

The Silver Lining



For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

July 2004

Sermon by Bro. Myron Knobloch, Lester, IA
Psalm 16 and The Acts 15:22-41

I don't know about you dear ones, but it seems like as often as we can read in the scriptures an account like we have read together here this afternoon in the New Testament, we can see how things were carried out or done in that day and time. We compare it to where we find ourselves today and we see those same efforts being carried forth. Doesn't it really give us hope and courage? To know that really the faith that we believe in is based on the Word of God.

We did not read the first part of the chapter here, but it is the account there where the apostles gathered together at Jerusalem for to discuss even those matters that pertained to them in that day and time (Acts 15:2). Maybe as we consider the day and the time in which we live, it seems the evil or the immorality, those things that we experience around about us maybe seem overwhelming. Here in the very early church, just shortly after Christ left this earth, there were issues and there were matters and those things which the church confronted in that day, wasn't there? Really, have times really changed? How the enemy was there at that day and how he is yet with us today.

As we read together there, the issue that came unto the apostles there was circumcision. Circumcision was one of the issues that they dealt with there. How there were those that still seemed to hold on to the old law. Loved ones, we find ourselves in that very same situation today. Maybe we don't get involved in carrying out the law or the traditions that even the Pharisees and the scribes and those carried out, today. I guess what comes to me, dear ones, is the thought that we need to keep ourselves separated from our past life. Those who were converted and of the brethren in this day had come out from the old law. They had practiced those things of the various washings and sacrifices and all those things that they were involved in.

We can read together there in the earlier parts of the Old Testament scripture here. Maybe we aren't involved in those issues today, dear ones, but all of us have come from lives of sin, haven't we? We've walked in the world, we partook of those things. There's things in our lives that when we came unto the knowledge of the truth of salvation, that

needed to be left behind. Just as these particular individuals here in this day, how there needed to be a separation from the law that was in their past life. How, brethren, we today yet need to keep ourselves from the pollution of the world around us. How the Bible even tells us that if we take up those things which we once cast off, we become a transgressor. We know that a transgressor has no place in the kingdom of God, does he?

As we begin reading, it says here, that after they had had their deliberations there, it had come to a consensus, to a common point there. It says, "Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch..." and to these various places. (The Acts 15:22). How then there were several individuals here, Paul and Barnabas, Judas and Silas. They had them sent forth to the brethren.

Loved ones, that is just a reflection of what we see yet today, don't we? Twice a year our Elder Brethren gather themselves together. Where they consider issues just like they faced here in this time. How there were those deliberations and there were those discussions. Loved ones, as often as we are reminded of their gathering together, how we are encouraged to pray, aren't we?

Maybe we look unto those brethren who have those responsibilities and maybe it comes into our minds that the responsibility really rests solely with them. The fate of the church is in their hands. To a point it is, isn't it dear ones? But yet, as we were reminded this morning hour, when we can speak of the ministry, it is not a few men that stand before us, is it? But each one of us has a duty and has a responsibility. As often as they come together, dear ones, let's avail ourselves of the power that God gives unto us. Let's offer sincere prayer in their behalf.

How many times do we hear, as they come back from those meetings, they often say, we felt your prayers. Maybe there are issues that would seem overwhelming to them, and we know there is many times hesitation as they gather. They wonder, how are these things going to go? How is it going to be? That is where our place comes in, dear ones.

That we offer that prayer in their behalf. That the Spirit of God can be in their midst. We know that with God all things are possible.

Then, I guess along that same line, dear ones, as they come back to us, even we are reminded here, they sent the apostles and elders to the various

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

July 2004

Glorifying God

To glorify is to praise, to magnify and to honor in worship. Therefore to glorify God we must praise Him, magnify Him and honor Him as we worship Him.

It is both a duty and a privilege to glorify God. There is no greater power on the face of the earth than the one true God, the Creator of all that is in the universe. To refuse to glorify Him will bring us to destruction eternally. To truly glorify Him will lead to life eternal.

The Holy Bible contains many examples, in both the Old and New Testament, of those who glorified God. As King David was gathering money and materials that would help his son Solomon build the temple, he said "Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all" (1 Ch. 29:11).

Isaiah wrote "...Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory" (Is. 8:3).

As the multitude saw "...the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel" (Mt. 15:31). The Sadducees, in trying to silence Peter and John, threatened them and let them go because they could find no real reason to punish them, "...because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done" (Acts 4:21).

In the Revelation of Saint John the Divine we read "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Rev. 4:11). Also

we find "Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest" (Rev. 15:4).

In addition to examples of those who glorified God, we are given at least four reasons to praise Him: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvel-

ous light" (1 Pe. 2:9). To be considered chosen of God, royal, holy and peculiar certainly sets God's people apart from those who are not His children.

How can we, who seem so insignificant, glorify so great a God as the one true God who has provided for so many generations? There are a number of ways we can glorify God. We can praise Him, we can consecrate our lives to Him, we can exhibit thankfulness and gratitude, we can strive for spiritual unity, we can be submissive and obedient to Him and we can allow Him to use us for good works and thus bear fruit on His behalf.

Not only are we given reasons for praising God, but also in His Word we find special ways we can praise God. We are encouraged to "Sing praises to the Lord, which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people his doings" (Ps. 9:11). We can also praise Him in word: "My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord:" (Ps. 145:21). We can even recognize that God's works praise Him: "All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord;..." (Ps. 145:10).

We can also glorify God by consecrating our lives to Him. To consecrate means to set apart or dedicate to the service of God. Paul wrote "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Ro. 12:1). To adequately consecrate our lives to God requires dedication, thoroughness, a willingness to please God, and to recognize that even after all of this we are only doing what is reasonable.

Living a life that exhibits thankfulness and gratitude also demonstrates our willingness to glorify God. We certainly thank God through prayer. We can also thank Him by living our life so those who observe us can see that we appreciate being His child. Do others see in our attitude a sense of joy and a contentment in our life? If we truly love God and believe we are saved, we ought to be the most contented people on the face of the earth. Certainly there may be times of distress when our joy may be less evident; but, even in difficult times our love for God and our desire to glorify Him should be apparent in our daily walk

of life.

As we walk with fellow pilgrims, do we walk in spiritual unity or are we out of step with the teachings and guidelines the Bible has for the church? The Psalmist wrote "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Ps. 133:1). Paul wrote "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10). We can see by these scriptural exhortations that in order to glorify God we must be in spiritual unity based upon God's Word.

Submission to God and obedience to His Word are also ways we can glorify God. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (Ja. 4:7). It is rather easy to do those things that we are clearly convicted to do, but it requires a great deal of humility to submit in areas where we may not hold a strong conviction. King Saul had to learn the hard way that obedience is required even in times of distress.

After he had assumed the authority to sacrifice, contrary to the law, he was rejected by God for disobedience. "And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,..." (1 Sam. 15:22).

Finally, to glorify God we should allow Him to use us when He calls us to His work. Many passages in the scripture remind us of the importance of bearing fruit in our lives. The Fruit of the Spirit gives ample opportunity for us to be useful to God. To bear fruit for the Lord, we must be faithful. "I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing" (Jn. 15:5).

We are surely a fortunate people to be given the privilege of glorifying our God. He has given us many opportunities to glorify Him and has made it clear that the rewards for serving Him are abundant and eternal.



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

Brethren Work Together In Romania

In April 2004, twelve brethren and friends from Germany and the USA traveled to Romania on a work project for the storage and distribution center located in the Arad suburb of Vladimirescu. This property is owned and managed by the Antioch Association, a Romanian corporation, formed by Romanian, German, and European Board brethren. The purpose of this property is to facilitate the management and distribution of aid for the Romanian brethren. On this site there are the following:

- 1-1/2 story large building with basement & 2-stall garage
- Utility building that is used for the storage and distribution center
- Open-faced pole type structure about the size of a 3-car garage
- Old Romanian dwelling house
- Enclosed 3-stall garage

One pressing need was proper drainage to get rain water away from the buildings. By week's end, every roof had been equipped with downspouts leading into a drainage channel, and eventually into four cisterns underground through which the water can leach into the earth.

Small livestock programs

A suggestion from Bro. Filip Augustinov last year has developed into a program that we feel holds great promise for the future of Romanian families. Antioch is furnishing 3 baby pigs or 100 baby chickens as individual projects for any family capable of doing the work. Some large families have more than one project. Antioch pays 100% of feed costs. With last year's

catastrophic weather situation, some of these projects had to be stopped early, but now, due to corn shipments to Romania, plus the hope of a government grant, the outlook is entirely changed.

At the end of the growing term for the livestock, the families receive 2/3 of the animals for their own use, and Antioch receives 1/3. The Romanian families wept when this program was explained to them. The 1/3 that comes back to Antioch will be distributed to those who live in apartments, or are physically unable to care for animals.

Bro. Filip is keeping computer records, and the European Board was given a list of 279 projects now functional in about 36 Romanian congregations. The amount of meat generated by these projects will be far more than anything that can be shipped from outside Romania, and is in accordance with their own tastes. Animals are grown even in the large cities where one has a little room.

A few people have geese projects and several have rabbits. Our team visited a sister who has a large rabbit project. Last year it was financed through Antioch, but now it belongs entirely to her, demonstrating great progress!

Antioch now has financed two projects in which the farmer has bee hives installed on a trailer that he moves from place to place as the crops bloom. Honey is a staple in the Romanian diet, and by agreement made with the initial offer of these two brothers, Antioch will receive 1/3 of the honey for eight years, after which the farmers will own the whole operation. The honey can be distributed to those in apartments or otherwise who do not have it. In the unlikely event of there being a

surplus of honey, it could be sold on the open market, and the funds returned to Antioch to be used for additional support of needy brethren.

Despite last year's poor harvest, some brethren did harvest root crops such as carrots and parsnips. Filip purchased this produce through Antioch and distributed it to the needy.

Garden tillers

A little over a year ago the European Board received a contribution to purchase garden tillers for Eastern European Brethren. To date we have bought several dozen such machines in Romania and Ukraine. These efforts are to send tools to fish instead of just sending fish. Anyone wanting to contribute to this very worthy project is welcome to do so.

Meat processing machines

Our team members saw four heavy-duty stainless steel machines that can de-feather a chicken or turkey in one minute. The intent is that these electric, portable machines be taken from house to house when the poultry are ready for slaughter, and to allow the families to accomplish in hours what took days before.

In addition to these machines, the German brethren brought in four meat grinders. These are very heavy-duty, with a capacity of grinding over 150 kilograms per hour, an astounding amount of meat. These four electric machines are also portable, and can be moved from house to house as the time of hog slaughter approaches.

More information

Anyone wishing more information on the Antioch program may contact Bro. Gene Lehman – 219/261-3313 or opalehman@midwaynet.net.



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

College Campus Services

Church worship services supporting brethren and friends attending college and university campuses began in the 1950's and 1960's. Many factors increased the importance and demand for higher education to prepare young people for their future. These included technology advances, expanding economies and a growing population coupled with a significant decrease in number of agrarian occupational opportunities including farming. Many young people with an Apostolic Christian background began attending colleges and universities. This trend continues today. Young members and friends leave home in these very formative years of their lives when the need for spiritual support and direction is critical.

The establishment of Apostolic Christian support for college students at Champaign-Urbana and Bloomington-Normal, IL as well as West Lafayette, IN offer examples of how the Lord provides. The Elder Body, out of compassion and concern for young people at the University of Illinois and at the request of brethren who were students, approved a Bible Study service led by Bro. Edwin Hohulin, an elder from the Goodfield, IL church. An official group was organized to use the Illini Union facility where the first meeting was held on November 7, 1956. As the years passed the size of the meetings increased and eventually evolved into a local congregation. Sunday meetings were initiated in 1963 and a church building purchased in 1969.

A similar pattern emerged at Bloomington-Normal, IL with a

Bible Study service at Illinois State Normal University (now Illinois State University). The leadership for this project fell to Bro. Joseph B. Schrock, a minister from nearby Congerville, IL who organized Thursday evening meetings starting in 1956. A group of students was officially organized in part to be eligible to use campus facilities in 1959. Services were held on Thursday evenings during the school year. The establishment of a local church in Bloomington-Normal was authorized in a meeting held February 10, 1969. The Thursday evening services on campus continued while the small church, which first met for services on April 13, 1969, has experienced significant growth.

Bro. Edwin Bahler provided key leadership in organizing worship services every other Thursday at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN in the 1960's. About thirty years later, in 1990, a building was erected in which Thursday evening services were held and a resident minister was appointed. A church was established with the first Sunday services being held in the fall of 2000.

Campus activities have been established at several other colleges and universities in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, and Ohio to name a few. Where interest is sufficient, brethren have responded. Faithful brethren give of their time and talents to share the word of truth to hungry souls.

Brethren involved devote countless hours and make many trips to the campuses organizing edifying activities. As Galatians 6:9 says:

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Church activities at college and university campuses have provided a haven of truth and a refuge from the world for many young people over the years. Many are away from home for the first time and sometimes are lonely and anxious. Church worship has been a welcome comfort. The fellowship and steadfast example of brethren coming to worship is a tremendous encouragement to young people faced with secular doctrines and philosophies contrary to the Bible. Many, over the years, have found grace to repent and were converted while attending institutions of higher learning. These graduates are now serving in congregations throughout the land and overseas. Many have children who have also benefited from the campus services.

It is important that parents and others keep in contact and support their children who go off to college. We encourage parents, grandparents, relatives and friends to visit their loved ones at the various colleges. Visit them periodically in their home away from home. Keep open communication with students regarding classes they are taking and experiences or challenges they face. Take them out to eat and then to midweek or Sunday services where they attend college. Of course keep the ties to the home churches strong as well. When you cannot visit in person, please pray. While mission work really begins at home, encouraging and supporting young people in colleges offers a wonderful and fulfilling mission opportunity for any brother or sister so called.

"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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Summer has arrived and our residents and staff members are busy planning vacations and outdoor activities. Some of our residents spent the winter and spring months practicing for Special Olympics, which was recently held at Illinois State University in Bloomington, IL. They work very hard preparing for this event and bring home medals to show for it.

This month the activity department at Timber Ridge hosted a retirement reception for Maurine Collett, who served as the Director of Nursing for 21 years. Residents from all the homes were able to attend and wish her a happy retirement.

Colossians 1:29: "Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily." We appreciate all our family members and volunteers who help coordinate and assist with our summer activities. May God bless each one of you for your love and support.

We were saddened by the death of one of our Timber Ridge employees, Dawn Rieger. She worked as a dietary aide and will be greatly missed by the staff and residents of Timber Ridge.

AUGUST birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550 are: Susan Landis (8/5), Martha Clymer (8/6), Nancy Eschmann (8/12), Shirley Pfeifer (8/23), Barbara Perkins (8/30), Christopher Loughe (8/31).

At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550: Daniel McDonough (8/2).

At Linden Estate, 1000 Linden St., Morton, IL 61550: Stephen Coombs (8/20).

At 1001 E. Idlewood, Morton, IL 61550: Wayne Leman (8/12).

At 208 S. Indiana, Morton, IL 61550: Steven Holmes (8/18).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Kurt and Kristen Slagel

It seems only fitting that we should ponder on the topic of children, as this ministry (which belongs to God) was founded for the specific purpose to bless children and their families. Our human thinking tends to get in the way at times, and we think that some people are "mistakes", who only exist because of sin and immorality. Not so, loved ones. Let's stand corrected; that no one, no one is an accident! God does not make mistakes. He takes into account human error, even sin. God has a purpose for each soul on this earth, and we are all equal in the eyes of God. What great love God is and ever will be! This poem by Russell Kelfer says it so well:

You are who you are for a reason.
You're part of an intricate plan.
You're a precious and perfect
unique design,
Called God's special woman or
man.

You look like you look for a reason.
Our God made no mistake.
He knit you together within the
womb,
You're just what He wanted to
make.

The parents you had were the ones
He chose,
And no matter how you may feel,
They were custom-designed with
God's plan in mind,
And they bear the Master's seal.

No, that trauma you faced was not
easy.
And God wept that it hurt you so;
But it was allowed to shape your
heart
So that into His likeness you'd
grow.

You are who you are for a reason,
You've been formed by the Mas-
ter's rod.

You are who you are, beloved,
Because there is a God!

Administrative Update

Summer is a very busy time at Gateway Woods, with many residents coming and going. We would like to bid farewell to Tania G, Lindsey H, Samantha T, John P, Renee B, Brandy W, Cody H, Adam H, and Jeff S. We would like to welcome Zach F, Katie H, and Amber H to our campus. We appreciate your prayers during our summer transition.

In our Foster Care program, we say farewell to Stephanie G and Jenee L and say hello to Faith M and Haley F. Please pray for all of the many foster children.

Bro. Joel Virkler (Remington, IN) continues to do a great job as our Summer Volunteer Coordinator. We have already had groups from Washington, Bluffton and Latty as well as many weekly volunteers. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please call Bro. Joel at 888-443-4283 ex. 116.

The summer issue of The Gate Post will be coming out soon. We appreciate all of the positive feedback we receive from our readers and supporters.

We have a critical need of a Houseparent couple. Please see our notice in this month's Silver Lining. Please be prayerful that God will fill this position with the right people at the right time. The harvest truly is great!

Please see our Auction insert in this month's Silver Lining. The Auction is a major source of dollars to help operate our 6 Christ-centered programs - Residential Childcare, Foster Care, Adoption, Home-based Services, Gateway Woods Family Services (IL), and Gateway Wood School.

Last year, we were able to provide help and healing to over 270 families and children. Thank you for making a difference in their lives. Only in eternity will you know how much your support means. We look forward to seeing you on August 21!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Athens, Alabama

Melissa Slagel

Our summer seems to be going by so quickly. Our days have been filled with fun summertime things. The children look forward to our swimming days and along with bug hunting, bike riding, and bubble blowing, they never seem to run out of fun.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not on thine own understanding.”
Proverbs 3:5

As we went through the Bible picking out memory verses for the summer, I wondered if I was expecting too much out of them and didn't know how much they would be able to grasp. It is amazing to me how these little mouths can barely even say the word “understanding” and yet they can memorize it and when you ask them what it means, they know. Story time is a wonderful time to teach about God but I have found that the best most teachable moments come unexpectedly and sometimes I think it turns on me and I end up learning more than they do. A child found a toy that he thought was lost forever while we were playing the other day. He was so excited about it and so before he left he wondered if he could hide it again so that no one else could have it before he came back the next day. I told him I thought that maybe that was a pretty greedy thing to do. He looked up at me puzzled and said, “what does greedy mean?” I smiled and said “Greedy, it means that we don't want to share but

just keep it all for ourselves. It really isn't a very Jesus-like way to be.” With concern in his eyes he said, “So it is bad to be greedy? Well, Miss Melissa, did you say you thought that MAYBE I was being greedy or that I WAS being greedy?” I was touched at how even a 5 year old so badly does not want to make Jesus sad and I wondered if me as an adult am that diligently trying to please the Lord.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Louise Hall

Memorial Day was a very inspirational weekend to all of us here in Athens. To see and feel the love of God from everyone who made the effort to come was so encouraging. We are thankful for everyone that came and took part; we hope you all received a blessing as we did. We especially want to thank our speakers for the weekend: Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL), Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Atlanta, GA) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH). May God bless you for laboring for Him.

We want to thank our other visiting ministers for this month as well: Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH). May God bless you for coming and being with us and also to those who traveled with them.

There is so much to rejoice about this month. Tim Hall has announced he is ready to be baptized. His baptism will be the weekend of July 10-11. God does answer prayer in His perfect time. We are so thankful Mark Ray has given his life to the Lord. We pray for growth in God for him and are praising the Lord along with his parents, Bro. Milton and Sis. Joyce Ray.

In the hospital this month was Lisa (Jeff) Moore, daughter-in-law of Sis.

Doris Moore. She is recovering from back surgery. Also in our prayers was Blake Moore (Jeff and Lisa), grandson of Sis. Doris Moore. God was His protector and he is recovering well from a 4-wheeler accident.

Bro. J.R. and Sis. Louise Hall are excited to be new great grandparents to twins, Cassey Leigh and Kasey Leighann. Their parents are Ashley Flannagan and Lee Green. Grandparents are Jeff and Janice Flannagan and great, great – grandmother is Sis. Ola Mae Barnes. We trust that God will continue to provide strength to all of them.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

“I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me.”

Philippians 4:13

We enjoyed Vacation Bible School June 3-8. On June 9 the children presented their program with much enthusiasm. Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley IL), Bro. Jim Meiss (Phoenix), and Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) were our teachers. We also thank our Brothers and Sisters for teaching our children.

We were truly blessed with an abundance of God's love!

Bro. John and Sis. Wilma Pulfer announce the marriage of their son, Shayne, to Janeen. The wedding was May 26 in Ketchikan, Alaska. A wedding reception and dinner was held in Phoenix on June 13. We pray God's blessings on them.

Bro. Erik and Sis. Cindy Langhofer announce the marriage of their son, Kory, to Rachal Ann on May 29. A wedding reception was held at the Howard Maurer residence in Scottsdale on June 20. May God bless this couple in the years ahead.

On May 30 we heard the engagement announcement of Bro. Adam Ebert and Sis. Whitney Gutwein. Their parents are Bro. Tom and Sis.

Dianne Ebert, and Bro. Nick and Sis. Susanne Gutwein.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley), Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend), and Bro. Brad Bauer (Tucson).

We are grateful to God, as He blessed us through their service.

Our surgical patients were Bro. Randy Wuethrich, Sis. Mary Ella Klopfenstein, Dakota Thorpe, Bro. Ron Hoerr, Bro. Ed Frautschi, and Bryan Baum.

Our sympathy to Sis. Mary Ella Klopfenstein and Sis. Katherine Laukhuf on the death of a close relative.

We are thankful to report two new babies in June. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Candice Klopfenstein welcomed Seth Matthew on June 13. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein. On June 15, Bro. Brian and Sis. Debbie Katich welcomed Brooke Noel. Grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Joyce Yackley.

Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Kieser have moved into the Mountain View Villas. They will be here part time and in Atlanta, GA, part time. Bro. Chuck plans to retire in December.

Chuck and Marie Kieser
9230 N. 26th St. #107
Phoenix, AZ 85028

Dear ones, let us pray for each other.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

Sis. Sharla Schneider is returning to Iowa after spending one and a half years working in Flagstaff and worshipping with us. We wish her God's blessings and direction in her life. We will miss her.

Sis. Bethany (Furrer) Dubach had an emergency appendectomy the end of May. We are thankful for her quick

recovery. Ray Massner has been having health problems and spent some time in the hospital. He continues to need our prayers as does Bro. Henry Volz, who has been unable to attend church for several weeks.

Bro. Herb Knochel Jr. (Phoenix) ministered to our congregation on May 30. May God richly bless him, his wife, Sis. Laurie, and family for their love and support.

Most of us have relatives in the Midwest and know of the severe weather conditions experienced, with high winds and an abundance of rain, making it difficult for the farmers to plant crops. In the southwest, the drought continues and we are hoping and praying that the "monsoon" season due in July and August will be enough to replenish our lakes and rivers and help prevent the further loss of trees.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We were happy to welcome two visiting ministers this past month. Bros. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix) drove down on a Sunday morning to lend a helping hand on the pulpit. The following Sunday on Father's Day, Bro. Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix) traveled to Tucson for the weekend with family. We so appreciate their efforts to help us out in the summer months when our ministers travel and our numbers are especially small. God bless you all for your love and efforts on our behalf.

Our friends, Helen and Steven Sakach, who had been attending church over the past few months, died within one week of each other after 67 years of marriage. It has been a blessing getting to know them and their wonderful family. What a witness of God's love and faithfulness in their marriage and in raising such wonderful Christian children who were caring for them in their older years. We

have been richly blessed by their family.

We are enjoying some beautiful (by June standards) weather with highs in the 90's and breezy conditions during the day and lovely mornings and evenings with cool breezes. We are expecting our monsoon season to start in a few weeks.

Our Bro. Bob and Sis. Carole Haas will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 27. Their five children and families were all in church on Sunday and Bob and Carole will leave this week on a cruise to celebrate 50 years of blessings. We pray God will continue to bless them in the coming years.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Robin Moser

"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Psalm 1:3

Altadena had four graduates this spring, including Sis. Lynn Hartzler, PhD (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan, Rittman, OH), Kurt Luginbuhl (Bro. Tom and Sis. Heidi), Bro. John Klotzle (Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody), and Bro. Daniel Luthi (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Shirley). May the Lord bless their future paths.

We were thankful for visiting brothers who assisted on the pulpit this month including Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN).

Our surgical patients included Agnes Cser (Bro. Steve) who is recovering from hip surgery and Sis. Jody Klotzle (Elder Bro. Tom), who is recuperating from a lung operation. We praise God for their successful surgeries. Sis. Margaret Kinsinger (Retired

Elder Bro. Carl) was also hospitalized this month and is recovering well at home.

Our congregation enjoyed the Sunday School picnic in June. The children had prepared a small presentation to remind us of God's greatness. It is always encouraging to see the students excited about their Creator.

The church family is excited to welcome it's newest addition, Nathan Arlo Klotzle, born to Dave and Janelle Klotzle on May 19. Thankful grandparents are: Retired Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle and Elvin and Janet Nuest (LaCrosse, IN). Nathan has four older brothers to keep him busy at home including Justin, Seth, Jacob and Caleb. We pray our congregation can continue to grow in number and in the spirit.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO **Peggy Jevremov**

Greetings! We enjoyed our visitors this past month as always. We were thankful that among them was ministering Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL). We pray the Lord will reward him for his willing service on our behalf.

We heartily welcome a new family to our small congregation. Bro. Bill and Sis. Shannon McClure have recently moved to our area with their two sons, Keaton and Logan. They are from Washington, IL. We look forward to having them in our midst.

Our high school graduates are Bro. Dennis Fulop (Bro. Denes and Sis Joy) and Aaron Holbert (Barb). We wish them the Lord's blessings and guidance as they further their education.

COLORADO, DENVER **Ann Gonglach**

Sis. Lorraine Hohulin has been elected as our new Sunday school

teacher. Sis. Tara Huber is also helping out in the Sunday school department. May God work through our teachers and bless our Sunday school.

We'd like to thank Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn) from Morris, MN, who visited and brought us God's Word on May 29.

Worshipping with us through the summer months are Bro. Joe Knochel (Taylor, MO), Sis. Jessica Feller (LaCrosse, IN), Will Moser (Champaign, IL) and, once again, Bro. Norm and Sis. Eleanor Geyer (Morton, IL). We welcome them and are glad to share in fellowship with each one.

A work team of young people went down to Mexico for a week recently to work on the new orphanage building in Magdalena de Kino.

On Father's Day weekend, special services were again held in Clyde Park, Montana. There were 115 that attended from 19 of our churches. Ministering brothers were Bro. Gene Metzger (Sis. Delores, Lester, IA) and Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO).

CONNECTICUT **ROCKVILLE** **Laura Virkler** **Amber Reutter**

Greetings dear Brethren! With thankful hearts we reflect back on a blessed month. Our sanctuary was nearly overflowing Memorial Day weekend as approximately ninety single Brothers and Sisters from the Midwest and Canada came to visit us.

To say the least, the weekend was a blessing and a spiritually uplifting experience felt by the entire congregation. We were so thankful for all that made the time and effort to fellowship with us. We pray that all would feel welcome to come and visit us at any time!

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." (II Corinthians 5:7) Sometimes we don't understand why we

must endure the trials in life, or how we ever deserved such joy and happiness. Thankfully, God always knows what is best for us. The Lord has provided Sis Cyndi (Bro. Brian) Luginbuhl a steady recovery from her recent surgery. May the Lord continue to provide for her and her family throughout the remainder of her recovery. Sis. Barb (Bro. Alfred) Reutter has also undergone surgery; we pray her recovery to health as well.

Our congregation rejoices with the engagement of Bro. Scott Virkler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy) to Sis. Tecca Keever (Clair and Sis. Beverly) from Mansfield, OH. We have the confidence that by faith these two souls have been led to marriage, and trust the Lord will continue to provide as they make preparations and adjustments for a future life together.

Our congregation was grateful for the presence of several ministering brethren this past month. They included Bro. Sean (Sis. Sandy) Metzger from Philadelphia, PA, Elder Bro. Bob (Sis. Gloria) Walder from Congerville, IL, and Bro. Earl (Sis. Suzanne) Beery from Rittman, OH. We thank these Brothers for assembling with us and willingly bringing forth God's message.

A beautiful daughter, Rose Elizabeth, was born May 22 to Bro. Brent and Sis. Naomi Walder. Her siblings, Emily and Kate, are grateful for another sister! We are thankful the Lord has provided Sis. Naomi a healthy recovery, and pray the Lord will provide the grace to adjust to the added responsibilities.

Our prayers extend to the dear souls graduating this month. From our congregation, they include Sis. Liz Ballasy, Lauren Goric, Tim Goric, Bruce Gottier, Sis. Debra Hoffman, Elisha Luginbuhl, Matthew Luginbuhl, Alison Schneider, Sis. Holly Reutter, Kristyn Boynton, Christian Trueb, Jacob Trueb, Lindsey Skipper, and Amber Wilson.

Oft times this time of rejoicing is accompanied with the stress and anxiety of the entrance into unmarked territory. May the Lord provide each one with the grace and humility to first seek out the will of the Lord before determining the next step in life.

God is ever present! Let us now
adore Him
And in reverence come before
Him!
"Holy, holy, holy!" Angel bands
are singing,
And incessant praises bringing!
Bow Thine ear, Lord, and hear,
As we in submission, offer our Ob-
lation!
Zion's Harp #68

It is such a comfort that in the depths of our hearts and souls we feel the presence of God. And as a body of Believers, regardless of our stage in life, or needs that we may have, we share the same merciful Lord that is willing to take the time to hear and answer our prayers. May we continue to count our many blessings, and be thankful for what we do have, as we strive onward to our eternal home. May the Lord be with you all and grant you much grace throughout the upcoming month!

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

Our little congregation is growing. We have welcomed several folks in the last couple of months. Rico and Mary Le Ginanni moved this area a couple of months ago have been assembling with us.

We can now officially claim Sis. Jill Merkle as one of the "locals" since she and Bro. Adam have established their home in this area following their wedding.

Sis. Julie Beer is part of the Subra's household this summer, helping with

Aidan and Kieran.

Bro. Joe Bohart, formerly from Chicago and Peoria, has accepted a position in the Baltimore area and will be worshipping with us.

Bro. Brent Kellenberger, from Kansas City, is here on an internship for the summer. We also enjoy Sis. Beth's visits.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Twyla, Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH,) Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS). Other visitors were from Bloomington and Eureka, IL; Rockville, CT; Smithville, OH; and Richmond, VA.

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 and Sis. Jill 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
Judy Sauder**

We are thankful for the willingness of our visiting ministers to come and bring us the Holy Word. They include Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS). We appreci-

ate visitors through the summer as they encourage us.

For our monthly church potluck we held a beach picnic that was enjoyed by all.

Bro. George and Sis. Katherine Fulop announced the marriage of their son, Paul, to Joanne Cole on May 1.

Katherine Elizabeth was born to Joe and Cathy Lo Cascio on May 24; she is the granddaughter of Bro. George and Sis. Katherine Fulop and sister to Jake, Juliette, and Jesse.

We are praying for our Bro. Bob Huber as he had surgery and is presently hospitalized.

We hold up Sis. Doris and her family as they care for him.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you for remembering me on my birthday. The cards and gifts were wonderful. It brought back a lot of warm memories. I certainly appreciate it.

Love, Sis. Josephine Martin

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Mary Masters**

Our small congregation was delighted to have Rob Baum and two of their four children visit us when they came back to Florida from Illinois to attend a wedding. Rob and his wife, Angie, were part of our congregation for several years. It was joyous to see them and reminisce of the past. The delight of seeing loved ones from the past is just a foretaste of what awaits us in heaven.

As we celebrate a special day to remember our Fathers, we also think of our heavenly Father who loves us more than our minds can comprehend. I John 1:3-4 speaks of our fellowship with the Father and His Son Jesus producing complete joy in our lives. What is it that we humans desire in life? Our goal is happiness and

joy. The definition of fellowship in the dictionary is, "a friendly relationship, companionship, an association of persons having similar interests." The Bible is saying that if we have a relationship with God and His Son Jesus, we will have complete joy. It would be as simple as it sounds if it were not for the enemy of our souls, Satan, lurking around to distract us with his lies about earthly things bringing happiness. Let's all concentrate on that heavenly fellowship that we KNOW produces joy in abundance.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA **Carol Koehl**

At our June potluck, we were privileged to honor two dear couples. Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, while Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Margaret Pflederer celebrated their 65th anniversary.

Our sincere congratulations go to Alyssa Siladie (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeanette) on her high school graduation. We all enjoyed a lovely reception at the fellowship hall after church on May 23.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) for faithfully serving us recently. Bro. Erik reminded us that just as we cannot live physically without light, likewise, spiritually we are dead if we are not living and walking in the light and bearing the light for others to see the way. "Then spake Jesus again unto them saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

Sis. Margaret Pflederer was in the hospital for surgery, but we are thankful to the Great Physician that she is doing well and is back at church.

My father, Bro. Ken Laukhuf (Latty, OH), was called home on May 22, less than five months after mom

(Sis. Marge) went to her eternal reward. They wintered in Florida for over fifteen years. On the night of my mother's passing, I opened to this encouraging verse: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints" (Psalm 116:15).

GEORGIA, ATLANTA **Carol Kaufman**

Elder Bro. Ted Witzig and his wife, Sis. Cindy (Morton, IL), spent a weekend with us. On Saturday evening, Bro. Ted held a Bible Study covering Matthew 6. We really have no need to be anxious, for as God takes care of the fowls of the air and the lilies of the field, He will certainly take care of those who put their trust in Him. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

Bro. Joshua and Jacob Lindberg (Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie) have graduated from high school. We wish them God's guidance and blessings as they seek out His will for their lives.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Ted and Sis. Joyce Hirstein in the passing of her brother-in-law, Bro. Fred Endress (Morton, IL); and with Bro. John Kaufman who recently had cataract surgery. We are so thankful for God's healing powers.

God has richly blessed our little congregation. We heard Benjamin Stoller (Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda) give his testimony to the church and witnessed his baptism on June 20. We very much appreciate his tender heart and willingness to obey the Holy Spirit. Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN), Bro. Vic Beer, (Sis. Dorothy, North Fort Myers, FL) and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter, (Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL) were able to be with us and encouraged us through God's Word. We are very thankful for the many other visitors that were able to be with us

and share the day. It was exciting to see our sanctuary filled to overflowing. May the Lord richly bless each one who made the effort to be a part of Bro. Ben's special day.

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 **Sheila McCoy** **Doreen Moser**

"Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him..."

Daniel 6:3

We were blessed to have Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) be a visiting minister on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. The message was on Daniel. Due to jealousy, a decree was signed that no one should ask of any petition except of King Darius for 30 days. Even though Daniel knew about the law against praying to anyone except the king, he still prayed three times a day as he always had to his God in front of his windows.

We had the exterior of our home painted this spring. One morning when I thought the painter could be

outside my bedroom window, I chose another bedroom to say my prayers. At lunch time, I sat in my usual chair but it was facing the window the painter was working at. I considered changing chairs before I said my prayer. I had to wonder if Daniel had any hesitations. My life wasn't even 'on the line' like Daniel's. Why was I concerned about privacy? I know I need to pray for the excellent spirit of Daniel. "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." (Psalms 51:10)

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Dan Moser and Elder Bro. Ron Schambach, both from Elgin, IL. We thank them for bringing us the Living Word of God.

'What you make of your life is your gift to God'. We hope our high school graduates, Calvin McCoy (Dave and Sis. Sheila) and Jean Schifferer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Lana), will remember this maxim as they embark on their journey in this life.

Our theme for Vacation Bible School was 'Choices and their Consequences.' Our Bible verse was from Joshua 24:15 "...choose you this day whom ye will serve; ...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Our hymn for the week was 'Come Now Saith The Lord':

Come now saith the Lord, let us
reason,
Come now and your purpose de-
clare;
It is pleasures of sin for a season,
Or pleasures the glorified share?

Bro. Tom O'Shea (Chicago, IL) spoke on "Choices We Make Have Consequences"; the topic of Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Morton, IL) was "Choices We Make and Why We Make Them"; and Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) had the final topic, "How Do We Ensure We Make Good Choices?" We surely want to thank our teachers and

speakers for the rich blessings we and our children received at VBS.

'Death is a bridge to God.' We had a graveside memorial service for our dear Bro. Matthew Hein. We are grateful for the choice he made to serve God. Bro. Matt is the first to be buried in our cemetery.

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Rebekah Kaufmann
Kara Martin**

This has been a busy month for our congregation! We were blessed with the arrival of two healthy little babies. Micah Andrew was born to Bro. Marc and Sis. Diann Grim on May 17. He was welcomed home by his big brother, Isaac. His grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Earl and Jan Grim of Bloomington. On May 27, Joshua Scott Martin was born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Erin. Rebekah and Hannah are his big sisters. Grandparents are John Jennings and Carolyn Lenz of Chicago.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Mary Daily have announced the engagement of their daughter, Summer, to Josh Thornton. They are planning a May 2005 wedding. Julie Gudeman, daughter of Bro. Dick and Sis. Jan Gudeman, has also announced her engagement to Casey Matlock. They are planning an August wedding. May God bless both couples as they begin this new journey in life together. May the Lord be at the center of each union.

Our hearts grieve with the many family members of Bro. Louis Kieser (Gridley, IL) who passed away on June 7. His children who attend Bloomington are: Bro. Bob (Sis. Laura) Kieser, Bro. David (Sis. Wilma) Kieser, Sis. Emily (Bro. John) Maurer, and Bro. Paul (Sis. Karen) Kieser. We pray that the Lord will comfort your families and your mother, Sis. Jean (Gridley, IL), as you

go through this time of loss. May you sense His love and care for you.

June 7 - 11 was our week of Vacation Bible School. What an exciting week! Each evening's lesson focused on one of five "Champions of Truth": Esther, Jonah, Daniel, Ruth, and Joshua. We are so thankful for the five ministers that taught us through the Word: Bros. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Randy Gudeman (Francesville, IN), and Kevin Knapp (Bloomington). May the Truths taught this week bring about lasting change in each of our hearts.

Aside from the visiting ministers who came for VBS, we were also grateful to have Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) come and fellowship with us.

This month also brings about the end of another school year with many graduates. Our high school graduates are: Rachel Anderson (Bro. Randy and Sis. Ann), Jake Davis (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Kathy), Bro. Seth Heimer (Bro. Curt and Sis. Sue), Leah Keeley (Jan Keely), Phil Kieser (Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura), Dustin Knapp (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dixie), Rachel Maurer (Bro. John and Sis. Emily), Will Nussbaum (Bro. Jay and Sis. Ann), Erin Stevig (Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb), and Bro. Jacob Zimmerman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Pam). Our college graduates are: Sis. Sunita Kupferschmid (Larry and Sis. Sandy), Jeremy Knapp (Bro. Charlie and Sis. Paula), Bro. Duane and Sis. Alissa Kieser (Bro. David and Sis. Wilma, Bro. Randy and Sis. Marj Schmidgall), and Sis. Bekah Kaufmann (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie).

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Steve Endress**

We were thankful to have Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and ministering Bros. Ron Joos (Bloomfield-

**ILLINOIS
CHAMPAIGN - URBANA
Karla Kieser**

“In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

Matthew 3:1-3

We rejoice with our new converts, Sam and Carrie (Lankford) Gutwein, as they have answered the call of the Lord and are now taking those first steps toward joining the heavenly flock. We are sad that they are moving to the Indianapolis area where Sam has recently taken a job. They plan to attend the Indianapolis church. We are also losing another dear family in Cory and Jody (Fehr) Berkland. Cory has finished his postdoctoral appointment at the University's Department of Chemical Engineering and has accepted a position as a professor at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. We will miss them and their year old son, Cael.

We have a marriage engagement to announce. Sis. Andrea Neukomm (Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda, Lexington, KY), one of our graduating students, was announced to Bro. Treavor Guingrich (Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy, Indianapolis, IN). Another one of our students was recently married in Forrest, IL. Bro. Derek Rassi (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane, Fairbury) married Sis. Rebecca Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill) on June 13. We wish each of these couples God's richest blessings as they begin their new lives together.

The passing of a loved one is both joyous and sad. Bro. Greg Kaeb (Sis. Shelly) and Sis. Karla Kieser lost their grandfather, Bro. Louis Kieser, on June 7. He was also an uncle to Bros.

Matthew and Michael Kieser. Bro. Louis' funeral was held in Gridley, where he worshipped at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Jean. Sis. Char Banwart (Elder Bro. Wayne) lost her maternal grandmother, Sis. Anna K. Marti, on June 11. She died at the Eureka home at the age of 105. She was the wife of the late ministering Bro. Fred W. Marti who died in 1970. She was buried in Lamar, MO, where she lived most of her life. We also pray for Sis. Janelle and Sis. Carissa Schlipf and Alan and Theresa Miller who lost their grandmother, Sis. Lulu Schlipf, on June 20 in Gridley. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bro. Adam, who died in 1992. Our Bro. Roger Belsley (Sis. Marti) lost his brother-in-law, Bro. Fred Endress, to a car accident in Morton on June 3. Bro. Fred's daughter, Emily, is a former University student. Our prayers are with each of these families who lost loved ones.

We congratulate Bro. Rich and Sis. Dorothy Fischer as they just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary! They have three children, Shirley, Steve, and Sonya.

We thank our visiting ministers of this past month. Bro. Gary Endress from Bradford was here at the end of May and Bro. Fred Witzig from Indianapolis came on a Wednesday evening (June 2) to give a talk on our church history. We always appreciate visitors and encourage everyone to stop in Champaign on the way to or from their summer vacations.

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Rachel Meyer**

Greetings from Chicago to all of you. As I write this the sun is shining, the sky is blue and I marvel at the contrasts in nature. Monday was one of those days you would like to skip. It rained all day, the sky grew very dark by 1:00 p.m. and storm and flash-flood warnings were everywhere. Praise

Cheryl) and Sis. Mary Endress (Bro. Scott) were selected to serve as Sunday school teachers. They replace Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel) and Sis. Deb Knobloch (Bro. Daryl). We assure our new teachers of our prayers and support in this important work.

We continue to keep our Bro. John Endress (Sis. Lucille) in our prayers as he recovers from surgery at Peoria Apostolic Christian Skylines. We look forward to the time when he can once again assemble with us.

Several storms this spring have given our brethren opportunity to work together. As we beheld damage from a tornado, several parallels to our spiritual walk could be found. It was hard to imagine that in a matter of seconds, that which took days to build was destroyed. The great winds scattered debris for miles. Both individually and as a church, we realize that, though we might work hard for years to stay close to God and to keep the faith pure, if we should finally give in to evil, all that we had worked to accomplish will be for naught (Ezekiel 18). It is far easier to tear down than to build up. We know that the many winds of doctrine come from the devil who would seek to scatter us. Yet the Lord entreats us to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." That which is good and holy is always worth striving for.

God for the silver linings around the clouds we experience in life!

We are thankful to have had many visiting ministers this month. Bros. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) blessed us with their service – thank you to each one of you and your families for being with us. We also held Vacation Bible School last week and we thank the following brothers for taking the time out of their schedules to prepare, travel and present God's teachings to us: Brace Wieland (Leo, IN), Jeff Neihauser (Francesville, IN), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), and Randy Mogler (Washington, IL). We would be remiss if we did not thank all of the students, parents, teachers and volunteers who lent their time and talents to make VBS a blessing to all. The children and teachers presented a program on Friday evening, and the singing was especially touching. It was obvious they were singing from their hearts.

We are sad to see one of our couples moving from our congregation. Bro. Phil and Sis. Donna Nenadov will be moving to Bradford. We have appreciated this dear couple so much in the relatively short time we have known them, and we send our love with them as they make this move. May God truly bless you in all you do.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Marilyn Hohulin in the loss of her father, Bro. Dale Walder (Cissna Park, IL). May the Lord bring comfort to his family.

I am on summer break from college and plan on going back in August. During the last two semesters, I have forged a good relationship with my advisor, and she has helped and encouraged me through some tough classes and feelings of discouragement and inadequacy. She told me once that I should feel free to stop by anytime and I took her up on that offer quite a bit.

After my final exam in her class, it was hard to say goodbye and I felt a pang of sadness. Recently I e-mailed her with an advising question. When I received her response I was surprised. I guess I expected her to not only answer the question, but to tell me she missed me, ask how my summer was going and tell me what she was up to – but she didn't. She simply answered my question and signed her name – that really was all I asked for. I'm so glad God doesn't operate on an "e-mail basis." Not only is He ready and eager to answer our prayers, He can't wait to hear from us! He longs to hear us pour out what is in our hearts, so He can answer above and beyond what we ask. The Bible says He will open the windows of Heaven and pour down blessings – what a storehouse there must be. "Ask and ye shall receive..." God operates on the "Bible basis." He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Susan Waldbeser
Andrea Walder

Dearest child, we bid thee welcome
In our blessed brotherhood;
From the wild tree thou art
grafted
On this holy tree and root.
Zion's Harp #34, vs. 2

We were thankful to be able to hear the proving and witness the baptism of our new Bro. Greg Maul (Mike and Sis. Kathy) on the weekend of May 22-23. We appreciated having Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) with us to help in this important work, and thank him for his labors. Throughout the weekend, we were reminded among many things that there is no separation between faith and obedience. We were exhorted that one without the other is void. It is always encouraging to add another precious soul to our brotherhood and we

We also lift up in prayer those of our congregation who have recently experienced health problems. We pray that God will be near to Bro. Dale Walder (Sis. Dorothy), Sis. Evelyn Rudin (Bro. Ben) and Sis. Loretta Bauer (Bro. Ken) and provide comfort during their physical sufferings.

Our prayers are with Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie Kaeb in the passing of her father, Bro. Louis Kieser, of Gridley, IL. We also think of Bro. Gerry and Sis. Geraldine Farney in the death of her stepbrother, Bro. Dean Zimmerman, of Goodfield. With the passing of Ralph Young of Cissna Park, we want to remember in prayer his son and daughter - in - laws, Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marilyn Young and Sis. Kate Young and their families. May our Comforter be with each of these dear families who are grieving and comfort them in this time of sorrow.

Our high school graduates this year are Calvin and Kendra Gudeman (Bro. Stan and Sis. Deb), Sis. Joanna Kaeb (Bro. Max and Sis. Beth), Trent Kaeb (Bro. Eric and Sis. LouAnn) and Jared Wilkening (Bro. Mark and Sis. Dinah). We pray that God will direct them as they enter the work force or go to college.

Sing them over again to me,
Wonderful words of Life,
Let me more of their beauty see,

Wonderful words of Life.
 Words of life and beauty,
 Teach me faith and duty,
 Beautiful words, wonderful words,
 Wonderful words of Life.

Tabernacle #55

Vacation Bible School was held June 7-18 this year and we pray that the teachings that have been planted in the children's hearts during these two weeks will remain with them for many years. We thank the ministering brothers who came for our four evening Bible class sessions and brought forth the wonderful Words of Life to our young people. The brothers and their topics were as follows: Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) – Peer Pressure and Suicide; Bro. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) – Entertainment and Competitive Athletics; Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) – Customs; and Bro. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) – Angels.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE **Rachel Schrock**

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

II Chronicles 7:14

What a powerful verse with which to conclude our former president's funeral services!

We are also thankful that this Power not only has forgiven our sins, but He has also commanded us to remember His Son's pain and sorrow through Holy Communion which we recently partook together. Our thanks is extended to Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene, Goodfield, IL) who joined us for this blessed evening.

Our thanks is also extended to

ministering Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL) as he allowed himself to be spent on our behalf. May God bless him for his labor of love.

May God also bless the family of Sis. Dorothy Hartter (Eureka) as they grieve her departure from this earth. Our sympathy is extended to each one, especially to her daughter, Sis. Mary Ellen Zimmerman (Bro. Fred), from our congregation.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN **Amy Gasser** **Miriam Gasser**

After giving her testimony and the next day making a covenant in the baptismal waters, Rebekah Braun (Bro. Gene and Sis. Sue) became our Sister in the Lord on May 30. We rejoice with her and wish her grace to remain true.

Congratulations were extended to our high school graduates on reaching an important milestone. The senior class included Derek Krueger, Ashley Leman, Krista Schifferer and Kurt Wewetzer. Though commencement activities represent a culmination, they also mark a new beginning. We pray our young people will trust in the Lord and acknowledge Him, to find direction and good success.

May God also guide and bless the two couples whose engagements were announced. Jeff Feucht (Chuck and Carolyn) and Vicki Kouros (Mr. and Mrs. Dino Kouros) are planning to marry on July 18. Making arrangements for an August wedding are Bro. Eric Humbracht and Sis. Erica Schambach. Their parents are Bro. Les and Sis. Alison Schambach and Lyndon (Susan) Humbracht and Phoebe Hayes.

On June 13, we appreciated the many visitors who came to witness the marriage of Bro. Jeff Stoller (Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnne of Latty, OH) to Sis. Sarah Moore (Bro. Larry and Sis. Beth). Among those who attended the

wedding were Elder Bro. John Laukhuf and Bro. Dwight Stoller (both of Latty, OH), Bro. Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Edwin Strahm (Bern, KS).

The previous Sunday, Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington-Normal, IL) and Bro. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) shared the ministry of the Word. We thank all of these visiting brothers for their service.

Spending time in the hospital this month were Sis. Lyla (Bro. Richard) Schock and Dorothy Jones (mother of Sis. Sandy Kinsinger). We are thankful that Sis. Lyla is able to assemble with us again and that Dorothy is making progress since her knee surgery.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA **Cindy Stoller** **Lisa Metzger**

We are thankful for the good news of another soul beginning on the way of salvation. Jason Rassi (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) has turned his heart and life over to the Lord in repentance. We pray for him.

We also rejoice with our three new brothers who were baptized into the Body of Christ: Bro. Tim Bradle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila), Bro. Evan Schmidgall (Bro. Paul and Sis. Kris) and Bro. Alan Wettstein (Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary). We are thankful that this milestone has been reached.

Our Bro. Steven Dotterer (Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne) and Sis. Rachel Kupferschmid (Bro. Ed and Sis. Donna) recently had their engagement announced. May the Lord guide and keep them in the adjustments and blessings ahead.

We truly appreciate having visiting ministers to share worship services with us. This month brought the following to our congregation: Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL)

and Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and ministering Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), John Bradle (Roanoke, IL), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL). May God richly reward them.

Our medical and hospital patients were Bro. Sid Leman (Sis. Ann), Bro. Ed Kupferschmid (Sis. Donna) and Sis. Ruby Grusy. May God watch over them and grant healing according to His will.

Sis. Dorothy Hartter, the mother of Bro. John (Sis. Bev) and Bro. Ron (Sis. Janet) passed away recently. Her sister is Sis. Delores Martin (Bro. Rolland) and sister - in - law, Sis. Mabel Wittmer. Also, Bro. Jim (Sis. Linda) Vierling's mother, Sis. Pearl Vierling (Oakville, IA), went to her eternal reward. We pray for those who are grieving during this time of loss. May they truly feel the Holy Comforter.

Note of Thanks:

We have been remembered by so many brothers, sisters and friends during my surgery in the hospital. It was deeply appreciated and we wish to thank each one for the love, gifts and kindness shown us. May God bless each one. Again, our heartfelt thanks.

Bro. Sid and Sis. Ann Leman

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Joann Zehr
Tammy Hinrichsen

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

Zion's Harp #79

Weddings and engagements are such happy events in our lives. They bring two people together with the faith that God has prepared each of them for the other; while family, friends, brothers and sisters watch with joy as the two are joined "hand and heart". On June 13, Bro. Derek Rassi and Sis. Rebekah Stoller were united in Holy Matrimony. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their new life together. Their parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane Rassi and Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller (Forrest, IL). We have also had two engagements announced this past month. Sis. Janelle Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary) is engaged to Bro. Jeff Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandra); Sis. Traci Fehr (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda) is engaged to Bro. Alex Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish). May these special couples continue to look to our Father for guidance and love!

God has blessed our congregation with three babies this month. On May 20, Cheyanne Jenae was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Tania Bazzell. She is welcomed at home by big sister, Dakota, and big brothers, Cody and Justus. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Bazzell and Fredrick and Helen Voest. Bro. Ed and Sis. Melanie Teubel are thankful for the safe arrival of Kelsi Lynn who was born on May 27. Two year old Andrea is at home ready to be a help to Mom, Dad and her new baby sister. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy Schneider and Walter Teubel. And on May 28, Levi Todd was born to Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish Steidinger. Ready to cuddle him at home were brothers, Alex, Wesley, Kent, Kirk, Ross and Toby, and sisters, Leann, Karla and Jamie. Grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther Gerber (Forrest, IL), Maurice and Ruth Steidinger and the late Sis. Alma Steidinger.

Spending time in the hospital this past month were Dick Koehl, Sis. Mary Ifft, Elsa Moser and Sis. Ronda Stoller. We hope and pray for God's healing hand to touch each of them.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky Kieser and their family on the loss of Bro. Carl's father, Bro. Louis Kieser, of Gridley, IL. We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Laurie Edelman and their family on the loss of Sis. Laurie's father, Dennis Farris. May they feel the Father's loving care at this time of great loss.

God has a plan for each of our lives. Every day we pray to Him asking for strength and guidance with each step we take. Most days He directs us to "stay the course" and be a light where He has placed us. But sometimes our Father nudges us in a new direction. This may be a new job, schooling in a new field, or He may be leading you to a new location. The latter has been true for our dear Bro. Kerwin and Sis. Sara Edelman. God has shown them that they, along with their girls, Jessica, Amber and Emily, are to be used in the Athens, AL, congregation. Their new home is at the Tennessee Fellowship Center. We rejoice with them and wish them God's blessings as they follow His direction, but our hearts are heavy as each of them will be missed by our congregation.

Our merciful Father continues to call lost souls to repentance. We rejoice that McLane Steidinger (Bro. Ted and Sis. Sara) and Valerie Kaisner (Bro. Don and Sis. Leona) have found grace to answer the loving call of the Lord.

We thank the Lord for willing servants who minister the Gospel to us. Much appreciation goes to Bros. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) and Sidney Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL).

Note of Thanks:

Words cannot express how thank-

ful we are for the outpouring of love and support shown to us at this difficult time. We appreciate the many deeds of kindness and ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers.

Sis. Lori Welborn and Ty

Bro. Don and Sis. Phyllis Welborn and family

Bro. Walt and Sis. Rosie Edelman and family

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jill Wenger

Lori Dotterer

“Our love shall not diminish, nor fade nor wane away....” (Zion’s Harp #137). Our congregation has been blessed with two weddings and an engagement this month. United in marriage on June 6 were Bro. Adam Zimmerman (Bro. Rod and Sis. Micki) and Sis. Rachel Kelson (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sherri). The next weekend we witnessed the vows of Bro. Derek Rassi (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL) and Sis. Rebekah Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill). We pray that God will always be present in their homes and that He will richly bless them. We will miss Sis. Rebekah as they assemble in Fairbury but hope they come back often to visit.

Bro. Matthew Schneider (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra) and Sis. Katie Rinkenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally) have felt God’s leading in their lives as their engagement was announced. May they continue to look to Him for guidance.

Our hearts are filled with humble thankfulness as two more souls have turned to the Lord in repentance. May God be very near Vernon and Ruth Edelman and grant His abundant grace. May we keep them, as well as all of our converts, in our prayers.

Bro. Shane and Sis. Sarah Aberle are the thankful parents of Adeline Grace, born on June 10. Her big brother Seth will be glad to welcome her home, as well as her grandpar-

ents, Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne Aberle and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra Schneider.

We are thankful for visiting ministers that have taken time to speak to our Bible Class during Vacation Bible School. This year the ministers were Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL), Bro. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), and Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN). We pray that their messages would touch the lives of the students and that they would turn to the Lord.

Other ministers that were with us this month were Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN), Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), and Elder Bro. Art Bahler, Bro. Dennis Rassi, Bro. Dale Stoller, and Bro. Rick Plattner (all of Fairbury, IL). We thank them for lending themselves in the service of the Lord and pray that He will richly reward them.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Heather Hohulin

Rita Bauman

How encouraging it is to know that time after time, we have the commitment of faithful brethren to diligently stand as watchmen on the walls that surround our lives. We were thankful for not only our home ministers but also our visiting ministers this past month. They were Elder Bros. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL), Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Bros. James Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL), David Zehr (Sis. Vickie, Gridley, IL) and Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL). May God continue to bless you and fill you with His Spirit.

We are so thankful for the Spirit that guides our every footstep from

day to day. While at times we may wonder what the Lord would have for us to do, there are other times when His will seems so evident in our lives. On June 2, our congregation felt that directing of the Spirit with the selection of two new ministering brothers. They are Bros. Nate Wieland (Sis. Suzanne [Schieler]) and Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha [Knapp]). Just as time changes rivers and rivers change the hills, we as a church family continue to lift them up in special prayer as this changing season in their lives. Our prayer would be that God would send them, in unspeakable measure, His wisdom, discernment, understanding of the Word, and the power of the Spirit needed to be fruitful laborers in the field that they have been called to work.

Those in the hospital this past month were Bro. Harold and Sis. Vi Reeser, and Sis. Sandy (Bro. Sam) Hohulin. We are thankful that they are now home and recuperating. Special thoughts and prayers go to B.J. Hinrichsen (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Brenda) as she was in a serious accident. Only God can send upon any of us the hand of healing and our prayer would be that this could be His will at this time

On June 13, the wedding engagement of Bro. Chad Hillman and Sis. Janelle Blunier was announced. Their parents are Richard and Linda Hillman and Sis. Joyce and the late Bro. Dale Blunier of Princeville. We wish them God’s blessings as they make wedding preparations.

We wish to extend our sympathies to several families who have lost loved ones this past month. Bro. Louis Kieser was laid to rest; he is the brother of Bro. Alfred (Sis. Marie) Kieser. Also, going home was Sis. Dorothy Hartter. She is a sister-in-law to Bro. Rich (Sis. Verna) Hartter. We rejoice with Sis. Anna Marti’s family that her victory was won and she

could put down her cross and pick up her crown. Our sympathies go out to Sis. Corrine (Roy) Roth, Sis. Allene (Bro. Jerry) Steffen, and to the grandchildren and great grandchildren. May God comfort each one as only He can.

On June 20, we witnessed the wedding of Sis. Elizabeth Good and Bro. Michael Meister. Their parents are Wendell and Sharon Good, and Bro. Mike and Sis. Dorothy Meister, Tremont, IL. We will miss Sis. Elizabeth as they make Tremont their home church.

Our hearts are stirred with joy at the announcement that Mikel Steffen (Bro. Mark and Sis. Joan) has found peace with God and man and is at this time awaiting baptism. We continue to pray for him in his new walk as well as others that have begun this true walk of faith. Can we ever appreciate enough the calling that God has given to each of us that once were lost in sin but now are found? May it be our prayer that many more souls, lost in sin, would soften to the tender bidding of the Father's beckoning knock on their hearts door.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

Vacation Bible School was held during the week of June 7. Many efforts were made in nurturing youth in the ways of truth. Speakers for the adult section of the program were Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL), Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN). We pray God will add the increase to their labors. The theme for the week was "A Call to Serve."

A daughter was born on June 9 to Bro. Jake and Sis. Amy Schlipf. She is their fourth child, and was named Autumn Joy. Her siblings are Jacob (13),

Kayla (10) and Miranda (8). Grandparents are Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary Witzig and Sis. Lola Schlipf. Great-grandparents are Bro. Herman and Sis. Oleda Menold, Morton. Thanks be to God for this wonderful gift from Above.

Sis. Lulu Schlipf, 84, passed away unexpectedly on June 20. She is survived by one son, Bro. Art, and one daughter, Sis. Carol Miller; and nine grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. She was married for 48 years to the late Bro. Adam Schlipf, who died on July 14, 1992. It was a joy when Sis. Lulu (along with her husband) repented later in life. Her quiet demeanor and inviting smile will be missed.

Sis. Louise V. Witzig, 88, died on June 17 in Morton. Survivors are Bro. Jerome Witzig, Gridley; and Sis. Mary Alyce Hofsess, Pekin, Sis. Lavonne Witzig, Pekin, Sis. Judith Witzig, Morton, Janice Downen, Garden Grove, Iowa, and Ann Rhoton, Sidney. Also surviving are 20 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren. She was married to Bro. Sam Witzig for 55 years. Bro. Sam died on June 20, 1995. Sis. Louise had a nice, personable smile, and was devoted to hard work.

On June 7, the earthly sojourn of Bro. Louis E. Kieser ended. He was 81. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Sis. Jean. Other survivors are five sons, Bro. David, Bro. Paul and Bro. Robert, Bloomington; Bro. Carl, Gibson City; and Bro. Dan, Bluffton, IN. Four daughters: Sis. Bonnie Kaeb, Paxton; Sis. Mary Kuenzi, Silverton, OR; Sis. Emily Maurer, Saybrook; and Barbara Spencer, Bloomington; three brothers, Bro. Alfred Kieser, Tremont; Richard Kieser, Pekin; and Albert Kieser, New Port Richie, FL; three sisters: Gertrude Kieser, Pekin; Anna Kieser, Peoria; and Alice Snodgrass, Walnut Ridge, AR; 40 grandchildren; and 30

great-grandchildren.

Bro. Louis was with us in Gridley for a relatively short time. He had found peace and contentment, and was a delightful brother with which to fellowship. His inviting smile and obvious enjoyment in fellowshiping with the brethren will be missed. We pray God will be with his dear wife as she begins her life as a widow.

Lane Anthony Dohman was born on June 14. He is the first child of Bro. Tony and Sis. Amanda Dohman. Grandparents are John and Sis. Judy Dohman, Gridley, and James and Leann Jordon, Delavan. Great-grandparents are Shirley Dohman, Fairbury; Sis. Alma Bolliger, Tremont, and Virginia Lusher, Delavan. We wish this couple much grace as they raise up this dear child in the nurture of the Lord.

On June 20, Sis. Amber Bahr (Detroit, MI) was announced to be married to Bro. Ryan Prevo, Gridley. She is the daughter of Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr. His parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Prevo. We wish them the Lord's blessings in this serious undertaking.

Several have been sick lately: Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Zimmerman; Sisters Joyce Ferneau, Vi McKinley, and Marge Schlipf.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Julie Bahr Christie Zeller

A new little bundle of joy has come to bless the home of our Bro. Ross and Sis. Erin Wuthrich. A baby boy, Miles William, was born May 7. He is welcomed home by three big sisters, Ellie, Josie, and Maggie. May God continue to bless this little family.

We are happy to welcome to our congregation Bro. Scott and Sis. Janelle Sauder and their daughter, Ashley, as they make Morton their home.

We are also thankful for willing

brothers to serve in our Sunday School to teach our precious children. Two new brothers will be joining our teaching staff this fall and they are Bro. Tim Leman (Sis. Beth), and Bro. Curt Tanner (Sis. Geana). May God bless these dear brothers for their willingness to serve.

Our Family Worship was held Wednesday, June 2. Our Elder Bro. Ted Witzig spoke on making "Choices". It convicted many of us of the choices we make every day and how some may please our Lord and some may be poor choices for which there are consequences. May we all be aware of the choices we make in life and strive to do that which would be pleasing to our Lord at all times.

Much sadness has touched our lives here on earth but joy awaits those who have gone on to be with the Lord. Glenn Gerber passed away. His graveside services were conducted by our Bro. Ralph Garber on May 24. He is a son to our late Bro. Walt and Sis. Elizabeth Gerber.

Bro. Bob Getz passed away. He is the husband to our Sis. Lillian and father to our Sis. Barb Zimmerman (Bro. Joe). They had been married for 62 years.

Bro. Fred Endress passed away June 3. He is the husband to our Sis. Joanni and father to our Sis. Emily and Danny (Alicia). He, too, will be greatly missed by our Morton church.

Three little buds were taken home to make up a Heavenly bouquet. Graveside services were conducted by our Elder Bro. Ted Witzig for Gabriel Snyder, Elliot Snyder, and Miles Snyder. Their parents are Bryan and Robyn (Greene) Snyder. Great-grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Mavis Hermann.

Sis. Dorothy Hartter passed away June 10. She is a sister to our Bro. Walt (Sis. Alma) Wittmer, and Bro. Maurice (Sis. Ella) Wittmer.

May God comfort all these dear

families in their time of loss.

Our Vacation Bible School theme this year is from John 15:11, having joy in all things. Our speakers for the week were: Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN) - "Joy in Suffering"; Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) - "Joy in Serving"; Bro. Glenn Dill (Sis. Marilyn, Tremont, IL) - "Joy in Believing"; Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton, IN) - "Joy in Giving"; and Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Sis. Gloria, Cissna Park, IL) - "Joy in Forgiveness". May God bless these dear brothers for all the joy in their hearts by being servants for Him.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Lou and Marjean Lonteen

On May 12, Bro. Tim Funk spoke on the Beatitudes, at Family Night.

"To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn."

Isaiah 61:2

Vacation Bible School was held June 7 - 11. "Running the Race with Paul" was the topic. Three-year-olds through seventh grade students attended.

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

I Corinthians 15:57

Vacation Bible School for the Bible Class and Young Group was held June 7 - 11. The theme was: "God's Purpose for Your Life". Romans 8:28 was the supporting scripture. Guest ministers were: Bro. Neal Widmer (West Lafayette, IN), Bro. Darren Plattner (Champaign), Bro. Bob Pfloderer (Morton), Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield), and Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington). Bro. Dave Marquart

(Taylor, MO) was our recent guest minister. With thankful hearts, we ask God to richly bless you for your inspirational messages and service to our congregation.

"For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for Him."

Isaiah 64:4

Sis. Mindy Hoerr and Bro. Mike Kaisner were united in Holy Matrimony on June 13. Parents are: Bro. Bob and Sis. Myrna Hoerr and Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice Kaisner. May God richly bless your union.

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

Isaiah 26:3

Congratulations to college graduates: Bro. Jason Getz (son of Sis. Judy Getz and Rodney Getz, East Peoria) and Jason's wife, Sis. Lindsey Getz (daughter of Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel Schroeder, Roanoke). Both graduated on May 15 from Bradley University. Jason graduated with a degree in business administration and Lindsey with a degree in marketing.

"For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee."

Isaiah 54:10

On June 1, Bro. Dave and Sis. Michelle Kellenberger welcomed their new little daughter, Shaeya Reece, into their hearts and home. Big brother, Tyden, is happy to have a

little sister. Thankful grandparents are: Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Kellenberger (Washington) and Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth Herman.

We extend sincere sympathy to: Sis. Stephanie and Bro. Dennis Streitmatter in the death of Sis. Stephanie's mother. May the Lord provide for every moment of sadness with your loss. We remember your family in our prayers.

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me."

Isaiah 46:9

Pray for continued healing is appreciated for: Dee Clatt, Bro. Mike Rieker, Bro. Bob Joos, Bro. Dave Dunbar and Bro. Tom Rieker.

Tate Hohulin (Bro. Mark and Sis. Jan) has made known his desire to walk with the Lord. Our congregation supports you in prayer that you may grow in grace, love, and obedience to the Holy Spirit working in your life.

"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord."

Isaiah 53:17

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Phyllis Knobloch
Crystal Streitmatter

"Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it."

Mark 8:35-36

Myca Steffen (Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna) has made known her desire to repent and walk that life of self-denial. We pray that God's beautiful work of conversion will take place in her heart and life.

The annual Senior breakfast was held on May 16 when each of the graduates were presented a Bible from the church. They include Sis. Hannah Herrmann (Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann), Sis. Kimberly Herrmann (Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn), Clint Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Terri), Bro. Derek Regier (Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay), Kevin Schick (Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie) and Kendall Stoller (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary). We know that God has promised to guide and bless each soul who looks to Him.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Paul and Mary Streitmatter in the loss of her brother, John Luft, of Minier, IL.

Those suffering illness this past month have been Bro. Nick Knobloch (Sis. Gladys) and Sis. Elsie Mueller.

"... For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife..."

Matthew 19:6

The engagement of Sis. Janel Blunier (Sis. Joyce and the late Bro. Dale) to Bro. Chad Hillman (Richard and Linda) of Goodfield, IL, was made known on June 13. We wish them God's richest blessings as they prepare for this important step in their lives.

Note of Thanks:

We want to express our sincere thanks for the many deeds of kindness shown us and our families during the illness and passing of our loved one. The prayers, flowers, food, gifts and the many memorials will always be remembered. May God bless each one in a special way.

The family of Bro. Leonard Menold

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Joan Leman
Doris Fischer

We praise God for His grace and mercy, and that Ellie Fischer (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annette) and Ryan Hansen (Robin and Jean) have chosen to take advantage of it. Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise Knepp and Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish Gerber (Goodfield) are thankful that their children, Blake and Kristen Gerber, have also begun their repentance. May each feel God's nearness in his new walk with Christ.

Two couples were recently joined in marriage: Emily Wiegand (Bro. John and Sis. Mary) married Derek Neal (Craig and Stefanie) and Phil Neukomm (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sharon) married Erin Hill (Dave and Nanci). Numbers 6 puts into words our heartfelt prayer for these couples, "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."

Our sympathy is extended to Roger (Robin) and Stanley (Ellen) Aeschleman, whose father, Ray, passed away on June 9. Ray was the husband of the late Sis. Carolyn Aeschleman.

After the busy season of school letting out, our congregation enjoyed a week of Vacation Bible School. Special thanks to the visiting ministers who helped with that effort: Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury), Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley), Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville), and Bro. Dave Obergfel (Peoria). We also enjoyed having Bro. Curt Kauffman (Tucson) share our pulpit in June.

Speaking of visitors, do you ever wonder how our church is perceived? A better question is how our church is functioning — not only our home con-

gregation, but also our denomination as a whole. We could point a finger where we think someone else needs to do better, but the truth is found in Matt 7:5: "Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye." Or as our Moms used to say when we were growing up, "You worry about YOU." The composition below says it well.

My Church

It is composed of people just like me. It will be friendly if I am friendly. It will do a great work if I work devotedly. It will make generous gifts to the cause of Christ if I give generously. It will bring others into its fellowship if I bring them in. Its seats will be filled if I fill them.

My church will be a church of loyalty and love, of faith and service, of dedicated obedience to the Word of God, if I, who help to make it what it is, am filled with these qualities.

Therefore, with God's help, I give myself to the task of being and doing all these things that I want my church to be and do. (Author Unknown)

Note of Thanks:

Thanks for the cards, gifts and good wishes for our 60th wedding anniversaries. God bless everyone.

Bro. Melvin and Sis. Leona Weyeneth

Bro. Harold and Sis. Edna Roth

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Heather Rassi

LaVonne Wagenbach

We are always thankful for ministering brethren who visit our Tremont congregation and willingly bring forth the message of God. May Bros. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL) be blessed for their efforts.

We rejoice with Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Ann Sauder in the marriage of their son, Bro. Kevin, to Sis. Jody Kaeb (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane, Bern, KS) on June 6. May they feel God's blessing on their marriage.

Our sympathy is with Sis. Mary Alyce (Bro. Daryl) Hofsess and Sis. LaVonne (Bro. Si) Wagenbach on the passing of their mother, Sis. Louise Witzig (Gridley, IL). During this time of sadness, our hope is that the Holy Spirit comforts each one of their families.

Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice Sauder are first-time grandparents. Audrey Dee was born to Bro. Daryl and Sis. Christy Wiegand (Bloomfield, IA). On May 30, Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth Kaiser were blessed with their seventh child. Sarah Danielle's siblings are Levi, Jesse, Tori, Jacob, Kaitlyn and Benjamin. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Mel and Sis. Marlene Kaiser as well as Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann Steiner.

We pray God's healing hand be upon Bro. Mark (Sis. Fern) Wagenbach as he was hospitalized this month.

Note of Thanks:

We just want to thank everyone from all of the churches who have helped us out in this trying time. We really appreciate all of the prayers, delicious meals and very generous monetary gifts. You truly feel exactly what the term "Christian giving" means when you are put in such unfortunate circumstances. I am doing better and look forward to my last surgery at the end of May. Hopefully, all will go well and I can finally return to a normal life. Thanks especially goes out to the 7th and 8th grade Sunday School students from Tremont. They raised money at a bake sale and came to our house and did lots of yard work. We were very humbled. Thanks so much again for your kindness, continued

prayers and generosity.

Love, Jon and Kim Hangartner

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Marcia Koch

Dianne Wyss

We rejoice with Bro. Dave Prather (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marlene) and Sis. Tara Baker (Joe and Sis. Karen) as they gave their marriage vows on June 6. May their union be blessed with much joy.

Visiting ministers this month were: Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL). Thank you for sharing His Word with us.

Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Vicki Hodel, Sis. Sue Ruppert, and Sis. Marie Yergler (Bro. Daren). May the Lord restore health and strength.

We thank the Goodfield Choir for singing at our monthly family hymn sing.

Our children enjoyed a week of Vacation Bible School. They focused on verses regarding the "Ship of Faith". The following week, the Eureka Bible class joined our Bible class for a week of instruction and learning. Thank you to the many who put forth much time and effort.

Sis. Louise Witzig has reached her eternal goal in which she had longed for. Her ready smile and pleasant fellowship will be missed. We pray the Lord will comfort her daughter, our Sis. Judy Witzig.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Amber Steffen

Elizabeth Frauhiger

"And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour."

Ephesians 5:2

Walking in Christ's love has been very evident in the last month as the Bluffton congregation witnessed two weddings. Bro. Aaron Isch and Sis. Rachel Fiechter were joined together on May 23. Rejoicing with them are their parents, Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene Isch and Bro. Rick and Sis. Beth Fiechter. Following them on June 13 was Bro. Tony Raber (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Nichole Fiechter (Bro. Brian and Sis. Deb). Our prayers are with these two new couples as they start their lives together. The congregation's prayers also go with our newly engaged couple, Bro. Kole Meyer (Bro. Greg and Sis. Bev) and Sis. Amy Neuenschwander (Bro. Dee and Sis. Laura).

Though we had many new things to praise God for this month, we were also brought to our knees in much prayer for others. Bro. LaVerne Ringger's wife, Sis. Rose, has been in the hospital and is in need of our utmost prayers. We also pray for the healing of Bro. Chip Topp, husband of Sis. Angie. He was recently in the hospital for a severe infection. Prayers are needed for Brandy Aschliman, her husband Ryan, and their small son, Hunter. Brandy has been in the hospital for the last few weeks with an infection in her blood and is three months pregnant. She is the daughter of Sis. Carla Girod, and Ryan is the son of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Rosie Aschliman. The church has been asked to keep Brandy in our sincere prayers. Finally, we are lifting up Bro. John Lantz, as he has been having some heart complications and procedures are not going very well.

Sis. Nancy Frank (Bro. Herb) is the loving sister of Rick Gilliom. Sadly, he passed away on May 28. The church has been prayerful for Sis. Nancy and all those who have known and loved

Rick.

June has brought around Bible School for the children here in Bluffton. The director this year was Sis. Jill Fiechter (Bro. Doug) and her assistant was Sis. Jacki Kershner (Bro. Dan). With their loving guidance, the two weeks have gone by with lots of love, laughter, and learning about our theme, "Building on the Rock". We keep praying that the seeds planted in the two weeks of Bible school will take root and flourish.

The church has also been in prayerful support of Bro. Kevin Kipfer (Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda) as he moves to Atlanta, GA, for work. Also, little Tommy Wolfe has recently been diagnosed with sugar diabetes and is in the process of making the hard adjustments. With his parents, Bro. Kent and Sis. Viola Wolfe, we lift them up in prayer. Bro. Ed Schwartz also reminded us to be prayerful for those behind the scenes who are struggling with depression, anxiety and stress. Too often, these individuals are left out of our prayers and it was a helpful reminder to the congregation.

We had one visiting minister in the last month, for which we are very thankful. Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN) graced us with their presence for a Sunday. The entire congregation was very thankful for their sacrifices to be with us.

In conclusion, there were three births in the past month for which we rejoice. Jeff and Kim Schladen are the proud parents of their new daughter, Heidi Elizabeth, born on May 24. Her exuberant grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean Steffen. Heidi Elizabeth is also welcomed by her big brother, Zane.

Bro. Chad and Sis. Stephanie Lantz welcome a daughter, Phoebe Jane, who was born on June 2. Her loving grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee Reinhard and Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Lantz. We rejoice with

them.

Little Celia Marie was born on June 3, and is welcomed by her parents, Bro. Ross and Sis. Kara Frank. Her fond grandparents are Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy Frank and Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Ifer.

Finally, Matt and Cammy Sutter welcome their third baby into their home. Melody Lynn was born on June 15. Her loving grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sutter, as well as Bro. Ramon and Sis. Renie Steffen. Melody is also met by her proud siblings, Brendan and Natasha. We rejoice with all of these families and pray for them and the joys ahead.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Tiffani Schladenhauffen
Darren Drayer**

Greetings, brothers and sisters in the Lord. We were thankful to have Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo) share the Word with us this month.

Bro. Ross and Sis. Kara Frank rejoiced to welcome a new addition to their family: their daughter, Celia Marie, was born on June 3. She joins sisters, Ava and Meryl. Celia's grandparents are Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy Frank (Bluffton) and Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Ifer.

On June 6, Bro. Jerome and Sis. Virginia Rauch recently celebrated 50 years of marriage. Their love for Jesus and musical talents are a blessing to our spiritual family.

We extend our sympathies to Bro. Dan Kieser (Sis. Lora) on the death of his father, Bro. Louis Kieser (Gridley).

Spending time in the hospital this month were Bro. John Lantz (Sue) and Sis. Wanda Gerber (Bro. Wendell). Please join us in praying for them.

June 18 was a special day as we gathered to hear our youth sing in the Bible School Program. The theme of

the program was "Building on the Rock". It was a joy to hear our children sing about "going to the stone that the builders rejected" and "standing on the Rock of Ages".

Note of Thanks:

We greatly appreciate and thank you all for remembering us on our 50th wedding anniversary with prayers, beautiful cards, gifts and well wishes. We treasure your love and kindness and feel so blessed.

Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise Gerber

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Jessica Murray

Greetings loved ones. As we look back on this past month there has been joy, love, peace, sorrow, miracles, and most of all prayers. Prayer is the common link that can change our lives.

We had five seniors this past year who we said blessings to as they are making changes in their lives. We wish each of you God's blessings: Darin Gudeman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Peg), Tyler Gutwein (Bro. Harv and Sis. Ellen), Laura Hannon (Steve Hannon & Fred and Mary Yaggie), Adam Huber (Bro. Chris and Sis. Sharon) and Kristy Wuethrich (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Connie). May you always remember to keep the Lord in your hearts, and remember Christ's instruction to "...seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33)

"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."

Ephesians 5:31

The lives of Austin Metzger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene) and Stacy Johns (Danny and Kris) were joined to-

gether on June 12. We wish you God's blessings as you start your new life together and pray that God will be your guide as you seek out your future.

In the hospital this past month were Bro. Walter Culp (Sis. Valera) and Sis. Betty Huber. They are both back in their homes and recovering. Lana Kaeb (Bro. Les and Sis. Christine) is undergoing her second round of treatment in Riley Hospital. Our prayers continue to be with you and your family as you endure the days ahead. I just want to mention a few others who need extra prayers this month. Bro. Jim Gudeman and Bro. Morris and Sis. Helen Eshleman are going through tough health issues. May God comfort you and your families.

We pray that God will comfort the family of Sis. Lorna Putt, who has gone to be with Christ in Heaven. May each of you have peace knowing she is suffering no more with the things of this life.

Sis. Doris Getz is blessed with a new grandson. Jason and Maggie Getz welcomed Ethan Monroe along with sisters, Alexandra, Maya, and Leanna. May the Lord bless you.

We said farewell to Bro. Linc and Sis. Catrina Rinkenberger and their family, as they have moved back to Bluffton, IN. We sure will miss you and your family. We wish you the Lord's blessings as you settle into your new home.

Note of Thanks:

Words fail me to totally express my deepest and sincerest thanks to my beloved family, relatives and friends for all the cards, flowers, telephone calls, and best wishes to me on my birthday, and also during my illness. God bless one and all of you.

Lovingly,

Sis. Minerva Wuethrich

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Debbie Anliker
Gail Bradford**

We received the happy news about the engagement of Bro. Traever Guingrich (Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy) and Sis. Andrea Neukomm (Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda) of Lexington, KY.

We are happy that newcomers have or will soon arrive in Indianapolis to make their homes: Bro. Sam and Sis. Carrie Gutwein, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Julie Zeller, Bro. Josh and Sis. Keyna Martinez and Kevin and Amy Hodel.

We said farewell to Bro. Stan and Sis. Melissa and daughter Ashley who returned to Ohio for Stan's work. We hope they will return to visit us from time to time.

Graduates were congratulated this month. They are: Bro. Scott Levy and Bro. Shaun Wuethrich from college, and Scott Levy and Sis. Emily Bollier from high school. We trust they'll keep Jesus as their Guide as their futures unfold!

We appreciated the ministry of Bro. Jeff Niehouser (Sis. Sue) from Francesville.

Many of us gathered on a recent Saturday to clean the church and beautify the grounds. There is joy in shared tasks, especially when the results are so evident!

In our Vacation Bible School, students from ages 3 through high school learned about "Gathering Truth From Grain". They learned life lessons by studying Old Testament men and women who responded to God's love in a variety of ways. How amazing are the timeless truths of God's Word!

"And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."

Ezekiel 36:27

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold

Rise, O soul and break the bondage
Of the vanities of life!
Journey onward to the kingdom;
Leave the turmoil and the strife.
Zion's Harp #183

Our congregation was thankful to hear of another soul recognizing the vanities of life, and beginning his journey toward Heaven. Philip Nuest (Dan and Sis. Cathy) has recognized the need for a relationship with the Lord and has turned his back on the world to begin a new walk of faith.

We were also thankful in the past month to have our Vacation Bible School. Our topics this year were: The Biblical History of Iraq, This Know Also, and Follow Jesus for Goodness Sake. Many thanks to Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North), Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI), and Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN) for taking the time to drive the many miles and speak to our Bible Class and congregation. Our Bible School was followed by our annual Sunday School picnic on Sunday, June 13, in the evening at a local park.

Other visiting ministers in the past month were Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Toledo, OH).

Congratulations to our graduates. High school graduates this year are: Bro. Joel Troxel (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol), Bro. David Massner (Bro. Randy and Sis. MaryLynn), Sharla Heinold (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie) and Philip Nuest (Dan and Sis. Cathy). College graduates were Ben Troxel (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol) and Sam Frank (Bro. Bill and Sis. Jo). May God bless each one as they move on to college or into the work force and may

they feel God's nearness in their life.

INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter

In last month's news I failed to list Simon Beer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie) as a graduate. We pray God's blessings be with him.

On May 23, a breakfast was prepared for our graduates and their families. Following the breakfast, a special message was delivered by three of the Sunday school teachers for them. Bro. Jim Ramseyer and Sis. Marlene (Bay City, MI) attended for their grandson, Bro. Ryan Graf, and Bro. Jim mentioned in the morning service of the good advice given. We always welcome his meditations. He read from Luke 21.

"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the son of man."

Luke 21:36

Adam Philip Klopfenstein arrived May 29 to bless the home of Bro. Mike and Sis. Denise. He has two brothers, Grant and Nathan. His grandparents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Chris Klopfenstein and Bro. Don and Sis. Delores Duckworth (Princeville, IL). Our congratulations to all.

Susanne Boyer had surgery on June 4. Following some complications, she has made a good recovery. Our prayers are with her.

Sympathy is extended to Bro. Dave (Sis. Sharon), Bro. Dan (Sis. Karen), Bob (Sis. Jan) and Myron Pfister on the death of their sister, Lois.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Judy Gehring on the passing of her aunt, Sis. Pearl Vierling, of Mediapolis, IA. She wrote faithfully to Sis. Judy.

Also our sympathy to Sis. Deane (Bro. Ernie) Stoller on the passing of her aunt Gertie of Cecil, OH. Our

prayer to the God of all comfort is for His peace in their hearts.

We welcomed Bro. Walter Herrmann (Sis. Betty Lou, Princeville, IL) on June 6. We were inspired by the message the Lord gave him. May the Lord give them an opportunity to return.

"Life is a gift from God."

Worry

Most of the shadows of this life are caused by standing in one's own sunshine. Of all the troubles great or small, the greatest are those that don't happen at all.

At the bottom of most fears will be found an overactive mind and an underactive body. We generate fears while we sit. We overcome them by action. "...Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." (Matthew 6:34)

INDIANA, MILFORD
Paula Haab
Cap Beer

Our congregation was blessed with two visiting ministers this month. One was our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter, the other was a personal friend of our ministering Bro. Nelson Beer. He is Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH). We are thankful for visitors as we have only two ministers.

We had our Sunday School promotional program on May 23. This program may be unique to the Milford congregation. It was started by our late Sis. Mary Ann Haab and it has proved to be a blessing for us. The teachers introduce each of the Sunday School students and explains some of the lessons that were taught. Gifts of Bibles, Hymns of Zion, Zion's Harp and Marching to Zion were presented to various classes. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship and honoring our young people.

The World Relief Portable Workshop was in the Milford and South Bend area the week of June 7-12. They

worked on several buildings for under – privileged people. On Saturday approximately 40 young people from various congregations removed an old roof and completely replaced it. It has really encouraged us older people to see our youth using their energy in helping others.

Our Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 14-18. The theme was "Our relationship with God". Bro. Ron Kipfer taught us about the Creator and the Created, giving us many proofs of the infallibility of the Bible. Bro. Ned Stoller spoke on the absolutes of the Word. He ended with Jesus' words, "if you love me, keep my commandments."

On Thursday evening, we had Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) speak to us on the worth of a soul. It is worth enough that Christ gave His life to save us. We were encouraged to be humble and acknowledge our unworthiness but not our worthlessness.

We had the Psalm 100 quartet to sing us some inspiring hymns. We appreciate their enthusiasm as they bring God's Word in song.

On Friday evening, Bro. Steve Stieglitz talked to us on the topic of "Where are you headed?". He stressed the necessity of clinging to the "True Vine". Also how God accepts us because of our Lord Jesus' sacrifice for us.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler
Rochelle Ward**

"But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul."

Deut. 4:29

We are thankful for two new converts in our congregation. We rejoice with the angels that Mark Waibel (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Jody) and Dave

Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynette) have decided to let God be the Master of their lives. Our prayers of encouragement are with them as they make this wonderful journey to freedom in the Lord.

Special thanks to Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL) for bringing us a Bible presentation on Training our Youth. Our children are our future and we have a big responsibility to bring them up in a way that pleases God.

We had two graduating seniors this year: Braden Clark (Bro. Ron and Sis. Brenda) and Jon Scheitlin (Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori). May the Lord be their Guide in all their future endeavors.

We appreciated a week of Bible School. Our topic was "Who is your Master?". Lots of thanks go out to everyone who planned, set up, cleaned up, taught, sang, or just came to hear the message. We had a wonderful turnout each night. Thank you to the following ministers who prepared their individual topics and then traveled to be with us: Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL). Your time and efforts were greatly appreciated.

We welcome Dean Waibel (Sis. Tammy) as a Brother in Christ into our church family. On Sunday, June 13, we witnessed Bro. Dean's testimony of his commitment to God in baptismal waters. May the Lord continue to bless him and his family.

Our prayers for a successful recovery are with Sis. Lois Bahler (Bro. Ed) who recently had an outpatient cornea replacement surgery. May she feel God's healing power.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Melisa Gerst
Stacey Feller**

Be still my soul; the Lord is on thy side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In every change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; thy best, thy heavenly Friend...
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

What a fitting theme song for Vacation Bible School this year. We especially appreciated our visiting ministers this past month (Bro. Ken Hoerr, Peoria, and Bro. Wayne Leman, Roanoke) as the emptiness of Bro. Wayne's chair on the pulpit is so apparent and heartwrenching. However, as the song ends, we know death in this life leads to a joyful end in heaven above!

The Milford/SB adult congregations had a wonderful week of exhortation, explanation, and upliftment on the subject of "Our Relationship With God". Many thanks to Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton), Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto), Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury) and Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Leo) for their topic oriented talks. The VBS committee and teachers also put in many hours organizing and preparing, so thank you to each for your part in making it a fun and memorable week for the Sunday school children!

Our small congregation is very thankful to be welcoming two single sisters into our area. Sis. Laura Vercler joins us from Gridley, IL, and Sis. Amy Gerst leaves the Iowa City, IA, congregation. May God bless you in your transition between church families!

**INDIANA
VALPARAISO
Edward Lester**

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found."

Isaiah 55:6

What's really important in your life? For us, God would be the first choice. How about your family and church brothers and sisters?

In the blink of an eye God can alter your life to unimaginable depths. It's all part of His master plan. Not in my wildest dreams would I have imagined God's plan for a good friend of mine. Only hours after a conversation I had with him he was killed in an auto accident. If only I would have known, I'm sure our conversation would have had a different flavor.

What does this have to do with you? Unlike my friend, you still have a chance to repent and accept God into your life. For many of us, we have hope of eternal life. But, if you are still walking outside the light, don't be surprised by an unexpected event.

So, what's really important in your life?

Thank you for the cards and prayers for Joyce Ames (Bro. Tim). She had a brief stay in the hospital and is home recovering.

We all want to thank Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, Lacrosse) for visiting and helping in God's ministry.

Please keep the armed forces in your prayers. They will not be out of harm's way for quite some time.

There's victory in Jesus!

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Diana Houston
Nettie Haab**

We were happy to hear of the engagement of Bro. Traever Guingrich and Sis. Andrea Neukomm. Traever's parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy

(Indianapolis, IN) and Andrea's parent's are Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda (Lexington, KY).

We have more good news to share, and that is Blake Widmer started repenting while on a work team in Jamaica. Blake's parents are Bro. Neal and Sis. Kris.

We also thank our visiting ministers who were Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) and our Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN).

Our Sunday School children enjoyed Vacation Bible School which was held June 14-17. A special thank you to our Purdue students and all who helped to make this a memorable time.

With good news, it seems there is usually also some sad news. We will miss Bro. Aaron, Sis. Julie and Lydia Zeller as they move to Indianapolis to continue their education, and Sis. Laura Vercler as she moves to South Bend where she has found employment. Also, Bro. Jeff Moser, Sis. Amy Fiechter and Sis. Nicole Knobloch are spending the summer in Imuris and Magdalena, Mexico.

We extend our sympathy to Bill and Brenda Minick in the death of Brenda's niece in Kentucky.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Heidi Bahler
Lisa Furrer**

Greetings from Wolcott, where we've had a lot of activities this past month.

Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler welcome a new grandson. Nelson Andrew was born to Patsy and Anthony Blades. At this time Nelson is home after spending several weeks in the hospital. Little Nelson needs our prayers as well as Anthony, Patsy, and their other children.

Bro. Glenn Dill (Sis. Marilyn, Tremont, IL) presented a Bible topic on Training Children. He gave us a lot to

think about in a short time.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart..." (Proverbs 3:5). Congratulations to our high school graduates, Lance Schwab (Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy) and Clint Schieler (Bro. Dave and Sis. Merri). Both plan to attend nearby Purdue University.

Remington hosted our joint church Vacation Bible School in early June, titled "Who is your Master?" We wish to thank all those who worked to make the week a success, the Remington congregation and the visiting ministers.

Young Daniel Lehman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beth) recently had eye surgery, with another one to follow in a few weeks. May Daniel and his family feel God's nearness during this time.

We welcome home Bethany Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann) who has spent the past year in Athens, Alabama, working with the pre-school children.

"...It is not good that the man should be alone..." (Genesis 2:18). June 20 was a joyful day as Sis. Sherice Bahler (Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla) became the wife of Bro. Michael Reinhard from Detroit, MI (son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores, Croghan-Naumburg, NY). Our church was bursting at its seams as many gathered to witness the vows of marriage. Mike and Sherice will make their home at 33952 Rohnswood, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. Those helping on the pulpit were Bros. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO) and Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL). Helping our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances) with the wedding service was Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Beverly, Detroit, MI).

We are in the final stages of plans for a church remodeling/addition project. Because of this project we will be unable to meet at church, starting mid-July, but will be having services

at the World Relief Building just north of Wolcott on 900 W. We also will not be having any services the last Sunday in July, August, September, or October.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Brenda Schulz Laurie Schulz

Congratulations to our high school graduates this year. Kayla Eberhardt (Bro. Fred and Sis. Kathy), Jessica Schaer (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sandy) and Sis. Laurie Schulz (Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody) are all beginning a new phase in their lives. May God ever direct their paths and may they seek His guidance.

Bro. Dallas Massner and Sis. Christy Frank (Oakville, IA) were joined in Holy Matrimony on June 13. Parents of the couple are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail Massner (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank (Oakville, IA). May God richly bless them. We welcome Sis. Christy to our congregation in Burlington.

Bro. Marvin Woodward (Sis. Verna) has spent time in the hospital this month. Also, Casey Banwart (Bro. Leo and Sis. Tami) is in the hospital. May God provide them healing as He sees best.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

As I write this, our little town of Elgin is preparing for our every five year "Homecoming" event. Much planning and preparation takes place as we look forward to the return of many former "Elginites".

We read in St. John that Jesus is also preparing for our Homecoming to Heaven. He said, "I go to prepare a place for you." May we also be making preparation for this Eternal Homecoming. How terrible it would be to arrive at this destination, but hear the

final words, "Depart from me, I never knew you."

"Except ye become as little children..."

God has blessed our little church with four innocent babes this past month. How wonderful it would be if this precious innocence would not become polluted by the world about them. But we trust in God's promise, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

May 22, Colton Jay was born to Nathan and Melissa Schupbach. Colton's grandparents are Terry and Kaylene McNally and Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach.

June 8, Alyssa and Isaac Moyle welcomed their new little sister, Lexi Rose (Steve and Peg). Bro. Dale and Sis. Cheryl Moore and Mary Moyle are Lexi's happy grandparents.

June 16, a double blessing came to Bro. Kent and Sis. Betty Getz when Levi Thomas and his twin brother, Silas Jacob, arrived. They join siblings, Tierra, Oren and Bahlor. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Allan and Sis. Nathalia Getz (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne Butikofer.

We are thankful Bro. Bert Butikofer (Sis. Beulah) is home and recuperating well following his hip surgery.

We are also very thankful that Sis. Sharla Schneider (Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue) has returned to Elgin after being employed in Flagstaff, AZ, for the past approximately year and a half.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Willa Clark

We have again been blessed by God's Word, as it is spoken so clearly. Our visiting ministers have been Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar,

MO), Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA). We are so thankful for those who travel across the miles to worship with us, and to God for supplying our spiritual and physical needs.

It is so easy to complain that we have too much rain, or that it is too hot, or too dry. When I am tempted to complain about the weather, I often remember the words of one who came to my door, his smile a bright spot in the pouring rain. "Have you had enough rain?" I asked, thinking we had far too much.

"I guess not," he replied, "If we had enough it wouldn't be raining." God in His infinite wisdom knows and supplies our every need.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Diana Butikofer

We appreciate Bros. Gene Metzger (Sis. Dolores, Lester, IA), Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL) and Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane, Rockville, CT) visiting us and sharing the Word of God with us. We pray a blessing on them for their willingness to travel and assist on another pulpit.

We also want to keep our Elders in prayer as they prepare for and meet together at the General Brotherhood Conference in a few weeks.

IOWA, LESTER

Dawn Knobloch Dawn Metzger

The weekend of June 5-6 we witnessed the proving and baptism service of Sis. Anita Knobloch (Bro. Terry and Sis. Elaine). Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) was here to assist and preach the Word. May Sis. Anita always put her faith in the true and living God.

We wish to welcome Bro. Paul Knobloch (Phoenix, AZ) who has moved here to make Lester his home. Sis. Dixie Metzger (West Bend, IA)

has taken employment back in our area, so we are looking forward to having her assemble with us also.

Youth Fellowship weekend was held in Lester on June 12-13. Young adults from Minneapolis and Morris, MN; West Bend, Iowa City and Elgin, IA; were together and enjoyed listening to Bro. Mike Baumann from Mansfield, OH. Other visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Bros. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) and Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA).

Our newly elected Sunday School teachers for the upcoming year are Sisters Joni Knoblock and Annie Metzger, Bros. Brad Meyer, Thadd Knoblock and Dwight Mogler. Bro. Stan Warner will be serving as the superintendent. May we support each of these brothers and sisters as they bring the gospel message to our children.

Loved ones spending time in the hospital this past month were Sis. Donna Metzger, Bro. Bill (Sis. Charlotte) Metzger and Bro. Jake (Sis. Alice) Wulf.

Janice Leuthold (Bro. Charles and Sis. Vicki) has announced her engagement to Lance Bullerman. They are making plans for a November wedding.

It is always a blessing to have visiting ministers with us. We appreciate the efforts of Bros. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) and Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) who were in our assembly this past month.

“And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is

as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected thee from being king.”

1 Samuel 15:22-23

Thinking of the upcoming annual Brotherhood Conference, we can look to the old testament and see the importance of obedience to God's commands. May each Elder who watches for our souls and those of us in the sheepfold strive to work together and not reject the word of the Lord.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to sincerely thank each of you for your prayers, cards, visits, and food brought in during my recent surgery and recovery. May God bless you for your kindness.

Bro. Pete (Sis. Susan) Van Wyhe

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Sharla Wiegand
Rosalie Wiegand

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

Zion's Harp #79

On Sunday, June 13, Bro. Dallas Massner and Sis. Christy Frank joined hand and heart in Holy Matrimony. May God's love and peace ever surround them as they live to serve their Lord and each other. Parents of this dear couple are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail Massner (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank. Visiting ministers that day were Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) and Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL).

Ministering Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) preached the Word to

us one Wednesday night. We appreciate his willingness to be used of the Holy Spirit.

When a Christian dies
Precious is the prize!
Lasting joys for days of sorrow,
Rest from conflict on the morrow
Follows when he dies.

Hymns of Zion #248

Sis. Pearl Vierling has found that perfect rest after taking her last breath on June 12. She leaves behind three sons, Ron Vierling (Burlington, IA), Bro. Rick and Betty Vierling (Oakville, IA), and Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda Vierling (Eureka, IL). May God comfort the family in their sorrow of losing a mother, grandmother, and sister.

In Memory of Bro. Robert Kiefer
(passed away July 1, 2003)

God saw you getting weary,
He did what He thought best.
He put His arms around you
And took you Home to rest.
And the golden gates stood open
On that heart-breaking day
And with farewells unspoken,
You gently slipped away.
To all that still have
Husband, father, and grandfather,
Cherish them with care
For you never know the heart-
break
‘Til he finally isn't there.

Love forever, his wife and family

IOWA
BLOOMFIELD/ PULASKI
Barbara Schock

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

Matt. 19:14

On the 21st of May, little Audrey Dee

was born to first time parents, Bro. Daryl and Sis. Christy Wiegand. First time grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Wiegand, and Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice Sauder (Tremont, IL) happily welcome this new addition to their families.

On June 3, Katrianne Lauren arrived in the home of Bro. Virgil and Sis. Katrina Knobloch. Big sister and brothers, Olivia, Jesse, and Jacob, welcome their little sister home. Grandparents are Sis. Lauretta Knobloch and the late Bro. Orvie (Lester, IA) and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter (Silverton, OR).

"But I have built an house of habitation for thee, and a place for thy dwelling for ever."

II Chron. 6:2

On June 6, we were able to have the dedication of our new church building. We had many visitors from all over, and we enjoyed them all. We also had visiting ministers here for this special weekend. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA), Bro. Roy Koehl (Sis. Jenell, Morris, MN), and Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA) were here. We thank each one for taking time to come and share the Word with us. We especially thank Elder Bro. Jon who had the dedication service. "Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord:..." (Psalms 118:26)

We would like to remember Bro. Harold Knapp (Sis. Mary Jane) in our thoughts and prayers as he has spent some time in the hospital recently.

America! America!

God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood

From sea to shining sea.

Gospel Hymns #472

As the Fourth of July approaches,

may we remember the sacrifice that many of our forefathers made to give us the freedom that we enjoy today. Retired Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) posed the following question: Who, in the Bible, was seen by everyone in two cities, and as a result, turned to the Lord? Answer next month.

IOWA, WEST BEND

**Betty Wirtz
Lori Skoglund**

God Bless America

"America the beautiful" –

May it always stay that way –

But to keep "Old Glory" flying

There's a price that we must pay...

For everything worth having

Demands work and sacrifice,

And freedom is a Gift from God

That commands the highest

price...

For all our wealth and progress

Are as worthless as can be

Without the Faith that made us

great

And kept our country free...

Nor can our nation hope to live

Unto itself alone,

For the problems of our neighbors

Must today become our own...

... The principles of freedom

And the decency of man,

And as a Christian Nation

We're committed to God's plan...

And as the Land of Liberty

And a great God-fearing nation

We must protect our honor

And fulfill our obligation...

So in these times of crisis

Let us offer no resistance

In giving help to those who need

Our strength and our assistance –

And "The Stars and Stripes Forever"

Will remain a symbol of

A rich and mighty nation

Built on Faith and Truth and

Love.

—Helen Steiner Rice

Let us also at this time of celebration for our country's independence, ponder our own soul's condition – whether we are free or not.

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

Galatians 5:1

Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL) was here for Memorial Day weekend. We thank him for sharing the Word with us. We also want to thank our home ministers for all of the times they proclaim God's Word unto us and for all of the other responsibilities they assume. Surely they will be blessed accordingly.

Many were hospitalized recently. Betsy Mogler (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Beth) and Sis. Eunice (Bro. Dan) Fehr for surgery and Carson Wirtz (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Trela) for complications following a tonsillectomy. Medical patients were Sis. Joyce Banwart, Bro. Vic (Sis. Marilyn) Banwart, Bro. Silas (Sis. Della) Metzger, and Sis. Lucille (Bro. Dwaine) Schmidt. All are home now and improving.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Eiko Nozawa

Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana Klaus, along with Sis. Jana's mother, Sis. Shirley Kieser, spent the fourth Sunday of May with us in Shioda. It was Sis. Shirley's last Sunday in Japan before her return to the States. With the rainy season approaching, the weather was not so cooperative that a picnic was changed to a fellowship inside the church. Those who were there made a joyful noise unto the Lord, singing together.

The rainy season was declared on June 6 — two days earlier than last year. With the declaration came the

clouds and rain. The sun hides himself behind the clouds and peeks down occasionally among the clouds. Hydrangeas are best in the rain. Here and there, you see them blooming joyfully, getting enough showers of blessing. "To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). This is a season for hydrangeas to bloom and a time for us to enjoy the beauty of them.

Sis. Tamino Inoue spends more time in Tokyo at her son, Bro. Akito's. Her absence makes us lonesome for her. So it was so good to see her again two Sundays in a row recently. May God bless her richly wherever she is.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Jana Klaus

Greetings from Tokyo. I do not have a lot to report this month, but I am thinking about how Japan is up in arms right now. It is over the shocking news of a 6th grade girl planning and carrying out in school the killing of a classmate. The reason seems to be that she had had it with being made fun of by the other girl. Thankfully, this is not typical behavior of a Japanese child, so it has really shaken up the country. However, bullying is typical behavior and people are shaking their heads over what can be done to stop this amongst children. As a Christian, I find myself sighing and wishing so badly that parents would seek their Creator and begin to raise children by the teachings from the Bible. Please say a prayer for the people of Japan. I think that will help more than any amount of wishing.

Sis. Susie Katanic (Denver, CO) has safely arrived to stay in the Klaus household. We thank God for the blessing she is, and look forward to her being a part of our church family for the next 3 months.

We also have heard the good news that Sis. Kay Kellenberger (Elgin, IL)

has accepted a teaching position at an international school in Tokyo where her brother, Gary, has been working for the past several years. We warmly welcome her to our church family also.

Because of a business trip to Belgium, Bro. Andrew Klaus was able to visit the church in Ohringen, Germany. Bro. Greg and Sis. Shelle Schumacher (Washington, IL), who were transferred to Germany with CAT, so kindly opened their home to him and took him there. He is thankful for the love and Christian fellowship that was shown to him during this wonderful opportunity.

KANSAS, BERN

Sheri Edelman

Sally Strahm

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

Ephesians 5:20

May we give thanks as God has brought together these three dear couples:

Bro. Koertland and Sis. Rebekah Beyer were united in marriage on May 30. Their parents are Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy Rokey and Peter Beyer of Columbus, OH, and Sis. Luann Beyer of Oakville, IA. We pray God will go with them through life and as they assemble with the Sabetha, KS, congregation.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jody Sauder were united in marriage on June 6. Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane Kaeb and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Sauder of Tremont, IL. We pray God will also go with this couple down life's pathway and also as they assemble with the Tremont, IL, congregation.

Bro. Brent and Sis. Brianna Strahm were united in marriage on June 13 at Silverton, OR. Their par-

ents are Tim Miller, Portland, OR, and Carol Miller, Gresham, OR, and Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie Strahm. May God be with them as they go hand in hand down life's pathway together.

We are thankful to have ministering brothers with us from Sunday to Sunday sharing God's Word. Visiting us this month were Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN), Bro. Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA), Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine, Burlington, IA), Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen) and Bro. Brandon Plattner (Sis. Rhoda) of Sabetha, KS, Bro. Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington, IL), Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary) and Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Jane) of Tremont, IL, and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS).

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Bro. Morris and Sis. Arlinda Rokey in the passing of Sis. Arlinda's father, Bro. Walter Strahm (Sis. Mildred), of the Sabetha congregation. We pray God will stay by their side in the days that lie ahead.

We also think of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marlene Edelman in the passing of Marlene's mother, Irene Streit, who passed away. In times like these, may we keep those we love in our thoughts and prayers.

As our Sunday School term comes to a close we want to thank the brothers and sisters who take on the responsibility in teaching our children. May God bless you. Our prayers are with those who will begin teaching the next term.

We bid farewell to Kenton Sinn who will be returning back to Silverton, OR. We were thankful that Kenton could repent and make a beginning while in Kansas and pray God will ever stand by his side as he walks the path of life with Him.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT **Ethel Smith**

Greetings to all and God Bless America.

During the Civil War, Fort Scott was a prominent Fort. With the restoration of the Fort it has become a National Historical Site. The National Cemetery #1 is located here. Each year on Memorial Day special services are held at the cemetery in memory of those who suffered and died that we may enjoy this free nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all. It is a very reverent service with prayers, songs of worship, reciting of the Gettysburg's address, placing of the wreath, a gun salute and taps. The atmosphere seems charged with reverence for God and thanks to the men who paid the price for this land of the free. It takes us back in time ... lest we forget. In this land of the free we have the opportunity to be free from our sins through Jesus Christ. He suffered and died a cruel death on the cross that we may have eternal life. What freedoms we have in this land of America. Let us pray we do not let them slip away.

May 23, the announcement was made of the engagement of Bro. Tyler Banwart, son of Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie Banwart, to Sis. Tina Gramm, daughter of Bro. Roger and Sis. Darleta Gramm, Gridley, IL. We look forward to this union of hearts, which will take place on August 8 in Gridley, IL.

Vacation Bible School was held the first week of June. It is always a joy to see the children's eagerness to learn about Jesus. A program and picnic was held on the Sunday following.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Raymond and Sis. Kathryn Banwart in the passing of Sis. Ruth Banwart (Lamar, MO), wife of Raymond's brother, Bro. Art Banwart. Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth and Bro. Raymond and

Sis. Kathryn had a double wedding over 50 years ago. Sis. Ruth was a cousin of Sis. Kathryn.

Sis. Debbie Banwart hosted an 84th birthday party for Sis. Kathryn Banwart, wife of retired Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart. Bro. Raymond and Sis. Kathryn's health has declined in recent years; however, they are a wonderful example of love and faithfulness in their support of the church.

Hospital patients this past month were Allie Miller, daughter of Dave and Trista Miller, and Krystal Lord, daughter of Heath and Carrie Lord. We pray for God's healing.

Our visiting ministers for the past month were Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy Sauder (Roanoke, IL); Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther Moser (Lester, IA); Bro. Ben and Sis. Janice Wysong (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie Koch (Tremont, IL). We sincerely appreciate hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ. May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

**EVERYTHING WE HAVE, IS
NOTHING WITHOUT THE LORD
JESUS CHRIST.**

KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY **Eileen Bahr**

We thank Bro. Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO) for his ministering services on June 6.

Bro. Eldon Metzger was hospitalized for a severe cellular infection in his foot and leg. He is home from the hospital and needs to keep his leg elevated. We were happy to see him in church Sunday.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Nadine Kraft in the loss of her mother, Blanche Donohoe.

Eighteen years ago our youngest son was killed in a collision caused by speeding and drinking. His friends came to us upset after his death saying "everybody has a drink or two" ... had

he been clearly thinking, perhaps he wouldn't have been riding with the boy who was trying out a sports car.

Recently we heard a report on the radio that challenged the listeners about speeding. Speeding causes twenty percent of accidents. Speed limits are posted for the safest speed limit to drive safely on the road's construction. "Public opinion of 'everybody drives over the speed limit' needs to be changed, just as public opinion now believes in 'Don't drink and drive.'"

God gave us His commandments for our benefit. Speed laws are given for our safety. One of the commandments is to obey our government (Romans 13). It is so easy to slip up; God please help us all to obey ... we know it is for our own welfare.

KANSAS, SABETHA **Jeanelle Plattner** **Dawn Strahm**

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:"

Ecclesiastes 3:1

The past month has brought times of rejoicing as well as times of sorrow in our church family. How thankful we can be that we have each other to lean on through all seasons of life.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Bro. Walter Strahm as he has gained his eternal reward. We pray that his wife, Sis. Mildred, and his daughter, Sis. Sharon Mills (Bro. Paul), will feel God's comforting hand in the days ahead. We extend our sympathy likewise to Walter's brother, Bro. Elmer Strahm (Sis. Phyllis).

Bro. Erik and Sis. Shelli Hertzell welcome their first child, Elsie Ruth, into their hearts and home. Happy grandparents include Elder Bro. Gerry and Sis. Ellen Hertzell and Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria Grant (Latty,

OH), as well as great - grandparents, Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Hertzel. Ethan John has joined the family circle of Bro. Steven, Sis. Kelly, and Maddie Edelman. Our prayers are with this young family as little Ethan was born 6 weeks early. We pray that God will provide as He knows best. Ethan's grandparents include: Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter, Eugene and Judy Edelman, and great - grandparents, Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter. May God grant wisdom and blessings to these families as they raise their precious children.

May 30 was the wedding day of Bro. Koertland Beyer and Sis. Rebekah Rokey. Their parents are: Peter Beyer (Columbus, OH), and Sis. Luann Beyer (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy Rokey (Bern, KS). Sis. Brianna Miller (Tim Miller, Portland, OR, and Carol Miller, Gresham, OR) and Bro. Brent Strahm (Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie Strahm, Bern, KS) were also joined in Holy Matrimony on June 13 in Silverton, OR. We rejoice with both of these couples and pray that God will grant His richest blessings to these unions.

Our annual Sunday school picnic was held on June 6. This is always a special time for our church to gather together for an evening of fellowship with our youth.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL). We thank both of these brothers for their willingness to be used in the service of our Lord.

Note of Thanks:

Our sincere thanks for the sympathy, prayers, love, and concern shown during the illness and passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great - grandfather. May God richly bless each of you.

The family of Walter Strahm

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Bro. Glen Funk accompanied a work team to Jamaica in late May. He gave an inspiring account of the experience and felt blessed to be able to participate with the group.

Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally Funk became grandparents to another little boy on April 22. Taylor was born to their son, Derek and Emily Funk. Taylor is boy number six in their family of six grandchildren.

Speaking of little boys, one of the eleven preschool boys in our congregation, Hans Schrader, had been protecting a loose tooth for some time. He ate a strawberry one recent Sunday during the lunch hour and apparently swallowed the tooth in the process. The news quickly spread throughout those sitting nearby. After he recovered from the surprise event, he hurried to the other end of the room, calling "Daddy, Daddy, I lost my tooth!" I am writing this to illustrate one of the advantages of being in a small congregation. The Lord blesses us with a bond of fellowship that includes sharing with each other regardless of age or rank. It is a joy to count our blessings rather than our crosses!

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Betty Baltic

Barb Huber

Christian greetings in the precious name of our dear Lord and Saviour! "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory." (I Peter 1:8) It is always a joy to have visitors come and worship with us. We know there are no language barriers in Christ Jesus (Philippians 2:10,11). This past month we were blest to have fellowship of visitors from other countries, as well as from the United States:

Neuhidon, Germany; Kenya, Africa; Sonora and San Jose, Mexico; Princeville and Washington, IL; La-Crosse, IN; Lester, IA; Detroit, MI; Akron, Junction and Smithville, OH.

We were thankful and privileged to have Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) travel many miles to minister at our mid-week service on May 26. He shared the miracle of Jesus feeding the 5,000. He reminded us that even though our faith may be small as was the young lad's lunch, if we are obedient, the Lord is able to bless and do far more than we can ever comprehend just as He fed the multitude of 5,000 with twelve baskets of fragments left for his disciples. May the Lord bless Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta for their many labors of love and service in His vineyard.

On May 30, we rejoiced to hear the engagement of Sis. Andrea Neukomm (Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda) to Bro. Traever Guingrich, son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy (Indianapolis, IN). As they have sought the Lord's will for this important decision in life, we pray for His continued blessings and guidance as they prepare for marriage and the future.

It was a blessing to have Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) expound unto us many special truths and teachings from God's Word on June 16. He challenged us to consider a provoking thought. As our area is known for the horse industry and touring the horse farms is a wonderful experience, it may be a cover-up for what is all involved. We, as Christians, need to be careful, lest there be cover-up in our lives. We need to always reflect the true example of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We pray the Lord to bless Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam for their efforts and willingness to come and serve.

We extend a warm welcome to come and visit us in Lexington. You

may contact Bro. Dan Baltic (502) 696-9979, Bro. Doug Germann (859) 224-8710, Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541, or Bro. Jan Neukomm (859) 273-8574.

MEXICO, IXTLAN
Rosario, Claudia,
Gloria Gonzalez

Rainy season has come and the mountains and fields are all green covered with grass. Also, we hear different sounds of birds, insects, and other kinds of animals. It reminds us of God's creation and we know He has control in everything that happens on earth and in heaven.

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

Philippians 2:13

The last weekend of the month of May the brothers, sisters, and friends came together to do the yearly spring cleaning. All of us working together was a joy. We know that it is for the work of God.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

I Corinthians 15:58

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Terri Huber
Rose Watson

The angels are once again rejoicing over the decision of Holly Plattner (Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen) to give her life to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We are all praising God along with the angels and praying for Holly as she begins her new journey.

Our congregation was blessed and had Communion this past month; we are thankful to Elder Bro. Duane

Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan, NY) for assisting our Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen in this blessed service.

A big "thank you" goes out to the ladies who planned and prepared for our Ladies Spring Banquet this year. We had a wonderful turn out and a blessed evening in fellowship.

Also, we would like to thank our visiting minister, Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL).

We wish God's continued blessings in the union of Betty Jo Meyer (Don and Sally) and Shaun Hyde as they begin their new journey together.

Our prayers continue to be with Bro. Ryan Huber (Sis. Terri) and Sis. Laurie Steffen (Bro. Terry), for their father who remains hospitalized after a stroke.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

Three couples from our congregation have added another grandchild to their family circle. Brandan and Kaly LeBourdais (Minneapolis, MN) welcomed Luke Anthony into their hearts and home on April 22. Luke has an older brother, Jack, and his grandparents are Norm and Sis. Linda Andrzejewski.

Bro. Darrell and Sis. Sue Steffen welcomed another granddaughter, Olivia Lynn, on May 7. Olivia's parents are Bob and Christie Palme (Lindstrom, MN) and she has an older brother, Nathaniel.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Waibel welcomed Kate Marie Laukhuf into their family. Kate's parents are Bro. Mick and Sis. Lisa (Latty, OH) and she has two older brother, Clark and Max.

May God richly provide for each of these new parents as they strive to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Come then to the feast of His New

Covenant,
 Members of His Church, your faith
 renew;
 Thank the Founder of this precious
 Covenant;
 Through the chalice He pours out
 for you.
 Here your hands in faithfulness
 uniting
 And the fire of brother-love new
 lighting,
 Let your common prayers rise to
 His throne,
 Thank and praise Him who hath
 made you one!
Zion's Harp #26, vs. 6

The first Saturday in June was the date that our church gathered to share in Holy Communion. It was a blessed time of remembrance and unity. Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) and Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Francis, Wolcott, IN) served us. We thank these brothers for their service unto our congregation. May the Lord be their rich rewarder.

Our prayers are with several members of our congregation who have been hospitalized this past month. They are: Clinton Meier (Sis. Lula), Sis. Leah Ramseyer, and Bro. Daryle Wieland (Sis. Edie). We are glad that Clinton and Bro. Daryle are back at home again. Sis. Leah is spending some time in Huron Woods Nursing Home. We also want to remember Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn Wieland's grandson, Graham Bedola (Bro. Jesse and Sis. Bonnie, Detroit), as he recently underwent surgery. We pray that the Lord will continue to be with them all.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Krista Wieland
Jamie Bahr

We would like to extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Jim and Sis. Vi Barton and Sis. Martha Szilagyi

and their families as their nephew, Gordon Koprince, has passed away.

Graham Bedolla, the one-year-old son of Bro. Jesse and Sis. Bonnie Bedolla, had to have sudden brain surgery because of a rapidly growing cyst. The surgery was successful and he has made a quick recovery for which we are thankful to God for.

Others spending time in the hospital this month have been Sis. Kathryn Losiewicz and John Reardon; our prayers have been with them.

We wish to welcome Sam Frank who recently moved to this area from Lacrosse, IN, after graduating from Purdue University to start a new job. We are glad to have you, Sam!

We want to thank those Sunday School teachers, trustee, and treasurer whose terms have expired. New Sunday School teachers are Sis. Beth Knochel and Bro. Phil Bahr; new trustee is Bro. Jason Rauhe; and new treasurer is Bro. Mark Ramseyer.

We share the joy as Bro. Mike Reinhard (Detroit, MI) and Sis. Sherice Bahler (Wolcott, IN) became one in the Lord on June 20. Their parents are Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler and Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard.

We also are very happy for Sis. Amber Bahr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev) and Bro. Ryan Prevo (Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb), Gridley, IL, as their engagement was announced to the church. We wish you both the Lord's richest blessings in your new life together!

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
LaRae Dill**

Tim McMillan married Nada Kusicki on May 23. Their new address is: 26318 Misty Glen, Lake Forest, CA 92630, ph. 949-581-4335.

God's blessings, and much happiness is wished to Tim and Nada from all of us. We will miss Tim's interesting conversation and enthusiastic in-

volvement in our congregation.

Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. Joanne, Winthrop, MN) visited this month, as well as Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN). Bro. Dale was the guest speaker at the conclusion of our Vacation Bible School week. The youth enjoyed Bro. Dale's presentation as well as a week of learning and activities. The VBS theme this year was "The Keys to the Kingdom"; the keys being trust, obey, love, joy, peace.

Bro. Tony Frey (Bern, KS), a student at K-State University, is here for the summer on an accounting internship. Welcome!

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Katie Koehl
Heidi Nohl**

We were blessed to have visiting Bros. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH) with us this past month.

June 5 was the day of Heather Burnham and Brett Duncan's wedding. Their parents are Alan and Sis. Ilene Burnham and Roger and Arlene Duncan. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their life together.

Eric and Bridget Bachman welcomed Natalie Marie into their home. Also enjoying the new baby is big sister, Paige, and grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Kathy Bachman.

Micah Lee was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Katie Koehl. They will enjoy their new little baby as will their parents, Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn Koehl and Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce Messner.

Bro. Josh Schmidgall and Sis. Heidi Sauder were announced for marriage. We wish them and their parents, Bro. Dave and Sis. June Schmidgall and Bro. Verle and Sis. Christa Sauder, God's richest blessings as they plan for their upcoming marriage.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Bro. Steve Shafer (Sis. Pam) as he has laid his father, Jon Shafer, to rest. We pray that God will provide comfort to the grandchildren, great - grandchildren and Jon's brothers and sisters.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Paul Fehr (Sis. Anna) and Bro. Jake Koehl (Sis. Mary). Our prayer is that God will provide healing care and that His will is done.

Our convert, Andrea Koehl (Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley), was announced for peace. We rejoice with Andrea and look forward to her testimony.

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Ginny Stoll
Rachel Steiner**

As we pause to reflect on Father's Day, may we remember all the love shown to us through the years by our earthly fathers and may our Heavenly Father bless them for the examples and precious memories they have given us.

Vanessa Isaacson and Kent Rubendall are thankful parents of a son. Carter Allen was born on May 27. Grandparents are Jerry and Melissa Isaacson, Chris Kent, and the late Allan Rubendall. Great-grandparents are Loyd and Sis. Dorothy Jacobson, Laverne and Judy Kent, Delmer Isaacson and the late Kathleen Isaacson.

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) for sharing God's Holy Word with us this past month.

The angels rejoice over each and every sinner who answers His call. Two precious souls, Kory Sward (Sis. Sue) and Verna Bruns (Marvin) have answered the call and have found peace. We are so thankful that He continues to call and that dear loved ones are willing to answer.

We have three high school gradu-

ates: Amber Waugh (Wayne and Colleen), Vanesa Isaacson (Jerry and Melissa), and Cassie Schmidt (Bro. Tim and Liz). May each look to the Lord for guidance in the days to come.

Our hospital and surgical patients this month were Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Sis. JoAnn), Lila Messner (Sis. Julie) and Sis. Delores Messerli. May the Lord comfort them in their time of recovery and watch over them as they regain their strength.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Garry and Marty Rokey

We certainly enjoyed and appreciate the labors of our visiting ministers this past month: Bro. Corey Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita, KS) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS). Bro. Roger also spoke to us on the topic of the Fruit of the Spirit on Saturday evening after a week of Vacation Bible School for our Sunday School classes. Many thanks, dear brothers, for your efforts.

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

And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the spirit, let us also walk in the spirit.

Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.”

Galatians 5:22-24

The works of the Holy Spirit produce these “fruit of the Spirit” attributes in us when we strive to attain the nature of Christ.

On May 22, we had a reception for our newly married Bro. Galen and Sis. Shannon Kellenberger. Many were here that could not attend their May 9 wedding in Silverton, OR.

Also on May 22, our Heather Persinger married Taylor Wine. We

wish this young couple God’s blessings as they make their home in Texas.

MISSOURI, LAMAR Becky Marti Wendy Braker

Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda Banwart are enjoying their first grandchild. Alan Jay was born to Jason and Elizabeth Banwart on May 20. May God be with them as they raise their precious new son. Great – grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Juanita Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) and Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth Banwart. On the same day Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth lost another great – grandchild, Landon Baslee.

On the day of little Landon’s funeral, May 24, Sis. Ruth Banwart passed away suddenly. We extend our sympathy to her husband, Bro. Art; a son, Bro. Gene Banwart (Sis. Linda), and daughter, Joan Baslee (Teal), both of this area; daughter, Gail Strahm (Phil) of Rainbow, TX; 9 grandchildren; and 4 great – grandchildren. We appreciate Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) being willing to be used for the funeral service. Bro. Art has moved to a care facility and his new address is: Good Shepherd Nursing Home, 200 W. 12th, Lockwood, MO, 65682.

Sis. Anna Marti passed from this life on June 12. She was formerly of this area and had spent the past few years in the Apostolic Christian Home of Eureka, IL. Surviving are three sons, Bro. Dale Marti (Sis. Corrine) and Bro. Leonard “Joe” Marti (Sis. Evelyn), both of this area, and Bro. Ervin Marti (Sis. Teresa) of Burlington, IA; four daughters, Sis. Ruth Schrock (Bro. John) of Mediapolis, IA; Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach (Bro. Paul) of Burlington, IA; and Sis. Corrine Roth (Roy) and Sis. Allene Steffen (Bro. Jerry), both of Goodfield, IL; 31 grandchildren; 78 great – grandchildren; and 19 great –

great grandchildren. We thank Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) for taking part in the funeral service of our dear sister.

We also thank Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) for sharing God’s Word with us this past month. May God bless each of these brothers for their labors.

Sis. Janice Frieden was hospitalized as a surgical patient this past month. We pray for her continued recovery.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Susan Haerr

With thankful hearts for answered prayers, we welcomed home our Bible Class students from their trip to Jamaica. They had the opportunity to share special memories with us at our annual Sunday School Picnic and it was uplifting for us to hear about their week there. A heartfelt thank you to each student and adult who went, to each one who made donations and to all who prayed. I’m sure that the full impact of their time there will not be known until some day in Heaven.

Our Sunday School students and some others from the community were able to be a part of our Vacation Bible School program this month. It was great to see the excitement they had for learning about Jesus! A special thanks to all who helped or participated in that week.

We want to express our deep sympathy to Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marj Sutter and their family at the passing of Sis. Marj’s mother, Susie Johnston, of West Sacramento, CA. She was 98 years old. We pray that God will comfort you as you think back on many years of memories.

As well, our prayers and thoughts continue to be with Danny and Jody Meyers at the passing of Danny’s sister, Teresa Thompson, of Palmyra, MO. May God be with you as you re-

member her.

We are thankful to have Sis. Charlene Sutter back in church with us after gall bladder surgery. May God bless your healing, Sis. Charlene.

Thank you to Bro. Ron Joos (Sis. Chris, Pulaski/Bloomfield, IA) for sharing the Word of God with us in the past month. Your time here was a true blessing to us.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We have been very blessed with a busy past month. We have seen many visitors to our area with the summer season now here and are looking forward to more company in the weeks ahead. Our visiting ministers were Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) on May 23; Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) on June 9; and Bro. Dan Goric (Rockville, CT) on June 13. We shared a potluck dinner together on Wednesday evening, June 9, before assembling for our church service. May the Lord richly bless these brethren and their families for assembling with us.

On Memorial Day weekend, May 30, we met at Cape Vincent after church for a potluck meal together followed by a singing. What a blessing it was to enjoy the beauty around us while praising our Lord and Saviour!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the many high school graduates that will now be making important decisions about what to do with their future. This year our graduates are Ambrose Bush, Crystal Farney, Shawna Farney, Jay Virkler and Joseph Virkler, and from college, Tessa Farney and Bradley Virkler. May they seek the Lord's guidance in making these important life choices.

Our hearts go out to Sis. Bessie, Wayne (Penny) and Dawn in the death of their husband and father, Bro. Clifton Farney, on June 9. A funeral service followed by a dinner was

held on Sunday, June 13. We also held a burial service for Raymond Virkler on June 13 followed by a luncheon. May these families find comfort and strength from the Lord in the days ahead.

Our thoughts are with Philip Virkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Becky) as he recovers from a broken bone sustained in an accident. We are thankful the Lord was watching over him and that he wasn't hurt worse.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

We rejoice that Elizabeth Steidl repented and gave her testimony of her change of heart and peace with God on Saturday, June 12. She was baptized and blessed with the prayer of consecration and welcomed into the fold of Jesus Christ on Sunday. She is the daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl.

Also, giving testimonies on June 12 were Eugene Bako, whose wife is Sis. Dianna; and Virgil and Veronica Craiu. After hearing of their experiences and peace with God, they were welcomed into our membership. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller assisted our Elder Bro. Dave Graf for the weekend.

Two couples at Akron will be having their 50th wedding anniversary. Bro. Eugene and Sis. Eleanor Pamer's Golden Anniversary is August 7; and Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet Graf's Golden Anniversary is August 15. We wish them God's continued grace.

Two of our Sisters have received their Associate Degree in Office Technology. Since the office specialization was in the Medical field, they both have accepted a doctor's office position. They are Sis. Mara Henico, daughter of Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah Henico; and Christina Steidl, daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl.

Bro. George and Sis. Tina Gal and their children, Adam, Heidi, Bethany, and Danyel, returned to assemble

with us, after living in Colorado and assembling with the Denver church for some time.

Bro. Rudy and Sis. Katie Wiegand with their two girls, Carolyn and Rachel, are moving to Illinois. A "farewell" singing was held for them at the fellowship center. For their last Sunday, June 13, we appreciated having Bro. Rudy's parents, ministering Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rosemary Wiegand, with us. We will miss the Wiegands, but wish them well in their new location.

Sis. Debbie Sauder is now also Dr. Debbie Sauder. She is the daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder of Columbus, and has been in our area for seven years attending the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine and received her Doctor of Medicine degree. She will be getting her residency at Orlando, Florida. A "farewell singing" was held and we will miss her. We are glad for her with her achievement and wish her well.

Sis. Susie Katanic, who is originally from our congregation, has recently been living in Colorado and attending church at Denver. Sis. Susie has accepted the call to Japan to help Bro. Andy and Sis. Jana Klaus. We wish her well and look forward to her returning again.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Nancy Banks

The past month, we have been encouraged by the Word shared with us by our visiting ministers. Elder Bros. Dave Graf (Akron, OH) and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) labored on our behalf and we appreciate their efforts.

We are thankful for yet another soul that has turned her back on the world and begun repenting. Danielle Sauder (Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky) has taken this essential step in life and we lift her up in prayer for God's strength

and grace!

We are sad to say farewell to our new convert, Elizabeth Conzo, who has accepted employment with John Deere. She will be relocating to Bettendorf, IA, but will never be far from our thoughts and prayers as she begins her spiritual journey.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

Our graduates this year includes: Zachary Bauman (Brian Bauman and Sis. Peg Bauman), Alan Manz (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra), Chet Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy), Fred Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie), Vicki Manz (Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera), Ashley Miller (Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley), Brandy Ricker, Bev Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily) and Brian Schlatter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila). We pray for you each one that you will let our Heavenly Father give you guidance and direction for your future.

We enjoyed Invite A Guest weekend and trust that each one will be blest for their efforts in traveling to be with us and for the efforts put forth to make the weekend possible.

Ashton Reed was born on May 19 to bless the household of Bro. Chris and Sis. Erica Manz. His sister Shana and brother Adrian welcomed him home. Ashton's grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz.

We thank ministering Bros. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and John Jackson (Bay City, MI) for being with us this past month. May God richly bless you for bringing forth God's holy Word.

June 13 was the wedding date of Bro. Wendell Spangler (Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn) and Sis. Kari Manz (Bro. Les and Sis. Karen). May God continue to be with you as you walk life's pathway together. We would like to

thank Bros. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) and Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) for ministering the Word to us on this weekend. We trust God will be your rich rewarder.

"Ring the bells of heaven! There is joy today, For a soul returning from the wild;..." (Gospel Hymns #622). It brings much thankfulness and rejoicing in our hearts to have souls turning to the Lord. Our new convert is Fred Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie). It is our prayer that he will dig deep and build a strong foundation guided by our Heavenly Father.

OHIO, LATTY

Bonny Wenninger **Amanda Steffen**

We rejoice with Bro. Mark and Sis. Diane Sinn, and children, Luke, Weston and Julie, as Tyler David was born into their family on May 23. Grandparents are retired Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn, and Sis. Marian Sinn (Silverton, OR). Bro. Mick and Sis. Lisa Laukhuf were blessed with a little girl on June 2. Welcoming Kate Marie home are brothers, Clark and Max. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dwain and Sis. Wanita Laukhuf, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Waibel (Bay City, MI). First-time parents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Kari Stoller, welcomed Kasee Joy into their lives on June 14. Delighted first-time grandparents are Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnn Stoller, and Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer (Milford, IN).

Ministering Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) visited our congregation this month, and we want to thank him for his willingness to serve.

Bro. Gus and Sis. LeAnn Schlatter rejoice as their daughter, Shannon Schlatter, has begun her repentance. We wish her God's guidance and blessings as she strives to follow Him.

We failed to mention in our last month's article that Bobbi Stoller was among our high school graduates. His

parents are Brent and Angie Stoller, and grandparents are Bro. Willis and Sis. Elaine Stoller.

On June 5, Jason Labounty and Melissa Laukhuf were joined together in marriage. Parents are John and Penny Labounty of Payne, OH, and Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Marcia Laukhuf. Bro. Jeff Stoller and Sis. Sarah Moore were united in Holy Matrimony on June 13. Parents are Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnn Stoller and Bro. Larry and Sis. Beth Moore (Elgin, IL). We wish these two couples God's blessings and guiding hand in their lives together.

Bro. Ken Laukhuf was laid to rest this past month. Our thoughts and prayers are with his children, Bro. Tom, Bro. Bruce (Sis. Vickie), Sis. Carol Koehl (Bro. Ron, Sarasota, FL) and Valerie Klima (Mike).

We truly want to remember Ron Hofacker in the passing of his dear wife, Karen. Our deepest sympathies are extended to her family. Karen's parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Dorothy Stoller, and she was a sister to ministering Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori Stoller.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Esther Baumann

Believing that God has directed their hearts together, Sis. Tecca Keever (Clair and Sis. Bev) and Bro. Scott Virkler (Bro. Daniel and Sis. Dorothy) of Rockville, CT, announced their engagement on June 13. We wish them God's richest blessings.

We are thankful for God's guidance to our recent post-high school graduates. They include: Sis. Deanna Masters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine) who graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree; Sis. Olivia Ramsey (Bro. Ed and Sis. Laura) who received her Certificate in Medical Assisting; and Bro. Mark Rufener who obtained his Civil Engineering Degree.

May God bless the efforts of our visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) willingly served us.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Bro. Dave Eyerly (Sis. Edna) whose brother, Richard Eyerly, passed away in June.

Elmer "Bud" Sauder and Bro. Wally Ramsier had been hospitalized. Sis. Lucille Groh, Bro. Harry and Sis. Mary Mae Bocka and Sis. Becky Vent (Richard) have not been able to attend church because of their health. Please keep all in your prayers.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Anne Widmer
Laurel Indermuhle

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

Matthew 5:16

We would like to congratulate those who have graduated from high school in the 2004 year of our Lord. Those graduating from high school were Crystal Riegenbach, Tobin Hartzler, Holly Acker, Ben Stoller, Jami Calame, Jared Calame, Angela Widmer, Brad Hartzler, Ivan Hartzler, Eric Maibach, Jeremy Musser, Zach Bauman, Joe Arnold, Lynn Rufener, Lisa Rufener, Nate Steiner, Caleb Beery, Amber Bauman, Jonathan Rufener, Matt Stoller, Danelle Pope, Kyler Hanzie, Brandon Kipfer, Andrew Steiner, Ethan Steiner, and Rachel Tieche. As our new graduates set out in the college world or work force, may they let their lights so shine before all whom they encounter, that all that they do may glorify their Father in Heaven and all those around them may see their good works. This is an exciting

time for our graduates and we pray that they will seek God's will for their futures.

Thankfully, each new day that God grants us here on earth, He continues to call souls into the fold. Our friend, Adam Gasser (Bro. Neil and Sis. Donna), has heard and by the grace that is sufficient, answered the call and has begun his repentance. May his life as a Christian be filled with many blessings as he walks closely with our great God.

On May 14, Nathan and Linda Schar gave birth to their fourth baby. Charity Judith is welcomed home by big sister, April, and brothers, Jeremy and Christopher. Charity's grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terry Ramsier and Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar.

Sis. Rowene Howell is a great-grandmother again, no doubt thankful for the safe arrival of Myles Thomas. Myles and big brother, Mason, are the sons of Joy and Tom Fortner. God bless these little babies and may they bring much joy to the homes they abide in.

On May 19, Sis. Erma Marty left those here on Earth to receive her eternal reward. We are thankful for the example that she has left behind, especially her daughter, Sis. Margaret.

This past month, Sis. Marguerite Gasser, Bro. John Calame, and Sis. Ruth Beery spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful for their recovery and pray that God's healing hand will continue to touch them. We are also thankful that friend Betty Marquart made it safely through a very serious surgery and pray that the road to recovery could be quick. Myles Rufener (Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen) was in a very serious car accident. We continue to pray daily for Myles and his family. We pray that the healing hand of God would touch his body and soul and that God could give patience

and endurance to his family and loved ones.

The Word of God is such a precious gift to all those who choose to listen to it. We are thankful for our ministering brethren who stand diligently Sunday after Sunday to bring us the Word in its truth and simplicity and for those who are willing to travel to bring us the Word. This last month we were blessed to hear the Word from the Holy Spirit through Bros. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Ted Steffen (Alto, MI), and Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN). God bless you for your willingness.

OHIO, SARDIS
Jami Zollinger
Terry Zollinger

"How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver."

Proverbs 16:16

On June 13, the graduation breakfast was served at the Fellowship Center for Joshua Ramsier (Bro. Mark and Sis. Alice) to celebrate his milestone of finishing high school. Also, Sis. Kristy Miller (Bro. Denny and Sis. Doris) graduated with an Associate Degree in Accounting and Sis. Janet Indermuhle (Bro. Allen) received her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. May they use their knowledge to be a light to the Lord.

"And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ."

Romans 15:29

Several ministers visited this month. We were blessed with the preaching of the Word by Bros. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), Chris Wuethrich (LaCrosse, IN), Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Matthew

Rassi (Chicago, IL). Thank you for bringing your loved ones with you and so willingly bringing forth the teachings of Christ to us.

“Is any sick among you?...”

James 5:14

Some have missed services due to illness, but Sis. Martha Indermuhle had to spend some time in the hospital. She is home recuperating but has not enough strength to attend services as of yet. May the Lord heal each one if it be according to His will.

We are looking forward to Mansfield Youth Day weekend on July 24-25. Bless the loved ones who are working diligently to make this weekend a blessing for our young folks. Also, coming up is the Elder and General Conference in Peoria, IL, on August 11-13. May we support our dear Elders with prayer as they prepare to remind, chastise and encourage us in our walk with the Lord. May the Peoria congregation be blessed for their efforts.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Alyssa Miller
Rachel Maibach**

“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 wish that each of our graduates this year will choose the right paths to take in their lives. We know that there are two main roads we choose to go down: one to eternal life and one to eternal destruction. It is our hope and prayer each one will choose the first. Our graduates this year are Timothy Dotterer, Shawn Frazier, Joshua Hanzie, Ashley Hartzler, Brad Klotzle, Sis. Jill Maibach, Sis. Kathy

Marty, Sis. Autumn Miller, Sis. Elizabeth Stoller, Michael Stoller and Bro. Jonathan Zollinger. May God give you the wisdom to do His perfect will!

Grandchildren are always a blessed addition to the family. Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl Beery welcomed Nicholas Andrew as a grandson. Thankful parents are Bud and Lynne Kandel. First time great – grandparents, Bro. Joe and Sis. Lilas Rufener, welcome Kameron Nicole into the family circle. Her parents are Shaun and Rachel Rufener.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Pam Hartzler as she was hospitalized this past month.

Bro. Dean and Sis. Martha Lou Marty welcome a new daughter – in – law into their family. Paul Marty was united in marriage to Jeannine Gilbert this month. We hope and pray God will be the center of their new home.

“... The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.”

Job 1:21

We mourn the loss of a dear mother with our Sis. Margaret Marty. Yet we are thankful that a victory is won and the battle is over for Sis. Erma Marty (Rittman, OH). Also we extend our sympathy to Dale Uhler (Sis. Marilyn) as his brother, Ron Uhler, has passed away.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard
Teresa Rywalski**

“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. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.”

Luke 22:19,20

We shared a beautiful Sunday afternoon together as Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) served us Holy Communion.

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Matthew 18:20

Visiting ministers and guests are always appreciated. We would like to thank Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) for sharing the Word with us. God bless each brother and his family for their willingness to serve.

Beginning new paths in life are Ben Harmon (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna) graduating from high school and Sis. Deanna Masters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine) from college with a nursing degree. May you both continue to look to our Heavenly Father for guidance as you begin this new phase of life.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup

It is with heartfelt gratitude and great joy that we welcome Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and his wife, Sis. Kathy, to our small congregation here in the Portland area. They are relocating from West Bend, IA, for the time being. May the Lord richly bless them for their willingness to support and serve our little church. It is truly humbling to realize what these dear ones are doing for the benefit of a few.

Another reason to be thankful this past month was hearing the testimonies of Peter and Elizabeth (Auer) Folia. They had been faithfully attending our church with their children for a number of years and we are glad to be able to greet them as mem-

bers of our brotherhood. May they feel God's leading hand as they continue to walk the path of life with Him.

May God's blessings be with Bro. Brent Strahm (Bern, KS) and Sis. Brianna Miller as they were united in marriage on June 13. Bro. Brent's parents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie Strahm (and the late Sis. Kathryn Strahm) of Bern, KS. Sis. Brianna's parents are Tim Miller of Portland and Carol Wilson of Gresham. The wedding took place in Silverton. The new couple plans to establish their home in Kansas and may God be at the center of it always.

We thank the following visiting ministering brethren this past month: Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bros. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer), Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) from Silverton; Bro. Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise, Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA).

OREGON, SILVERTON Kelsey Walder

On May 16, we had our all-church graduation potluck where we honored this year's six high school graduates. Our congratulations to Sis. Tresa Dettwyler (Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene), Sis. Bethany Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann), Marissa Kuenzi (Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary), Melanie Kuenzi (Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane), Duane Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda), and Laura Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith). Our prayers are with each of these graduates, that they will seek God's direction in further schooling and occupations.

We've been blessed with the arrival of two more babies. Little Lena Joanne was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Anne-Marie Tribbett on May 19. Also welcoming their little sister are Teresa and Paul. Grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Marie Jensen and Howard and Jackie Tribbett from

Newburg, OR. Bro. Ryan and Sis. Regina Hari welcomed Carissa Linda into their hearts and home on May 24. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn and Harold and Sis. Linda Hari. We're also thankful for our Sis. Marion Sinn in the birth of another grandson, Tyler David, on May 23 to Bro. Mark and Sis. Diane Sinn of Latty, OH. Our prayers are with each of these couples as they seek the wisdom from above to raise their children up in the fear of the Lord.

Thus united And in concord
Let us walk the path of life
Hand in hand, O may love bind us
For each other's welfare strive.

Zion's Harp #237

The wedding service for Bro. Brent Strahm and Sis. Brianna Miller on June 13 was fittingly closed with this hymn. Bro. Brent is from Bern, KS, and is the son of Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie Strahm (and the late Sis. Kathy Strahm). Sis. Brianna was originally from our Portland, OR, congregation and moved to Sabetha, KS, a year ago to take a teaching position. She is the daughter of Tim Miller of Portland, OR, and Carol Wilson of Gresham, OR. Our prayers are with Sis. Brianna as she makes Kansas her permanent home. We desire God's blessings upon this young couple as they begin their heavenward walk as husband and wife. We were thankful to have many visitors for this weekend including ministering brethren, Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO), Darrel Stoller (Sis. Gloria, Bern, KS) and Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA).

The Sunday school is our delight.
We love it more and more;
'Tis here we learn to do the right
And live forever more.
We hear the truth, so pure and
clear,
Of Jesus' love so sweet and dear;

There we are taught to lift our
eyes
to Him who lives on high...
Hymns of Zion #73

In preparation for the coming Sunday school year, we had our Sunday School teachers election. The following were elected: Sis. Jamie Bigelow for grade 2, Bro. Chris Kuenzi (Sis. Mary) for grade 4, Bro. Sam Bence (Sis. Lily) for grade 5, Bro. Chad Walter (Sis. Megan) for grade 6, and Bro. Jim Zollinger (Sis. Tresa) for grades 11 and 12. Each of these new teachers have our prayerful support as they pick up their duties in the fall. We'd also like to thank those teachers who have completed their terms.

In the hospital this month were our friend, Alice Gehring, and Bro. Lee Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz). We're thankful for God's healing and to have both back in assembly with us. This week, our friend Marissa Kuenzi (Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary) underwent back surgery. Our prayers are with her for God's healing.

We extend our loving sympathy to Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi and family in the loss of Sis. Mary's father, Bro. Louie Kieser (Sis. Jean), from Gridley, IL. May our God comfort and provide for their needs as only He can.

In addition to the visitors already mentioned, we were also thankful to have Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) from Portland, OR, and ministering Bro. Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise) from Bluffton North, IN. May God bless each of these ministering brethren for their willingness to share God's precious Word with us.

We'd like to extend a special welcome home to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Lana Kuenzi. Bro. Marvin finished his schooling down in Klamath Falls, OR. We are also thankful to welcome home Kenton Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith) who completed his degree in Kansas.

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA**

**Nathan and
MaryElizabeth Gasser**

As summer begins, many of us look forward to backyard barbecues, longer evenings, and family vacations. Let us all make an effort this summer to be more appreciative of the blessings God shares with us, and let us all strive to show the same love and kindness to others as He has shown to us.

Spring travel has brought many visitors to our congregation, and we were pleased to have Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) share the Word with us during their visits.

**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Mike and Monica Fritz**

We rejoice in the direction God gives to each of us in our lives, and offer our congratulations to Bro. Jordan Fritz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica) upon his high school graduation. We are thankful that Bro. Jordan will be pursuing further education in the area, so he will still be a part of our home and our congregation.

We are also thankful to have Bro. Aaron Plattner (Detroit, MI) in the area this summer for temporary employment.

We have been richly blessed in the past month with many visiting ministering brothers, and we are thankful that they shared the Word with us. Our visitors have been Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH), Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), Bro. Virg Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL), and Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL). We have also been blessed by the fellowship of brethren

and friends visiting from Phoenix, AZ; Altadena, CA; Belvidere, Bloomington, Chicago, Congerville, Elgin, Eureka, and Washington, IL; Francesville, IN; West Bend and Lester, IA; Lamar and Taylor, MO; and Akron and Latty, 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: Leo, IN (7/25); LaCrosse, IN (8/1); Fairbury, IL (8/8); Bern, KS (8/15); Remington, IN (8/22); Tremont, IL (8/29). 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 visitors. 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**

It's our pleasure to welcome to our congregation Bro. Mark Stoller, who recently moved from Gridley, IL, to the Dallas/Fort Worth area. We're always amazed how much difference an additional person can make in a group of our size, so we thank God for His direction in Mark's life.

Our church is also thankful for the recent visitors we've had. We look forward to hosting a minister from Fairbury in July, as well as one from Morris in August.

Finally, we'd like to extend 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), or Timothy Stoller (817.759.1549).

**TEXAS, SAN MARCOS
Amy Ringer**

My nephew (my sister's son) came to visit this month for a few days. Of course, I wish my sister could have come too, but being with her son was a bit like being with her. He has many characteristics similar to her. When people are with us, I hope it is a bit like being with God, our Father. "Christ liveth in me." - Galatians 2:20.

The ministers we had this month were Bros. Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix), Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend), Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington), and Max Reimchisel (Sis. Judy, Wichita). Thanks to them and our visitors from Silverton and Francesville.

We look forward to hosting visiting ministers from the following churches in August: Silverton (1), Gridley, IL (8), Bluffton North (15), Sabetha (22), and Eureka (29). 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 southbound frontage road.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Mary Plattner

We miss Erica Nohl's smiling face in church as she had the misfortune of breaking an arm. Due to her disease, a fracture complicates her condition and she is not able to travel. We pray for a speedy recovery for her as she and her family is missed.

Most of our summer residents are making plans to travel to the Midwest this summer to visit family and friends. If anyone is anticipating coming to South Texas, please call prior to coming to confirm our worship service schedule.

Bro. Amos J. Funk's family is planning to celebrate his 90th birthday on June 27. They are planning a dinner

at the Apostolic Christian home in Eureka where Amos and Loretta have lived for the past year. Amos was one of Zapata's residents for nearly 20 years.

VERMONT, NORWICH

Doug Mangers

Church services for the month were held on June 13. We were very thankful to have ministering Bro. Jerry Bauman and his family with us from Rittman. Also with us to share God's Word was Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan from Rockville. As has been the case each month since the start of our services here, many visitors from Rockville were present to worship with us. We are thankful for each one that was able to be with us, particularly the visiting ministers who make themselves available to serve us from the pulpit.

We have now held services in Norwich for one year and it has been a blessing for those of us living in Vermont and New Hampshire and hopefully for our frequent visitors from Rockville as well. We have committed to another year in the building we utilize for our services and look to the Lord to continue to bless this endeavor.

If you have a vacation planned in the Northeast, please visit us if your travel plans will allow it. 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.



Sermon continued from page 2

churches, when those exhortations and those admonitions get laid to our heart, what do we do with them? Do we think, well that is good for this brother or that sister or this one or that one? Or do we take them to heart? I have to believe, dear ones - I don't know from experience, I have not been there - but I have to believe as our shepherd brethren stand and they bring forth those admonitions, those warnings, those encouragements, and they see their body of believers before them, and they see obedience, certainly it has to lift up their arms and give them courage to press on.

Might it be dear ones, just as we experienced in our earthly lives as parents, when we give our children advice or direction or correction, whatever it is, and we see that they take it in the way that we meant it, how it warms our hearts. But then we also know there are those times when maybe they spurn it. They don't receive it. We know the hurt that it feels. Might it dear loved ones, cause us to have a greater appreciation for that goodly heritage that we can hold onto. That we might seek to preserve it for those who follow after.

It says here that "...they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greetings unto the brethren..." (Acts 15:23). Again, dear ones, we experience it, don't we? The reading of the Memorandum as we call it today. The reading of the letter. That is how exactly it starts, isn't it dear ones? Greetings from the brethren. We experience the care and the concern, don't we. Just as they had in that early day for those souls who had been drawn to the truth.

Dear ones, further it says, "Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:" (Acts 15:24). Times haven't changed, have they? There is yet a subverting of souls yet today, isn't there? How we maybe don't like to dwell on it or spend time on it, but there are those that have went out from us, haven't they? Might it be dear ones, that it is a warning to each one of us. We are not exempt from the enemy, are we? How steadfast and sure really are we? None

of us are able to withstand the cunning and the crafty enemy of our soul. It is only by the grace of God we are able to stand. Might we, dear ones, not depend on our own strength or our own ability. But let's place our hand in our heavenly Creator's.

Now he said there that they must be circumcised to keep the law. And how they said, to whom we gave no such commandment. Do we find maybe ourselves in situations where someone would be sharing something unto us, seeking to subvert our souls? Do we, dear ones, know the Word well enough that we can distinguish truth from error? Or truth from half truth? We need to take time dear ones, to spend in the Word, that we might ward off the enemy of our soul.

"It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul," Acts 15:25. They had a care for the brethren, didn't they? It seemed good unto them and to that end they sent forth those brethren.

"Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 15:26. As we could read here in the Acts further on, the many experiences that Paul in particular made. The shipwrecks and the beatings and all those things that he suffered for the furtherance of the gospel. And here we sit together in quietness this afternoon hour. What have we suffered, dear ones? What are we willing to suffer? What would we do if our lives were hazarded yet today? Yet even as we were so recently reminded at the brotherhood conference, how there are those souls today, not in this land, but in foreign lands, whose very life is threatened for believing in the name of this Lord Jesus Christ. Loved ones, let's not be complacent.

We find ourselves, probably for the greater part of us, those of us here never experienced want in a physical way, have we? For those older brothers and sisters who have experienced the depression, maybe those years they wondered maybe where the next meal was coming from and those types of things. But for the greater part of us this afternoon hour, we haven't experienced that, have we? How we have experienced prosperity and what we refer to as the blessings of life. But loved ones, spiritually what has that done for us? Has that increased our dependence upon an al-

mighty God, our heavenly Creator? Are we more willing to hazard our lives because of those things? I guess I for myself really doubt if that is the case. Too oftentimes don't we trust maybe in our own selves or what we have?

He said, "For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;" Acts 15:28. Do we appreciate, dear ones, the avenue of the Holy Ghost? How many times, maybe dear ones, it seems we take it so for granted. Many of us, probably here, having grown up with believing parents, maybe not understanding but to see them living lives of faith led by that Spirit. But how we've all experienced, dear brothers and sisters, through the process of repentance and conversion, the experience of that Holy Ghost, that Holy Spirit. Are we thankful that we can have part of God within us here upon the earth to lead and guide and direct us?

Here, as the brethren gather together, I guess I just have the confidence that it is not any different today than it was in that day. But our shepherd brethren don't have any other desire than to only lay upon us those necessary things. And what is our attitude, dear ones, when those exhortations are shared? Are we receptive? Do we lend an ear? Or maybe do we come with the attitude, well I wonder what they are going to harp on this time? Or what they are going to dwell on? It says here that they desired to lay upon them no greater burden than these necessary things. Loved ones, what is more necessary than to be directed in a heavenly way?

They went on there and they gave a number of things. Necessary things apparently for the day and time. "That ye abstain from meats offered to idols..." Acts 15:29. To us maybe that seems a small issue, doesn't it? This was an issue in that day. We have issues yet today, don't we?

It says, "...and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well..." Acts 15:29. He made a point there. If you keep yourselves, you do well. Are we, loved ones, willing to abstain and to keep ourselves, whether it be meat or whether it be blood or whatever it is in this life?

We had a situation there this morn-

Sermon continued on next page...

... sermon continued

ing of Joshua and the walls of Jericho. How we were reminded each one of us has walls in our lives, don't we? Some of these issues were walls in that day and time. There are those issues we deal with today, isn't there dear ones? They need to come down. There are those walls that separate us from God. I believe dear ones, that is the concern that our shepherd brethren bring unto us. That we remove those idols from our lives. Those things that are sinful. Those things that are going to keep us from the kingdom of God.

There may be some times we get into areas that we, at least in our human reasoning, we question. Oftentimes we hear of issues of hair, television and sports, the internet and all these things. The list goes on and on. We hear the comment made, well that is not going to keep me from heaven. But you know dear ones, do we really know? Do we really know? And maybe if they wouldn't, do they cause some other soul a problem? And with that the scripture is very specific as well, isn't it? The same very Apostle Paul said if it would cause an offense to his brother, he would not partake here upon the earth (I Corinthians 8:13).

Maybe dear ones, we are able to withstand certain things. But one thing is sure, dear ones, that each one of us has a weakness. Maybe we are able to withstand many things. But the enemy knows our weakness, doesn't he? He is going to focus upon that weakness. So that dear ones, we read together here, he says if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. I think there is coming a day and a time, dear ones, when we will be so thankful that we left those things aside or we cast them off or we kept ourselves from them. By the grace of God we are able to enter the portals and heaven and we then look back, how will it look? Today we can't see ahead, can we? But to make it there to the goal of heaven above - you think there will be any regret there in heaven above that you maybe had to abstain from something here upon the earth? Maybe we had to struggle with an issue or a habit or whatever it is, to cast them to the side. Do you think we will regret that there in the heavenly realm?

We are persuaded of so much greater

things, dear ones. There will just be absence of the enemy of the soul. Something I don't think we can even comprehend, can we? Because we don't experience it here. Just the thought to be there in heaven above and not have to deal with the adversary of our soul. Isn't the thought of that in itself worth the effort? Worth the striving.

We read together there in the Old Testament scripture, the Psalmist David. We can see that he dealt with the enemy of the soul too, didn't he? The very first verse it says, "Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust." Psalm 16:1. If he wasn't struggling and he wasn't dealing with something, he wouldn't have prayed for a preserving, would've he? To be kept from something.

How he speaks of the goodness of God. He says, "O my soul..., thou hast said unto the Lord, Thou art my Lord..." Psalm 16:2. Is the Lord our Shepherd? "But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight. Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god..." Psalm 16:3,4. One of the things we read together there in the New Testament scripture, avoid meats offered in sacrifice unto idols. And here David's prayer was that the sorrows would be multiplied unto those that hastened after another god. "...their drink offerings of blood will I not offer..." Psalm 16:4. We read together of that in the New Testament scripture, didn't we? He says, "...nor take up their names into my lips." Psalm 16:4. Do we, loved ones, refrain? Keep our lips from evil?

He said, "The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot." Psalm 16:5. Are we, dear ones, willing to allow the Lord to maintain our lives? To allow ourselves just to be humbly broken and to be taken of Him and used.

It says, "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage." Psalm 16:6. Loved ones, I believe we could make that same testimony yet today, can't we? Do we have a goodly heritage? Are we appreciative for it? As we read together that which took place there in the early church, now nearly two thousand years later we can see the same thing carried out. Doesn't it warm our hearts? Might it stir our hearts, dear ones. May we have a desire to keep those things.

So each one of us take our place, he told us. We each have a ministry. We each have a duty. We each have a responsibility. I believe we as parents, don't we, we desire nothing more for our children than that they could enjoy this same goodly heritage. But parents, if we don't do our part today, will our children have a goodly heritage tomorrow? Not only parents, but grandparents and aunts and uncles, we are all part of this together, aren't we? It isn't going to be a group of elders - as we read together there in the New Testament scripture - council that is going to keep things together entirely, is it? Each one of us, each day of our lives, in keeping of a goodly heritage.

"I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons." Psalm 16:7. Do we bless the Lord? Are we of a thankful heart, even as we talked this morning hour?

"I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved." Psalm 16:8. What are our priorities in life, dear ones? Do we set the Lord before us? Is He our right hand? Or maybe when we are enjoying the blessings of life, as we refer to them, when we enjoy prosperity and many things and many possessions, things are going well, is the Lord always before us? Maybe we wait until things, so to speak, fall apart. Maybe we lose our health or suffer adversity or sorrow or whatever it is. Let's not wait until that point, dear ones. But let's keep the Lord always before us.

As a result, the Psalmist said here, "Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope." Psalm 16:9. What a beautiful hope we have, don't we dear ones? Is your hope of heaven bright? Could you welcome Him tonight? Are you ready? What is our hope, dear ones? Dear brothers and sisters, he says, "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." Psalm 16:10. Even as we consider these few verses here, it's a prophecy related to the Lord Jesus Himself. But we, dear ones, can have that same promise in our lives, can't we? We need not to fear hell and destruction. We need not to see corruption. Because the Lord Jesus has taken our place there upon the cross, hasn't He? He died and

He shed His blood and He's given His life as an offering for our sins. We the guilty. He the guiltless.

He says, "Thou wilt shew me the path of life..." Psalm 16:11. Dear brothers and sisters, that is what we have experienced, haven't we? He has shown us the path of life. "...in thy presence is fulness of joy..." Psalm 16:11. We have experienced that as well, haven't we? We think back, dear ones, to our sinful state and condition; I don't know about you, but the condemnation that we felt, that burden of sin that thrust upon our soul, we maybe feared tomorrow, we feared death. Through the processes of repentance and conversion, the work of salvation was wrought in our hearts and we came to the point of peace, didn't we? That is fullness of joy, wasn't it? The absence of fear in our hearts. We can't hide it, can we? A convert that is going through that experience, when they find peace, we don't have to ask them, do we? But it shows.

Dear brothers and sisters, maybe you have been down the road of life a few

years or many years. Is there still that fullness of joy in our life? Do we still have that first love, that desire, that zeal we had when we experienced the forgiveness of sin? If we have that within our hearts, dear ones, it is going to show and it is going to radiate. We are going to have an appreciation for our goodly heritage, aren't we? We are going to contend for that precious faith.

He also said, "...at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." Psalm 16:11. Dear ones, as we come together on a weekend like this, we experience the fellowship of kindred hearts and minds, it is a pleasure and a blessing, isn't it? The Psalmist spoke here of pleasures for evermore. There is something better, isn't there? There is something to look forward to. Let's strive unto that end, dear ones, that we might be accounted worthy to be gathered together there with the Lord Jesus Himself and the apostles, as we read here, and the saints of all ages in the kingdom of God.

It says there that they then sent forth the brethren. They dismissed them. And how they gathered the multitude together and they delivered unto them this epistle or this letter, like we experience yet today, dear ones. (Acts 15:30)

What was the result? It goes on to say there that, "Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation." Acts 15:31. They rejoiced. Do we have that thankfulness in our hearts yet today? That we have a God and a Father in heaven who cares enough to give us guidance and to give us direction. Are we thankful? Are we appreciative? Do we rejoice in the consolation?

We have a goodly heritage, dear ones. For that heritage to continue, just as we read together here in this scripture, that each one of us need to go forth and carry out that ministry. Might God grant us grace to that end.

U.S.A. BOARD WORK PROJECTS

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

Kansas: Paul Kaeb
Phone: 785-284-3261
Cell: 785-547-5269
E-mail: paulkaeb@ksiconveyors.com

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

NOTICE: NEW APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORE HOURS

Starting on August 4, 2004, Apostolic Christian Publications will **NO LONGER** be open on the first Saturday of each month. However, we will be open on *Friday evening, August 13, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. after the General Brotherhood Conference in Peoria.* We hope that the brethren attending the conference will take advantage of this opportunity to visit our store.

The regular store hours are Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The address is 805 West Cruger, Eureka, IL 61530 and the phone number is 309-467-3611.



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 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 309-263-4036 or E-mail kjs@a5.com.

HAITI					
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY
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JAMAICA					
---	---	---	---	---	---

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Rich Bertechi	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.ffni.com
Art Mueller	608-676-4365		

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

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

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 YBS 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 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



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.

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

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

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

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

To order, contact,

Apostolic Christian Church
Bible Distribution
PO Box 30
1254 S. Main Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
Phone and Fax 260/824-5587
E-mail: biblelist@parlorcity.com

Mexico Work Teams 2004 - 2005

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Phone & (e-mail)</u>
Juarez	September 1-8, '04	Medical/Dental	Cheryl Herrman	309-385-1082 Cherylh@mtco.com
Magdalena	Dec. 18 - Dec. 24, '04	Construction	Loren Dettwyler	503-873-5784
Magdalena	Dec. 27 - Jan. 3, '05	Construction	Tom Schifferer	847-695-7510 tomandkathy@schifferer.com
Agua Prieta	Dec. 27 - Jan. 3, '05	Construction	Don Jackson	989-662-4266 dontinafam5@truevine.net

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



The following are excerpts taken from the booklet, "Noon Fellowship Hour," which is distributed by Apostolic Christian Publications, Eureka, Illinois. This is from an eight-part series on Church Practices.

NOON FELLOWSHIP HOUR

It is about twelve o'clock on Sunday in any given assembly in an Apostolic Christian Church. A treasured tradition is occurring. This is the practice of serving a noon lunch each Sunday, fifty-two weeks per year, in the many Apostolic Christian churches across the land. This weekly occasion — a lunch and fellowship hour — is sandwiched between the morning and afternoon worship services. In essence, it amounts to a fulfilling hour of fellowship and Christian harmony. It seems that eating together tends to bring people closer to one another.

Following morning worship, attendees proceed to the "dining room." Men sit on their side and women on their side (as in the assembly). A prayer is offered to bless the food, etc. Women servers then proceed to their assigned posts, usually two to a table, and begin pouring beverages as individual preferences are addressed to them.

The lunch generally consists of coffee, milk, rolls and doughnuts. Often, in addition to rolls and doughnuts, ham and cheese sandwiches are served. Usually, it's left to each family to decide what to serve, and basically there is very little deviation

from the aforementioned norms.

Reasons

There are many convincing reasons for holding a noon lunch each Sunday. The main purpose is to foster love, fellowship and unity in the church body. The book of Acts describes closeness and oneness experienced by those first believers: "...and they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship." (Acts 2:42)

As a result of a noon lunch served each Sunday, the brethren surely get to know each other much better. As families come to church every Sunday, year after year, and generation after generation, a deep bond of love and confidence is truly established and it becomes more and more apparent that the many families blend together into what constitutes a larger "family of God." This is a great blessing. Not only does this result in a broad base of love, but promotes stability and worthy tradition as well.

Precedent

Regarding worship in the early church, one author writes, "There seems to be evidence, as written by Justin Martyr, that they (the believers) gathered for Scripture, sermon and prayers at one place, and for supper at another." Fellowship meals were not uncommon.

The Apostolic Christian Church has always held morning and afternoon worship on Sunday. The church's founder, Bro. Samuel H. Froehlich, in his many writings, of-

ten refers to the Sunday "morning" service and the "afternoon" service. Doubtless, owing to the transportation capabilities of earlier days, the church in America initiated the practice of serving a lunch between the two worship services.

In his book, *South Side*, a history of the Apostolic Christian Church formerly located south of Fairbury and Forrest, Illinois, the late author Bro. Ben Nussbaum presents a vivid picture of "giving dinner" back during the early 1900's, and before.

He writes, "In past conversations with my mother, she recalled that in the church's early years all the bread was homemade. However, when I was a youngster, the congregation had increased to the point where it was no longer feasible for those 'serving' to bake their own bread. It was subsequently purchased from the bakery. We would place an order with them at least a week in advance and then on the Saturday prior to our 'serving day' make the trip to town in the spring wagon, picking up the bread and stopping at the grocery store for an ample supply of coffee and sugar.

"The church coffee was invariably a very tasty drink. It was made in large quantities by a certain few women known for their prowess as cooks and one of them assumed the responsibility of preparing it each Sunday. This coffee was made on the coal-burning cook stove in a copper wash boiler of approximately fifteen gallon capacity. It had handles at

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REMEMBERING

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each end and was covered with a lid of tin."

"The early church lacked window screens, and in the summer the flies took advantage of this, especially when we were eating at the dining tables. Some of the women, using three-foot long, leafy tree branches as chasers, would stand behind the diners and flick away the flies quite effectively."

Additionally

The noon lunch hour provides an open door to those who attend church worship, but who are not converted. They are the beloved "friends of the truth." In such a weekly fellowship hour, much love and attention can be extended to them, and hopefully this may cause them to have a more favorable attitude toward the brethren. Thus, the noon lunch constitutes, among other things, a step toward the unbelievers on the part of the church. Another benefit is that it tends to foster cooperation and "working together" among the sisters of the church. This, too, provides for closer ties and fellowship.

Conclusion

Serving lunch at church each Sunday has proven to be a wise procedure and a cherished practice in the church. The rewards have been innumerable and will continue to be so. A brother in the church once said, "We truly have many fine and wonderful traditions and practices in our church. They provide untold blessings for all of us. Let's not rob ourselves of these many blessings." Truly, one of these blessings is our noon lunch and fellowship hour.

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

Making A Covenant With God

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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"The Benefits Of Self-Denial"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Self-denial is not all bad. Many benefits come from self-denial. If you give up things which you would naturally like to have, if you don't go places where you would naturally like to go, if you don't eat or drink things which you would naturally like to drink, you will learn self-control, which is very important in life.

Jesus taught us, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Matthew 16:24. Jesus is teaching us that if we are going to follow Him, we won't have time for bad things, of course, but also we won't have time for some things, which it can be argued, are perfectly all right. They just lack value for health and happiness.

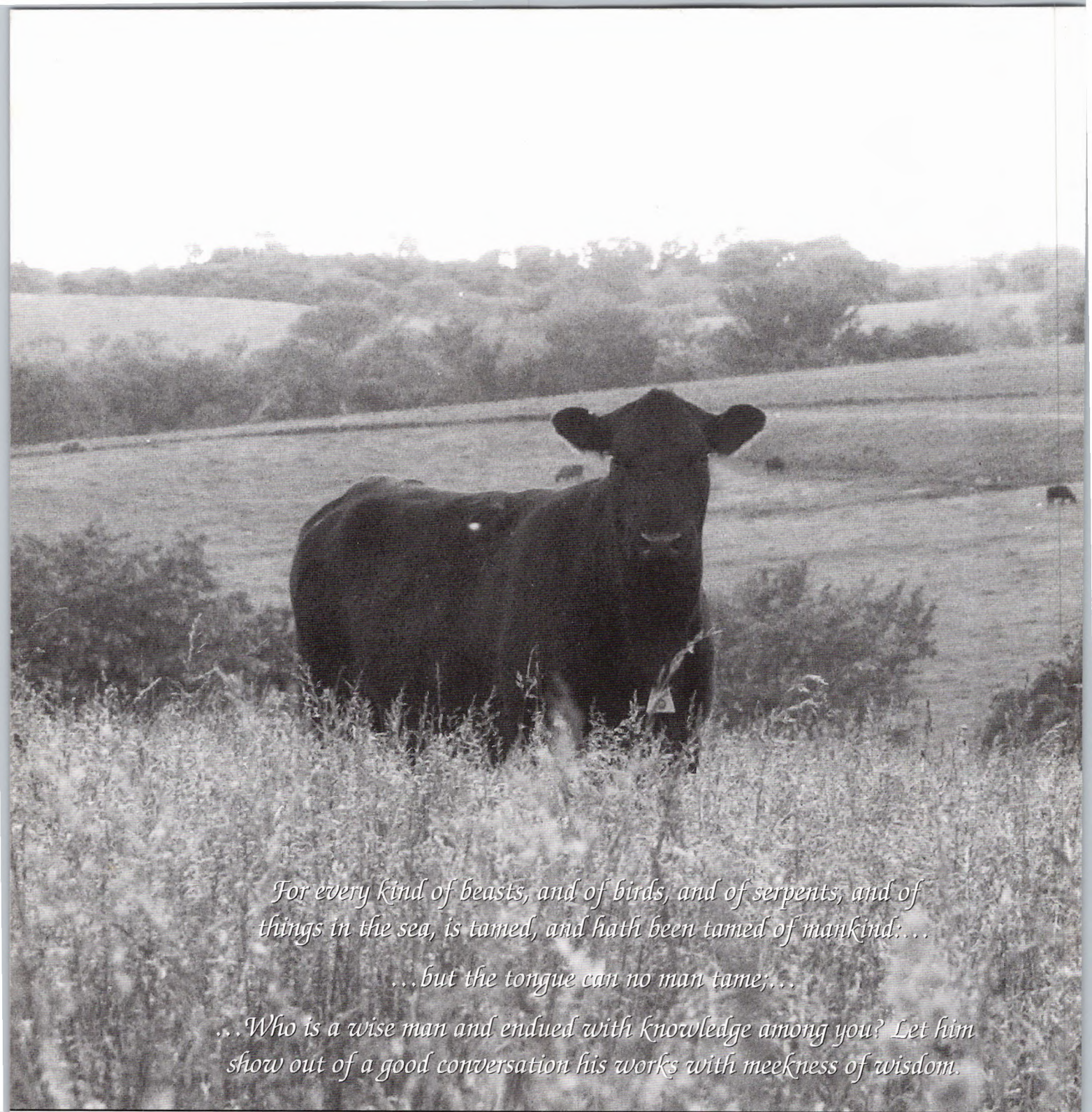
Besides teaching us better self-control, self-denial teaches us what has value in life. Instead of just following the crowd, we learn to appraise activities, food, and clothing. Someone has said, "Step out from the surging crowd and make yourself a master." This includes being masters over ourselves and over our eternal destiny. A proper sense of values is very important in life. While wealth is very convenient and reduces stress in regard to finances, it is not the most important thing in life. Many wealthy people are starving for affection, love, and understanding, and for a purpose in life. We must remember that Jesus taught us, "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." Matthew

6:20. The purpose of our lives is to bring glory to God, which requires self-denial.

Besides self-control and values, self-denial teaches us to be concerned for others. If we are living lives that are based on God's Word, and not running around spending time on the things we want and desire for no good reason, we have more time to think about others, and to show them attention and love. Jesus said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Matthew 22:39.

A person who practices self-denial willingly and joyfully, has more happiness and contentment than those who do not practice self-denial. I have no proof of that but that is my observation. We have to be careful not to be always wanting something and never getting enough. That is not the road to happiness. Paul wrote, "Having food and raiment, let us be therewith content." According to reports from our World Relief work teams, some people appear to be content even without sufficient food and raiment. The question arises, "What does it take to make a person content?" Someone asked the senior John D. Rockefeller how much money it takes to satisfy a person. He replied, "Just a little more."

Self-denial teaches us self-control, values, and concern for others. It also helps us to take better care of our bodies and it helps us to be a better testimony for our Lord.



For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:...

...but the tongue can no man tame;...

...Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? Let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

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