation.

Because we are going to have those storms that will come in life. It will be as the simple story that Jesus spoke there (St. Matthew 7:24-27). The storms come. If it is not upon a solid rock, it is going to be as the sinking sand. We certainly know the destruction therein.

We recognize Christ. What was His purpose? God sent Him here in the likeness of sinful flesh. He was born of woman so He could understand what trials and temptations were. We know the devil. We have the account where the devil tempted Him (St. Luke 4:2). But aren't we thankful for the account we have of how Jesus responded to the devil (St. Luke 4:4,8,12)? Jesus was perfect and He walked after the Spirit, did that which God desires.

We think of the Spirit. That is God's way of talking to man. As we think of the Holy Word, it is God's Word. So it is very obvious then it is

inseparable. But we are cautioned here, dear ones aren't we, "That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us..." Romans 8:4. We go back to the time before Christ, to the law. They had many laws. Go back there in the Old Testament, many, many laws that were kept and expected to be kept to the minutest de-

Sermon continued on page 43

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

Light From The Word



Writings based on God's Word

June 2004

Unbelief

Unbelief is the inability or unwillingness on the part of someone to accept something as the truth. Undoubtedly each of us has experienced unbelief to some degree at some point in our lives. Even the most faithful of God's servants have had to battle with unbelief in special circumstances.

Abraham had doubts when he was told that Sarah, at age ninety, would have a child (Gen. 17:17). Moses had bouts with unbelief as he led the children of Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land (Nu. 11:21). Zacharias was unable to believe that he and Elizabeth could have a child in their old age (Lk. 1:19-21). John the Baptist, at a time of discouragement while he was in prison, had a brief battle with unbelief when he asked "Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?" (Matt. 11:3)

The disciples had the advantage of spending many hours with Jesus, and yet they had times of unbelief. The disciples tried unsuccessfully to remove a demon from a child. When they asked why it was not possible to remove the devil, Jesus said "...Because of your unbelief..." (Matt. 17:20). After His resurrection as the disciples were eating with Jesus, he "...upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart..." (Mk. 16:14).

Additionally, we could read of others who experienced times of unbelief even after having witnessed many miracles (Jn. 12:37). Isaiah lamented that there would be much unbelief about the coming of Christ, "Who hath believed our report...?" (Is. 53:1)

With all of these examples, we should not be surprised if we struggle with unbelief from time to time. However, even though we are confronted with unbelief, we must not underestimate its seriousness.

Unbelief is sin and will bring upon us the wrath of God: "...he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (Jn 3:36). Unbelief could keep us out of heaven just as it kept the children of Israel out of the Promised Land. "So we see they could not enter in because of unbelief" (Heb. 3:19).

What causes unbelief and how can we avoid it?

Satan is a master at causing unbelief. If he can get us to listen to him for even a short time he can cause confusion. Eve's first mistake was not when she ate the fruit. She engaged in a conversation with Satan and gave him an opportunity to raise questions. "...Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Gen. 3:1). Eve gave Satan an opportunity to bring deception into her life and she fell into sin. Many more examples could be cited.

Unbelief can be brought on by carelessness, a desire for riches, lust, ambition for power, or nearly anything that will lead us into sin. Also, mixing the truth with untruth will cause confusion and can lead to unbelief.

Because unbelief is so serious, God has given us many ways to resist this sin or to escape it if we find ourselves somewhat overtaken in unbelief.

Undoubtedly one of the most important weapons that God has given us to fight against unbelief is the ability to establish a benchmark of truth - His Word. Although what we believe to be true may change over a period of time, truth itself does not change. If we willingly search God's Word, we find that it is just as applicable today as it was several thousand years ago.

To establish a benchmark, we must be willing to invest time in studying God's Word and in prayer. We must also be willing to soften our hearts, to be teachable, and to separate ourselves from those who cause us to doubt.

To combat unbelief we must be willing to believe and to admit that we need help. The father of a child who had a dumb spirit recognized his weak faith. Jesus told him that all things were "...possible to him that believeth...and (he) said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief" (Mk. 9:23-24).

We can learn a lot about combating unbelief from this situation.

The father could have given up after the disciples could not cure his son.

He didn't give up. He continued to pursue help. He went directly to Jesus. We also have the privilege of going directly to Jesus.

The father also displayed sincere humility. He didn't go to Jesus in anger or bitter-

ness because the disciples were unable to help him. After explaining the situation to Jesus, he pleaded to Jesus to "...have compassion on us, and help us" (Mk. 9:22). Finally, the father recognized his weakness and asked for additional help. In tears he begged for greater strength to believe.

To combat unbelief we must be willing to receive belief without raising barriers that would hinder the truth. Thomas set parameters that he had required for him to believe. "...Except I shall see... and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe" (Jn. 20:25). He was given the opportunity to have his demands fulfilled but with a cost. He lost a blessing that comes with unconditional belief and he is forever remembered as "doubting Thomas".

Searching the Word of God to discover its internal consistency can also help combat unbelief. As we consider the various parts of scripture, written by different men from a variety of backgrounds covering thousands of years and discover the validity and consistency of its contents even for our time, we can gain confidence to overcome unbelief.

Experiences that we have as a result of following the teachings of the Bible also help to remove unbelief. If we are willing to be obedient and submissive to the principles laid out in the Bible, we find that our lives are transformed and our outlook on life is improved. Often we find that those who continually withhold a part of their selfish desires of the flesh just do not find total peace and contentment. Those who are willing to be totally submissive to God can find themselves "...as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God" (Ro. 6:13).

It is not possible to address all aspects of unbelief in a relatively short article. We can only scratch the surface. We can use the tools God has given us to remove unbelief from our lives, including His Word, prayer, His faithful servants and experiences in our lives that confirm the truth of God's promises.



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

Children's Home and Christian School Magdalena, Mexico

The elder body recently approved a new project to build a children's home and Christian school in Mexico. This project is unique in that it is the first work of this type outside US borders in which we as a church body have the full responsibility for daily and ongoing operations and management. Consequently we ask that you be prayerful that this work will be a glory to our heavenly Father, and a blessing to the many needy Mexican children and to the church as well.

This project is a joint effort of both the World Relief and Mission committees. World Relief will be involved in construction and the supply of funding, food, clothes and other necessities. There will be many opportunities for volunteers to participate in blessing needy children by giving time, talents or materials. The Mission Committee will support brethren sent to work and also would oversee the formation of a church as well if the decision is made to start one.



Entrance to the campus

A location has been purchased in Magdalena, Sonora, a town of 25,000 people about one hour south of the Arizona border. The 25 acre campus, which was formerly used as a Christian campground, is within reach of our Phoenix (4 hour drive)

and Tucson (2 hours) congregations. In contrast to the surrounding desert, there is a country atmosphere, palm trees, oak trees, green grass and lots of open space and possibilities. The existing buildings, which will be remodeled to accommodate 40 to 50



Main living quarters

children, include a large home, offices, apartments, class rooms, girls and boys dorms, kitchen, cafeteria, auditorium, and storage. Much more construction is planned as the Lord leads in the future. Some World Relief work teams are already scheduled and more will be needed.

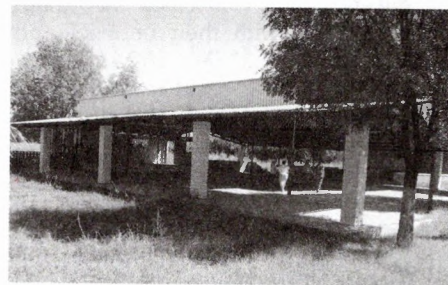
This children's home is the fulfilment of a dream that goes back many years. When our Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold first visited Mexico, they saw the great need for a home for children. Because everyday life is more difficult south of the border, especially in depressed areas, children are abandoned, abused, neglected, or simply get lost. Government services are scarce and so there is a great need for this type of help and ministry.

The dream continued in the hearts of our church brethren who became involved in the Casa de Elizabeth orphanage in Imuris, Sonora. The church in Ixtlan sent members to Casa de Elizabeth to help. The Mission Committee also sent a family there to help spiritually and to look into the possibility of our starting our

own orphanage or school. Over time, several options were considered but nothing seemed to work out.

Finally, two brothers heard about the property in Magdalena and from the first visit felt as if the Lord was leading to purchase the property because of its potential. With much prayer and counsel, more brethren visited the property and felt the same peace about proceeding. In November of 2003, the property was purchased using private funds so that the elder body would have time to consider the project without time pressure. An exploratory committee was formed and in less than six months their proposal has been approved by the various committees and the elder body.

There is much work to be done, but we are thankful for the blessings so far. With God's grace, the home may start accepting children as early as this summer. We covet your



Open air auditorium

prayers for the staff, the work teams, and the coordinators trusting that all may be done to the honor of our Heavenly Father.

For more information about this new opportunity, contact:

Bro. Jerry Tooley
480-460-4531
jerrytooley4531@msn.com

Bro. Mike Fiechter
260-597-7330
mfiechter@parlorcity.com



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

Mission Committee

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

Apostolic Christian Publications

The request for having our own Sunday School materials was first discussed at the General Conference in 1961. Bros. Eugene Bertschi, Joe Schrock and David Kieser were appointed by the Elder Body to study the feasibility of producing materials for use in our Sunday Schools. In general, it was felt that commercial Sunday School materials were for the most part unsuitable, even dangerous, for our Sunday Schools.

In 1964, a primary grades material development committee consisting of Bros. Walter Anliker, LeRoy Hartman and Robert Grimm surveyed all the churches to find out what materials each was using. A review of Bible Story books, teacher's guides and workbooks was made to ensure that the material was suitable in doctrine. The resolution... where suitable material isn't available, we create our own material supporting our Apostolic Christian doctrine using the King James version of the Holy Bible.

Over the next several years, Sisters across the U.S. developed over 200 lessons with teacher's guides for first and second grades. The idea and need for Apostolic Christian Publications, a non-profit corporation, to publish and distribute these materials to our churches developed. The first meeting of Apostolic Christian Publications with the installation of officers and directors was in 1968. The corporation received approval of its charter by the State and received tax-exempt status. The Publications Committee operates under the authority of the Elder Body. The cooperative and supportive relationship which exists

enables the production and distribution of sound materials which help strengthen our unity by communicating the biblically-based beliefs of our beloved Brotherhood.

As the scope of creating, publishing and distributing religious materials for our churches and church members grew, the need for a permanent facility was realized. In December, 1989, a new bookstore was built on the south side of highway 24 on the west edge of Eureka, Illinois.

Current

Apostolic Christian Publications committee consists of sixteen ministers and two Elders representing many of the Illinois congregations. These brothers serve on the following curriculum committees: Pre-school, Primary, Intermediate and Vacation Bible School. These curriculum committees review any new material that has been requested to be distributed by the store as well as any current material that has been revised. This review is to make sure that all materials carried by the store are in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and are of sound doctrine. Examples of special materials developed and published in recent years include the "Welcome booklet," "Our Heavenly Calling Workbook and Teacher's Guide," reprints of Silver Lining "Light from the Word" editorials and the "Children's Harp."

Materials available

Bibles in the King James Version, which is embraced by our fellowship, are in stock in a number of different styles, sizes and type sizes. The following hymnals, most of which cannot be found in other bookstores, are in stock at the store:

Zion's Harp, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle Hymns, Gospel Hymns, The Children's Harp and Hymns of Christmas. Sunday School materials, most of which are published by Apostolic Christian Publications, include Sunday School workbooks and teacher's guides as well as Bible School materials and other supplementary items. We have received permission to publish and print Bible story books for young children, suitable for home use as well as Sunday School. Over the years, brethren have done research and have prayerfully prepared talks or Bible studies on specific topics. These have been helpful to many of our brethren. A catalog of titles recorded on cassette tapes is available upon request. These tapes can be ordered from the bookstore.

Visit us

Store hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 11:30am. We extend a sincere invitation to anyone who is in the area to stop in and visit us. It is our hope that we can keep a supply of scripturally based items which will help promote and preserve our precious faith. May the Lord continue to bless these efforts, without which our labors would be in vain.

Ordering policies

Orders are accepted via mail, phone or in person. Orders are shipped via UPS daily. Payment is made by cash, check or money order. We do not accept credit cards. If you would like a price list, please call or write to the following address:

Apostolic Christian Publications
805 W. Cruger St., Box 52
Eureka, IL 61530
(309)467-3611

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Residents at our homes hold monthly Resident Council Meetings. All residents are invited to attend these meetings, and a pre-selected staff member is asked to be an assistant. Of course, these meetings take on a variety of forms and functions, depending upon the needs and abilities of the residents living in each particular home. These events are quite interesting times, and special bonding can occur.

A notable moment happened at the last Resident Council Meeting at Timber Ridge. Due to the challenges of many of the Timber Ridge residents, only about 30 out of 95 residents are active Resident Council members. These meetings are held later in the afternoon in our multi purpose room after residents return from their vocational training worksites. At these times, up to twenty residents may attend who come in wheelchairs, some of who drive larger, battery operated ones. Other adaptive devices and materials, such as G Tube feeding poles and augmentative communication devices (voice-output computers that some residents use to talk), may accompany residents as well.

The general procedure for the meetings involves an opening prayer by a Council member, taking role, discussing old and new business, and having a closing prayer.

At the last meeting our Resident Council President asked one of the Council members to open the meeting with a prayer. This resident has never prayed out loud, and is a younger Council member, having graduated from high school last year. When asked, he looked a bit unsure about doing this. But with a little encouragement from his friends, in faith he prayed with his hesitant, somewhat unclear "Cerebral Palsied" speech. He could only pray, "Dear God, take care of this meeting... In Jesus Name. Amen." He felt accomplished and relieved, and the meeting

simply proceeded from that point.

During the course of the new business discussion, a resident articulated a deep concern. Our Director of Nursing of 25 years had recently announced her retirement. Who was going to take her place? She made all of us feel secure, and really insured that our health care needs were met. She had established many lasting friendships with staff and residents. How could we say goodbye and develop a new relationship with another Director of Nursing? Who would supervise the staff that provide such intimate personal care and training for the residents? There were other concerns, too.

Well, just as these concerns were being detailed, the Director of Nursing came into the multi purpose room. Even though she probably had wanted, she had never attended one of these meetings due to other work assignments and schedules during meeting times. She had decided to assist the Charge Nurse that night and bring something into the meeting for one of the residents. The group sat there amazed as she entered. The timing was unpredicted. A council member quickly asked her when her last day would be and if we could plan a farewell party for her. This DON stopped, prioritized, and gave detailed information about her retirement plans, desires to visit Timber Ridge after leaving, who her replacement would be, the transition plan for the new DON, and we confirmed a time for a party. The Council members were sad about her leaving, but were delighted and surprised to hear that the new DON would be a familiar Timber Ridge Charge Nurse. Residents felt confident God is in charge. One resident had prayed believing that God would take care of our meeting. God had given abundantly more than anyone could have asked. Heb. 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

JULY birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550: Randal Siebenthal (7/3), Walter McKeever (7/16), Daniel Zimmerman (7/18), Clark Lewis (7/24), Joshua Peelman (7/31), Kristie Ramp (7/31).

At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550: Todd Schneider (7/29).

At Linden Estate, 1000 Linden St., Morton, IL 61550: Billie Tatum (7/1), Cynthia Virkler (7/6), Michael Oates (7/18), Michelle Maloney (7/19).

At 1001 E. Idlewood, Morton, IL 61550: Edward Getz (7/31).

At 208 S. Indiana, Morton, IL 61550: Chris Knapp (7/17).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Kevin Fiechter

"And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him."

John 8:29

Jesus was perfect. Only He can make the statement above, that He always does those things that please God. Throughout the day, how often do we examine ourselves to see if we are doing those things that are pleasing to God? When we are reading the Bible, praying, and singing hymns, it is easy to please God. But what about those times when we are out and about, with so many things to tempt us? Are we pleasing God? When someone says or does something that irritates us, how do we respond? When our convictions are not the same as someone else's, do we set them straight, or do we respond in a Godly manner? The middle part of the above verse states that the Father hath not left me alone. Why? Because I do always those things that please Him. It looks to me that the more we are pleasing God, the closer we are to Him.

In I John 3:22, we read, "and what-

soever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things are pleasing in His sight." This verse also states the importance of doing those things that are pleasing to God. Does this mean we need to put off self and put on God? Yes. How important is it to you and me to please God? Hopefully it is very important. One final observation. These two verses seem to state that if we are not pleasing God and keeping his commandments, our prayers may be hindered and Satan may gain a foothold. Let's keep each other accountable on how we are living our lives.

Gateway Woods would like to welcome Krystal B, Brittany T, and Wyleka C to our campus in Leo. We trust that God will work mightily in their lives. Please pray that God would continue to send us the right children at the right time. We covet your prayers!

Gateway Woods Foster Care recently said goodbye to Amanda B. Please pray for her and her family. We are currently serving approximately 20 foster children.

Construction is progressing nicely on the new GWFS building in Morton, IL. We will keep everyone updated in the months ahead. We look forward to being able to serve our clients more conveniently. We thank God for His provision!

Our adoption program continues to provide quality, Christ-centered services to families seeking adoption. One of our adoptive couples is adopting an albino child from China. Please pray that God's hand would be in this process.

There will be two high school graduates of Gateway Woods School this school year. Cody H and John P have successfully completed all graduation requirements and are looking forward to their graduation ceremony. This is quite an accomplishment, and we rejoice with Cody and John.

Please be looking for information about our Annual Benefit Auction coming up in August (see ad in the Sil-

ver Lining). This year's theme is "An Honor to Serve."

We cannot reiterate enough how much your prayers mean to this ministry. We recognize that there are many other organizations worthy of your prayer support, but we truly do need your prayers as we move into the future. The work is difficult, but God is faithful. Thank you for your love, prayers, and financial support.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Melissa Slagel

The pure, complete love for Jesus was displayed beautifully by the children at our graduation night. They worked so hard practicing and just as we knew they would, they did the best they had ever done. There were so many smiles and some sadness as well, as we said goodbye to our five year olds going on to "big school". It was an incredible experience watching them with their cute little caps and gown on, listening to their voices quoting scripture and singing about Jesus. This is the perfect time for the seed to be planted in their hearts where it will never be forgotten.

I set my life by God's great clock,
His time is always right.
He times the wind, the rain, the
snow,
He times the day and night.
God's clock: Tick, Tock
Is right: Tick, Tock
There's none so wise as He.
His hands uphold the whole wide
world,
He knows what's best for me.

God's clock does keep the perfect time. We have witnessed it here at the preschool as the Lord has directed one to go and one to come. We sadly say goodbye to Miss Bethany as she moves back to Indiana. Her love for the children, her smile, and shining light have impacted many here and may God bless

her for being willing to be used in His work. Thank you, Miss Bethany, we will miss you and wish you the very best in your new job. I will be taking her place as the 4 year old teacher as well as the coordinator. I am excited about this new opportunity and so thankful for the welcome I have received by everyone here.

Our summer program is beginning. Our theme for circle time will be "God's Wonderful World." We will be focusing on faith, obedience, knowledge, self-control, patience, godliness, and love, to learn more of how to live in God's world. Along with that, Miss Louise's 2 and 3 year old class will be working on learning nursery rhymes. Miss Melissa's 4 year old class will be learning and discovering "God's Creeping Crawlies". We have been enjoying the sunny outdoors and look forward to a summer filled with fun.

We welcome any volunteers who would like to come spend some time with us here at the preschool. The children will welcome you with open arms and it will be an experience you will enjoy and be blessed for.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Louise Hall

"Her children arise up and call her blessed."

Proverbs 31:28

Mothers are such a special part of our lives. As we grow, they teach us, nourish us and protect us in so many ways. They are always there for us when we need them and will pray for us continually. May God richly bless every mother and those who are like mothers on this special day.

We want to thank our visiting ministers who came and worshipped with us. They were Bros. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith, Elgin, IL), Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT) and Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH). God will bless them for their work. We love and appreciate all of our visitors.

Life brings so many changes but the Lord always provides for every detail. We say goodbye to Sis. Bethany Gerber (Wolcott, IN) as she moves back to Indiana. We have enjoyed having her with us and will miss her very much. God bless you, Sis. Bethany, for giving of yourself and working for Him. The Lord provided in His perfect time and has sent Sis. Melissa Slagel (Fairbury, IL) here to our Athens church. We welcome her as she becomes the new coordinator at the preschool. When we thought we were already blessed beyond belief, God has answered yet another prayer by leading Bro. Kerwin and Sis. Sara Edelman (Fairbury, IL) along with their three daughters, Jessica, Amber and Emily, to be the caretakers at the Tennessee Fellowship Center. We warmly welcome them all and know their lives as well as our lives will be more blessed because of their willingness.

Sis. Melinda Matuch (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Darren and Sis. Monica Price (Milford, IN) came and spent a weekend with us. They had lived here previously, so it was wonderful to see them again.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"This is my commandment, that ye love one another as I have loved you."

John 15:12

A reception was held for our graduates on May 2. Our grade school graduates are Curtis Corven (Chris and Sis. Anita), Amy Emch (Bro. James and Sis. Gina), Tyler Knochel (Bro. Herbie and Sis. Laurie), and Lauren Meiss (Bro. Jim and Sis. Candy). High school grads are Aaron Cooke (Sis. Beth), and Richelle Meiss (Bro. Jim and Sis. Candy). Our college graduate is Carmen (Langhofer) Okhmatovski (Vladimir).

We Mountain View Villa residents

enjoyed dinner and a singing hosted by our young members on April 24.

Our monthly church dinner and singing was held on April 25. What blessings and Godly love we enjoy! The singing was a "surprise farewell" for Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Kieser who will be spending time in Atlanta as well as Phoenix. Their family in Atlanta is so glad; we will ask God to bless us all.

We held our annual business meeting, and the new officers for the coming year are: Trustee Chairman - Bro. Nathan Knochel; Sunday School Assistant Superintendent - Bro. Greg Wiegand; Song Leader - Bro. Jeff Steffen; Assistant Song Leader - Bro. Erik Langhofer; Ushers - Bro. Charlie Baumgartner and Bro. Todd Hinrichsen; Lunch Fund Treasurer - Bro. Howard Maurer; Congregational Room Coordinators - Bro. Jeremy Ebert and Bro. Tom Ebert. We thank each of those who were on the ballot and all those whose terms of service are ending, God bless you for your willingness to serve.

Many prayers have been answered for our sick and surgical patients. Thankful are: Sis. Marie Beery, Sis. Clara Banwart, Sis. Alice Baumgartner, Bro. Clarence Beyer, Bro. Ron Hoerr, and Bro. Floyd Banwart.

Our thanks to Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North) for ministering to us on May 2.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Joe and Sis. Patty Greenbank, Sis. Jane Hodges, and John Greenbank in the death of their father, Bro. Gordon Greenbank.

Sis. Clara Banwart thanks each of you for the cards, gifts and phone calls during her recent illness.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

"The glory of children is their father."

Proverbs 17:6

Those of us whose fathers raised us in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4) have so much to be thankful for as we pay special tribute to them this Father's Day.

Saturday, August 7, is the date planned for this year's annual corn-on-the-cob picnic. It will be held again at A.C. Williams Granite Creek Park in Prescott from 3-9 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and can get more information from our church members.

Bro. Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan, Elgin, IA) was our only visiting minister in the last month. May God richly bless him and his family for their love and service to our small congregation.

ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) was with us for Sunday services recently before heading to Mexico with a work team. We enjoyed getting to know the young men and women who were heading to Mexico to lend a helping hand. May God richly bless them. We thank Bro. Dennis for his service on the pulpit.

We had two high school graduates in May. Daniel Bauer (Bro. Brad and Sis. Sandy) and Ryan Knapp (Bro. Jay and Sis. Lisa) both graduated from high school on May 20. Both young men plan to go to college here in Tucson for which we are especially thankful given our small numbers! We wish them both God's richest blessings as they head out on that big road of life. We pray they will always look to God for guidance.

We said some hard farewells recently. Bro. Paul Knoblock has left us to live in Iowa. We thank Bro. Paul for his many years of love and support for the Tucson church. He was always there with a smile and a friendly handshake and we will miss him so much. God be with you in your new home, Bro. Paul.

We also said goodbye to Bro. Norm and Sis. Jan Rechkemmer as they head back to their home in Roanoke and to the loving arms of their family and friends. We think of them as a big part of our church family and eagerly await their return every January. We miss them already!

We officially hit the 100 degree mark for the first time this year on June 1. This sometimes happens in May so we caught a break this year. Temperatures will hover around 104 this week.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA **Robin Moser**

“Deliver me, O Lord, from the evil man: preserve me from the violent man.”

Psalm 140:1

As the world around us seems to become more hostile toward Christianity and Americans in general, may we look to Christ for protection and peace. He promises that He will provide grace for the day, so let's not be overcome with anxiety about the future.

Our congregation was thankful to have Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ) assist in sharing the Word and the reading of the Memorandum this month. We appreciate the efforts of our visiting Elders - many travel substantive distances to reach us here in Los Angeles.

On Saturday before Mother's Day, our sisters enjoyed a Mother-Daughter tea to thank our mothers and warm Letty and Adela Chavez's new home. How grateful we can be for all that our mothers have done for us.

Our Altadena congregation welcomes Bro. John Gerst for his summer internship. We pray that the Lord will prosper his time here, and know from past experience that our small church benefits from all who give of their talents and energies during their stay.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO **Peggy Jevremov**

Greetings of love. This past month has brought us many blessings once more. Among our visitors were ministering Bros. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL) and Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO). We pray the Lord will bless them for their willing service on our behalf. Also our single group hosted some of the Silverton single brothers and sisters. What a precious fellowship we have!

We will miss Carlos Soto as he has returned to the Midwest to further his schooling. We wish him the Lord's direction and blessings.

You can imagine the excitement and joy as our little congregation was blessed with the birth of not one but two little ones. Bro. Phillip and Sis. Tasha Petrovic welcomed little Ashlyn Leann into their family on April 23. Although she was a little premature, she is doing well and for this we thank the Lord. Her grandparents are Elder Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian Petrovic and Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). On May 7, we rejoiced with Bro. Terry and Sis. Yasmin Koehl in the safe arrival of their daughter, Brielle Rose. She was warmly welcomed by her grandparents, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary Koehl (Prescott, AZ) and Elder Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian Petrovic. Both of these precious bundles are the firstborn of their parents. We pray the Lord will grant them much wisdom and guidance in their new responsibility as parents.

As Father's Day is once more celebrated in our nation, may we be thankful for our own fathers and all that they have done for us. For those of us that still have our fathers with us, may we make a special effort to tell them how much we appreciate and love them. Most of all, let us give thanks unto our Heavenly Father for His great love and mercy in sending us His only beloved Son to redeem our souls with His blood on Calvary.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO **CANADA**

A new little bundle of joy arrived on April 15. Jonathan Michael was welcomed home by thankful parents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Melanie Tomic. Christopher and Brian were very excited about their new little brother. Grandparents are Bro. Kurt and Sis. Luanne Kaeb (Alto, MI) and Bro. Costa and Sis. Erna Tomic (Nazarene Church).

As ever, we are thankful for our visiting ministers this past month. They were Bro. Dwayne Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT), Elder Bro. Ladislav Agustinov (Sis. Katie, Arad, Romania - translated by Bro. Peter Boronka, Nazarene Church) and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise, Bluffton North, IN).

Sis. Johanna Fortenbacher spent time in the hospital. We are so thankful the Lord has been merciful and she is home once again. We continue to pray for her as she has a big decision to make regarding surgery.

Henry Schlauch (Sis. Astrid) has a brother whose house caught fire on April 24. It was amazing to see how much damage could be done in such a short period of time. This tragedy has given us an opportunity to show true love and generosity to those who do not profess a faith. Sometimes we see a situation such as this and think how can good come out of this, and yet we know that everything happens for a reason.

For those making summer plans, please keep Kitchener in mind as a place to visit while on vacation. We are only a 1 ½ hour drive from Niagara Falls and Toronto. Please contact Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Ursu (519) 669-8515, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Miriam Reutter (519) 581-0754 or Sis. Ingrid Fortenbacher (519) 662-6700.

COLORADO, DENVER **Ann Gonglach**

As the summer traveling season begins, we are thankful for our many visitors and the safety that God bestows on

those who travel.

We're also thankful for the Lord's protection and healing of Bro. Louis Bikadi (Sis. Kathy) who is doing well at home after suffering a heart attack on his way to work on April 26. On the 27th, he underwent bypass surgery. Please continue to pray for Bro. Louis' further healing.

Our sympathies are with the Lehman family (Bro. Verne & Sis. Leona and Bro. Nate & Sis. Yvonne) whose brother, Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), recently passed away. We pray that God would comfort them and their families. Bro. Nate himself reminded us to "...sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him" (I Thess. 4:13b-14).

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

Prov. 18:22

On May 16, Bro. Britt Steffen's (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sue) engagement was announced to Sis. Megan Descarpentrie of the Washington, Illinois, congregation. May the Lord guide and bless these two young people as they make plans for an August wedding and their life together afterward.

Our prayers are with Brent Bruellman as he recovers from back surgery. He injured his back in a biking accident.

We'll miss Bro. George and Sis. Tina Gal and their children as they have moved to Ohio. The Lord be with them as they serve Him and fellowship with the Akron congregation. We also bid farewell to Sam Moser (Rockville, CT) who will hopefully visit us again as the Lord (through Sam's job situation) allows.

CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE Laura Virkler Amber Reutter

"And he took bread, and gave thanks and brake it, and gave unto them saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Like wise also the cup after supper saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

Luke 22: 19-20

This past month we had the precious privilege to share in the Lord's supper and remember the great sacrifice and suffering which was done on our behalf, so that we may see eternal life. With us for this both solemn and joyous occasion were Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine) of Mansfield OH, and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla) of LaCrosse, IN. It was a blessing to have these brothers with us and pray that God will bless them for their efforts on our behalf.

Our thoughts and many prayers this month are with Sis. Cyndi Luginbuhl and Bro. Bryan as well as their children as Sis. Cyndi had extensive surgery. We pray that God will be with her and provide healing, and be by the side of her family as they all go through this difficult time.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Henrietta Meyer

Our country has set aside a day for us to remember and honor our fathers. May we always remember and honor our Father who loves us more than tongue or pen can tell.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN), Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg, NY) Bro. Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy, Rockville, CT) and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL).

Our visitors this month were from

Peoria, IL; Philadelphia, PA; Akron and Rittman, OH; Rockville, CT; and Detroit, MI.

We were concerned that our services would be small on April 25 since some of our congregation was in Leo for the wedding of Bro. Adam Merkle (Dr. George and Karen Merkle, Bluffton, IN) and Sis. Jill Gramm (Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie Gramm, Gridley, IL) but the Lord provided lots of visitors.

Our prayers are with Aidan Subra (Renaud and Suzi) as he had surgery on his ears.

Services are usually held the first, third, fourth and fifth 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. Adam Merkle (703) 929-7941 or Bro. Adam and Sis. Liz Hermann (703) 516-4345 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 as well. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE Renee Mangold

The church was again blessed to have visiting ministers with us this month. Visiting were Bros. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN), Dwayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) and Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN). Our prayer would be that God would bless His servants for their faithful work.

The church, once again, shared their monthly potluck. It was a great time for fellowship and good food.

Our prayers for sympathy and comfort are with Sis. Joyce Troxel and her family on the passing of Bro. Ken

Troxel. Ken and Joyce were among the very first families that helped found the Ft. Lauderdale church. Bro. Ken played a part in the building of the church and fellowship hall. He will be greatly missed.

FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS

Mary Masters

Our congregation has dwindled down to under 30 people per Sunday, quite a change from the count we have in the winter months. We miss our loved ones from the North and value any visitors in the summer very highly.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our dear faithful ministers, who continue to serve us week after week in the Lord's service. We don't stop often enough to thank them and pray for them and their dear wives and families. We so appreciate our dear Bro. Vic Beer and his wife, Sis. Dorothy, and Bro. Marvin Steffen and his wife, Sis. Rhea. With just the two of them here at Fort Myers, they don't get many breaks from their duties and we just want them to know that we do appreciate their untiring service on our behalf.

We heard recently of how the apostle Paul was bold to preach the gospel even though he and his fellow workers had met with opposition. We were encouraged to do the same wherever we find ourselves and with whatever means that God has given us, whether it be with words or actions of love and caring. I Thessalonians 2 tells of how Paul and other faithful brethren were careful to preach to God's praise and not for flattery of man. Their motives were purely for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is what we can feel coming from our dear servants also.

Thank you to each one who has taken time to assemble with us while in our area on vacation.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Carol Koehl

Sarasota is very happy to welcome Bro. Aaron Ott who recently moved here from Congerville, IL.

Bro. Rich Martin was a hospital patient this past month, but we're thankful to see both him and Bro. Glenn Price back at church again.

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

Phil. 4:7

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Carol Kaufman

But I prize the friendship highest
Of the one whose heart is true.
Friends who live by truth and
goodness

And who live in Him anew.
Friends whose hearts are up in
heaven

Though their feet traverse this
sod,

Find a place of highest merit
In our fellowship with God.

Hymns of Zion #91, verse 2

God has richly blessed us with visitors this past month. Among them were Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene - Denver, CO) and Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla - LaCrosse, IN). May God richly bless you for your willingness to preach the truth. It is very much appreciated. We would love to have more visitors to fill our sanctuary and encourage us on the straight and narrow way. Please let us know of your plans to help us prepare for Sunday lunch and other activities. We encourage you to set aside time Saturday evening, Sunday evening or during the week for fellowship. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. The church is located off I-85 south of the Atlanta airport at Exit 64 in Fairburn, GA. Once off the exit, go

west four miles and the church will be on the left. For more information or to let us know of your plans, please call Bro. Tom Waldbeser 770-463-4788, Bro. Ted Hirstein 770-632-1287, Bro. Linn Stoller 770-631-4554, or Bro. Keith Kaufman 770-304-8335.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Doreen Moser Sheila McCoy

A Christian is:

A mind through which Christ
thinks;

A heart through which Christ
loves;

A voice through which Christ
speaks;

A hand through which Christ
helps.

—unknown

A mind through which Christ
thinks:

Our human minds can try and think through problems here on earth but when we add God's wisdom to our thoughts, then we have a chance of succeeding. Bro. Art Mueller held our mid-week Bible study in Madison this month and the topic was wisdom. We need to seek the Lord's wisdom in every aspect of our daily living.

A heart through which Christ loves:

On Mother's day the exhortation was on how a Mother's love for her children differs from any other love a child receives. A Mother's heart can never stop loving or caring for her children. How blest we are, who were raised in Christian homes, not only to have the human love of our Mothers, but to have Mothers who love the Lord.

A voice through which Christ
speaks:

Through the voices of the brethren new Sunday School teachers were elected. Bro. Brent Knobloch will be the voice the junior high school children will hear each Sunday. Sis. Jill Stahl will be the new voice for the young-

ger children. Bro. Bill Schiffer was elected for Trustee. Much appreciation goes to our brothers and sisters who have completed their terms. Your voices were heard and we as a congregation thank you for your service. May the Lord continue to speak through you in voice and actions.

A hand through which Christ helps:

Many a helping hand have been lent for Bro. Matt Hein while he was sick. May the Lord bless those helping hands who have made his last days more bearable and all those that folded their hands and prayed for and with Bro. Matt. Bro. Matt's funeral was held on May 26.

May we all strive to be more Christ-like every day if we truly profess to be a Christian.

ILLINOIS

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Kara Martin

Rebekah Kaufmann

We appreciate Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), and Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) for being with us this month. God bless each of these brothers for their willingness to serve.

Also, Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) was with us on April 24 to assist our Elder Bro. Everett Hari in serving Communion. We are thankful he was with us for this special event.

On May 15-16 we had the privilege of hearing the testimonies and witnessing the baptisms of Charles Knapp (Jeanne) and Melinda Metz (Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol, Roanoke, IL). Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) was with us on Saturday evening, and we are grateful to him for sharing the occasion with us. We praise God for His work in Bro. Charles' and Sis. Melinda's lives.

Hannah Zimmerman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Pam) has begun repenting, and we rejoice with her and her family!

Bro. Pete and Sis. Lisa Monagle are happy to add another girl to their family. Ellie Kay was born on May 3 and was welcomed home by sisters, Leah and Hannah. Thankful grandparents are Gary and Sis. Kay Monagle (Washington, IL) and Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary Staker (Morton, IL).

Our prayers are with Bro. Lynn (Sis. Anne Marie) Young and his family on the loss of Lynn's father, Ralph Young (Cissna Park, IL). He passed away on May 13.

We had a special evening on April 28. Bro. Tim Sauder (Leo, IN) was with us to share of the many services God is working through Gateway Woods. He reminded us that the most important support we can provide is prayer. We will continue to support their work and lift them up to our Father.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Steve Endress

Retired Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) served us on the pulpit for the last time recently. We appreciate his years of service as our under-shepherd before Bro. Marvin Leman accepted the responsibility. We appreciated having Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) with us to minister unto us the Word of Life.

Sis. Sandy Joos (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny) is our only high school graduate this year. We are thankful that she sought the Lord early in life and was able to avoid many of the pitfalls that confront our youth today. We trust that she will continue to be a blessing to those whom she meets as the Lord leads her into a new phase of life.

May 15 was the wedding day of Jill McClary and John Tanner. Their parents are Ronald and Carol McClary of Lacon, IL, and Bro. Richard and Sis. Marilyn Tanner. They are currently residing in Peoria. We wish them the blessings of God and a happy marriage.

Our prayers are with Bro. John Endress (Sis. Lucille) as he recently underwent surgery. May the Lord's

healing hand be upon him, if that would be His will.

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Karla Kieser

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana! We had our annual church business meeting on April 22. We elected Bro. Nick Waibel as usher for a two year term and Bro. Chad Kupferschmid as trustee for a three year term. Sisters Janelle Schlipf and Michelle Stoller were elected to continue teaching third and fourth grade Sunday School for an additional three year term. In other business, we were notified that Sis. Linda Kupferschmid is taking over as head of kitchen committee, replacing Lorna Klaus. Our prayers are with each one as they fulfill their new responsibilities and also with those presently serving, as each is important to our church. Our business meeting was followed with Communion Exhortation where Elder Bro. Wayne encouraged us to examine ourselves and make the necessary preparations for this holy time. Communion then took place on May 12. We were thankful that Elder Bro. Everett Hari and his wife, Sis. Beverly, came to help our Elder Bro. Wayne with this task.

The weekend of April 24-25 was Parent's Appreciation Weekend and was put on by the students. A delicious dinner was prepared on Saturday not only for the parents but also for the church. We thank ministering Bros. Dewayne Dill (daughter Meg) from Minneapolis, Loren Schrenk (son Matthew) from St. Louis and Jon Zeller from Morton for their efforts that weekend. On that same Sunday, the Morton Bible Class visited our congregation and our Bible Class had ACYF at Cissna Park that evening.

It has been announced that one of our students, Chalise Steffen, has found peace with God and is ready for baptism. She is the daughter of Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth Steffen of Cissna

Park. Our prayers are with her and Elder Bro. Wayne as they prepare for testimony and baptism June 26-27, Lord willing.

We have one high school graduate! Erin Metzger is graduating from St. Joseph's HS and plans on attending the local college, Parkland, in the fall. We are glad that she has decided to remain in the area. She is the daughter of Sis. Jeanne Metzger.

We would like to extend congratulations to our new college graduates. Our University of Illinois graduates include Katy Sauder with her Masters in Accounting (Bro. Harold and Sis. Judy, Roanoke), Sis. Michelle Stoller with a Masters in Speech and Hearing Science (Bro. Steve and Sis. Ann, La-Crosse, IN) Sis. Julie Neukomm with her Bachelors in Kinesiology (Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda, Lexington, KY), Bro. Benjamin Rocke with his Bachelors in Chemistry (Bro. Robyn and Sis. Janet, Eureka, IL), Sis. Bekah Kaufman with her Bachelors in Nursing (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Brent Young with his Bachelors in Architecture (Bro. Norman and Sis. Lollie, Fairbury, IL), Sis. Sarah Laubscher with her Bachelors in Spanish (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Eric Weiss with a Bachelors in Civil Engineering (Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen, Elgin, IL), Bro. Nic Roth with a Bachelors in Ag Business (Bro. Ken and Sis. Deb, Forrest, IL), Bro. Darl Rassi with a Bachelors in Mathematics (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL), Kristen Rinkenberger with a Bachelors in English (Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon, St. Louis, IL) and Troy Plattner with a Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering (Washington, IL). Our two Medical School students, Sis. Rachel Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Shayne Fehr (David and Sis. Linda, Washington, IL) will be spending their second years in Rockford, IL and Peoria, IL respectively. We have several students who plan to transfer from the community college to Illinois

State in Bloomington. They are Sis. Leslie Ringger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla, Gridley, IL) and Sis. Andrea Neukomm (Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda, Lexington, KY). Chalise Steffen graduates with her Associates in Occupational Therapy from Parkland. We wish all our graduates God's richest blessings in all their future endeavors and thank them for their years of service in our community and church while they were here. I apologize for any graduates that I may have accidentally omitted. Bro. Brent Young will be staying for his Masters in Architecture and Troy Plattner will be staying to attend Law School. Sis. Sarah Laubscher has found a job in Champaign and we are glad she has decided to stay. Sis. Michelle Stoller is currently doing an eight-week rotation in the Peoria area and we look forward to her return.

Bro. John and Sis. Lisa Walder are the happy new parents to a son, Justin Ray, born May 17. He is the little brother to older siblings, Laura, Kyler, Rachel, Kevin and Sarah. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma from Champaign and maternal grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta Schneider from Remington, IN.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Rachel Meyer

Greetings of love from Chicago. It's warming up; I recognized the aroma of a barbecue the other day and school is almost out. It looks like summer is on its way and we look forward to all that it brings. Speaking of school and changes, our Bro. Ben Funk will be moving back to Gridley, IL, to finish his college work at ISU. It has been a blessing to have him worship with us and we hope that he can come back to Chicago when he has completed his schooling. We wish him all the best and thank him for being a part of us. The Chicago church has many students worship with us while they are getting college degrees and we are thankful for every

one. It is energizing to meet and greet these loved ones and a joy to get to know them.

We experienced the passing of a beloved Chicago sister this month. Sis. Mabelle Welk was known and loved of many here and had been at Elgin Resthaven for some time. Sis. Mabelle came to God later in life, and it is once again a joy to have the assurance that God will save any soul that comes to Him in repentance no matter what his/her situation in life. It reminds me of something I remember hearing a lot from my younger years regarding the longings of the heart for our loved ones who have not yet come to God in repentance. "As long as there is life, there is hope."

I also remember being told how the younger generation is our future, and I know many prayers are said on their behalf and ours - that we can leave a godly legacy behind for them to pick up and follow. I recently spent the day with my three year old nephew and we went to a fast-food restaurant for lunch. It was busy, and we finally sat down with our food in the "play place" area that was filled with parents and kids yelling and eating. I picked up my food and looked up. There was my dear nephew - no food in his hands. He said, "Aren't we going to pray first, Aunt Rachel?" I was humbled, ashamed, and yet thankful that he is already being taught what is really important in life. "Out of the mouth of babes..." (Psalm 8:2).

The Chicago Single group is looking forward to hosting a weekend for working singles from any of our churches on the weekend of July 10-11. All are welcome. Activities will include a World Relief Project Saturday morning and speakers in the afternoon and evening, as well as fellowship opportunities on Friday night and Sunday. For further information, and if planning to attend, please contact Bro. Doug Stoller at (773) 947-8329 or dstoller@uchicago.edu.

Note of Thanks:

We express our heartfelt thanks for all your love, prayers, food and many deeds of kindness shown to us during LaVirra's confinement and Eugene's passing. May God richly bless you.

The family of Eugene Lehman

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Andrea Walder
Susan Waldbeser

Faithful until death remain!
 For the crown of life be striving.
 Break through bonds of woe and
 pain,
 In His promise e'er confiding.
 Which through grace is kept in
 store
 For thee when thy journeys o'er.
Zion's Harp #105

We were saddened to say farewell, yet thankful that Bro. Melvin Stock could be relieved of his earthly suffering. His life left many rich memories for everyone around him and we think especially of his two daughters, Sis. Bonita Frank (Bro. Bruce) and Sis. Beverly Hartter (Bro. John) and their families. May God comfort each and every heart.

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord;"

Jeremiah 30:17

We are prayerful for those that have had physical set backs in the past month. Our thoughts go to Bro. Dale Walder (Sis. Dorothy), Bro. Arthur Hari (Sis. LouElla), Sis. Sandy Kaufmann (Bro. Sid), Bro. Les Walder (Sis. Dorothy), Sis. Vi Greiner, Bro. Robert Greiner (Sis. Eileen), and Macie Rudin (Chris and Lynette). We wish these dear ones the Lord's healing and grace as they recuperate.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one

flesh." We were thankful to have many visitors with us to witness the marriage of Sis. Traci Rudin (Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LaNae) to Bro. Tim Leman of Eureka (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn). We pray God will bless them as they make their home in Eureka. We thank visiting ministers who were with us for the weekend. They were Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL).

Other visiting ministers that were with us this month were Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL). May God bless each one for coming and sharing the Word of God with us.

Our congregation had the blessed opportunity to host ACYF the weekends of April 18 and April 25. It was refreshing to see so many young people willing to spend an evening in church singing hymns respectfully before God. We thank each one for coming, and also our Sunday School superintendent and teachers for all their efforts.

Note of Thanks:

A heartfelt thank you to all who expressed their sympathy, prayers, monetary gifts, flowers, food and cards at the loss of our dear brother, Franklin Rocke. A sincere thank you to all at Fairview Haven Home who cared for him in loving kindness and patience. A thank you to those who visited him and who offered prayers and guidance. It was deeply appreciated by him and we as a family. May God bless each and every one of you.

Lester Rocke, Lorene Rocke, Doris Koehl, Aldean Kaufman

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Rachel Schrock

One Sunday morning after a rainy stretch the sun emerged momentarily. The minister pointed out how we need these times of refreshing – both the sunshine after the rain and the watering of the Word for our thirsty souls.

We thank those ministers who have visited and refreshed us this past month: Bros. Matt Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL), Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL), Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL), Gary Endress (Sis. Evie, Bradford, IL), Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL) and Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy, Wolcott, IN).

Our congregation was also refreshed to hear of the engagement of our Sis. Kayla Steffen (Kent and Sis. Beth) to Bro. Clint Metzger of Eureka (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley Metzger, West Bend, IA). May God be with them as they begin to blend their lives together.

After spending time at the hospital, many of our brethren are spending time refreshing their mortal bodies at home. Those in our prayers include Bro. Virgil Funk (Sis. Shirley), Bro. Harvey Schieber, Sis. Mardell Ott (Bro. Glen), Bro. Alan Schrock (Sis. Carol) and Sis. Joyce Zobrist (Bro. Rusty). Bro. Chris Miller (Sis. Betty) also spends time receiving special treatments at the hospital every month. May God be near to each one.

Two dear souls are now being refreshed in the presence of Jesus. Sis. Leigh Getz (Bro. John and Sis. Lynn, Roanoke, IL), granddaughter of our Bro. Willis and Sis. Bernice Knapp, has won her battle on this earth. Sis. Adele Stahl has also gained her reward. Our sympathy is extended to her family, including her son, Bro. Ernest Stahl (Sis. Norma), from our congregation.

Even while some souls gained their eternal reward, others began their walk on this earth. Bro. James and Sis. Jennifer Kieser welcomed Rieley James into their home on May 4. Being refreshed with the presence of a new little brother are his big sisters, Alyssa, Jessi and Morgan.

And while one is born, another soul reached a milestone birthday in her life. Our Sis. Mae Schrock was refreshed by her family as she celebrated her 100th birthday the weekend of May 1. May we all strive to spend time with

those who have years of experience to pass along to us.

Having completed his years of college and ready to gain more years of experience in the work world is our Bro. Benjamin Virkler (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gayle). Congratulations and God's blessings on your future, Bro. Ben!

We have enjoyed the time spent with our Bro. Aaron Ott (Bro. Glen and Sis. Mardell) and will miss him as he moves to Sarasota, FL. May God be with him and bring his soul refreshment as he settles into a new job and builds relationships among the brethren there.

In preparation for Communion, we were encouraged to assess our relationships with others on this earth and to refresh our walk with the Lord. We were also refreshed lately as we hosted an Invite A Guest Sunday. Thank you to all who came to be with us that day.

Notes of Thanks:

We want to thank every one far and near for the love and prayers, cards, and gifts that we received during the illness and death of Bro. Charles. May God bless you all.

Our love and prayers,

Sis. Martha Rinckenberger and family

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who offered prayers, brought meals and helped with children during the time of John's hip surgery. We are very thankful to see how quickly he is recovering and getting along so well. The Lord surely had His hand upon us during our time of need.

John and Renae Dietrich

ELGIN, ILLINOIS

**Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser**

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an

house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

II Cor. 5:1

Our dear Sisters Lucile Knupper and Mabelle Welk were called home within just a week of each other, Lucile on May 1 and Mabelle on May 8. We will miss them but will remember their godly examples of love and longsuffering. Three visitors from Chicago shared in Sis. Mabelle's service: Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann, Bro. Lenny Meyer and Bro. Matthew Rassi.

Others from our assembly have lost loved ones, and we want to remember them at this time. Raymond Thums of Elgin, brother of Mary Lindoerfer (Bro. Ken), passed away on May 6 at the age of 93. He was preceded in death by his wife. On May 13, Ralph Young died peacefully in Cissna Park, IL. He was the father of Bro. Morris (Sis. Pat) Young.

We appreciated the inspired messages of other visitors who served on the pulpit this month. They were Bros. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and Dan Koch (Tremont, IL).

After repentance and conversion, Rebekah Braun (Bro. Gene and Sis. Sue) has found peace and feels ready to take the next step in her walk of faith. She hopes to give her testimony and be baptized the last weekend in May.

Bro. Jason Schambach has recently been selected to replace Bro. Tom Schifferer in teaching Sunday School. We thank Bro. Tom for his willingness to serve our students throughout the years and wish God's blessings and wisdom on Bro. Jason, as he assumes his new role.

On May 14, Bro. Matt and Sis. Renee Schambach announced the birth of their son, Wyatt Andrew. He joins Tyler, Katlin, Jacob and Lucas. Wyatt's grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie Anliker and Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie Schambach.

Our Bible Class students served a special benefit dinner at the Fellow-

ship Center on May 15. Proceeds are designated for a December trip to an orphanage, which is being developed in Magdalena, Sonora, Mexico. Sis. Erica Schambach (Bro. Les and Sis. Alison) has felt led to move to this area to support our church's new mission there. We will miss her and pray that God will keep her under His care and protection.

"The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another."

Genesis 31:49

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Cindy Stoller

Lisa Metzger

We are thankful to have had three visiting ministers this past month. Bros. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) and Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO) lent themselves in the ministry of the Word. May God bless them for their labors.

Two more souls have started on the way to salvation. We wish much grace and spiritual guidance to be granted to Kary Bradle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila) and Jennifer Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn).

Several of our congregation have spent time in the hospital recently. Sandy Jones (Tim), Sis. Edna Fehr, Bro. Wilmer Leman, Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen Belsley, and Rose Zimmerman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Gretchen) have received medical attention. We are thankful they are on the road to recovery, and pray that the Lord be near unto them.

Marc Blunier (Bro. Duane and Sis. Eileen) and Elizabeth Derer (Jack and Loretta) were united in marriage on Saturday, May 22. We congratulate them and hope for God's nearness as they travel through life together.

The graduating class this year includes the following: Sis. Marsha Stoller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola), Kary Bradle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila), Kristy

Dotterer (Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne), Malinda Zimmerman (Bro. Loren and Sis. Mary), Allison Ehnle (Bro. Gary and Sis. Carole), Sis. Laurel Zimmerman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl), Danielle Leman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Chris), Derek Blunier (Bro. Ted and Sis. Donna), Jonathan Blunier (Bro. Myron and Sis. Elaine), Mark Wiegand (Bro. Don and Sis. Jane), Chance Knapp (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori), Doug Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Dianne) and Blake Hoerr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Carolyn). "...In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:6). May they all truly took to the Lord to direct their paths as they go forward in life.

Note of Thanks:

I want to say "Thank You" to all my friends and relatives for the many prayers, visits, cards, flowers and food since my recent surgery. All the acts of kindness were greatly appreciated. May God bless every one.

Sis. Velma Leman

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Tammy Hinrichsen

Joann Zehr

Our Fairbury congregation, as well as our entire community, was deeply saddened with the tragic accident and death of our dear Bro. Chad Welborn, 21. He will be sadly missed by his dear wife, Sis. Lori, and their infant son, Ty, as well as his dear parents, Bro. Don and Sis. Phyllis Welborn. He had two brothers, Ryan (Milissa) and Jason, and one sister, Jennifer. His life touched many hearts even though he was only 21 years old. We hope Sis. Lori and all the family can feel our deep love for them and most of all our prayers that God will sustain them in the days ahead. His life and death is such a testimony that we must be ready as we never know at what age God will call us into eternity.

We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Norman Young (Sis. Lollie) in the

death of his father, Ralph Young, 88, of Cissna Park.

On Wednesday evening, May 12, we partook of Holy Communion and remembered the great suffering of our precious Lord. We thank Elder Bros. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) who helped our Elder Bro. Art Bahler.

Ministering brothers this past month were Bros. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL), Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Alan Schambach (Remington, IN). A special thanks to each one for sharing God's Word with us.

May is graduation month and we wish to remember our high school graduates as follows: Bro. Brad Edelman (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Laurie), Susan Herr (Sis. Cindy), C J Kaisner (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna), Travis Kaisner (Bro. Don and Sis. Leona), Lindsey Mashburn (Bill and Sis. Barb), Katie Maurer (Steve and Sis. Donna), Jarrin Rabe (Darrell and Jean), Mclane Steidinger (Bro. Ted and Sis. Sara), Wes Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish), and Trevor Stoller (Bro. Randy and Sis. Ronda). May each one look to God for guidance and help in the days ahead.

Sis. Melissa Slagel (Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys) has gone to Athens, AL, to teach in the Preschool there. She and her mother have had a day care in their home, so she has a definite love and ability to work with children. We will miss her in our Fairbury congregation and wish her God's blessings in her new job.

LaVerne Bittner (Wayne) was in the hospital and we wish her God's healing mercies.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jill Wenger

Lori Dotterer

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto

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

Luke 22:19

We were reminded of our Lord's death and suffering when we partook of Holy Communion. May we always be thankful for the price that was paid and strive to maintain the unity of the body of Christ. We are thankful for Elder Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) for helping our Bro. Wayne with this work.

Other visiting ministers who have shared the Word of Life with us this month are Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), and Bro. Craig Martin (Princeville, IL). We pray that God will bless these brothers as they labor for Him.

We rejoice with our Bro. Adam Zimmerman (Bro. Rod and Sis. Micki) and Sis. Rachel Kelson (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sherri) as their engagement was made known. We wish them God's richest blessings and guidance as they prepare for their lives together.

We also rejoice with Valerie Schaffer (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Martha) as she has turned her life to the Lord in humble repentance. We pray that she may build on the Solid Rock so that she can stand fast when the trials of life come.

May 8 was a joyful day in the lives of Bro. Andy and Sis. Valarie Dotterer as they welcomed their first son, Jesse Andrew. His thankful grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally Rinkenberger and Dale and Sis. Elaine Dotterer (Smithville, OH). May God bless their family.

Our prayers are with Bro. Leroy Koehl (Sis. Janita) and Bro. Paul Wiegand (Sis. Edna) who have again spent some time in the hospital. We pray for God's healing where it can be His will and grace to accept whatever His will might be.

Our prayers are also with our Sis. Viola Metz (Bro. Chris) as her sister, Sis. Marie Feucht, of Latty, OH, passed

away. May God comfort the family.

We are thankful for Elder Bro. Ron Messner and Bro. Matt Steffen who shared some of their time one evening and gave a presentation on the Home for the Handicapped at the Fellowship Hall. May God bless the work that is done there.

We have several who are graduating from high school this year. Our graduates are Bro. Martin Anliker (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda), Sis. Brenda Bachtold (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary), Aaron Gerber (Bro. Alan and Sis. Marcia), Sis. Natalie Kilgus (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise), Jeremy Leman (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol), Sis. Betsi Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy), Bro. Matthew Schaffer (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Martha), Sis. Katie Steidinger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly), Sis. Myra Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly), Sis. Laura Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill), Calvin Teubel (Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne), Sis. Emily Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee), Sis. Jenny Wenger (Bro. Rich and Sis. Jill) and Jonathan Zimmerman (Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta). May they look to God to guide them in their lives.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Rita Bauman

Heather Hohulin

Our heartfelt prayers are with the family of Bro. Dean Zimmerman. Sis. Inge Zimmerman, Jason and Kim Zimmerman, and Bro. Luke and Sis. Jill Rocke have the love and prayers of many who mourn with them. May it be a comfort and joy to them to know that someday, when the clouds roll away and our Savior comes to take us home (and that could be as soon as today), we will be reunited with those whom we mourn for and miss.

Our prayers are with our hospital patients: Bro. Dan Wiegand (Sis. Verla) and Mike Ellis (Sis. Jan). We pray they feel God's healing hand.

Dan and Kristi Gudeman welcomed home a boy, Luke. He is also welcomed by his big brother, Grant. We pray that

God's blessings will be with this family.

May always brings graduations. Graduating this year are: Shelly Hinrichsen, Jennica Joos, Royce Schieler, Ellie Wagner, David Currier, Christy Kuntz, Mindy Wyss and Curt Musselman. As they look into their future, we pray that God would be at the helm of their vessel.

Luke Wiegand (Ed and Joanne) and Sarah Knepp (Bro. Rich and Sis. Janet of Roanoke) have announced their engagement. We wish them God's blessings as they plan for a wedding and a new life together.

Notes of Thanks:

I wish to thank everyone for the visits, cards, and prayers during my recuperation from hip surgery. Also to those who came to sing. May the Lord richly bless all of you.

Bro. Ray Wagner

We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the lovely cards, messages and gifts we received for our 50th wedding anniversary. It was a special blessing to hear from so many from far and near.

God's blessings to you all.

Bro. Wes and Sis. Millie Knapp

Thanks to each of you who remembered me during my surgeries and my birthday with visits, cards, gifts, flowers and especially your prayers. Your thoughtfulness was inspiring. May God bless you and keep you.

Sis. Marian Wiegand

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry Klopfenstein

We have been blessed with three baptisms this month. Thanks be to God that He is still calling, and that humble souls are heeding His gentle voice and turning to Him in repentance.

On Wednesday evening, May 12, we heard the testimony of Ron Kinder, wife of Sis. Linda (Bachtold) Kinder, who has been a member for many

years. He had been in ill health, and suffered some strokes, and eventually felt the need of repentance. Although hindered somewhat in articulation he was nonetheless able to convey his sincerity to become part of the brethren, and that he had been converted. We are thankful that he is now Bro. Ron, and we all rejoice.

On the weekend of May 22/23, two more souls were taken in. Bro. Carlos and Sis. Marti Bahler are now a part of the body of Christ, and we can rejoice even more. They gave moving testimonies on Saturday evening, May 22, with Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) being present to help. In mid-life, both souls felt the need to repent, and get right with God. In humbling themselves they found the grace of God was available to change from their former lives. Ministering brothers present for the testimonies were Bros. John Hartman and Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL).

We have 14 high school graduates: Joel Campbell, T. J. Kaupp, Sis. Amber Miller, Sis. Jen Ringger, Sis. Kaleigh Schlipf, Christopher Stoller, Sis. Christy Stoller, Sis. Tina Gramm, Ashley Kiefer, Maggie Schrenk, Jen Steffen, Isaac Taylor, Mindy Wyss and Kelsey Zehr. We wish them well in the years ahead, and our prayer is that all will learn and experience life's most important step.

Bro. Mike Butikofer is recuperating from back surgery. Sis. Martha Stoller is enduring a serious illness; and Sis. Lucille Stoller is recovering from a broken leg. We pray for all of them. May God heal them according to His will.

The annual Sunday School picnic was held on May 16 at the Community Building.

Alayana Joy Wettstein was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Sarah Wettstein on April 6. She is their fourth child, and first daughter. Her siblings are Taylor, 9, Colin, 7 and Jackson, 3. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Gloria Wettstein, Gridley; and Bro. Ron and

Sis. Loida Mueller, Forrest. Edna Mueller of Fairbury is a great-grandmother.

On May 23, Sis. Tina Gramm was announced to be married to Bro. Ty Banwart, Ft. Scott, KS. She is the daughter of Bro. Roger and Sis. Darleta. His parents are Bro. Lon and Sis. Deb Banwart. We wish them much happiness.

ILLINOIS, MORTON
Julie Bahr
Christie Zeller

We rejoiced in the baptisms of three more dear souls on April 18. They were: Trisha Sauder (Bro. John and Sis. Peg), Tracy Zimmerman (Bro. Joe and Sis. Barb), and Scott Warner (Sis. Debbie). May God continue to bless them as they walk with Him. Our Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) was here to share in this work.

Elda Kaiser has repented, found peace, and was baptized at Restmor Nursing Home on May 4 with her family all in attendance. We are so thankful and happy for her and her family.

Our Communion service was held on April 24. Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) were here to help with this special service.

The marriage of our Bro. Jay Knobloch (Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl) to Sis. Bonnie Waibel (Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen, Peoria, IL) was held May 2. We wish them God's blessings.

Sis. Anna Hartter passed away April 22 at Restmor. She is a sister to our Sis. Minnie Glueck and to our Bro. Elmer Baer (Shirley), and a sister-in-law to our Sis. Emma Dale Baer.

Eunice Ginther passed away at Restmor April 22. She is a sister to Lois Stetzler. May God comfort these dear families.

Our graduating seniors and their parents enjoyed a dinner at the Fellowship Hall on May 5. Our graduating seniors this year are:

Sis. Brittany Kaiser (Bro. Allen and Sis. Brenda)

Sis. Laura Braker (Bro. Brad and Sis. Debbie)

Kendon Bahr (Bro. Brian and Sis. Julie)

Nate Zeller (Bro. Jon and Sis. Christie)

Kristi Daniel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sheri)

Sis. Elizabeth Koch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Jennifer)

Brad Stephens (Bro. Mark and Sis. Esther)

Greg Sauder (Bro. Andy and Sis. Jayne)

Jessica Kupferschmid (Bro. Matt and Sis. Wendy)

Sis. Taryn Kaiser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly)

Our Bro. Bob Pflederer had our Family Worship service that night and his message was addressed to our seniors. May God continue to bless these dear loved ones as they go on to higher learning and professions.

Our Mother-Daughter banquet was held at the Fellowship Hall on May 8. A wonderful meal and program was enjoyed by many.

Our Bro. Seth Webb (Brian and Jane, Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and our Sis. Sarah Rassi (Bro. Gary and Sis. Debbie) were united in Holy Matrimony on May 16. We wish them God's blessings.

Other visiting ministers for the month were: Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donna Lou, Gridley, IL), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH), and Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL). May God continue to bless these loved ones for their willingness to share God's Word.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Lou and Marjean Lonteen

"And he said unto them, go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and

is baptized shall be saved." Mark 16:15

Bro. Tim Roecker taught on the Beatitudes on April 21. Bro. Tim spoke on: "Blessed are the poor in spirit and blessed are they that mourn."

The Choir Benefit Dinner was held on April 24.

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord ... Stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."

James 5:7,8

On April 25, Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) ministered to our congregation. God bless you for your love.

On April 25, Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnn Stoller and family sang following afternoon services. We were inspired by your songs.

"The Lord is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you."

II Chronicles 15:2

On May 2, Sis. Bonnie Waibel and Bro. Jay Knobloch were united in holy matrimony. Parents are: Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen Waibel and Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl Knobloch (Morton).

Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington) ministered to us at Family Night on May 5, Wednesday evening. God bless you for your service to the Lord and to us.

"For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."

Hebrews 10:36

Prayer and worship was held on May 6 at noon in the church basement. This was the National Day of Prayer.

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

Psalms 7:17

Sis. Amber Criss and Bro. Andy Zimmerman were united in marriage on May 16.

"But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another."

I Thessalonians 4:9

Engagements: Sis. Stacey Rumbold (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marge) is engaged to Bro. Marc Knepp (Bro. Rich and Sis. Janet) Roanoke.

Sis. Mandy Schwenk (Sis. Myrna and the late Bro. Doug) is engaged to Bro. Hans Schmidgall (Bro. Steve and Sis. Christine).

Sam Hoerr (Bro. Jack and Sis. Jody) and Julie Hart were united in marriage on May 6.

"By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life."

Proverbs 22:4

New baby: Bro. Brandon and Sis. Amy (Knobloch) Knapp (Colorado) have a little girl, Reese Nicole, born on April 8.

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

I Timothy 2:3,4

Our congregation rejoices with these new converts:

Alyssa Leuthold (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois)

Angela Weber (Mike and Sis. Janet)
Jeremy Stickling (Bro. Scott and Sis. Jan)

Polly Hoerr (Bro. Carl and Sis. Debby)

Chad and Natalie Hoerr (Bro. Doug and Sis. Peg)

Jesse Unsicker (Bro. Denny and Sis. Becky)

Tate Hohulin (Bro. Mark and Sis. Jan)

"Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour, this is the gift of God."

Ecclesiastes 5:19

Congratulations to our High School Graduates:

Sis. Brittany Feucht, Bro. Ryan Funk, Sis. Katie Herman, Bro. Jimmy Huber, Sis. Joanna Kummer, Carrie Leman, Alyssa Leuthold, Jacob Meister, Rhoda Sceggel, Jeremy Stickling, Sis. Julia Stickling, Kellen Woodcock. A Senior Breakfast was held on May 16 for these graduates.

"I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons."

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. John Tanner and Sis. Emily Tanner in the death of their sister, Sis. Adele Stahl of Congerville. We also extend sympathy to their entire family circle.

"A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."

Proverbs 17:17

Thank you notes:

Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice Kaiser want to thank all who remembered them in prayers, cards, calls, and visits during Bro. Leon's surgery and recuperation.

Siggy Schubert wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and every kindness over the years on behalf of Sis. Janet. God bless you.

Sis. Marie Hohulin wishes to thank everyone for their cards, prayers and gifts during surgery and recuperation. May God richly bless you.

May God bless each of you for your prayers, cards, and every kindness in our recent losses: Our dear Uncle, Eu-

gene Lehman (Chicago), and our dear Brother, Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend).

With our sincere thanks,

Bro. Lou and Sis. Marjean Lonteen

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

I John 4:7,8

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Phyllis Knobloch Crystal Streitmatter

"Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth."

Isaiah 12:5

How beautiful are His creations! We have had lovely rains and the countryside is bright with the green grass, corn growing and beautiful flowers all around. Let us be thankful for all of His marvelous works!

What a blessing it is to be able to sing unto the Lord and know that He hears us! Singing can change our attitude in a very short time. I enjoy the tapes while driving and sing along with them. It is a wonderful way to speak to our great God!

We share the news of the wedding of Sarah Streitmatter (Bro. Alan and Sis. Janet) on March 12 to James Alfon (Eric and Carmen) of Toulon, IL. We pray the Lord will be their guide in the days ahead.

Our dear friends, Ricky Stahl, who lives at Prairie Villa and Brandon Baer (Ron and Sis. Deann) have answered the call to repentance. We rejoice with them and pray that they will feel the love of our congregation. It is always uplifting to see more converts.

Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary Baer have moved to Eureka. We miss them but we know they are welcomed there where they can continue to enjoy

Christian fellowship.

Sis. Esther Kieser (Bro. George, deceased) has been in the Peoria Skylines several weeks. May we continue to pray that she will have grace to endure her many earthly afflictions.

Our dear Bro. Leonard (Sis. Marie) Menold, 81, passed away on May 3. He had endured much suffering and we are thankful that God has called him Home. We miss him very much, along with sons, Bro. Fred (Sis. Nancy), Bro. Mike (Sis. Sharon), and three daughters. I am sure they have many happy memories of growing up in a Christian family.

Brent Wieland (Bro. John and Sis. Elizabeth) is in critical condition in a Chicago hospital. We pray for him and his dear family.

Bro. Joe Stoller (Sis. Emily) has stepped down from the ministry after 39 years. We are grateful for the many years of advice and concern. He was also our Elder for many years. This poem, written by a local Sister, would describe him along with our other ministers of the gospel.

A Minister

A man is given a duty, laid upon him by the Lord,
That he should bring to others the teachings of The Word.
He stands before the congregation and bows his head to pray,
"Lord, give my Thy understanding, and words that I should say."
Then he opens up The Bible to a passage unchosen by him,
And reads wherein the open Book lies, and preaches unto them.
Through the Holy Spirit, he the congregation feeds,
For he cannot see into each heart and know of all their needs.
When he steps down from the pulpit, his task is not complete,
He ministers through encouraging words, to those he happens to greet.
He often sacrifices family time, to

help the church keep growing,
He takes the time to visit the sick and those who might be dying.
His actions often are watched by others, to see what he will do,
Does he stand by what he preaches, or does his life show something new?
And yet he is merely a man, with human needs of his own,
And we must hold him up in prayer, that he can keep going on.
May he be steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,
That when he reaches life's journey's end, he will find a great reward.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers, memorials and deeds of love and kindness extended to us during the loss of our dear husband, father and grandfather. May God richly bless you!

The Don Streitmatter family

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Doris Fischer Joan Leman

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him..."

Revelation 3:20

We praise God as He continues to call souls unto repentance. We are thankful that Scott and Erin Leman, Lori Martin (Bro. Doug and Sis. Karen of Eureka), and Jay Hinrichsen (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue) have answered His call and have made a beginning in their walk with Him.

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;
Lord, I will forever and always be Thine,
For Thou hast created and pur-

chased me too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest me new.

Zion's Harp #209

We had the blessed opportunity to listen to the testimonies of three dear souls on Saturday evening, May 8, and to witness their baptisms on Sunday, May 9. We were uplifted and encouraged as we heard how God had worked in each of their lives. We welcome our new sisters and brother-in-faith: Sis. Susan Leman (Bro. Clark and Sis. Lisa), Sis. Amber Rocke (Sis. Sue) and Bro. Jeremy Hodel (Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy). May God continue to bless them as they strive to serve Him. A special thank you to Elder Bros. Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene) of Goodfield and Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan) of Taylor as they shared this blessed occasion with us. May God bless them for their labors. We appreciate their willingness to be used in God's service.

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."

Matthew 5:4

Our heartfelt prayers and sympathy are extended to Bro. John and Sis. Lynn Getz as their daughter, Sis. Leigh, was taken from this life into eternity at the age of 23. May God be their source of comfort and peace and may they feel the love and prayers of their church family. Sis. Leigh's strong faith in Jesus was surely an inspiration to all of us.

May God's healing hand be upon those who have spent time in the hospital this past month. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Bob Hohulin (Sis. Marie), Sis. Carol Feucht (Bro. Randy), and Bro. Brett Hodel (Bro. Curt and Sis. Jenell). We also pray for Sis. Sally Blunier (Bro. Harlow) as she has suffered an injury to her shoulder due to a fall.

Lisa Ott (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marilyn) and Joe Adams (Don and Joan) were united in marriage on May 15. May

God bless them as they begin their life together as husband and wife.

The engagement of Holly Zimmerman (Rick Zimmerman and Raylene Getz) and Nathan Gerdes (Stan and Deb) has been announced. We wish them God's blessings as they make plans to be united in marriage.

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

Proverbs 3:6

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to our high school and college graduates. We pray God's blessings be upon them as they begin a new chapter in their lives. May they seek the Lord's direction and guidance as they plan for the future.

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

Matthew 5:16

On Saturday evening, May 15, we enjoyed a touching program presented by our junior and senior high school students who had traveled to Jamaica for a work project during Spring break.

It was evident the trip was a memorable experience for all and I pray that God will use that experience to soften hearts and that His name be magnified and glorified. I had the blessed opportunity to be a part of the work team and am thankful for God's provision and protection. Thank you to our congregation for their prayers and support.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Heather Rassi

LaVonne Wagenbach

Our congregation rejoiced this month when two souls testified of God's grace and mercy and then became baptized. With thankful hearts we welcome our new Bro. Mark (Sis. Fern) Wagenbach and Sis. Sheri (Chris) Allen.

Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) assisted with the testimonies. Additional ministering support that weekend included Bro. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) and Bro. John Zeller (Morton, IL). We also appreciated Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA) for laboring in our midst. We trust God will bless each one for their part in ministering the Word to us.

Recently, a number of babies have been added to families in our congregation. Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Wagenbach have been blessed with another child. James Daniel's siblings are Bro. Paul (Sis. Beth), Bro. Gary, Sis. Holly, Lisa, Wendy, David, Emily, Mary, Lydia, Naomi and Aaron. God has added another baby to Bro. Matt and Sis. Jenni Sauder's household. Their son, Daniel, will now be a big brother to Trevor Matthew. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Joann Sauder and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Grimm (Goodfield, IL). Grace Anne was a welcome addition to Bro. Greg and Sis. Cindy Sauder. Her siblings are Tim, Nic, Jeni, Benji, Andy and Blessing. Bro. Earl and Sis. Glenna Sauder as well as Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn Dill are her grandparents. First-time parents are Bro. Derek and Sis. LeAnn Sauder. They have been blessed with a little girl, Lexi Rae. Her grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Sauder and Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola Stoller (Eureka, IL). Bro. Adam and Sis. Katie Reinbeck recently had their fourth child. Little Jacob Dean will have three older sisters, Rachel, Rebecca and Heidi, to help care for him. His grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb Reinbeck as well as Paul and Christie Strobe. May God's blessings be upon each parent in raising these little souls.

Hospitalizations this month included Bro. Dave Wagenbach, Sis. Carrie (Bro. Jeff) Rocke, and Sis. Joyce Kaiser. May the Lord continue to strengthen each one in his or her specific need.

At this time of year, we want to remember our graduates and pray a blessing on them as they have completed school and will either be seeking further education or a career. May they feel God's direction in each decision.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, food, and gifts during my three surgeries in October, December and January.

Sincerely,

Sis. Francie (Bro. Dave) Koch

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Dianne Wyss

Marcia Koch

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: the Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

As the Lord blessed the children of Israel, we also pray this blessing for our recent high school graduates: Matthew Wyss (Bro. Ed and Sis. Kathy), Matthew Slagel (Bro. Tim and Sis. Barb), Joshua Schick (Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol), Tyler Aberle (Bro. Steve and Sis. LeaAnn), Jobie Ledford (Bro. Chris and Sis. Stacie) and Caleb Pfaffman (Bro. Robert and Sis. Lilly). The Bible Class recently enjoyed their annual breakfast together as another school year comes to an end.

We pray God will bless Sis. Megan DesCarpentrie (Bro. Stan and Sis. Jane) and Bro. Britt Steffen (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sue, Denver, CO) as they announced their wedding engagement.

Speaking of the "ancient landmarks", we were blessed by Bro. Clark Stoller's (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) recent topical Bible study. We also want to thank Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL) for his ministry to us this month.

We want to extend our sympathy to Sis. Rita Menold at the passing of her father, Bro. Leonard Menold (Princeville, IL). We rejoice in his heavenly gain, but sorrow with the family's loss.

Once again our prayers are with Bro. Ron Kellenberger and Sis. Carole as they walk through this time of illness. We also want to remember Bro. Harvey Martin (Sis. Sharon) as he was hospitalized this month.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Amber Steffen

Elizabeth Frauhiger

The call of the Lord has gone out and four dear souls have answered their Saviour's pleading. We rejoice with Bro. Stan and Sis. Lori Fiechter as all three of their sons have begun repenting. Derek, Brandon, and Alex Fiechter, along with Alexis Nunn, have answered the Lord's beckoning and taken up their crosses and followed Jesus.

Our prayers are with Bro. Bob Reimschisel (Sis. Louise) and Sis. Millie Schladenhauffen as they are spending time in the hospital. We pray that God will grant them healing if it is His will.

Jessa Rose Caffee is the newest addition to Joe and Cheryl Caffee's family. Jessa's thankful grandparents are Bro. Denny and Sis. Becky Caffee.

This month we partook of Holy Communion. We are thankful for the Elder brothers who graciously served us during this sacred observance. Elder Bros. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO), Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) assisted our Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz. Also visiting the Bluffton church this month to aid in testimonies were Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Sis. Beverly, Bloomington, IL) and Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN). We were also blessed to have Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI) be with us this

month. We thank all of these brothers for their willingness to share the Word with us.

This month was a time for rejoicing as ten dear souls were added to the fold. We rejoice with Sisters Abby Reinhard (Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee), Amy Neuenschwander (Bro. Dee and Sis. Laura), Rachel Neuenschwander (Bro. Terry and Sis. Jean), and Brothers Brad Steffen (Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen) and Cole Meyer (Bro. Greg and Sis. Bev) as they shared their testimonies and were baptized on April 17-18. On May 15-16, we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Sis. Sarah Gerber (Bro. Nathan and Sis. LeAnn), and Bros. Paul and David Aschliman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Connie), Kyle Kipfer (Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda), and Tyler Farney (Bro. Todd and Sis. Teresa). We wish these dear souls extra grace and strength as they grow in their new faith.

While we here at Bluffton have had many reasons for rejoicing this month, we have also had many reasons for mourning. Our church has experienced many deaths recently, causing us to remember many families in prayer. Sis. Sally Schwartz's (Bro. Lester) brother, Ken Ross, passed away this month.

Bro. Paul Schladenhauffen went to meet his Maker on April 16 at the age of 72. He left behind his dear wife, Sis. Millie. On April 19, Bro. Glen Graber passed away at the age of 82. He also left his wife, Sis. Evelyn, to mourn his death.

On April 22, Bro. Harold Aschliman went Home to live with the Lord. He was 80. He left behind his sons, Steve Aschliman (Karen), Jon Aschliman (Nilah) and Bro. Bruce Aschliman (Sis. Lisa), and his daughters, Pamela Aschliman and Yvonne Myers (Rex). Also mourning his death are his sisters, Sis. Dorothy Moser, Sis. Mahilda Dubach, and Sarah Meyer (Paul), and his twin brother, Bro. Bob Aschliman (Sis. Ida).

Bro. Kenny Troxel died suddenly on

April 27 at the age of 79. Mourning his death are his wife, Sis. Joyce, and children, Bro. Brad Troxel (Sis. Dahlys), Bro. Kim Troxel (Sis. Lisa), Sidney Troxel, Sis. Karen Aeschliman (Bro. Bert, Indianapolis, IN) and Peg Reinhard (Vic). Bro. Kenny also left behind two brothers, Bro. William Troxel (Sis. Berneice) and Bro. Dwight Troxel (Sis. Beverly), and four sisters, Sis. Alice Troxel, Sis. Marjorie Troxel, Evelyn Meyers, and Mary Jane Sprunger.

April 29 was the last day of suffering for Bro. Kenny Gilliom, as he passed away at the age of 75. While his family is glad that he suffers no more, they grieve his loss. Our prayers are with his wife, Sis. Marie; son, Bro. Kent (Sis. Mary); son-in-law, Bro. Lonnie Bertsch (Bluffton North); brother, Bro. Dave Gilliom (Sis. Marcene); and sisters, Linda Geels (Bernard) and Lorene Brinneman (Rex).

Sis. Ida Steffen left her earthly turmoil and strife for the streets of Heaven on May 12 at the age of 95. Her daughter, Sis. Imogene Isch (Bro. Barry), most certainly misses her mom but looks forward to meeting her again someday.

May 15 was the day that Bro. Dwight Gerber went Home to meet his Father at the age of 71. Mourning his death are his wife, Sis. Lucille; daughters, Elaine Liechty, Sis. Bev Meyer (Bro. Greg) and Sis. Karen Steffen (Bro. Duane); sons, Keith Gerber, Darrell Gerber, Ron Gerber and Brad Gerber; and brother, Milton Gerber. Once again, our prayers go out to the many families and friends of these dear souls. We have been blessed to have them in our congregation.

We rejoice with Bro. John Sprunger (Bro. Kent and Sis. Sheila) and Sis. Andrea Gudeman (Francesville, IN) as they have announced their engagement. We pray that they will allow God to direct their path during this precious time of their lives.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise Maller as they are heading to Rio Bravo, Mexico, to

spend the summer. Also, we are prayerful for Sis. Amy Fiechter (Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari) as she heads to orphanages in Imuris and Magdalena, Mexico, for several weeks. We wish them God's richest blessings as they share Christ's love to a dark and sinful world.

Finally, we are at the time of year when we celebrate graduations. We know that this is a big transition period for many of our high school graduates. We pray that our 32 graduates from the country church will seek God's will for their lives as they continue their life's journey.

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Darren Drayer
Tiffani Schladenhauffen**

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

Luke 15:10

The angels are rejoicing and so are we as Nick Steffen, son of Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori, has given his heart in repentance to the Lord. We pray for him as he learns to walk closer to the Lord.

We want to congratulate our high school and college graduates. We pray that as they start a new phase in their lives that they will seek the Lord first and His will for them. Our high school graduates are: Sis. Brittany Aschliman (Bro. Kelly and Sis. Lisa), Sis. Jenna Francesi (Bro. Len and Sis. Mary), Amy Isch (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Lucy), Rob Jolloff (Bro. Bob and Sis. Bev), Sis. Jamie Longenberger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Kathy), Daniel Shorb (Bro. Brett and Sis. Cindy), Adrienne Steffen (Bro.

Tim and Sis. Marlise), and Sis. Jessica Yergler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg).

Some of these graduates were involved in the Indiana High School Weekend, which is also for the middle school aged converts and members. We were blessed by seeing all of the young faces who have committed their lives to the Lord. We were thankful for all who came, and for the willingness of Bro. Rustin Meister (West Lafayette, IN) to come and participate on Saturday.

Church cleaning was this month. It is always a blessing to work together and do that spring cleaning. We want to thank Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg Yergler for the hard work that they do throughout the year of keeping our house of worship in clean order.

Mothers are such a blessing to us all, and we honored them this Mother's Day. One way the Young Group showed their appreciation for their mothers was by serving lunch on Mother's Day.

Also on Mother's Day we were thankful to have Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) share the Word with us. We appreciated his willingness to serve as he was visiting family in the area.

We were glad to have Bro. Jonos and Sis. Irma Namenyi visiting from Budapest, Hungary. They were here visiting their daughter, Sis. Tundy Rauch (Bro. Jadon). It is such a blessing to know that even though we do not speak the same language, we still have Jesus Christ as our common bond.

We want to wish Bro. Ben and Sis. Jamie Maller and their children, Brant, Luke, and Breanna, God's blessings as they move to Pennsylvania and will be worshiping with our Philadelphia congregation. They will be missed by us all, but we look forward to seeing them when they come to visit family and friends here.

Several in our church family have been affected by deaths in their families this month. We pray that this would not be a discouragement, but that it would encourage us to remain

true and faithful so that we can see these loved ones again. Our love and prayers are extended to the following families: Sis. Mahilda Dubach and Sis. Sarah Jane Meyer (Paul) in the loss of their brother, Bro. Harold Aschliman (Bluffton, IN); Sis. Marjorie Troxel, Sis. Alice Troxel, and Sis. Evelyn Meyers in the loss of their brother, Bro. Kenneth Troxel (Bluffton, IN); Bro. Lonnie Bertsch in the death of his father-in-law, Bro. Kenneth Gilliom (Bluffton, IN); Bro. Ben Habegger (Sis. Arlene) in the death of his brother, Paul; Sis. Coleen Culp (Bro. Mick) in the loss of her father, Bro. Bob Clauss (Francesville, IN); and Sis. Mary Baumgartner (Bro. Herman) in the loss of her brother, Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN). May they all feel God's nearness in their time of loss.

Thankfully, we welcomed two little ones into this world. Big brothers Will and Evan Zimmer welcomed a new baby sister, Lanie Kay, into their home. The happy parents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Lindsay Zimmer. Lanie's grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Cyndee Fiechter and Jim and Cheryl Zimmer. Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen Drayer became first time parents of a baby boy, Brock Timothy. We rejoice with them and the grandparents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois and Bro. Kent and Sis. Janel Kloter (Goodfield, IL).

Spending some time in the hospital this month were Bro. Laurin Bertsch, Sis. Wava Bertsch (Bro. Leonard), and Takala Gerber, daughter of Bro. Blake and Sis. Fawn. We were glad to see little Takala now back in church with us, but we want to continue to remember her in prayer for her complex health difficulties. We also continue to lift up Sis. Rochelle Gerber (Bro. Rod) and her family.

In addition, we want to pray for God's protection for Josh Gerber, son of Bro. Brent and Ann Gerber, as he will be going over to serve in Iraq. We pray that he will lean on the Lord, since only in Him is found true safety.

"The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."

Psalm 18:2

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Barbara Huber

"Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity."

Ephesians 6:24

With that verse in mind we extend greetings of love from our congregation at Francesville!

We were recently blessed by the ministry of Elder Bro. Ron Schambach of the Elgin, Illinois, congregation. How precious it is to sit under the sound of spirit-filled ministry and feel the peace of God surround us. We thank God for the willingness of Bro. Ron (Sis. Nancy) for visiting and sharing the Word with us.

Our congregation has again been through the cycle of life which the Lord has foretold and instructed us to prepare for in His Holy Bible. "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:" (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

April 25 was the date chosen by God to add another grandchild to the family of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Linda Leman. Sarah Bethany was born to Bro. Randy and Sis. Mara Leman of Brookston. Welcoming her home in addition to her thankful parents were Sydney, Darin and Marin. Congratulations to all and may God be the guide of this precious family circle.

On May 3, our beloved Bro. Bob Clauss left this earthly home to be with our Heavenly Father. We extend loving sympathy to his widow, Sis. Millie, and their entire family. We pray that Bro. Bob's dear ones are given grace and peace to adjust to his absence. "And this is the promise that he hath

promised us, even eternal life." (I John 2:25)

Mother's Day was the gracious day in which we heard two blessed announcements. Our dear friend, Kendra Neihouser, was announced to have peace with God and man and is looking forward to being baptized. Kendra is the daughter of our ministering Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sue. We are so thankful for all of their family. We know that the Lord and angels rejoice also as we are told that "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." (III John 4)

With the introduction of Proverbs 3:6 which reads "In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths", Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein announced the engagement of Sis. Andria Gudeman to Bro. John Sprunger of the Bluffton congregation. Andria is the daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Peg Gudeman and John is the son of Bro. Kent and Sis. Sheila. We as a congregation extend our best wishes to them and are so thankful to witness once again the faithfulness of our loving Lord to those who will seek His will and guidance for all events of their lives.

We are all refreshed and affirmed in our faith as we are privileged to witness the Holy Spirit's movement in the lives of our congregation with news of spiritual growth and the establishment of godly homes.

With loving concern we lift Sisters Minerva Wuethrich, Lorna Putt, Helen Eshelman and Bro. Lester Nuestrup to the arms of the Heavenly Physician as they are going through trials of health.

Our precious little Lana Kaeb (Bro. Les and Sis. Christine) is home for a time from Riley Children's Hospital. She is undergoing treatment for leukemia. We are so thankful that she can be amongst her loving family for a time. Again, we want to extend our loving prayers for her and trust that she will be able to gather strength to continue the medical regimen ahead of her.

"The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; for he knoweth those who trust in him." (Nahum 1:7). May we all unite in prayer and brotherly love for these concerns.

Two new homes were established this month. Ryan Westfall (Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie) and Tanya Wright were married on April 11. Also committing their lives to each other on May 16 were Jerod Leman and Mary Hunter. Jerod is the son of Bro. Larry and Sis. Pam Leman. Congratulations and a warm welcome are extended to all of you along with our prayers that God will be the cornerstone of your marriage and through Him true joy will grace your lives together.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank all of you who offered prayers, gifts, phone calls and beautiful cards at the time of Elmer's passing away and during my illness and four different hospitalizations. We greatly appreciated your love and concern. God bless each one of you.

In Christian Love,

Sis. Emilie Anliker and family

INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Gail Bradford
Debbie Anliker

Greetings from Indianapolis.

We have been richly blessed and are enjoying beautiful, warm, sunny spring days. The Lord provides for us so wonderfully!

Like many of you, we in Indianapolis have shared both joys and sorrows this past month.

Bro. Nate, Sis. Sara, and Avery Huber have returned safely from their time in Africa. We have enjoyed hearing about their experiences and are so thankful for the Lord's guidance and protection while they were gone.

The choir enjoyed a Sunday in Champaign. It was a special day of worship and fellowship. A chance to renew old and to create new friendships.

Many thanks to the brethren in Champaign for such a nice day.

Sis. Karen (Bro. Bert) Aeschliman and Sis. Bev (Bro. John) Hartter both said farewell to their fathers recently. We extend heartfelt sympathy to them and their families and continue to pray that the Lord will comfort their hearts as only He can.

We are so glad Bro. Josh and Sis. Kenya Martinez have moved back to Indianapolis. It is a blessing to have them with us, and pray they feel the Lord's nearness and blessings as they settle in.

We were reminded this month of God's love for us; that He loves us so much more than we can comprehend. We can begin to show our love for Him by trusting and obeying Him.

INDIANA, LACROSSE Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold

Now it is accomplished,
I now become free.
From sin and transgression,
Redeemed I shall be.

Zion's Harp #209

On the weekend of April 24-25 we were privileged to share in the testimony and baptism of Bro. Ned Troxel (Bro. Tom and Sis. Luann). It is always encouraging to hear how God works in individual lives. We were grateful to Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) for coming to assist Elder Bro. Curt for the weekend.

We thank other visiting ministering brothers in the past month: Bros. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN), Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL), Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN) and Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI).

Our prayers are with the family of James Cambern, who passed away on Monday, May 10. He is survived by his wife, Joan; three daughters, Peggy (John) Weinkauff, Hanna, IN; Cindy (Ray) Albert, Canton, GA; and Mary

(Ralph) LaRowe, Medaryville, IN; two sons, James (Karmella) Cambern, Jr., Ansley, NE; and William (Crystal) Cambern, Medaryville, IN; one sister, LaVerne (Carl) Serama, Florida; 12 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and 2 nephews.

Bro. Doyme Stewart (Sis. Dorothy) was hospitalized in the past month. We know that God will take care of him and Sis. Dorothy.

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

We are grateful and were blessed by the ministering brothers who took time to visit and share the Word of God with us. Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN) was here March 21.

The theme of our Easter Program on March 28 was "The Legacy of Love"; hymns sung were Amazing Love, At the Cross, I will sing of My Redeemer, My Saviour's Love. "...Beloved, let us love one another" (I John 4:7).

Those who shared with us on this day were Bros. John Jackson, William Waibel, James Ramseyer and their families from Bay City, MI.

We were grateful to once again share the Lord's Supper together. Elder Bro. William Schlatter (Junction, OH) willingly offered his service to help our Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz on April 7. "With Thee, oh my gracious Lord, my heart o'erflows with prayer..." Good Friday services were held April 9.

The following Sunday morning, Easter, we gathered at the Fellowship Center for "Sonrise Service". The presentation was on the seven words of Jesus on the cross. "My God, my God, He calls, Forsake me not, I pray ... They know not what they do, Forgive them for this deed ... See, mother thine own son ... Thou friend, forsake her not ... Today shalt thou yet be, with Me in Paradise .. I thirst, He cries in pain ... 'Tis finished, all is done, Oh God, receive my soul, Life's victory is won." Victory for our life.

April 25 was the wedding of Sis. Jill Gramm and Bro. Adam Merkel (Washington, DC). Among those attending were ministering Bros. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Rustin Meister (West Lafayette, IN), Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA). Our prayers are with this new couple as they walk in the way they were reminded in their wedding service taken from Jer. 29:10-13 and I John 4:7-11. They willingly vowed to accept each other as a gift of God.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Todd and Bro. Trent Schrock and their families in the death of their grandfather, Bro. Charles Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL).

Congratulations to our high school graduates. May you receive many blessings as you face a new future. They are Bro. Ryan Graf (Bro. Ed and Sis. Deb), John Pollard, Cody Hildebrandt, Jeff Schwind (Gateway Woods), Stephanie Gerber (Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheri Blunier), Bro. Tyler Stieglitz (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jane), Jeremy Stieglitz (Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda), Abby Klopfenstein (Loren and Sis. Rita), and Ruth Kaufman (Joel and Sally).

Sis. Imogene Stieglitz was hospitalized with a massive stroke. Following a procedure of TPA, God has mercifully restored her mobility, health and speech and she has returned home.

Sis. Thelma Schlatter had outpatient surgery on her foot and is recovering at home. Bro. Bruce Schaefer (Sis. Lauretta) had neck surgery and is wearing a medical device, halo, for protection until it heals, but has been very active helping at Gateway Woods in construction and attending church services.

Our Ladies Spring Banquet was held May 15. The theme was "Shoes of Life". "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called." (Eph. 4:1). There are many vocations, but walking in the Lord is the

only safe way.

Bro. Brian Huber and family from Francesville, IN, visited us. He read from Romans chapter 5. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1). Serve with joy.

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Carlton Beer
Paula Haab**

We've been having refreshing rain showers for our dry earth and we've had showers of blessings of refreshing teachings from God's Holy Word by visiting ministers: Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Ned Stoller (Alto, MI) and John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN).

A group sang together at Carriage Manor for Bro. Harold and Sis. Kathryn Emch to wish them well as they move to Archbold, OH, to be near their son and daughter-in-law, John and Bev. Their new address is 508 Fairview Court, Archbold, OH 43502. They were so helpful in church while Bro. Harold was able and Sis. Kathryn continued to work on World Relief projects. We will surely miss them.

It was such a blessed evening when the mothers, daughters and granddaughters spent eating, reminiscing and singing together. One of God's special blessings is to have a mother who loves and serves Him.

Bro. Phil Beer had heart surgery in Indianapolis and was able to be back home four days later. We surely hope and pray that God will continue to grant him healing and strength.

Heartfelt sympathy goes to Bro. Dean and Sis. Mary Lehman, Sara and Micah in the loss of their father and grandfather, Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend). As a congregation, we'll miss him, too, as he was willing to come and help fill our pulpit from time to time.

Congratulations to those who have finished one phase of formal education and may they always seek Godly wisdom. Graduating from high school

were Sis. Jodi Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) and Ben Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy). Graduating from college were Sis. Angie Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) and Bethany Wuthrich (Bro. Alan and Kathy).

On August 29, the Milford church will celebrate 100 years of assembling as a congregation. We invite anyone who spent their childhood here or lived here for a time, to come and worship with us and enjoy a meal together. For more information or to arrange overnight accommodations, contact Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy Schlipf, 31129W 1050 N, Milford, IN 46542 or phone (574) 658-4693.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler
Rochelle Ward**

A farewell potluck dinner was held for Dave Pratt who was called to serve in Afghanistan for 18 months with the National Guard. We're thankful his wife, Charity, and their two young daughters will have her parents, Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane Isabell, along with our church family to provide her with support and help with her girls for these many months. Dave will have access to e-mail for those who want to support him personally. It is david.e.pratt@us.army.mil. This is a new experience for our generation to send someone we know and love overseas to war.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) and Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) on April 25. On May 1-2, Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) ministered on Sunday and also helped serve Communion along with Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN). We always appreciate our traveling ministers, especially the family sacrifices that are made by their wives and children to accommodate their traveling schedules.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; not as the world giveth,

give I unto you."

John 14:27

We rejoice with Dean Waibel (Sis. Tammy) as he professes that peace that passes all understanding and holds the promise of keeping our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

May the following story, reminding us of the earthly power that has been granted to the judges in our court system, give us new courage to pray for all those who are in authority (I Timothy 2:1-4).

In Florida, an atheist became incensed over the preparation given to Easter and Passover, so he contacted the ACLU to complain of the discrimination inflicted upon atheists by the constant celebrations afforded the Christian and Jew while the atheist had no holiday to celebrate.

The ACLU jumped on the opportunity to once again pick up the cause of the godless and assigned their sharpest attorneys to the case.

This case was brought before a wise judge who after listening to the long passionate presentation of the ACLU lawyers, promptly banged his gavel and declared "case dismissed." The ACLU lawyers jumped up with the objection, "Your Honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? Surely you can see all the holiday attention given to the Christians/Jews and yet my client along with other atheists have no such holiday."

The wise judge leaned forward in his chair and simply said, "Obviously your client is too confused to know about or for that matter even celebrate the one very special atheist's holiday."

The lawyer responded, "We are aware of no such holiday for atheists. Just what might that be, Your Honor?"

The judge's reply: "Well, it comes every year on exactly the same date - April 1."

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God."

Psalms 14:1 and 53:1

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND**Melisa Gerst
Stacey Feller**

Praise be to God for His rich gifts! As we celebrate and honor our earthly fathers this month, may we ponder for a moment where we might be had this blessing not been bestowed upon us.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Carolyn Frank have announced the engagement of their daughter, Shana, to Kevin Schutt of Indianapolis (son of Jeanie Schutt of San Francisco, CA, and Don and Karen Schutt of Carmel, IN). Plans are being made for an autumn wedding. We wish this couple God's richest blessings as they join hand and heart.

Bro. Josh and Sis. Keyna Martinez have relocated to Indianapolis for the time being. This couple will be greatly missed among us, but we wish them the nearness of the Lord as they settle into new surroundings and new responsibilities. As they have worshiped with the Indianapolis congregation in the past, we know they have warm friendships to which they are returning.

Our small congregation has had aching hearts this Spring. Our ministering brother Wayne Lehman slipped into the arms of Jesus after being hospitalized for three weeks following Easter, struggling with a sudden heart condition. We rejoice in knowing he had a reunion to look forward to after losing his wife, Sis. Shirley, just two years ago. But nonetheless, our sympathy and prayers go out to the family who so faithfully stood by his side during those very difficult weeks. His three sons and one daughter include Bro. Don and Sis. Jill Lehman (South Bend), Dale and Kathy Lehman (Indianapolis), Bro. Dean and Sis. Mary Lehman (Milford), and Jon and Deb Haab (Milford). Our love and continual prayers go out to these dear couples who faithfully go onward, with the warm memories and the rich heritage close by their side. May God comfort and bring peace as only He can.

Our Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN) was with us to assist with the funeral of Bro. Wayne. Bros. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) and Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) also shared the Word with us recently. We thank these brothers and their wives for their willing service.

**INDIANA
VALPARAISO
Edward Lester**

Greetings of Love from all of us at Valparaiso. We are feeling so grateful for all the blessings that we have been receiving. When you stop to think about all that our Lord has done for us, it can be overwhelming. A lot of mothers were honored this past month and one in particular. Bro. Brandon Moser and Sis. Chris welcomed a couple of new additions to their family. They had two baby girls, Koryna and Kamryn. Congratulations. Bro. Andy, Sis. Diane Moser and Bro. Ed, Sis. Caroline Lester is the loving grandparents.

We all took part in the wonderful blessing of Communion. Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus, Sis. Jenna joined us in this wonderful time of breaking bread with our Lord and Savior at our side. We are guaranteed that He will always be there for us. No lunch breaks or time-outs. Just pray for His guidance and wisdom when making choices in this big world.

Individual "groups" are continually putting pressure on our elected officials and I hope everyone took the time to vote. The people you vote for should reflect our views as Christians. Gay marriage is the latest test of our politicians' intelligence. I wonder which way they will view this issue. A simple opening of the Bible tells us everything that we need to know.

Watch America

Where the northern ocean darkens,
Where the rolling rivers run,

Past the cold and empty headlands,
Toward the slow and westering sun,
There our fathers, long before us,
Armed with freedom, faced the deep;
What they won with love and labor
Let their children watch and keep.

By our dark and dreaming forest,
By our free and shining skies,
By our green and ripening prairies,
Where the western mountains rise;
God who gave our fathers freedom,
God who made our fathers brave,
What they built with love and anguish,
Let their children watch and save.

—Robert Nathan

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Nettie Haab
Diana Houston**

Many thanks to Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN), Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN), Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL) for visiting and bringing us God's Word.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to Rob and Kristin Meister and their family. Kristin's mom, Jan Peterson, passed away this past May after a long battle with cancer. May God comfort them in their loss.

We welcome Sarah Bethany Leman who was born on April 25 to Bro. Randy and Sis. Mara Leman; siblings are Sydney, Darrin, and Marin Sue who are very excited about her.

Bro. Allen Furrer (Connie) had surgery this past April to relieve pain from a herniated disc pushing the spinal cord and is now doing well. We pray for continued healing and full recovery.

We are happy to announce the engagement of Sis. Andria Gudeman (Francesville, IN) to Bro. John Sprunger (Bluffton, IN). May God

bless them as they start a new life together.

Congratulations to the high school and college graduates this year and may they seek God's will for them as they move on to another stage in their lives. High school graduates are: Luke Furrer and Bro. Austin Waibel

College graduates are: Sis. Cara Gudeman, Austin Metzger, Trent Metzger, Sis. Julie Zeller, Sis. Sarah Vogt, Bro. Scott Levy, Bro. Traeuer Guingrich, Bro. Kyle Schwartz, Sis. Angie Beer, Sis. Kristen Fiechter, Sis. Laura Vercler, Bro. Shane Beer, Bro. Clint Bahler, John Widmer, Mark Furrer, Bro. Jeff Moser, and Sam Frank.

New officers elected are: Ushers - Bro. Bryan Steffen, Bro. Rudy Troxel; Sec. - Sis. Amy Fiechter; Treas. - Sis. Jessica Feller; Vice P. - Bro. Regg Beer; and Pres. - Bro. Seth Beer. We thank them and past officers for their love of the Lord and willingness to serve.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Lisa Furrer
Heidi Bahler**

A new little son was born to Bro. Jon and Sis. Colleen Jacoby on April 22, and he is named Jace Jon. His brothers are Garrett and Dawson, and grandparents are Tom and Joan Jacoby, and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Pat Kyburz. What a lot of helping hands close by to help care for baby!

The first Sunday in May we were blessed by the presence of Elder Bros. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) and Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) to help our Elder Bro. Alfred in serving Communion. As we grow in our spiritual lives, may we rejoice evermore for the atoning blood of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The next Sunday was Mother's Day, and Bro. Andy Moser (Sis. Diane, Valparaiso) served us from the pulpit. Thank you for bringing your family for the day!

We also appreciate Bro. James

Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL) ministering to us one Sunday. The inspired Word of God truly is a rich blessing in our faith!

Our hearts go out to Harold and June Lehman, as each one has lost a brother in recent weeks. June's brother was Wayne Baumgartner from Bluffton, and Harold's brother, Bro. Wayne Lehman, was a minister from South Bend. We also send sympathy to Sis. Arlene (Bro. Vernon) Schwab, whose brother - in - law, Roy Wernli, from Emporia, KS, passed away. May God fill the void in your family circles with His abiding comfort and care.

Note of Thanks:

I want to express my sincere thanks to all who remembered me with cards, gifts, flowers and phone calls on my 80th birthday. It was so nice to be remembered. May God bless you all.

Sis. Arles Kropf

IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Brenda Schulz
Laurie Schulz**

Greetings! We had the privilege this month of attending Holy Communion and being reminded once again of what our Lord has done for us so willingly. Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall.

That night we also heard that Luke Massner (Lyle and Deb) was in a bulldozer accident, and was flown to Iowa City. We thank the Lord that it ended up not being too serious. He is now at home again.

We rejoiced to hear of the engagement of Bro. Dallas Massner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail, West Bend, IA) to Sis. Christy Frank (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy, Oakville). We surely wish them God's richest blessings.

Notice: Bob and Joyce Pohl, formerly of the Burlington congregation, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on August 15. Their children

will host an open house at Bob and Joyce's home on July 31. If you would like to send a card, their address is 6885 Xavier Circle #2, Westminster, CO 80030. If you would like to attend the open house and need directions, please call 303-650-9006.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

As we travel through the years of our earthly pilgrimage, our main goal should be that we may be granted entrance into Heaven when our days on earth are completed. But during our sojourn here, we also have earthly ambitions and goals. At this time of the year many young adults reach the goal of completing their high school or college education. Rebecca Moore (Scott and Julie Torkelson and Gene Moore) has completed her high school education and April Hanson graduated from Drake in Pharmacy. We wish both of them much happiness, success and God's blessings.

Meg Butikofer (Bro. Tim and Sis. Kathy) and Nick Benson (Mark and Mona) are planning a July wedding. May they look to God for guidance as they prepare for their wedding and marriage.

Sis. Beulah Butikofer (Bro. Bert) was a recent surgical patient. We are thankful she is home and recuperating well.

As our nation is soon to celebrate its 228th anniversary, may we remember our leaders in much prayer that they may seek direction from God's Word in the major decisions they are required to make.

"Behold, I set before you, this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you ... and a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God ..."

Deut. 11:26-27

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE **Willia Clark**

May is the month of commencement ceremonies in many schools across our land. Our prayer for the graduates as they begin the next stage of their lives is that they will always look God for His great guidance and mercy in their lives. Joseph Parmer, son of Sis. April and James Parmer, is graduating from high school.

Our heartfelt thanks to the Kansas City congregation for the weekend of spiritual blessings and fellowship our junior high students enjoyed with students from Kansas and Missouri churches.

Visitors are always welcome in our small congregation, and we especially thank those who minister to us. Recent visiting ministers have been Bro. Arnold Gerst (Sis. Marjorie, Taylor, MO), Bro. Ed Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS), Bro. Darrell Stoller (Sis. Gloria, Bern, KS), Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN), Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield/Pulaski, IA) and Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA). We are so thankful for your services in sharing God's Word with us.

As you plan summer vacations, remember there might be a small congregation on your way that would enjoy your visit.

IOWA, IOWA CITY **Diana Butikofer**

We want to thank Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Sis. Bev, Bloomington, IL) for sharing Communion and a Sunday service with us this month.

Joshua Teslaa (Lester, IA) graduated from the University of Iowa with a bachelor's degree in biology. His parents are Gary and Barb Teslaa and Jim and Rhonda Thielen. Luann Gerber (Bro. Manuel and Sis. Mary, West Bend, IA) is transferring from Kirkwood Community College to Iowa State University in Ames. Andrew Pe-

terson (Bro. Larry and Sis. Emily) has finished his training at Kirkwood Community College. We wish each of them God's blessings and guidance as they look for jobs or continue their education.

Sis. Emily Peterson (Bro. Larry) was hospitalized recently for a serious infection. Our prayers are with her as she recuperates. We were glad to have her back in church Sunday.

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

We want to thank Bro. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN) for sharing God's Word unto us on Mother's Day. May our ministers never grow weary of bringing forth the truth. Let us encourage and support them in their endeavors on our behalf.

Paula Bosch and Joe Johnson were united in marriage on April 24. We congratulate them and wish God's guidance and blessings on their married life. Bro. Tony and Sis. Pam Bosch are Paula's parents.

As always, we want to remember those in our congregation who have been hospitalized recently. Sis. Emily Leuthold (Bro. Arthur) and Bro. Pete Van Whye (Sis. Susan) spent time in the hospital but are now recovering at home. Bro. Arnie Wulf (Sis. Myra) had the misfortune of being involved in a car accident. We wish God's healing touch upon him as he recovers from the injuries he received.

We said farewell to Sis. Jeanette Feucht because she has moved to the Peoria, IL, area to take up new employment. We wish her God's blessings as she makes this transition in her life.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Arthur and Sis. Emily Leuthold in the passing of their brother-in-law, Bro. Leonard Menold (Princeville, IL).

There have been many graduations taking place this month. We congratulate all our graduates on completion of their schooling. May each one seek

God's direction and guidance for their future plans. High school graduates this year are Kelli Bajema (Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla), Chad DeSmet (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley), Angie Knobloch (Brad and Sis. Linda), Lance Larson (Ted and Sis. Diane), Melissa Leuthold (Carl and Deb), Drew Metzger (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joleen), Camille Moser (Bro. Rick and Sis. Lori), Bradley Barber (Mike and Sis. Donna), Adam Kellenberger (Bro. Verlyn and Sis. Linda), Christopher Leuthold (Bro. Doug and Charlene), Michael Leuthold (Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy) and Devin Mogler (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Lois). Those graduating with a college degree are Gwen and Glen Meyer (Bro. George), Bro. Cory Leman (Sis. Rachel), Natalie Moser (Bro. Donn and Sis. Joyce), James Metzger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois), Nathan, Rachel and Sarah DeHaan (Bro. Tim and Lois), Trela Knobloch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet), Josh TeSlaa (Ronda Thielen and Gary TeSlaa) and Sis. Lexia Knobloch (Bro. Dietrich). Brandon Knobloch (Bro. Dietrich and Sis. Lexia) has completed his six-week basic training.

IOWA, OAKVILLE **Rosalie Wiegand** **Sharla Wiegand**

We have been blessed with two precious bundles from Heaven. Hunter William was born on April 16 to Bro. Todd and Sis. Kim Massner. Big brother Bo also welcomes him home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Barb Massner and Bro. Al and Sis. Lucy Knobloch (Lester, IA).

Ellie Jo blessed the home of Bro. Dave and Sis. Tami Lanz on April 22. Welcoming her home are big sisters Kenna and Krissa. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Lanz and Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla Bajema (Lester, IA).

We appreciated the visit of ministering Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA) on May 2 as he had both services.

On May 2, the engagement of Sis. Shayla Marti (Bro. Erv and Sis. Teresa) and Bro. Randy Steiner (Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn) was made known.

The following Sunday, May 9, the engagement of Sis. Christy Frank (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Dallas Massner of Burlington, IA (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail, West Bend, IA) was announced.

We wish both of these couples God's richest blessings as they begin their new lives together.

**IOWA
BLOOMFIELD/PULASKI
Barbara Schock**

Greetings! The crops are in and the farmers are in the process of waiting for them to grow and eventually the harvest. The spiritual seed has been sown. May we water and fertilize it, and then let it grow and become white for the harvest that is to come someday.

On April 17 and 18, we were blessed with having many of the Bradford/Princeville Single Group here as they came out with Bro. Walt Herrmann (Sis. Betty Lou, Princeville, IL). We thank Bro. Walt for his willingness to be used in bringing the Word to us.

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

Luke 22:19

On April 24, we remembered the sacrifice that took place on Calvary as we partook of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jayne, Lamont-Gridley, KS) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Doug in this Holy work.

On May 2, Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL) was here to share the Word with us. We thank him for taking the time to come out and share the Word with us. "All scripture is

given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine,..." (II Timothy 3:16)

On May 15, we were able to assemble and hear the conference letter read. Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lila, LaCrosse, IN) was here to assist in this work of love. Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA) was also here for the weekend. May God bless them, and each of the visiting ministers that gave their time to come and preach the Gospel.

Confession

Last night my little boy confessed to me:

Some childish wrong;
And kneeling at my knee
He prayed with tears ~
"Dear God, make me a man
Like Daddy ~ wise and strong,
I know you can."
Then while he slept
I knelt beside his bed,
Confessed my sins,
And prayed with low-bowed head.
"Oh God, make me a child
Like my child here ~
Pure, guiltless,
Trusting Thee with faith sincere."

~ *Andrew Gillies*

As Father's Day approaches, may we each realize and appreciate the tremendous job that fathers take on. May our Heavenly Father guide the fathers here below, and may each of them look to Him for the way that they should go.

IOWA, WEST BEND

**Betty Wirtz
Lori Skoglund**

Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA) was here to share Holy Communion with us on Sunday, April 25. We thank him for coming the many miles to serve us. Also, Bro. Jim Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS) shared God's Word with us on a Wednesday evening.

Our congregation was recently in-

formed of our dear Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr's intention to move to Oregon. Bro. Wayne has felt moved by the Spirit to support the Portland, OR, church and he and Sis. Kathy are willing to answer that call. We wish them God's continuing grace and guidance as they contemplate all the changes before them. We have faith God will provide for us also in light of our great loss. We will miss them deeply.

The engagement of Bro. Kent Fehr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon) and Sis. Joleen Grimm (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose) was recently announced. May they feel God's nearness as they prepare for their marriage.

We have had several of our church family hospitalized this past month. Bro. Mark (Sis. Deb) Bruellman, Sis. Hulda Wirtz and Lucille Wirtz have received medical care and Patsy (Fred, Jr.) Wirtz, and Sis. Pearl Anliker have been surgical patients. Our prayers are with those in their times of trouble.

Those graduating from high school this year are Kyle Banwart (Bro. Kent and Sis. Beth), Luke Metzger (Roy and Angie), Heidi Mogler (Bro. Tim, Gloria), Ned Skoglund (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori), Adam Wirtz (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan), David Wirtz (Fred Jr. and Patsy), Ben Zaugg (Darrell and Sis. Julie), and Penny Zaugg (Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly). We wish them God's blessings as they venture out on their own in the near future. The following verse from Proverbs is good advice for all of our graduates, whether from 8th grade, high school or college:

"Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man."

Proverbs 3:3-4

Fathers are Wonderful People
Fathers are wonderful people, too
little understood,
And we do not sing their praises as

often as we should...
 For, somehow, Father seems to be
 the man who pays the bills,
 While Mother binds up little hurts
 and nurses all our ills...
 And Father struggles daily to live
 up to "his image"
 As protector and provider and
 "hero of the scrimmage..."
 And perhaps that is the reason we
 sometimes get the notion
 That Fathers are not subject to the
 thing we call emotion,
 But if you look inside Dad's heart,
 where no one else can see,
 You'll find he's sentimental and as
 "soft" as he can be...
 But he's so busy every day in the
 grueling race of life,
 He leaves the sentimental stuff to
 his partner and his wife...
 But Fathers are just wonderful in
 a million different ways,
 And they merit loving compli-
 ments and accolades of praise,
 For the only reason Dad aspires to
 fortune and success
 Is to make the family proud of him
 and to bring them happiness...
 And like our Heavenly Father, he's
 our guardian and a guide,
 Someone that we can count on to
 be always on our side.
 —Helen Steiner Rice

JAPAN, SHIODA Eiko Nozawa

Bros. Joe Gerber and Kevin Kipfer safely arrived at Shioda on May 1. The next day was their first Lord's day in Japan. Bro. Joe delivered greetings in Japanese. After church, nine of us headed for Mt. Fuji in two cars. It was in the middle of "the Golden Week", so we couldn't avoid a traffic jam around Lake Kawaguchi, which was not so bad as we expected. From the car window, we saw the highest mountain in Japan, whose top was in the clouds. We drove up to the 5th station. By then, the clouds were completely gone, and the majesty of God's creation stood in front

of us. What a grand view that was! On our way home, we filled up our empty stomachs with Japanese dishes at Ehnle-san's favorite restaurant in that area.

May 9 was the day of our annual Mother's Day visit to Ichinomiya Hot Spring Hospital. Sis. Lois Ehnle found 50 well-made red carnations at a shop and arranged them in two baskets and two tin cookie boxes. Each lady patient received one carnation and a card. May God reach out to them through the message on the card.

On May 14, Sis. Reiko Furuya underwent a laser surgery on her left eye. It was a great success. She said her left eye could see as well as the right one even without a contact lens. What a joy it is! Praise and thanks be to God for His grace.

JAPAN, TOKYO Jana Klaus

"Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Matthew 11:28-29

These words of Jesus are so beautiful to the seeking sinner, but they don't stop there. We can draw strength and peace from them all throughout our Christian lives when we encounter the sure-to-come trials. It seems several in our Japanese congregations are in the "thick of it" right now, but it is our prayer that each of us would go to the Word daily and rest upon His wonderful promises, not giving "place to the devil". Strive on!

We had our annual business meeting this month. It was such a blessed time of discussing and sharing — we had a hard time stopping! Two of the main topics discussed were on how and where to spend the money we've been blessed with as we remember the words of Jesus, "It is more blessed to

give than to receive" and what to do about Sunday School. Until now, we have only had one teacher, with several of the sisters taking a Sunday each month, but the class has grown to the point where it is sometimes difficult for one teacher to handle so many, varying in ages from 4 to 12. So, we came to the conclusion to have two classes, with Sis. Marie Inoue and Sis. Grace Klaus taking the K-2 on a rotation basis and Sisters Haruyo Onoda, Hiroko Utsuki and Shizuko Urushino taking the older class, but also adding Bro. Takaaki Miyagawa to the rotation. We hope and pray the Lord will bless the efforts made by our teachers so the children can truly learn about the way of Salvation. Let's remember to pray for those in Sunday School just as we do for those ministering at the pulpit — they too, have such an important responsibility. Again, we were blessed with guests from America this month. Sis. Tammy Zimmerman (Chicago, IL) was able to worship with us for the first time as business brought her over; Sis. Jana Klaus' mother, Sis. Shirley Kieser (Princeville, IL), came for a month of enjoying grandchildren, working hard in the busy household, and seeing beloved Japanese Brothers and Sisters again; and Bros. Joe Gerber and Kevin Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) chose to spend 10 days learning about Japan and spending time with the Japanese churches.

We are grateful to them all for making the efforts to be with us. We thank Bro. Joe for his afternoon Bible class message from the last part of Acts 26, how Paul was able to boldly speak to not only common people, but even to kings and those in high places. Why was he able? How can we be able? Bro. Joe encouraged us with verses like Ephesians 6:18-20 "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an am-

bassador in bonds: that therein, I may speak boldly as I ought to speak." Even as Paul acknowledged his need for prayer, may we also be fervent in prayer for one another for the furthering of God's kingdom.

KANSAS, BERN
Sheri Edelman
Sally Strahm

As Father's Day arrives, may we remember to thank our earthly fathers for the excellent examples they have been. Then let us hold fast to the words of wisdom they have showered us with.

It has been announced that Brandon Edelman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna) is at peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing his testimony on June 19.

We are always thankful for visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam) of Washington, IL, and Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy) of Forrest, IL, shared God's Word with us. We appreciate their labors.

Bro. Grant and Sis. Martha Hangartner were united in marriage on April 18. Parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Hangartner (Washington, IL) and Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona Strahm. We pray for God's blessing on their marriage!

Ted Strahm and Sarah Borowski (Lenexa, KS) were married May 15. Parents are Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona Strahm and Joel and Lorraine Borowski of Decorah, IA.

Babies are a gift from our Heavenly Father! Paul and Amanda Simpson of KC, MO had a baby girl on April 16 named Moriah Kaye. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois Hartter of Bern and Lynn and Carolyn Simpson of Pratt, KS. Siblings are Hannah 4, and Audrey 2.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Jim Kaeb (Sis. Diane) as he sustained a long fall from a ladder and has undergone surgery on his hand. We are glad to have him assembling with us and will continue to be prayerful as more

surgery is planned.

Aaron Rokey (Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy) has graduated from Kansas State University with a Veterinary Medicine degree. He found employment in Morris, MN, and plans to relocate there soon. May God be with him as he begins a new chapter in life.

Reminder: June is the month Silver Lining donations are due in Bern!

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Ethel Smith

Greetings to all! May peace be in your home and in your heart.

We extend our sympathy to Daniel and Taira Williams and son Alex. Daniel's grandmother, Lula Williams, passed away April 19. Daniel has a very special place in his heart for her as he spent a lot of time with her in his growing up years.

Bro. Kent Kellenberger, son of Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen, graduated summa cum laude from Pittsburg State University; Mike Boge, son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Jan Boge, graduated from high school; and Ryan Kraft, son of Roger and Chris Kraft, graduated from 8th grade. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he will direct thy paths." (Prov. 3: 5,6).

We are so happy that Bro. Harold's health has improved and he and Sis. Wanda are able to assemble with us from time to time. Bro. Harold and Sis. Wanda are faithful pillars in our church and we miss them so much when they are unable to attend. We ask your continued prayers for them through these difficult times.

Our visiting ministers for the past month were: April 18 - Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO); May 2 - Elder Bro. James Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL); May 10, Mother's Day - Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS). It is wonderful to be able to assemble in God's house and hear the wonderful

Words of Life. We are a blessed people. We do thank these brothers and their wives for serving us.

JESUS is the Christ, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Let us rejoice for this victory over death, for the peace that passeth all understanding, if we put our faith and trust in Him. Let us make Jesus the Lord of our lives. There is no greater joy than a life in Christ.

A Sabbath well spent brings a week of content.

And health for the joy of tomorrow.

But a Sabbath profaned whatever be gained,

is a sure forerunner of sorrow.

—M. Hale

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Eileen Bahr

It was a special weekend when Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) shared his understanding talent for Kurt Kraft's testimony on May 1. Bro. Kurt just beamed when we greeted him. Bro. Kurt is the son of Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy Kraft.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch were happy to have a new grandson on May 4. Reilly James Kieser was born to Bro. James and Sis. Jennifer (Congerville, IL).

Graduating from the 8th grade is Kasha Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy) and graduating from high school is Angela Zimmerman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Barbara).

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Roy Wernli who was laid to a blessed rest May 16 after much suffering.

God blessed Bro. Rudy and Sis. Eileen Bahr with 50 years together on May 16.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Dawn Strahm
Jeanette Plattner

On April 24, we spent a blessed eve-

ning in remembrance of our Lord's last supper and death on the cross as we partook of Holy Communion. Elder Bros. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) assisted Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzler in this work. Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Bro. Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), and Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL). Bro. Wayne was with us for a Sunday evening service in lieu of our regular hymn singing. The service of these brothers was much appreciated.

Our sympathies are extended to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carrie Grimm in the loss of Carrie's grandmother, Lena Dettman.

Thoughts and prayers go out to Bro. Larry Bailey (Sis. Linda) and Bro. Fred Aberle (Sis. Charlotte), who were recent hospital patients. May God grant His healing mercies as only He can. Our prayers are also with Sis. Irene Lehman (Bro. Andy), who was hospitalized in Illinois while visiting relatives.

We rejoice with the family of Travis Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon) as he has found peace with God and man. Lord willing, his testimony and baptism are planned for June 26-27 in Morris, MN, where he has been residing.

There are several in our congregation who have graduates this month. High School graduates are Emily Edelman (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa), Ryan Grimm (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita), Bro. John Hartter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen), and Morgan Wenger (Bro. Marc and Sis. Julie). College graduates include two daughters and a son-in-law of Frank and Sis. Julie Krogmann. Graduating from Fort Hays State University in Hays, KS are Jason (Finance) and Rachel (Art Education) Gibson and Nicole Krogmann (Elementary Education). Crystal Keim, daughter of Curtis and Valerie,

will graduate from Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS, with a degree in marketing. We wish all of these graduates God's nearness in the decisions which lie ahead.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Brooke Huber

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."

Philippians 4:13

As this semester comes to a close, it is with gratitude that we look back and see how our Father has blessed our Kansas State Young Group this past year.

In November, we were so thankful that Maggi Eisenbise (Bro. Dave and Sis. Shari, Sabetha) could begin a new life in the Lord. There were also three baptisms throughout the school year. Sis. Brooke Huber (Bro. Gordon and Sis. Sharlyn, Sabetha), Sis. Bethany Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona, Bern) and Bro. Heath Coburn (Roger and Sis. Michelle, Peoria) each had the privilege of becoming sisters and brother to Christ.

The last weekend in February, the Kansas State, Washburn and Kansas City young groups were invited to Dallas/Fort Worth, TX, where we were able to spend a weekend of fellowship and serving others. It was an extra blessing to be able to spend time with former fellow K-Staters, Bro. Kyle and Sis. Carrie Beyer. Bro. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ) was a visiting minister that weekend and conducted a topical Bible study with the title of "Dig Your Well before You're Thirsty".

On March 5, Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) gave a Bible study on "Landmarks". We are thankful that he took time out of his schedule to come be with us.

The last weekend in April was the annual Kansas State Invite Weekend. Kansas churches as well as Denver,

CO, and Elgin, IL, were invited. Bro. Edwin Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern) conducted the evening Bible study and focused on Revelation 14. It was a blessed weekend, and we are thankful for those who were in attendance.

The K-State Annual Spring Picnic was held the first Wednesday in May. Thank you to all parents, friends and family who came to support the Kansas State Young Group. The prayers and support we have received this year have been uplifting.

There are two students who will be leaving K-State behind this year. Aaron Rokey (Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy, Bern) is graduating with a degree in Veterinary Medicine. Sis. Bethany Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona, Bern) will be transferring to Baker University in Topeka to complete her Nursing degree. We wish each of them God's guidance and direction as they continue on in life.

As we go our separate ways this summer, we pray the Lord Jesus will be with each one and bring us together once again next fall.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

Isaiah 26:3

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

The Wichita congregation had a wonderful experience the weekend of April 24-25. On Saturday evening, we met at the home of Bro. Paul and Sis. Marie Sauder where we fellowshiped with a busload of families from the Chicago church. As I understand it, the Chicago church group makes it a mission to once a year take a trip to some smaller congregation — thus to encourage their connection to the Apostolic Brotherhood. The trip was long and the time was short and from past experience, we know what this means — yet, rather than hearing grumbling, we were inspired by getting to know

them and to witness their high regard for the Sauder family, who until last year attended the Chicago church. I had the interesting experience to learn that my overnight guests had a connection with my late husband's family. We found their names in the same section of the Farney, Virkler, Zehr genealogy book, as was Godfrey's name. What a coincidence!

On May 8, the work of a diligent planning committee culminated into a delightful evening of food and fellowship for the mothers and their daughters in the congregation. This annual affair is becoming a tradition with us and it is always a joy to see relatives and friends come together with respect to motherhood. The theme for this year's celebration was "weddings". The oldest wedding dress on display dated back to 1926 and belonged to Sis. Carrie Gleichman, mother of Sis. Kathleen Gallatin. Sis. Nellie Lambert's daughter, Sally Dewey, sang "The Twenty-third Psalm", number 212 in the Zion's Harp. She prefaced it by saying she used that song in her wedding, as have some of her children and their families. One granddaughter uses it as a lullaby.

Stephanie Long, daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Ruth, is graduating from high school this month. We wish her God's guidance in the choices she makes for her future.

Last month I wrote about Bro. Phil Bowers' confinement. I am happy to report that he was able to be in church this past Sunday. It is such a joy to meet him and see the beautiful smile on his face. That is one bodily movement that was not taken from him and it is such a testimony of his attitude. God be praised!

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Barb Huber
Betty Baltic

We wish to thank Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) for ministering to us on May 2. Also we were

blessed to have their son and daughter in-law, Bro. Caleb and Sis. Laura (Bluffton North, IN), share the weekend with us. What a blessed fellowship we enjoyed with those of like mind and faith.

On April 28, Cody Daniel was born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Elaine Hill. At home to welcome him to the family is sister Brianna. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Chip and Sis. Sieda Hill (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic.

We are saddened that Sis. Janice Lehman (Kansas City, MO) has finished her temporary duties in Louisville, but we wish her God's blessings and direction in her future plans.

On Mother's Day, services were held at Bro. Lester Huber's home. We were privileged to have retired ministering Bro. Walt Steffen (Sis. Dorothy, Milford, IN) whom so willingly shared God's teachings from the Word. We trust the Lord will reward you for your labors of love and kindness.

On May 15 Sis. Julie Neukomm (Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda) graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelors Degree in Kinesiology. Congratulations and may God bless you as you continue your education.

We extend our welcome to anyone who may be traveling through to visit us. You may contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541, Bro. Jan Neukomm (859) 273-8574, Bro. Doug Germann (859) 224-8710 or Bro. Dan Baltic (502) 696-9979.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Rose Watson
Terri Huber

In the hospital this month were Bro. Noah Blough (Sis. Marguerite) after a fall, and little Lena Stoller (Bro. Ned and Sis. Heidi). We pray for Bro. Noah to continue to improve, and for courage and strength for those affected when loved ones are suffering.

This is the month to recognize our graduates! Celebrating the end of their

high school years and moving on to the next stage in life are: Ronald Zaagman, Justin Pratt, Chad Pardo, Cynthia Blough, Katie Sue Meyer and Cassy Sanders. Well done! May God direct your paths in the coming years.

Others are moving on in life as well: Graduating from Michigan State University are Aaron Kaeb (Biosystems Engineering), Bro. Jake Gerst (Crop and Soils Science) and Tom Oesch (Ag Program). We extend hearty congratulations for their perseverance and hard work, as well as to Ryan Sanders who completed a Diesel Tech program at University of Northwestern Ohio. Bro. Jake is taking a job in Princeville, IL, and we will sorely miss him. Aaron is taking a several month tour of Europe before he accepts a job. Tom is using his skills with full-time employment on the family dairy farm, and Ryan is staying in Ohio for the time being.

Other encouraging things have been happening in Alto. Our hearts are gladdened when a soul turns to the Lord, and we have seen Alyssa Vereeke (Bro. Rob and Sis. Kim Koehl) make this change.

We were also privileged to hear the Memorandum read. Our thanks to Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) for helping Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen. Let our prayer this month be that the encouragements and blessings would far outweigh the disappointments and hurts as we each strive to act out God's love to those around us.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

May the Holy Comforter be with our loved ones who have suffered from bodily afflictions in this past month. Jennifer Curtis, Clinton Meier (Sis. Lula), Sis. Leah Ramseyer, Sis. Vicki Ramseyer, and Bro. Daryle Wieland (Sis. Edie) have all spent time in the hospital. We pray that the Lord will comfort each one of them as they recuperate.

We entreat the Lord's blessings on our high school graduates: Jennifer Curtis (Jim and Laurel), Bro. Chet Schlatter (Bro. Ken and Sis. Pam), Sis. Moonlight Szabo (Bro. Frank and Sis. Gail) and Nicholas Wackerle (Kip and Patricia). We also congratulate Jacklyn Knochel (Bro. Jack and Sis. Debbie), Amanda Meylan (Wade) and Rachel Sochacki (Jim and Sis. Cindy) as they have graduated from college. We pray that each one will seek the Lord's guidance as they enter schools of higher learning or seek employment.

We pray for Sis. Kay Knochel (Bro. Jim) and her family in the recent loss of her grandmother, Julie Leonard.

As summer arrives and you begin to make your travel plans, we encourage you to visit Michigan. We always enjoy visitors to our congregation.

"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord."

II Peter 1:2

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Jamie Bahr

Krista Wieland

A special service and dinner were held for Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner on Sunday, May 16, as he retired from the pulpit. As Bro. Hartzell has often reminded us, we are all ministers of the Gospel even if we do not stand on the pulpit. Although it seems strange to see Bro. Hartzell seated in the pews, it is wonderful to see him continue to minister through his servanthood, whether it be his instant smile or the various outreach activities which he continues to lead. Thank you, Bro. Hartzell, for your many years of encouraging us and sharing God's Word from the pulpit. May you continue to feel lifted up in our prayers as you start this new phase of life.

"...But a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own

works praise her in the gates."

Proverbs 31:30-31

We were reminded of the qualities of a virtuous woman this past Sunday as we recognized Mother's Day. The unconditional love of a baby is a mother's beautiful reminder of what our Heavenly Father expects of us. As we parent our children, the greatest burden we feel is that our children will always have that childlike love for our God and will answer His call for salvation. We are so thankful for the heritage that has been passed on by our mothers and grandmothers. Thank you, moms, for loving us enough to show us Jesus through you!

'Tis the season for academic celebration! Our high school graduates are Aaron Germaine (Bro. Milan and Sis. Joyce) and Sis. Alexis Gasser (Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue). Other graduates are Sis. Amy Hodel (Bro. Kevin) with a Bachelor's Degree in Early Education, Jeff Kujawa (Bro. Bill and Sis. Darlene) with an Associate's Degree in Applied Science Fire Technology, and Sis. Carissa Klopfenstein (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carole, Peoria, IL) with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education. Receiving their Master's Degree were Bro. Scott Bahr (Sis. Jamie), Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie), and Bro. Steve Wieland (Sis. Tiffany).

We are thankful that Tyler Rauhe, son of Bro. Jason and Sis. Carrie, has recovered from a bicycle accident resulting in several staples on his scalp.

Our church sadly waved goodbye to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Amy Hodel as they made their move to Indianapolis this month. Your absence is already felt! Please come back and visit often!

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS LaRae Dill

It's so nice to see Sis. Bernadine Miller (Bro. Don) back in church after being ill for a few weeks. We missed you, Sis. Bernadine.

We have three high school graduates in our congregation this year: Emily Messner, daughter of Todd and Sis. Renee Messner; Kelsey Messner, daughter of Jason and Nancy Messner; and Tyler Messner, son of Bro. Rick and Sis. Brenda Messner. Our wish for each of them is found in Proverbs 3:5-6:

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

Also, Brent Deragisch graduated from University of Minnesota dental school. Brent is the son of Dan and Lola Deragisch. Congratulations, Brent.

We enjoyed the annual Minneapolis-Winthrop potluck on May 15. Times of Christian fellowship are truly a blessing.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Heidi Nohl

Katie Koehl

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), and Ken Lawson (Dallas, TX). May God bless them for their labors.

On May 2, Bro. Greg Reuter and Sis. Sheila Nohl were united in marriage. We trust the Lord will provide for them as they begin their lives together. Parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn Reuter and Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie Nohl.

Bro. Loren and Sis. Melinda Schmidgall are thankful to announce the arrival of Breanna Lauren. Happy grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby Schmidgall and Bro. James and Sis. Hildegard Koehl.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Mabel Schmidgall, Sis. Esther Koehl and Sis. Lillie Luthi. We pray that each will feel God's nearness and strength.

We are so thankful that Alex Messner has sought the Lord in repentance. We trust that through God's

Spirit and grace, he will feel His presence as he takes this most important step in his life. Parents are Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl Messner.

High school graduates this year are: Brittany Esterling (Bro. Tim and Sis. Jeanne), Ryan Feuchtenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sally), Whitney Gramm (Bro. Rick and Sis. Julie), Myra Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl), and Heather Moser (Bro. Todd and Kim). Those graduating from higher schools of learning are: Andrea Koehl (Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley), Sis. Lanette Feuchtenberger (Bro. Robert and Sis. Gwen), Sis. Barbara Feuchtenberger (Bro. Robert and Sis. Gwen), and Brent Wulf (Bro. David and Sis. Nancy).

As Father's Day approaches, may we be thankful for our fathers and the faith that they have preserved. We pray that God will give them grace to hold fast to that which remains, and that we may all do our part.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Ginny Stoll Rachel Steiner

We are thankful to live in a country where we can worship undisturbed. What a joy and privilege it is to come and sit in the quietness of the sanctuary and know that God's Word will be shared with us. We appreciate Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Elizabeth, Silverton, OR) and Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) for their willingness to come and assist our Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Sis. JoAnn) with Holy Communion.

We voted for new Sunday School teachers. We offer our support and prayers to Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel), Sis. Lindsay Schmidt, Sis. Shayla Messner, and Bro. Dick Van Deest (Sis. Nancy). We extend a thank you to Sis. Julie Schmidt (Bro. Nick), and Bro. Derrick Schmidt (Sis. Ruth) for their time of service given to the Sunday School. Sis. Rachel Steiner (Bro. Glen) was voted in as a Silver Lining correspondent. We wish to thank Sis. Mari-

lyn Messner (Bro. Bill) for her years of service as a correspondent.

Many from our congregation enjoyed a potluck supper and a singing with the Minneapolis congregation at Baylor Park. The weather may have been rainy and chilly but our hearts were warmed by the precious fellowship.

Our thoughts and prayers are with DonnaBelle Nelson as she has had surgery. We are thankful for God's healing Hand upon her.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Garry and Marty Rokey

We are happy to congratulate retired Elder Bro. Gene and Sis. Mary Marti on their 50 years of marriage. They have been strong pillars of our faith for many years and we hope for many more years to come. We are thankful to God for their years of service.

We are thankful to the Lord for Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) for his many labors the weekend of April 24-25. Not only did he speak to the Sunday School children from Colorado, Kansas and Missouri, but read and expounded upon God's Word for our congregation and our many visitors. Many thanks, Bro. Greg. Our appreciation, as well, goes to all those who had a part in the planning and preparation for this special weekend.

"And the Lord God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

Genesis 2:18

Many of us traveled to Silverton, OR, to join the Dettwyler and Kellenberger families as well as the Silverton congregation to witness the wedding of Bro. Galen Kellenberger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Shannon Dettwyler (Gary and Sis. Tami). We pray for God's richest blessings for this young couple as they walk

their pilgrim journey here on earth. We welcome Sis. Shannon and hope she feels at home very soon.

Our congratulations to Nathanael Smith (Ron and Sis. Diane) upon his graduation from high school. We wish him God's guidance and protection as he passes this milestone in his life.

Note of Thanks:

Our sincere thanks to our dear children for the many deeds of kindness in helping us observe our 50th wedding anniversary on April 18. Sincere thanks to each and every one of our relatives and friends who remembered us with cards, e-mails, phone calls and other remembrances. May God richly bless you.

Thankfully,
Gene and Mary Marti

MISSOURI, LAMAR Wendy Braker Becky Marti

We were blessed to be able to partake of Holy Communion on April 25. We appreciate Elder Bro. David Graf (Akron, OH) for coming to assist in this solemn work. We also thank Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) for being willing to minister God's Holy Word to us.

Congratulations to our graduates this year. Graduating from high school were David Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy), Sis. Haley Braker (Bro. Jay and Sis. Sharon), Sis. Kayla Kellenberger (Bro. Curt and Sis. Martha) and Lisa Stoller (Bob and Sis. Janice). Graduating from college were Sis. Dana Braker (Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller) and Sis. Mindy Braker (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol).

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

We extend our heartfelt sympathy

to those in our congregation who have lost loved ones this past month. Bro. Jay and Sis. Sharon Braker and family mourn the loss of Sis. Sharon's mother, Leta Borghardt. Bro. Leonard and Sis. Bonnie Braker mourn the loss of Sis. Bonnie's brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Emma Lauck. May the Lord continue to comfort them as only He can.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Krista Banwart

The beautiful days that started our spring and summer are just a glimpse of how wonderful our climate will be in Heaven. During our Communion service on April 17, we were reminded of Heaven and how there we'll share not only perfect conditions, but perfect communion with Christ. Many thanks to Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ) for sharing with us that weekend. They were able to be with us for our annual business meeting and a dinner prior to Communion, in addition to sharing the Memorandum with us that Sunday. Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL). We look forward to summer and the many visitors and blessings it brings.

The season of summer in which

God brings
the butterflies with beautiful
wings,
and blossoming trees and a cool
breeze
and sunsets painted the way He
would please.
The season of summer for planting
and growing,
and learning to lean on a God
who's all knowing,
for pausing to look at the stars in
their place
and thanking God He's a God full
of grace.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Susan Haerr

Taylor was privileged to host the National World Relief Committee Meeting the weekend of April 23-25. It was so exciting to see the ways God is working through those in our church to meet the needs of the world around us. A special thank you to all who helped host that and those who made the effort to be with us that weekend.

Our visiting ministers in the last month were as follows: Bros. Roger Sauder (Sis. Judy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Jerry Baumann (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH), Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL) and Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL). Thank you, each one, for taking the time to be with us and blessing us as the Spirit spoke through you.

We want to express our deep sympathy to the family of Sis. Clara Yackley. Sis. Clara's sister, Sis. Adele Stahl, of Congerville, IL, passed away on April 28. May God be near you each time you think of her.

Bro. Jim Sutter (Sis. Kris) spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful he is back with us.

We congratulate the following individuals on successfully completing their high school careers: Sarah Adrian (Bro. Rusty and Sis. Amy), Jordan Gehring (Bro. Brad and Sis. Ellen), Luke Hoerr (Sis. Shelly), Nathan Miller (Ron and Connie Blue), Clint Sutter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Deb), Colby Sutter (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kay), Shane Sutter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kris), Wes Sutter (Dan and Sis. Tina), Brandy Winget (Danny and Brenda (Huber) Winget) and Reed Yackley (Bro. Elwood and Sis. Trudy). We love you each one and our prayers will be with you as you start a new phase of life.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We were blessed to have ministering Bro. Victor Bauman from Smithville, OH, with us on the weekend of April 24-25. We fellowshipped together on Saturday with a potluck and singing. May the Lord richly bless him for his labors.

We were thankful for the many that did participate in the annual church cleaning on Monday evening, May 10. This is such a small way in which we can show our love and desire to serve the Lord by keeping up the physical church building He has blessed us with. May we more importantly continue to preserve the spiritual foundations on which our forefathers built our faith.

Faith of our fathers we will love,
Both friend and foe in all our
strife:
And preach thee too, as love knows
how,
By kindly words and virtuous life.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!
Hymns of Zion #85

Our prayers again went out to Bro. Clifton Farney during his recent hospitalization. We are thankful he has again returned home. We also sent prayers out to Bro. Walter Rumpf and Bro. Andy Virkler as they are both recovering from broken bones. May the Lord continue to grant them healing and increased strength daily.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

A man's London Fog coat and a hat were left in our church about the time of Sis. Louise Graf's funeral. We would be glad for the owner to let us know so we could get it returned to him.

"The Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And

when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: ... After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood..."

I Cor. 11:24-25

The unfathomable love that Jesus' body was broken for us that we can be healed, for "...by whose stripes ye were healed" (I Pet. 2:24), and that He gave His blood for our sins that we can be forgiven. We were blessed to have Communion services. Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker assisted our Elder Bro. Dave Graf.

We appreciated Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (and Sis. Judy) staying with us for Sunday and were blessed with his inspiring messages.

Ethan Lowell was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Marcy Graf on April 14. Welcoming their baby brother are Isaac, Jacob, Sheila and Rebekah. Grandparents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet Graf and Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler (Wolcott, IN).

Our Mother's Day Sunday noon lunch at church had loving recognition to mothers. The week before, Sunday School students got together with a few fathers to bake a lot of good treats and bought additional food. They very lovingly and capably served all of us Sunday noon.

Sis. Gerri O'Brien has returned from Connecticut and is worshipping with us at Akron. We welcome her and are glad to have her with us again.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

We were blessed to partake of Holy Communion and to remember the sacrifice that paid for our redemption. We appreciated the labors of Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) as we remembered the Lord's Supper.

On Saturday evening, May 15, we heard the testimony of our new

brother in Christ, Casey Banks. Casey (Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy) was baptized on Sunday and welcomed into the fold with open arms and hearts. Our special appreciation goes out to Elder Bro. Mark Masters for sharing this special weekend with us. Others who have visited our little congregation this month are Elder Bro. David Graf (Akron, OH), and ministering Bros. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) and Wally Ramsier and Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH).

It is always difficult in a small congregation to say farewell to a loved one. Yet it is with glad hearts that we congratulate Sis. Debbie Sauder (Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky) on her graduation from medical school. Now she will move to Florida to take up her residency in family practice. Our love and prayers go with Sis. Debbie as she moves on in this new direction of her life. We will miss her and wish her God's richest blessings. We also wish to congratulate Bro. Paul Suvar (Sis. Nicole) on his graduation from Ohio State. What a blessing for this new young couple in faith to have heeded God's call. Now all they have to do is "Trust and Obey for there's no other way" as they wait on His direction!

Many prayers and get well wishes were greatly appreciated as Sis. Nancy Banks (Bro. Larry) experienced another hospital stay with surgery. How thankful we are for His healing touch in our lives!

Spring is not only a beautiful time for healing, but also cleaning as our annual spring cleaning was held to wipe away winter's grime inside and out.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

"...Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Matthew 19:6

May 1 was the wedding day for Daniel Manz (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn) and Angie Blevins. May 8 was the wedding day for Henry Manz (Bro. Roger and Lisa) and Christa Font. May 18 was the wedding day for Mike Manz (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn) and Kimberly Coppolino. We trust that God will be with these couples as they walk the pathway of life together.

Nicholas Mark blessed the home of Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy Manz on May 11. Taylor, Audrey, Bailey and Maggie welcome him home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Manz, Carol Benroth and Thomas Leatherman. May God continue to be with this dear family as they daily strive to raise their children in the fear and admonition of Him.

OHIO, LATTY Amanda Steffen Bonny Wenninger

"Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy."

Psalms 61:1-3

In light of the conflict going on in the Middle East, let us take this Memorial Day to pray not only for those who are currently wearing uniforms, but also for those who have in the past. Let us go on with hope that God is the Ruler of everything.

Our congregation was very blessed this past month. We were privileged to have many visiting ministers. Among them were Bros. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN), Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH) and Earl Beery (Sis. Susie, Rittman, OH).

The weekend of May 1-2 was very eventful. Not only did we witness the baptisms of two new souls, Sis. Shane Gerber (Shawn) and Bro. Sam Steffen

(Bro. Donn and Sis. Karen), but we also were able to see God's will being carried out as we put in a new minister. Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette) is our new minister. Present with us that weekend were Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) and Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL).

Following such a blessed weekend, it was a joy to hear of a soul beginning her repentance. We rejoice with Jennifer Keysor and her husband, Chad, and young family in this most important step in life. May they both look to God as their rich Rewarder as Chad began his repentance a few months ago as well.

We were saddened to hear of the loss of our dear Sis. Arvilla Kipfer. Our condolences also go to Sis. Della Wenninger (Bro. Kevin) in the loss of her stepfather, Richard Burkholder. May God be with those family members who remain behind.

Our congregation would like to welcome Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan Schrenk as they have recently moved to the area from Athens, AL.

May is the month for graduations. Our 2004 high school graduates include Joel Dunham (Bro. Byron and Sis. Jody), Darren Eisenmann (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol), Ted Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Kay), Sis. Marti Schlatter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky), Janna Sinn (Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn), Crystal Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol), Dustin Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jodi) and Whitney Wenninger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Alice). Congratulations to all and may they seek God's will in their lives!

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Esther Baumann

Three new tiny bundles of joy were welcomed into our church this past month. Nathan Michael and Nicholas Mark were born on April 20 to Bro. John and Sis. Marci Pfeiffer. Excited brothers are Isaac and Aaron; grandparents are Bro. John and Sis.

Zuzanna Pfeiffer and Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene Miller (Rittman, OH).

Cody Daniel was born on April 28 to Bro. Tom and Sis. Elaine Hill. Also welcoming Cody are his sister Brianna, and grandparents, Bro. Chip and Sis. Sieda Hill and Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic (Lexington, KY).

Making known their desire to seek the Lord in repentance are Ben and Molly Sauder. We pray for them as they take this important step of faith.

Elizabeth Sabo and Michael Brandt were united in marriage on May 15. We pray they will continually seek God's direction in their lives. Their parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharon Sabo and Tim and Ruth Brandt.

Bro. LaVern Dotterer was called Home to be with the Lord. Our sympathy is extended to his dear wife, Sis. Christine; daughter, Cheryl; sons, Duane and Bro. Gaylord (Sis. Betty); and daughter - in - law, GeorgeAnn (Eric, dec.).

A special prayer is offered to our recent high school graduates that they will seek the Lord's guidance in their decisions. Graduates include: Zachary Foss (Rick and Sis. Susan), Autumn Kirschenmann (Ron and Vickie), Zachary Rau (Mark and Lynette), Timothy Rufener (Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay), Lauren Sauder (Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam), and Tiffani Sauder (Terry and Helen).

Our thanks to Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) for visiting and serving us in the ministry.

Recently hospitalized brethren are: Bro. Pete Baltic (Sis. Karen), Sis. Nina Rufener (Bro. Wayne), Sis. Melani Eyerly (Bro. Dave and Sis. Edna), Bro. Frank Graszl, and Bro. Wallace Ramsier.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers and many acts of kindness shown to me during my recovery from my accident. God bless you all.

Sis. Nina Rufener

OHIO, RITTMAN

Laurel Indermuhle Anne Widmer

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."

Romans 12:4

We rejoice as this month we added several members to the body of Christ. On May 2, Sis. Becky Raifsnider (Doug and Sis. Diane), Sis. Laurie and Sis. Michelle Beery (Bro. Walt and Sis. Linda) and Bro. Dustin Riggensbach (Joe and Sis. Karen) were brought into the fold. On May 16, Sis. Brenda Stoller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian), Sis. Sharon Stoller (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joyce) and Bro. Dean Stoller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian). It is such a blessing and encouragement to hear each one of their testimonies and know that God continues to work in many hearts. Visiting ministers to share in these occasions were Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), and Bros. Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Steve Pamer (Akron, OH). Also visiting were ministering Bros. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Bill Brake (Sardis, OH). May God bless each one for their efforts.

As we rejoice with those that become newborn in the faith, there are also the joys of those that are newborn to earthly parents. On April 20, Nathan Michael and Nicholas Mark joined older siblings, Isaac and Aaron, and parents, Bro. John and Sis. Marci Pfeiffer (Mansfield, OH). Grandparents to these two little ones are Bro. John and Sis. Zuzanna Pfeiffer (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene Miller. On April 28, Cody Daniel was born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Elaine Hill. He will join older sister, Brianna. Grandparents are Bro. Dan

and Sis. Betty Baltic (Lexington, KY) and Bro. Chip and Sis. Seida Hill (Mansfield, OH). Bro. Luke and Sis. Pam Steiner became parents on May 8 to Aidan William. His grandparents are Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail Steiner and Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Maletich (Smithville, OH). Nathan Dale joined older brothers, Ryan and Samuel, on May 5. Parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Michelle Stoller. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeannette Stoller and Bro. Bob and Sis. Mardel Dotterer. May God guide each one of these parents.

We also pray for God's comfort and nearness to those who have been hospitalized or experienced surgery in this month. Those would be Sis. Irene Gasser, Sis. Ruth Beery, Sis. Ruth E. Beery, Sis. Katherine Bachman (Bro. Eugene), Sis. Erma Marty, Sis. Michelle Stoller (Bro. Gary) and their son, Nathan.

"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you; continue ye in my love."

John 15:9

OHIO, SARDIS
Jami Zollinger
Terry Zollinger

"God be merciful unto us, and bless us; cause his face to shine upon us; that thy way may be known upon the earth, thy salvation among all nations. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee."

Psalms 67:1-3

We were blessed with visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), retired ministering Bro. Glen Riggenbach (Sis. Lou, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO). May God bless each one of them for their service.

Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO) assisted Elder

Bro. Ken Indermuhle as we partook of Holy Communion. It certainly makes us feel unworthy when we consider the sacrifice that our Saviour made on the cross because of His love for us. Let's support our Elders by holding them up in prayer.

Those who were in the hospital or suffered afflictions of the body were Sis. Hazel Riggenbach, Raymond Headley (Sis. Ruth) and Amanda Alrutz (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet). We pray and trust that the Lord will grant them healing and strength according to His will.

...The time when as a happy father,
 Man can his family life review,
 His heart is filled with satisfaction,
 As on life's course he doth pursue...

Hymns of Zion #131

May we remember our fathers, the guidance, love, and head of the home, as they are honored on Father's Day, June 20.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Rachel Maibach
Allyssa Miller

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

John 14:27

It is with thankfulness we witness that our convert, Mike Crist, has been given the gift of God's peace. Our prayers continue to be with him, that by daily taking the shield of faith, he might be able to quench all the fiery darts of Satan.

Bro. Don Riggenbach (Sis. Gail) suffered a farming accident. We are thankful for God's healing power, and hope Bro. Don will be blessed with a speedy recovery.

It was a joy to have two visiting ministers assemble with us this month. We are grateful Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO) and Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH) willingly preached the Word of Life.

May "the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort" (II Cor. 1:3) be near to sustain Sis. Lorene Blough and her family at the passing of her husband, Bro. Elmer. Their children are: Ruthann (Ed Pfau), Ellen (Russell Gerber), Daniel (Amy) and Sis. Margaret.

Jennifer Maibach (Linda) was united in marriage with Mike Snowbarger. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their life together.

I am Jesus' little lamb;
 Therefore glad of heart I am:
 My good Shepherd watches o'er me

And He tenderly cares for me,
 Knows me, loves me, e'er the same;

Even calls me by my name.

Children's Harp #13

Several families are rejoicing in the birth of their long-awaited "little lambs" this month. Bro. Garth and Sis. Sheila Gucker and big brother, Max, welcomed baby Brett into their home. A little boy, Benjamin Steven, was born to Steve and Barbara Rhodes. Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Maletich are thankful for the arrival of grandson, Aiden William (Bro. Luke and Sis. Pam Steiner). Also, happy and thankful first-time grandparents are Dale and Sis. Elaine Dotterer. Jesse Andrew was born to Bro. Andy and Sis. Val Dotterer.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Gordan Greenbank wishes to thank all for their cards, gifts, prayers and other expressions of love and sympathy during his illness and death, and throughout his life. May God bless each one!

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup

Another month has passed and by now spring in the Northwest is in full bloom. We especially enjoy and appreciate the beauty of God's creation around us this time of year when there is such a profusion of new growth and colorful blooms.

In the April article, as I reported the results of our annual business meeting, I mistakenly listed that Bro. Denny Martin was voted in as third Trustee to replace Bro. Ron Jones. The correction is as follows: Bro. Ray Moser finished his term as Head Trustee. This duty is now taken up by Bro. Mark Gallup. Bro. Ron Jones moved to the second Trustee position and Bro. Denny was voted in to be third Trustee. I apologize for the error. We thank Bro. Ray for his work and support. May the Lord bless and guide the brethren who are taking up trustee duties.

This past month Bros. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele) and Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) from Silverton, OR, shared the Word with us. We thank them as well as the other visitors who worshipped with us.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Kelsey Walder

The month of May we often think of our mothers and all they do for us. May God bless each of our mothers as they labor in their special occupation. We rejoice with grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi, in the birth of their granddaughter, Ashlyn LeAnn, on April 23 to Bro. Phillip and Sis. Tasha Petrovic of San Diego, CA. We're thankful also for Elder Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian Petrovic (San Diego, CA) as they became first-time grandparents. Little Levi Michael was welcomed into the hearts and home of Bro. Todd and Sis. Richelle Haun also on April 23. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. RosaLee Kuenzi and Dorothy Haun. May God be with both of

these couples as they seek to raise their children in the nurture of the Lord.

The weekend of April 24 and 25, we were encouraged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Mark and Sis. Anne-Marie Tribbett. Our prayers are with this dear couple as they make their beginning on the path with the Lord. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Sis. Suzanne) from Fairbury, IL, here to help with the weekend.

May 9 was the wedding day for Bro. Galen Kellenberger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen) from Kansas City, MO, and Sis. Shannon Dettwyler (Gary and Sis. Tami). May God bless this couple as in their union they have formed that "three-fold cord that cannot be lightly rent apart." We will miss Sis. Shannon here in Silverton, but know she will be received warmly in Kansas City. We were thankful to have many visitors for this special weekend including Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen) and ministering Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen) from Kansas City, MO. May God bless them for their labors to share the Word with us.

Having surgery this month was our Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Sis. Bess). We are thankful he is on the road to recovery and look forward to when he'll be able to reassemble with us.

We wish to lovingly extend our sympathy to our friend Phil Hari in the loss of his wife, Pat. We pray he will seek and feel the comfort from above at this time of sorrow in his life.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Nathan and MaryElizabeth Gasser

"Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved."

Psalm 62:1,2

No matter what may occur, whether struggles in our own lives,

controversy in our government, or troubles around the world that threaten peace, let us remember that God is our rock and our salvation, and these things can't move us from His side.

As summer begins, we look forward to welcoming lots of visitors who are passing through our area on trips and vacations. If you're planning to travel through our area we would enjoy having you worship and fellowship with us on Sunday or Wednesday evening.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

We rejoice in the miracle of life, as Elijah Craig Plattner was born on April 23 to Bro. Craig and Sis. Raelynn Plattner. He was welcomed home by big sisters, Anissa and Emily, and big brothers, Jonathan and Zachary. Grandparents are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta Plattner (Bern, KS), and Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria Stahl (Chicago, IL). Great-grandparents are Bro. Silas and Sis. Della Metzger (West Bend, IA).

We have appreciated the loving hearts of our visiting ministering brothers as they so ably brought us God's living Word: Bros. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN); Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO); and Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH). We have also appreciated the opportunity to fellowship with brethren and friends visiting from Chicago and Forrest, IL; Indianapolis, IN; Bern, KS; Lamar, MO; and Akron 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: Forrest, IL (6/20); Bluffton, IN (6/27); Roanoke, IL (7/4); Bern, KS (7/11); Eureka, IL (7/18); and Leo, IN (7/25). If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service and would welcome any midweek visi-

tors. 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

DALLAS/FORT WORTH

Carrie Beyer

Our congregation would like to extend our love and congratulations to Taylor Wine and Heather Persinger, who will be joined in marriage on May 22. We're thankful for God's guidance in their lives and thrilled to have Heather soon moving to the area!

In addition, we congratulate all the graduates who have finished school this spring. I, too, would like to thank those who have helped me celebrate my own graduation from the University of Texas at Arlington. Please pray that all graduates can use their degree to glorify God and reveal Christ's message of Love.

Many thanks to all those who have visited our church over the past two months! We especially would like to thank Bros. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis) and Bro. Ralph Garber (Sis. Lynn, Morton) for their service in the ministry during May. On June 27, we look forward to hosting a minister from Roanoke; then, the second weekend in July, a minister from Fairbury is scheduled to come. Our church tentatively plans to cancel services the weekend of July 4. If you plan to be in the area that weekend, please contact someone soon, and we'll take that into consideration in planning our schedule.

Our congregation extends a warm invitation to anyone living near or traveling through the area to visit. We currently meet in Grapevine, TX, at the Holiday Inn Express immediately northwest of the D/FW airport, near the intersection of Highways 114 and 121. To reach the hotel while traveling either direction on Highway 121, exit on Main Street; the hotel is on the south side of the highway. For worship

times or other information, please contact Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson (817.431.0832), Bro. Kyle and Sis. Carrie Beyer (817.750.1028), Ralph and Beverly Rigenbach (817.481.4777), or Timothy Stoller (817.759.1549).

TEXAS, SAN MARCOS

Amy Ringger

Congratulations to our friend, Tim Martin (son of Sis. Dorothy), on his marriage to Tracy Roehrig on May 7. God bless you in your life together.

The ministers we had this month were Bros. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia), Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern), Ralph Garber (Sis. Lyn, Morton), Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield) and Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont). Thanks to them and our visitors from Lamont-Gridley, and Mansfield.

We look forward to hosting visiting ministers from the following churches in July: Remington (4), Princeville (11), Minneapolis, MN (18), and Chicago (25). There may also be families visiting Texas this summer on vacation, and we extend a hearty welcome to anyone 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. See the ministers' book for contact information. Our phone number has changed recently, so please update your book with the change (512-923-2053).

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 south-bound frontage road.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Mary Plattner

Our congregation has diminished in size since all of our winter residents have returned to their homes. We certainly thank the visitors that have included Zapata in their travels this summer. For anyone coming to Zapata this summer, please call to make certain of the location of the services as we continue to travel to Pharr, TX, for some of the Sundays.

Dallas Plattner, grandson of Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary Plattner, is hospitalized in San Antonio and undergoing chemotherapy.

Sis. Lillian Koehl wishes to thank all those who helped her during the time she was laid up with a broken arm. "You have all went overboard to make it easier for me while healing. Thank you all for food, care and taking me places while I could not drive. May God be your Rewarder."

VERMONT, NORWICH

Doug Mangers

Church services for the month were held on May 9. We were thankful to have ministering Bros. Duane Reutter and Dan Stoller with us from Rockville as well as a number of other visitors making the trip up from Rockville.

As the summer season is upon us, we invite any who have vacation plans in the Northeast to come visit us. Services are held on the second Sunday of each month. We begin our services with Sunday School singing shortly after 10:00 am. For information or directions, please contact Bro. Doug Mangers at (720) 979-7912 or Morey Weiss at (802) 295-5981.

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tails. Then Christ came. So that was done away.

But then we have the law of the Spirit. The Spirit then is the law of Christ. God sent His Son and He is the One who did teach us as He walked here. He taught us how we must treat those who make fun of us. Who ridicule us. Who falsely accuse God's people. He also taught us how it was to be submissive to the Father's will. The sacrificial love, dear ones.

The Word also tells, the Lord said if ye love me you will keep my commandments (St. John 14:15). It is not hard to express that we love the Lord with our lips, is it? The devil really doesn't care what we say. But the Lord said if ye love me, ye will keep my commandments. So then there is a duty there. There is an effort. There are deeds that must come forth. Things that must be not in our lives to keep His commandments. So to do that then, it is the war against the flesh. So that helps us then to see, doesn't it dear ones, are we in the Spirit or are we walking in the flesh? Remember the Word tells us we cannot serve two masters (St. Matthew 6:24).

Again here, another simple teaching that helps us discern. "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh..." Romans 8:5. If we just stop and consider, dear ones, of each individual decision and action that we take or thought maybe even in our mind, it begins there with the thoughts. What is our motive? What is the desire? Is this the flesh trying; to rise up, which we must crucify daily to keep dead?

The flesh do mind the things of the flesh. We want those things that are satisfying to the flesh — We do mind the things of the flesh. That is what the Word as I understand it here, it says, they that do after the flesh. What did we read here? It says they that do after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh. Then it says,

"...they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit." Romans 8:5.

We have to be careful, do we not, that we don't get going so fast in life that we don't even have time to stop and consider, really what is our motive? Are we trying to gain these things for the flesh - the pleasures of this life? Or do we really want to seek those things which are above? If we are after the Spirit, we are more than willing with God's help and His grace not to fulfill the desires of the flesh.

Maybe we could go back into the reading several pages back further, it would be good for us perhaps if we could read there where the works of the flesh are (Galatians 5:19-21).

We know also in the Scriptures we have that which is of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23).

So we do have to take time and stop to consider, really what is it we want in this life? Why wouldn't we want to take that time? Because it says, "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God..." Romans 8:7. The carnal mind and the flesh is one and the same, I believe. It is enmity against God. So it is just obvious again, it says we cannot please God in the flesh (Romans 8:8). Even with our best efforts, we are doing it just to satisfy the flesh. Maybe it looks good and it pleases man or whatever. Can we not then discern, dear ones, when it is of the Spirit, we simply fear God? Because we know this last day is going to come. We don't want to be one as enmity against God.

"...for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." Romans 8:7,8. Very obvious, isn't it? If it's enmity against God, we know that would not be pleasing to God. So another verse that gives us encouragement, not just encouragement, maybe commandment, that we must not walk in the flesh.

Then it goes further, if we want to discern, are we in the flesh or are we walking after the Spirit? But here he

is encouraging. The Apostle, he wrote, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit..." Romans 8:9. Again we could stop there and say, well that's comforting and go on our way rejoicing. Don't we have to take the Word, as we really look into it, and it says, "...if so be..." - so there is an option there - "...if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you..." Romans 8:9. We could say, well yes, the Spirit of God dwells in me and we are convinced of that.

Dear ones, don't we need scriptures such as this? Because we have many scriptures that warn of deception. Being deceived. We are going to think we are right. We are going to believe without a doubt that we are right when really we are wrong. And God's Word gives us hope. It also gives us assurance. But He also gives us that instruction to help us discern, is it really of the truth?

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you..." Romans 8:9. So how do we know if the Spirit of God dwells in us? "...Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Romans 8:9. So to be one of His, we definitely, it is without question, we need the Spirit of Christ. If we have not that, we are not one of His.

It could be said we maybe are being too judgmental. But dear ones, this is the time, and let us each one starting with himself first, is it I? Does the Spirit of God dwell in me? Because if it doesn't, we are none of His. That is a very, very serious consequence.

It says, "And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin..." Romans 8:10. Dead to sin. The body is dead. That is because Christ is in us. But the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But there is no sin. Sin is dead. The body is dead. Because of sin in the first place, this body had to be crucified. It was sin in the first place that our Lord had to be crucified. And because of forgiveness of sin and His precious and atoning

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blood was shed, so this could be possible.

"...the Spirit is life because of righteousness." Romans 8:10. There is no sin and then there is expected fruit. That is righteousness. Righteousness because we have been cleansed by the cleansing blood of our Lord and Savior. It is because of the grace of God dwelling in our lives. Because of His Spirit that we desire to follow. With His grace we do follow. In fear and in trembling and humility. Those things that come forth then are those things that are right in God's eyes. That is the Godly righteousness. It is not any of our own doings.

"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." Romans 8:11. We look forward to that time, do we not, dear ones? Only if we are one of His. His Spirit indwelleth in you.

So then as we go further, there are more fruits, should we say. More evidence. More ways to determine, are we really walking in the flesh or walking in the Spirit? Helps us to discern. It says, "Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh." Romans 8:12. A debtor is something that we, if we are a debtor, we owe someone something for something. He reminds the brethren that we are debtors. We do owe someone something. What is that? What do we owe? It is not to the flesh, not to live after the flesh. But we owe our life and our self sacrifice. Because that is what the Lord did for us is a self sacrifice. Let your whole life be an offering. That is what we are indebted to.

Why? What is it for? For the gift of salvation. We are debtors. We can never forget that. The debt we could never repay, no matter how much we try. We are always going to be indebted. When it comes to that day,

on payment day, could we say, because of God's mercy, even though we can't really fully repay the debt, because of His mercy He is going to allow us to enter in. Because we were a good and a faithful servant. Because we desired not to live after the flesh.

"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die..." Romans 8:13. Again, it just goes through, this whole chapter, the extremes. After the flesh ye shall die. "...but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Romans 8:13. Very obvious. We know we simply want to live. This here is not just on this earth. Much more serious than that, isn't it? In all eternity are we going to then die? Or are we going to live?

Yet when we think of dying, dear ones, we consider it an end. When there is an end, there is a new beginning. So here, if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die. And what is going to be the beginning of eternity? Where is that going to be?

We can rejoice if we can be assured - "...through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Romans 8:13. Why is that? Because, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Romans 8:14. So again the contrast - we are none of His or we are a son of God.

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." Romans 8:15. Feel the Spirit of adoption. We are a son of God and it is nothing more than simply being adopted. Taken in. Then when that adoption takes place, they are taken in and they are promised to be cared for. No different than if it was their very own. Do we understand that dear ones, the spirit of adoption? That's what our heavenly Father promises to us. Wherefore we cry, Abba, Father.

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the chil-

dren of God:" Romans 8:16. That comes where we are told in Corinthians to examine ourselves (II Corinthians 13:5). We could use scriptures such as this to help us to do that. The Spirit beareth witness. "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." Romans 8:17. We as man, dear ones, we don't like to hear those things of suffering. That there is going to be a battle. There is a struggle. There are going to be storms in life. We would like to hear just about all those pleasant things. Maybe we are selfish.

That isn't how it is going to be. Why would we even expect it to be that way? We really are selfish if we desire that. Nothing wrong with asking if it could be the Lord's will. But if we suffer with Him, if we are willing to do that, that we may be glorified together. Isn't it really unselfish? Did we forget the debt that we owe?" If we desire things to go smoother, did we forget the debt we owe because of what the Lord did for us?

Remember He didn't even have a place to lay His head. The foxes have holes, the birds have nests (St. Matthew 8:20). What do we have? Maybe we say, well we are willing to suffer physically. Maybe we can say that. But if it came to that point, would we be really willing? Without murmuring and complaining, as we read this morning? But are we really willing to suffer with Him? He said, you will be offended because of me, He told Peter (St. Matthew 26:31). Because there was an acquaintance made there with the Lord.

Are we willing to go through that kind of suffering, dear ones? We do not want to be ashamed to be acquainted with the Lord - in the way that we understand the Lord and Savior. The way that we know that God requires of us. Or do we simply want to be a hypocrite and say that we accept the Lord and we want to be one of His and we say a sincere desire

to believe? Again, by their fruits ye shall know them (St. Matthew 7:20).

As we go through these things, maybe we can glorify Him with our lips, but we still like to please the flesh. The flesh does not like to be separated out. It does not like to be thought as being strange. It doesn't like to be made fun of.

So if we really are willing to suffer those kinds of things, we are not going to care what the world thinks of us as we try to carry out those things which He asks of us. Because remember again, we are indebted to Him. Those things are living a holy life. A sanctified life. We could go on a long, long time in what those things are. The Bible tells us and it helps us to explain what those things are.

Again, do we just not have to keep it very simple? If we think that something isn't really that necessary to fulfill in the Word of God, and we can

still be one of His and led of the Spirit, but we still like to be a little bit more like the world, is that the Spirit of God? Or is that the flesh? We know. It doesn't take a lot of faith or deep understanding to know the difference.

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Romans 8:18. If we could think of the glories of heaven, it says they are not worthy to be compared with these things. Let us keep our eye focused on that heavenly shore. Also, it doesn't have to wait till we get to there. The glory that we can feel within our hearts. The glory and a blessing of being among brethren. The freedom of worship. The kindred spirit. The joy because there is no condemnation. The glory that cannot be compared. An unconverted soul cannot under-

stand.

For I reckon the sufferings of this present time ...the Lord definitely understood that. He came from heaven. He longed to return. But He said I am going to go prepare a place for you. And who was it for? It's for those who love and serve Him. So when that last day comes that we were reminded about there in different places in the Word of God, may it be that we with hope and a longing, we desire and we think of that time. That it will not be, I hope it is not today. Yes, maybe we do because we know there are souls that are so near and dear to our hearts. But as we pray for them, God knows. God doesn't make mistakes, whether soon or late. May it be, dear ones, let us always remember the debt that we owe.

U.S.A. BOARD WORK PROJECTS

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

Kansas:	<u>Paul Kaeb</u> Phone: 785-284-3261 Cell: 785-547-5269 E-mail: paulkaeb@ksiconveyors.com
Iowa:	<u>Martin Zaugg</u> Phone/Fax: 515-379-1693 Cell: 515-320-2404
Illinois:	<u>Marvin Sauder</u> Phone: 309-925-4171 Fax: 309-925-2409 Cell: 309-241-8171 E-mail: mmksblf@dpc.net
Indiana:	<u>Gerry Waibel</u> Phone/Fax: 219-279-2582 E-mail: glwaibel@hotmail.com
Ohio:	<u>Ken Zollinger</u> Phone: 330-925-6370 Fax: 330-927-6370 Cell: 330-466-2247



Auction Events

Saturday, August 21, 2004

Don't eat breakfast on your own!
 (All times IN time)
 7:30AM Hot breakfast begins.
 7:30AM Pre-priced crafts begin
 7:30AM Kiddie Corner opens
 7:30AM Baked Sale begins
 8:30AM Gateway Woods Presentation
 9:00AM Auctions begin
 12:00PM Specialty Items auction

Make a difference at the Gateway Woods Benefit Auction on August 21!

Gateway Woods – Apostolic Christian Children's Home extends you a warm welcome to our 2004 Annual Benefit Auction. The Auction is our biggest fund-raiser, accounting for a significant percentage of our budget. Your Auction contributions help us to fund our Christ-centered services, including our new adoption program.

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

The 2004 Auction will be a day of fellowship and blessings for everyone, including:

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

We look forward to seeing you at this year's Auction. If you've never been to the Auction, we would love to see you in 2004! May God bless you for your support, as we work together on behalf of God's Kingdom.

DOES IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Does your Auction support and attendance make a difference? Just ask Tracey. She came to Gateway Woods after being in more than a dozen foster homes. **She wasn't given much of a chance.** And now? Stacey is on track to graduate from Gateway Woods School and is living with a Christian foster family. Her life has been changed.

Or just ask Joe. At one point, Joe was living out of a car with his mother and had trouble with respect. And now? Joe is living with a stable, loving Christian foster family and regularly attending an Apostolic Christian Church. **His life has changed for the better.**

Your support makes a difference in the lives of troubled children and families. Please join us on August 21, 2004 as we raise support for teens like Tracey and Joe*. *(Not their real names)

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2004

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.

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ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY
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JAMAICA					
CCCD	June 26 - July 3, '04	Knockpatrick	Mansfield BC - Pete Webel	Deaf School	40
CCCD	July 17-24, '04	Knockpatrick	Chicago/Francesville BC - Tom Neu	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: 309-696-7804	FL Phone & Fax: 941-485-4302	none
Dean Pashak	989-662-7685	989-662-7685	dwpashak@charter.net
Bill Rager	419-263-2989		
Pete (Linda) Webel	419-756-2587		
Kevin Sauder	309-925-2409	309-925-2409	kjs@a5.com
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
Warren Kloter	309-208-2785		wkloter@myexcel.com
Tom Neu	630-983-6267		mtneu@aol.com
Rick Wuethrich	219-567-9488	219-567-2542	topnotch@home.ffi.com
Art Mueller	608-676-4365		

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

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

Nurses Needed

Fairview Haven, a continuing care retirement community, is looking for several loving and caring nurses (RN or LPN) to join our staff. If you would desire an opportunity to serve our older brethren and friends, please seek the Lord's direction and consider a job of service in Fairbury, IL. We would be happy to provide you with a competitive wage and benefit package and would even assist in relocation if needed. If you would enjoy working in a positive Christian environment and would like to make a difference in the lives of others, please consider this opportunity to serve. If interested, please contact Rick Plattner, Administrator, Fairview Haven, 605 N. Fourth St., Fairbury, IL 61739; phone (815) 692-2572.

- NOTICE -

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

We have so many requests for Sunday School material. Please send us your children's used VBS workbooks except grades 1 & 2 as they do not have Bible stories included.

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
World Relief

**Haiti Coordinator
Position**

The Caribbean Board of the National World Relief Committee is taking applications for a couple/s to serve as full time coordinators in Haiti.

The job would consist of helping work teams in construction, well drilling, trade schools and assisting the MEBSH construction department with sea containers and lumber shipments. This position would also require some oversight of fund allocation and accounting of funds.

For information contact Roger Sauder, Chairman, 954-584-0947 or e-mail at rjsauder@juno.com.

**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

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: bibledist@parlorcity.com

Mexico Work Teams 2004

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Phone & (e-mail)</u>
Magdalena	June 28 - July 2, '04	Construction	Arlan Miller	309-747-2683 seek_truth@yahoo.com
Rio Bravo	June 19-26, '04	Construction	Joe Zimmerman	309-263-0254
Rio Bravo	July 10-17, '04	Construction	Dean Fiechter	260-565-3439 Dafiechter@parlorcity.com
Rio Bravo	July 17-24, '04	Construction	Dave Metzger	219-567-2629 arlenemetzger@hotmail.com
Juarez	September 1-8, '04	Medical/Dental	Cheryl Herrman	309-385-1082 Cherylh@mtco.com
Magdalena	Dec. 27 - Jan. 3, '04	Construction	Tom Schifferer	847-695-7510 tomandkathy@schifferer.com

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

Houseparents Needed



Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessing of being fully staffed with Houseparents. At this time, however, we are experiencing a staff opening. Bro. Erik and Sis. Carrie Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) are planning to leave Gateway Woods in the near future. This offers an opportunity for a couple, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time on going ministry at Gateway Woods. This position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a common mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore these possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Ed Graf
Residential Program Director
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
1-888-443-4283
ed.graf@gatewaywoods.org

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
260-657-1033



This continues the series on Church Practices. The following are excerpts taken from a booklet distributed by Apostolic Christian Publications, Eureka, Illinois.

THE HOLY KISS

Since the beginning of Christianity there have been some Scriptures that appear somewhat vague and perhaps difficult to understand. On the other hand there are many passages that are easy to read and understand. One such Scriptural teaching refers to the holy kiss. This practice is very simple to comprehend, and is plainly commanded in the New Testament.

The first Christian churches were given this commandment in Romans 16:16; I Corinthians 16:20; II Corinthians 13:12; I Thessalonians 5:26; and I Peter 5:14. These verses provide Biblical evidence that it is God's intent for the followers of Christ to greet/salute one another with a holy kiss.

Perhaps a dear departed brother, Bro. John Baumgartner, summed it all up very well in his book, *The First Hundred Years*, a history of the Bluffton, Indiana, congregation, when he described the use of the holy kiss in that church: "When the members came to this humble church they would greet each other with the

holy kiss of love and Christian fellowship. Brothers would greet brothers, and sisters would greet sisters, and the brothers and sisters would greet with a handshake, all wishing each other the favors of the Lord."

In the body of Christ, brethren exchange the holy kiss as an expression of love and veneration. It is done so, idealistically at least, to convey love, reverence and esteem for fellow believers in the Lord. In the Apostolic Christian Church the use of the kiss is, of course, confined to each particular gender. That is, men salute men, and women salute women.

The holy kiss, as practiced in the Apostolic Christian Church, is not the kiss that has its origins in social custom. Rather, it is a holy kiss with its origin founded in the will of God, and included among the commandments of the New Testament. This practice has a strong historical precedent. A major church leader in the second century wrote, "Then let the men apart, and the women apart, salute each other with a kiss in the Lord."

The Dictionary of Christian Antiquities gives further evidence of its use in the early church: "The kiss, the instinctive token of amity and affection from earliest times, found a place in the life and worship of the Christian church. The

symbol of peace and love could nowhere find a more appropriate home, in its highest and purest ideal, than in the religion of peace and love."

The holy kiss has been practiced since the beginning of our denomination. Bro. Samuel Froehlich, in a sermon preached on November 1, 1846, said, "This kiss is known as a holy kiss, that it may be set apart from that of common usage, as a holy thing, and also that it may not degenerate into a lifeless form."

He further expressed himself in a letter dated January 12, 1856, from Strassburg to one of the outlying churches, "This spiritual union and holy fellowship (among believers) finds expression in the brotherly kiss, if this kiss truly be the expression of brotherly love."

Over the centuries, the practice of the holy kiss has fallen into disuse in most denominations. Various reasons have been advanced. One is that such a kiss originates from custom. Yet, to imply that the holy kiss originated only from custom, and is no longer applicable for today, is to doubt the divine reliability of the Bible. We are told in the Word that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God (II Timothy 3:16). We must have simple faith to believe this teaching.

The holy kiss is a command-

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REMEMBERING

...continued from page 50

ment of God and is recorded five times in the New Testament. It has been practiced for 172 years (as of 2004) in the Apostolic Christian Church. Despite the fact that most churches no longer abide by this Biblical directive, it is still considered essential, and a wonderful blessing.

This practice rests on a strong Biblical/historical foundation. It is found in the New Testament. History indicates this commandment was carried out during the first few centuries of the church, and then fell into general disuse. It was resurrected again during the Radical Reformation. Sadly, the practice once again faded and aside from a few denominations using it today, is virtually absent in church assemblies across America. We should be thankful we have God's grace to continue it, and to find appreciation in its use.

A further comment of Bro. Baumgartner is relevant for us today: "This was a commandment of the Apostles, and was also renewed by Brother Froehlich. This is still enjoyed and carried out; and is advised by the elders of the church to be kept up until the Lord shall come again, and find us so doing."

This truly echoes the sentiments of the brethren of the Apostolic Christian Church.

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next issue:

"Making A
Covenant With God"

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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"Think On These Things"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shiota, Japan

It is not only important what we do, but what we think also has a tremendous influence on our physical and spiritual health. Although the Apostle Paul had seen and experienced much violence in his life, he wrote, "If there be any praise, think on these things." (Phil. 4:8)

Some years ago, at one of our Elder Conferences, a brother who knows about such things, told us that we should reduce stress by thinking about a herd of black and white Holstein cows grazing peacefully in a green meadow, or something similarly serene.

Now our country is at war, and the news is disquieting. To hear the news or read the news is distressing, but if we had TV and saw the news, it would be devastating. To think about happy, pleasant things, becomes very difficult.

Proverbs 23:7 reads, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." The above scripture is often paraphrased to read, "As a man thinketh, so is he." Fathers, please encourage your wives and children to think about those things which are lovely.

When I was in the army, all the soldiers except me, in my outfit, were required to take bayonet training. (I was excused because I am a conscientious objector and refused to carry a weapon.) This is a most personal, violent form of violence. Some people are unable to switch their nervous systems from violence to peacefulness. Witness the Oklahoma City government build-

ing bombing.

Some may say, "If only the opposition (the enemy, so called) had a Christian background like we have," but in the war between the States, that didn't prevent the North from killing five Confederate generals in the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee.

When it comes to war, we have no satisfactory explanation for the slaughter of women and children with the sword, in the Old Testament. Some things we must leave with God. It is sufficient to know that Christ promoted peace, and that He died for us on the cross, and that He arose again on the third day.

The pilots who flew the airplanes into the World Trade Building were called cowards, but I notice that men or women in our armed forces who willingly lay down their lives to destroy the opposition, are called courageous, and given the highest medal of honor, posthumously.

I was in the army during the Korean War and I know of terrible atrocities on both sides, from stories told me in the hospital where I worked. At present, everyone appears to be in shock, including our leaders, but war is not a football game.

Before going to sleep at night, I like to think about the watermelon plants peeking through the ground in our vegetable garden. It is nice to check on the garden after prayers in the morning, just to make sure seeds still sprout. Think on these things.



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

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