

The Silver Lining

*Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way,
which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

August 2004

Sermon by Bro. Wally Ramsier, Mansfield, OH

I Kings 3 and Colossians 2

We hear many times of the wisdom of Solomon. Here in this chapter it explains how that God asked him what his desire, what his wish was. He chose that he would receive wisdom to guide God's chosen children at that time. The Lord blessed him for this, for asking wisdom and not asking Him for riches or honor or the life of his enemies. But to ask wisdom. (I Kings 3:5-14)

Then as we read on of the two women, that each had a child. The one had died. How that the king brought out of the women really whose child it was. (I Kings 3:16-27) We could certainly have the feeling of those two women. Especially the one whose the living child was. Even to the point that she would give up the child so that the living child's life would not be taken.

There are many times in our life that we have opportunities to do one thing or another. As we ponder over those things, we should stop and think, what would the Lord's will be? Not my will but Thy will be done.

We read so many times that the enemy is in our land, upon us, around and about us, wanting to mislead and to misguide us. Today as we look out into the world, there is much chaos and division. Certainly the Word of God is being fulfilled, the prophecies that have been brought forth, of how the world will not calm down. As we would think with highly educated people and resources to no end, we would think that everybody could be content in this world. It seems that more and more there is discontent in the whole world, including our own land. There is much division and so forth, just as was prophesied.

It just behooves each one of us to stop and think of how are we living

our life and what are we asking God for? And then are we willing to follow the directions that God does give us? Not just to seek our own and our own will and our own pleasure, shall we say. But if we give our heart and our soul to the Lord, that we find that there is much comfort and much pleasure in doing the Lord's will. And that we have a promise that He will be with us and direct us and guide us and will give unto us a heart that we can overcome the world. It is not something that is impossible, but it is possible. It is pleasing to God if we give of our self and our time and our mind unto the Lord, here as Solomon did at this time. He asked the Lord that He would give unto him wisdom to guide His people. Because he realized at that time, he of himself did not know how to guide these people and what would be the Lord's will. So we just need to ask the Lord to direct us and guide us, that we too would be willing then, regardless of what the Lord would ask of us, willing to follow.

We don't all have the same circumstance. We don't have all the same opportunities in life. We don't all have the same trials in life. But we do all have the same opportunity that we can call upon the Lord and if we give of our self, the Lord will provide.

Paul here, of course, is writing this letter (Colossians 2). It says here that he has great conflict. "...I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;" (Colossians 2:1). Paul was, of course, one of the original missionaries. As he went out into the world at that time, he desired to speak openly to as many as would listen. And even to many that would not listen to his words. Even at that yet, he would write these letters to

those that he had seen before and those that he desired to see.

He sees here "That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father,

Sermon continued on page 45

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

August 2004

An Independent Spirit I

The strength of a church is dependent upon a strong biblical foundation and unity of the brethren based upon biblical principles. Only by the grace of God, and by working together and submitting to His Word, can a church survive.

Satan will use any method he can to try to destroy God's children and the faith that they have. One very powerful tactic that Satan uses is to encourage individuals to determine for and by themselves what is right. This method of disruption, often referred to as having an independent spirit, is a major concern in our brotherhood today.

An independent spirit can be defined as having an attitude of not feeling much need for others and as looking at things our own way. In everyday language we could call it "doing our own thing". Those with an independent spirit are much too strong in their opinions or are too sure of themselves. In the book of Judges it was described as "...every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Jud. 21:25).

There are numerous examples in the scripture of those who had an independent spirit. King Saul exhibited an independent spirit a number of times. He offered sacrifices (I Sam. 13:9-13) when Samuel didn't come when expected. He saved the best sheep and oxen for sacrifices when he was told to destroy them (I Sam. 15:13-26). He was rejected of God because of his disobedience.

Jonah displayed an independent spirit by refusing to preach to the people of Nineveh. He paid dearly because he followed his own stubborn will.

Perhaps the most striking example of an independent spirit is the fall of Lucifer. Lucifer exalted himself when he said "...I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount ... I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High" (Is. 14:13-14). If an independent spirit can lead to the fall of angels, it certainly can destroy us.

One of the strongest influences in our culture today is the attitude of an inde-

pendent spirit. We need to be sure we examine ourselves to keep the spirit of self under the control of the Holy Spirit. We need to learn to recognize the independent spirit in ourselves. Jesus said "...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Mt. 16:24).

How serious is the problem of having an independent spirit? Paul wrote that we must bring "...into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" (II Cor. 10:5). Solomon wrote "...as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:..." (Pr. 23:7). Jesus said "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Lk. 12:34). From these scripture passages we can see that it is very serious for even our thoughts, not just our actions, to be brought under the submission of the Holy Spirit.

It is possible that the influence of an independent spirit can impact us and we don't realize it. Job recognized that this can happen. He was concerned lest his "...heart hath been secretly enticed..." (Job 31:27).

How can we recognize if we have a problem with an independent spirit? A good start may be to examine how we spend our time and our resources. Do we find plenty of time to read the newspaper and other types of pleasure reading and yet struggle to find fifteen minutes each day for serious Bible study? Do we diligently keep up with financial markets or the foolishness of sports and yet have very little of the Word of God memorized? Are the private and very personal aspects of our lives focused upon God and His Word, or on thinking of the things of the world?

How do we react when things do not go our way? If we experience struggles in our marriage, do we entertain the thought of being free? Do we secretly wish we could get out of the situation rather than working our way through it?

If something happens in our church, locally or nationally, how do we respond? Do we consider changing congregations instead of working through the situation.

Or do we carry it further by entertaining the thought of leaving our church altogether? Do we entertain the thought that we are not leaving the faith, just the fellowship; when in fact, what we are doing is walking away from the faith to a broader way?

Do we have a casual attitude about things such as apparel? Do we take worship seriously? Are we in the house of God as often as we can be? Do we plan to get to church early or do we barely make it before services begin? Do we walk away from a church office or responsibility in which God has called us to serve because it might require us to change our lifestyle or because something has not gone our way? Holiness and a casual attitude are opposites.

If we have an independent spirit, it is a lot easier to justify our actions when we disagree with what is happening. How much is at stake if we are allowing an independent spirit to prevail in our lives? Does it really matter if our commitment to the principles of our church is weak?

There is much that is at stake. Our church has many unique and valuable attributes. The orderliness and reverence in our assemblies are very important. The concept of brotherhood and the concern that we have for one another are very important. The concept of brotherhood requires us to put the welfare of the body, Christ's body which is the church, above our own welfare. It requires that we forbear with one another as we help each other through this life. There are times when we will need to accept some criticism about some things we have done in order to more closely align ourselves with the body of Christ and the Word.

The degree of willingness to submit to the biblically based standards of the brotherhood tells a lot about our love for the body of Christ. Self sacrifice and obedience to God's Word will help us defeat the independent spirit.

This topic will be continued in the next issue of the Silver Lining.



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

World Relief Project Presentation

At our last meeting, a young Brother posed the question with tears in his eyes, "Why don't more people come to these meetings? This is awesome!"

Things have come a long way since World Relief was a night for the older sisters to get together to sew layettes with kimonos and string diapers, dresses and piecing together and tying quilts. Today the whole church family is involved. Our annual meetings then were focused only on sewing needs.

Today's meetings present a wide range of information. This past March they talked about Europe, Haiti's Seeds Ministry, Haiti well drilling (with the well drilling rig present), local project ideas, Child Sponsorship, Gateway Woods International Adoption, Goodfield Distribution Center (with tour), Jamaica Rocking Chairs, Empty Tomb, summer work projects, Apostolic Christian Mission opportunities, World Relief Administrative Office, and Haiti's political situation.

At these meetings, we ask speakers who have been involved personally to share God's blessings and opportunities. Sometimes it is a short talk, but usually they incorporate a talk with slides or a PowerPoint presentation.

There is also room for displays of sewing projects, Haitian linens, pictures of children waiting to be sponsored, Gateway Woods information, new information for the World Relief Representatives and Sewing Sisters, ideas for family nights, and local project samples.

We have broadened ideas and opportunities and would like to

share them with you. Everyone (this means any friend, brother, or sister, who has a thread of interest in helping others) is invited to witness first hand experiences of those who are involved with a variety of projects. When it is in a church nearby, or if your church is hosting it, what an convenient opportunity for you to attend! And what a blessing!

The dividing line for the Western and Eastern churches is the Illinois, Indiana line. The meetings held for the 52 Western churches and the 38 Eastern churches are held once a year.

The Eastern Meeting is always the second weekend in November. The next meeting will be held in West Lafayette, IN on Nov 13, 2004.

The Western Meeting is always the second weekend in March. The next meeting will be held in Cissna Park, IL on March 12, 2005.

An invitation for a church to host our upcoming meetings is always appreciated. We also welcome any requests or suggestions on topics that would be of interest to you.

Upholding World Relief

These meetings are inspiring, interesting, and informational. They explore the different avenues World Relief is reaching out to help as well as the ways that you can help.

Come to the Eastern/Western World Relief Project Presentation meetings and bring someone with you who has interest in World Relief to pick up ideas. Some ideas would be for the young group, Sunday School children, a project where a family could work together, someone wanting to go on a work team, those who would like to do something close to home, or local summer construction projects.

Local church involvement

Yes, we still have a representation of the sewing needs at the meetings. Each local World Relief Representative and Head Sewing Sister has a folder of current needs and ideas of projects. These too have changed as many of our churches now involve the whole church family starting with the children and going on to moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, aunts, uncles, and friends. The fellowship is great with the opportunity to get to know one another better as we work in the spirit of the Lord together.

Some of these local church projects are soap making, meat canning, kit packing, comforter marathons, getting to know what your community needs and filling those needs.

Many times we hear the question, "What are some ideas for our congregation to do for a World Relief Project?" We have a project list available that includes kits to make and items to collect.

Since we can't all be doing kits, you can also search out new projects concerning local needs at nursing homes, children homes, crisis centers, crisis pregnancy centers, schools and any other unique situations you may have around you to see what you could do to help them.

For any questions or suggestions call or email.....

Eastern Meeting Coordinator:
Leon Gerber (Mary Kay)
Phone: 765-728-2864
Email: leong@parlorcity.com

Western Meeting Coordinator:
Tom Schifferer (Kathy)
Phone: 847-695-7510
Email: tomandkathy@schifferer.com



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

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

Committee Meetings

Mission Committee meetings held on April 27 and July 20, 2004 are reported in this article. As has been the custom for many years, one elder brother from the World Relief Committee is present at each meeting as many projects are jointly supported by World Relief and Mission funds. The Committee is encouraged by the generous contributions which have come forth from the Brotherhood in support of our various mission projects. May God bless each one who has given in the name of the Lord and may He bless the many worthy endeavors being supported by these funds.

Communication

The Technology Committee is developing the official web site for the Apostolic Christian Church of America. This listing will provide a description of our basic doctrine and history and will enable inquirers to obtain the locations of our churches as well as other relevant information. It is expected that the site will be launched in the not too distant future.

As reported previously, several members of the Mission Committee met with a group of representatives from Illinois and Indiana college campus groups in December 2003. A follow-up letter from the Committee was distributed to the representatives. The Committee was grateful for the group's insightful questions and suggestions. It is felt that additional efforts need to be made to communicate to our Brotherhood the opportunities for mission work as well as the biblical teachings with regard to being "called" and being "sent" with a servant's heart. Ongoing communication will help strengthen our focus for the

future as we seek to present the Gospel message.

Interview

The Committee was blessed with the opportunity to meet with Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick at the April meeting. They described how the Lord has worked in their hearts through the years as they served at Gateway Woods, on various work teams and currently at Rio Bravo, Mexico. Many experiences were shared which were very helpful to the Committee. They noted the significant benefits of the Child Sponsorship program and urged that it continue to be supported, as the needs are very great. They discussed the major impact on their lives of adapting to a different culture and devoting full time to the Lord's work. They emphasized their sincere desire to work under the authority of our church in whatever assignment they may be given.

Financial reports

Financial reports of contributions and expenditures were reviewed. Allocations were approved for a variety of projects including: Christian Aid Ministries, MedSend, Spanish language Bible Story coloring books which are placed in World Relief school kits, the Magdalena, Mexico orphanage, RGMML, monthly sermon distribution, Berean Prison Ministry, and distribution of Bibles in the Congo and China.

The European Board reported on several church building projects in the Ukraine and Serbia as well as additional work being done at the Antioch building in Romania which is being used for food and clothing warehousing and distribution. The needs in Eastern Europe abound and

we are fortunate to be able to share the gifts given by God to us with others who have so little.

Reports from Mexico

It has been decided to discontinue the strawberry growing project in Ixtlan as it has not proven to be successful. A church school is under consideration and support was given by the Committee for this to be investigated.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy Huber and their children have moved from Imuris to Magdalena to assist with the development of our recently approved orphanage and school project. It is hoped that they will be ready to begin accepting girls into the orphanage by January 2005. A draft plan has been developed for staffing and future growth of the project. Approval was given by the Committee to allocate funds for paying off the loan for the site and for additional upgrading efforts. The prayers of the Brotherhood regarding this effort are greatly appreciated.

Small churches study committee

A committee will be appointed to study the unique needs of small churches and make recommendations regarding steps by which our Brotherhood can help to support and nurture these congregations. This effort is being made to help provide guidance and encouragement for supporting small churches, which is one of the objectives of the Mission Committee.

The Mission Committee continues to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as it works toward the goal of bringing the Gospel message of salvation to the lost in the "regions beyond," in accord with the teachings of God's Word.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

In our lives, we have many rules, regulations, laws, and suggestions to follow. Most of our life seems to be about following some standard that a person has established. It is essential that we remember that all the standards, rules, regulations are only necessary when we first meet the supreme standard of God and His Word. It is so easy to "feel" that following the standards is not required of us, but it is very clear in God's Word that we do need to obey those in authority over us unless it is in violation to God's Word. Often times, our adherence to laws and regulation is a testimony to others of our commitment to God. At all of our homes, we have many groups coming in to see if we are following all the rules, regulations and standards. At times it can be very comforting as well as very challenging for others to review our practices, procedures, and approaches at our work place. During these difficult times, we will look at our mission statement – "Serving According to God's Purpose" as a reminder of our commitment to the people we serve and their families, which can only be done with God's grace and love. We could not "Serve according to God's Purpose" without your prayers and support.

Being summer, many of our people enjoy the summer time activities of walks in the park, playing catch, riding bikes, drinking iced tea on the patio, picnics at a park or on the patio, staying inside

during the heat and humidity. We do enjoy the sun's rays and warmth as it is a constant reminder of God's goodness. Our people have gone on Day Trips with their friends and it is always refreshing to "get away" for a time of renewal with our friends and family.

SEPTEMBER birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550 are: Edward Green (9/3), Judith Vicic (9/3), Marta Graber (9/9), Michael Culkin (9/10), Richard Harvey (9/14), Glenn Getz (9/20), Cynthia Sigulas (9/22), Michael Bedford (9/26), Ethel Borinstein (9/29).

At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550: Nancy Theis (9/25).

At Linden Estate, 1000 Linden St., Morton, IL 61550: Kristy Dotterer (9/1), Brent Rebuck (9/24), James Maupin (9/24).

At 431 W. David St., Apt. G, Morton, IL 61550: Marlene Esslinger (9/8).

At 652 Detroit St., Morton, IL 61550: Angela Massner (9/9).

At 338 E. Hazelwood, Morton, IL 61550: David Taylor (9/13).

At 208 S. Indiana Ave., Morton, IL 61550: David Maupin (9/20).

At 241 S. Minnesota, Morton, IL 61550: Janet Schweigert (9/10).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Tim Wiegand

The Gateway Woods motto "Turning Lives Around" is a fitting one. Through the various ministries associated with Gate-

way Woods, many people are given the time and resources necessary to turn their lives around in a very real and positive way. Ultimately, this happens through the power of God and a transforming encounter with Jesus Christ. Here at the residential campus we are able to see first hand the trials and triumphs that take place when a child and his or her family are exposed, sometimes for the first time, to the truths found in the Word of God. Sometimes, after being presented with the remedy for a heart and life burdened with sin, residents will acknowledge that the Bible is true and that Jesus really was crucified and resurrected for their sins but sadly they are not willing to submit their lives to His control. They know that submitting to the Lord involves change.

I have a friend that says, "People change, just not very much." The fact is, almost no one really enjoys change. It seems that humans are prone to habits and addictions that are dangerous. Ask someone that is addicted to tobacco, alcohol, gambling, pornography or drugs. They will testify that these addictions are destroying them but they cannot or will not stop their destructive behavior. One of the reasons for this is that the pain involved in changing their lifestyle does not appear to be worth the benefits of living free from these sins.

As believers, our lives need to be a testimony of the joy and peace that a life changed by God can bring. But Christians often resist change just as much as an alco-

holic or drug addict. Believers are instructed to grow in grace but growth always involves change and is rarely easy. Our flesh is constantly trying to build habits that keep us in our comfort zone, but out of our comfort zone is exactly where Jesus calls us to be. It is sometimes very uncomfortable to tell our co-workers about Jesus or to resolve a conflict with our brother or to lovingly submit to one another. These tasks are not easy, but Jesus asks us to deny our flesh, pick up our cross every day and walk down a narrow road. What He offers us is not comfortable living but it is Christian living and He promises us the grace to be victorious.

Ministry Update

Gateway Woods would like to welcome Bro. Jason and Sis. Joy Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) and their children, Courtney (8), Tyler (6), and Landon (2) to our campus as Houseparents. We are so thankful for their willingness to come, and we trust that God will bless their hearts of service. The Kilgus family will be replacing the Bro. Erik and Sis. Carrie Wiegand family. We are thankful to God for the Wiegand's 3 years of faithful service and that they will be staying in the Leo area.

We at Gateway Woods would like to offer a huge thanks to our four summer-long volunteers, Sis. Angie Sutter (Taylor, MO), Bro. Morgan Langhofer (Phoenix, AZ), Sis. Sarah Hodel (Roanoke, IL), and Sis. Heidi Knobloch (Morton, IL). They have been such a blessing to the staff and children of

Gateway Woods! We appreciate their hearts of service.

Gateway Woods offers congratulations to the 2004 Social Services Scholarship award winners. The following individuals were awarded the \$1,500 scholarship: Sis. Heidi Knobloch (Morton, IL), Sis. Nicole Knobloch (Morton, IL), Sis. Marti Hinrichsen (Goodfield, IL), and Bro. Brian Sutter (Taylor, MO). We had over a dozen qualified applicants. Thanks to all who applied!

The recently completed Gateway Woods Family Services office in Morton is working out very well. The new building at 923 Detroit Court, Suite 3, (309) 266-0767 will allow us to serve our clients more efficiently and effectively. We praise God for everyone who has donated time, talent, and treasure towards this project.

We are eagerly anticipating our annual benefit Auction. Thanks for everyone who has donated items, sent a special Auction donation, made plans to be at the Auction, and prayed for God's hand to be with us on August 21, 2004.

Please remember to pray for Gateway Woods' 6 programs: Residential Child Care, Gateway Woods School, Home-Based Services, Foster Care, Adoption, and Family Services. These programs are touching hundreds of lives with the power of Jesus Christ. We are grateful for your continued prayers and support.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Melissa Slagel

Summer is coming to a close and we are preparing for our new school year. With children there is always so much change. It is fascinating and exciting to see their little minds and bodies continually grow and you can see so much change in so little time. Then comes the time when you have to let them move on, and that part is the change I wish we didn't have to have. Little people can attach to your heart pretty strongly. We are saying goodbye to several more children in the next week as they start "big school". It is a big step for them, meeting new friends and teachers. Some of them have been here since they were potty trained. We know God will be with them as their little wings begin to open up.

Now God is blessing us with new students. I don't know why it is so amazing to me how God answers prayer. He promises us He will and so as He does, why do I stand in such awe? His goodness is everlasting. Our prayer has been that God will send children to us so that we can grow and keep teaching about His love, and thankfully our prayers are being answered. Keep us in your prayers as well that the children who don't know about Jesus can come our way.

A very big and special thank you to our volunteers, Sis. Shelly Hinrichsen and Kristen Davis from Goodfield, IL; and Renee Slagel from Fairbury, IL. We appreciate all the work you accom-

plished with painting, cleaning and spending time with the children. God bless you all for your time, efforts and shining attitudes. We hope you received as much blessing from your experience here as we did. Anyone interested in coming to volunteer, e-mail Bro. Mike Moore, ALM38@aol.com or by phone at (256) 729-0620, or call the preschool at (256) 233-0591.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Louise Hall

Greetings from Athens! We have had a busy month and we have so much to rejoice about. Bro. Tim Hall was baptized on July 11. There were so many who came in support of Bro. Tim and we are so thankful for all of you. It was like a reunion seeing all of you who have lived here in years past and you have such a special place in our hearts. We want to thank our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) and also ministering Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH) for coming and serving us. Bro. Dave Bertsch (Leo, IN) also was able to make the trip and we felt blessed to see him again.

Thank you to our other visiting ministers this month: Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Eric Coulter as he has joined the armed forces. His parents are Bro. David and Sis. Barbara Coulter. May God be with him every day and bring him home safely. His address is:

C B Tri 79th
1st PLT
5001 Ruthwell St.
Fort Seal, Oklahoma
73503-8017

Also our prayers go out to Carolyn Lewis as she has had eye surgery. She is the daughter of Sis. Corrine Thomas. Also to Sis. Louise Haggemaker who has been down this month with her leg.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

“In God I will put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.”

Psalm 56:11

We extend our sympathy to several due to the death of loved ones: Bro. Ron and Sis. Marge Lindenbaum in the June 20 passing of his mother in Illinois. Sis. Wanda Hoerr and Sis. Candy Meiss in the death of their uncle, Jim Gudeman, in Indiana. Bob and Arlene Farney as her mother, Sis. Alice Tanner, passed away June 26. Sis. Alice recently celebrated her 100th birthday in Kiowa. Sis. Wilma Pulfer went to Minnesota for her stepfather, Karl Klages' funeral.

We welcome Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill Huette and children, Nathan, Phillip and Janelle, from Tremont IL.

Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago) was our visiting minister.

Sis. Lois Niemeyer suffered a hand injury. Bro. Jim Beres is undergoing chemotherapy and needs our prayers, as does Bro.

Howard Maurer, who is in therapy after a stroke.

Vladimir, Carmen and Spencer Okhmatovski are moving to Winnipeg, Canada, where he has taken employment.

The greatest news ever, is when one answers God's call. Amy Emch is enjoying this delightful feeling, and has made a beginning in repentance. Parents, Bro. James and Sis. Gina, are thankful, as are two sets of grandparents.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We've had several work teams travel through Tucson recently on their way to Magdalena, Mexico. We enjoyed having two visiting ministers as part of one group. Bro. Randy Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) were both gracious enough to lend themselves in service on the pulpit. We thank them both for their willingness to open the Word with us.

We are enjoying the start of our monsoon season (as the most recent work team was able to experience at the park!) with its thunderstorms, lightning and rain. Most of us have the privilege of enjoying the "show" from indoors where it is much safer. It's really a nice break from the unrelenting heat and sunshine of our typical summer afternoons.

To Whom It May Concern:
Please notify Bro. Curt Kaufman when a work team is planning on traveling through Tucson. In the event you can't contact Bro. Curt,

please contact Bro. Brad Bauer or Bro. Jay Knapp. Due to our small numbers, it is really helpful if you keep trying to make contact until you actually speak with someone so that we can make the necessary arrangements. Thank you so much!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Robin Moser

“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.”

Psalm 32:1

This month's news included some of the younger in our congregation. We rejoiced with Joseph Klotzle (Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody) as he began his repentance and walk with the Lord. How wonderful to see God working in our youth to further His kingdom.

Justin Klotzle (Bro. David and Sis. Janelle) was hospitalized this month for an appendectomy and subsequent infection. We are thankful that Justin is recovering, and has kept a great attitude during the slow healing process.

We welcomed Sis. Stephany Moser back to Altadena for a couple weeks. We are thankful that the Lord has watched over her whether near or far.

We recently enjoyed visits from two Minnesota families who made an extra effort to drive and fellowship with us in Sunday church. May they be richly blessed. We welcome all who are traveling through the area to worship with us.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Peggy Jevremov

Greetings! Once more we were blessed with visitors. Among them was Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA) and ministering Bro. Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ). We pray the Lord will reward them for their willingness to be used on our behalf.

At our annual business meeting, Bro. Denes Fulop was elected as trustee to replace Bro. Joe Kaplar, whose term had expired. We pray the Lord will bless Bro. Joe for his time serving on the board of trustees. Also, Sunday School teachers were elected. Bro. Phillip Petrovic was re-elected as superintendent and Sis. Rachel Petrovic was re-elected as preschool - 2nd grade teacher. We pray the Lord will guide them as they instruct our little ones in the ways of God.

We rejoice with Bro. Andras Molnar and Sis. Ranada Pauser as their betrothal was made known to us. We pray the Lord's blessings upon their engagement and marriage.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

Ingrid Fortenbacher

Greetings to each one in the name of our Saviour and Lord. With summer upon us we have been blessed with many visitors for which we are very thankful. We hosted our annual Invite a friend weekend on the Memorial Day weekend. We appreciate all those who made the trip and

helped make it a blessed time of fellowship.

After what seems like a very long time, we are finally enjoying some very nice weather. It came just in time for us to enjoy our Sunday school picnic on June 12. We are so thankful for our many Sunday school children.

Those of us, who were able to, met on July 9 for an evening of clothes sorting at the Christian Aide Ministries. It's always so nice to spend time with brethren and feel productive at the same time.

Our visiting ministers these past two months were Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL), Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose, Smithville, OH), Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL), Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT), Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane, Rockville, CT), and Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI). Our gratitude towards these dear brothers who serve so selflessly can never be fully appreciated. It wasn't until talking to a minister's wife recently that I fully realized how great a burden it is on the individual who is asked to serve us. It was just a reminder to me to continuously keep these brothers in my prayers. The Lord truly does bless us through them.

COLORADO, DENVER

Ann Gonglach

I was blessed to have a godly great-aunt living near me while I grew up, who never had any children of her own. When I was little,

she slipped me Life Savers candies in church. As I got older, she prayed for me. When she died at age 105, my mother found the following poem among her things. I'll never forget the example of quiet patience she was to me.

Patience

I will wait patiently for Him
Who doeth all things well.
In wisdom He my feet shall
guide —

This, time will surely tell.
Be still, my every anxious
Thought!

Nor murmur, nor complain,
But patiently abide His time,
Till He shall make it plain.

—Amos W. Ballinger

We are all blessed with older brothers and sisters in the faith who have been examples to us, prayed for us and encouraged us. Some of them struggle with their health as they age. Let's remember to uphold them in prayer and help them whenever we can.

We were happy to have several guest ministers during July: Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL), Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria, IL), and Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA). We're thankful for their service to us.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Laura Virkler
Amber Reutter**

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;
Heed the word of God today!
Haste to flee His condemnation;
Seek the straight and narrow way.
Zion's Harp #52

We rejoice that another soul has made a beginning in repentance. We wish Rachel Virkler (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Susan) much grace as she takes this step in her life. May many more hear and answer the call while there is yet time.

We also had the wonderful privilege this past month of taking two souls into the fold as dear sisters, Sis. Amanda Virkler (John and Sis. Maureen) and Sis. Heather Mangold (David). It was uplifting to hear their testimonies of faith and pray that God will be near them always as they strive to keep the vows they have made. With us for this weekend was Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL).

With us visiting this month was ministering Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH). We are always grateful when visiting brethren worship with us and willingly give themselves to speak God's Word to us.

There have been a number in our congregation that have been under the care of physicians this past month. Our prayers are with Louis Ott (Sis. Tillie), Bro. Ken Schulz (Sis. Lois) and Bro. Leon Schneider (Sis. Martha).

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

Summer is here and it is vacation time. We are glad so many have included a time of worship with us as they visited the nation's capital. At the same time many from this congregation have had

the opportunity to visit family and friends in other parts of the country. We, too, are glad for the privilege of assembling with those of like mind and faith in other places.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy) (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda) (Philadelphia, PA), and Bro. John Jackson (Bay City, MI). Other visitors were from Bloomington, Cissna Park and Gridley, IL; Lester and West Bend, IA; Morris, MN; Bluffton, Bluffton North, Milford, and Remington, IN; Junction and Rittman, OH; Kansas City, MO; Bay City, MI; and Philadelphia, PA.

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 were fed by the Word and blessed to have with us visiting ministers this past month. Visiting were Bros. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL), Marvin Steffen (Sis. Rhea, North Ft. Myers, FL) and Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL). We pray for God's blessings on His servants.

Congratulations to Heather (Mike and Renee Mangold) and DJ Reed upon their wedding. Our prayers would be that they would have a Godly and blessed marriage. Also, Heather and DJ are relocating to Roanoke, IL and we send them prayerfully with God to their new home.

Sis. Renee Mangold's father recently underwent bypass surgery. It would be our prayer that God would lay His healing hand upon him and that he would fully recover soon.

Terry Baer has accepted a job transfer to Monterrey, Mexico. We pray that God would bless him in his new job and his new home.

Bro. Bob Huber (Sis. Doris) continues to improve and we are keeping him in our prayers for a complete recovery.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Mary Masters**

We have had an unusually dry summer until this past week. The daily rains have been welcome.

We were so pleased to have our dear Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz, and his wife, Sis. Jenni, visit us over

the 4th of July. We thank them for their generous input to our congregation.

Sis. Jane Huette has bid farewell to her father, Jay Millard, who died recently. She also lost her mother this past year. Her parents were both residents of Restmor Nursing Home in Morton in the latter time of their lives. Let us keep Jane in our prayers.

We continue to be blessed by visitors who come to our area to vacation with their children. Our normal Sunday School size is two. Last week, we had to take down the table in our Sunday School room to accommodate the students we had! It is such a joy to have visitors and we thank each and every one who comes to worship with us.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Carol Koehl**

We rejoice with Sis. Mandy Koehl (Morton, IL) and Bro. Dustin Hodel (Roanoke, IL) in the announcement of their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl and Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty Hodel.

On June 25, Jean (Eisenmann) Shackelford and Clyde Earley were united in marriage. We trust the Lord will continue to guide and bless these two couples.

Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI) visited us recently, and we wish to thank them for bringing us the Word.

What a joy it was to recognize Bro. Lloyd Pflederer's 90th birthday in July!

Bro. Ernie Buser spent some

time in the hospital this past month. We are thankful he made a quick recovery and is back in church again.

**ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Doreen Moser
Sheila McCoy**

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

Matthew 5:16

Learning memory verses is always a challenge for me. I need to say it, write it, think about what it means and then make sure I apply it to my life. The above verse certainly causes me to wonder what kind of a light I am and what good works do people see in my life? Are they enough for others to want to glorify my Father in Heaven?

Many of the lights that shine in our church family are the ministers that come and share the Word with us. Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL). Bro. Art Mueller shed the light of the Word as he held our monthly topical Bible study and our monthly Madison Bible study. As our Madison Bible study was well attended with visitors, the Lord was truly glorified as we blended our voices in song.

Showing good works and letting their light shine, Dave and Sis. Sheila McCoy, along with Bro. Thad and Sis. Elizabeth Heinold, hosted the all church picnic. From the youngest to the oldest, all

were blessed in gathering together.

We are thankful as a congregation that our Elder Bro. Ronald Schambach's light will be shining much brighter as he is recovering from surgery. We look forward to meeting and greeting him soon. Our prayers are also with Sis. Karen Spencer as she has had some medical problems.

"Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house."

Matthew 5:15

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**

**Kara Martin
Rebekah Kaufmann**

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: because His mercy endureth forever." Psalm 118:1

Dustin Huber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Debbie) is seeking the Lord. We are thankful God is still calling souls to Him.

We have been blessed with two new lives this month. On June 21, Sophia Anne was born to Bro. Justin and Sis. Heather Meece. Her big sister is Emma. Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Meece, and Byron and Sis. Katie Martin (Gridley, IL) are her thankful grandparents. Bro. Andy and Sis. Marie Kaufmann and siblings, Joseph and Maggie, welcomed Chet Robert on July 13. His happy grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie Kaufmann and Bro. Phil and Sis. Carol Gutwein (Francesville, IN).

Two couples have been joined in marriage, and we wish them God's blessings as they share life together. Ben Gudeman and Rachel Schieler were married on June 26. Their parents are Dan Gudeman (Chicago, IL) and Sis. Rebecca Gudeman (Indianapolis, IN), and Bro. Darl and Sis. Cindy Schieler. Bro. Dave and Sis. Christine Zeller's son, Abe, married Emily Schoppet on July 2. Her parents are Alan and Linda Schoppet (Gridley, IL).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Kay Knapp (Bro. Keith), Sis. Barb Stevig (Bro. Larry), and Sis. Marilyn Hohulin (Bro. Ed) on the passing of their father, Bro. Dale Walder (Cissna Park, IL) on June 21.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Steve Endress**

We were thankful to have two visiting ministers with us in the past month. Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) were useful in the ministry and we thank them for their efforts.

We are thankful to have our friend, Elizabeth Conzo, joining our congregation. She moved from Columbus, OH, and is residing in Davenport, IA. We wish Elizabeth the blessings and nearness of God as she continues her repentance and hope that the church can be a strength and support to her, even as she has already been to us.

We continue to pray for our Elder brothers as they confer together. As an Elder brother said recently, let us not forget to lift up

one another in prayer, and especially our Elders in times of decision; but more than that, keep our eyes upon the Lord Jesus Christ and be faithful to His Word.

**ILLINOIS
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
Karla Kieser**

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 5:13-16

These verses were the focus for the Sunday School children who had Vacation Bible School the week of June 20th. A big "thank you" to all who volunteered their time to teach, help with craft projects and provided snacks. VBS was followed by the Sunday School picnic at Hessel Park in Champaign the following Sunday. The students were all given a worksheet with an activity that required interaction with the adults. The students were to find out who did whatever activity listed on the worksheet. It was so cute to watch the kids try to figure out who would have "broken their finger playing football" or

who "worked as a mechanic".

The World Relief Work Team came through the week of June 14-18 to do some house repairs for a local family. We appreciate all who came and to help whether it was to do manual labor or to bring lunch. Another precious soul gave her testimony and was baptized the weekend of June 26-27. We rejoice with new Sister in Christ Chalise Steffen and her family and pray that she will continue to feel God's love and continue to grow in grace. She is the daughter of Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth Steffen from Cissna Park. Sis. Chalise is a graduate of the local community college and working in Champaign and we appreciate her very much. We thank Elder Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor), Tom Stock (Cissna Park), and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) for assisting with this work.

We grieve for the family of Bro. Dale Walder who passed away at the age of 73 at Carle Arbours in Champaign. He is the brother of Bro. Melvin Walder (Sis. Irma) and the uncle of Bro. John Walder (Sis. Lisa).

We thank our visiting ministers from this past month. In addition to the Elder brothers mentioned above, we were thankful for the services of Bros. Frank Sauder (Roanoke), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke), and Marvin Dotterer (Forrest).

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings to all from Chicago. Each month as I write this article, I think of the people reading it and

I wonder how all of you are. I've been "on the job" for a year or so now and I hope and pray that the events that have occurred in your lives have made you stronger and closer to God, and that you have received blessings and joy! We are a family spread across the globe and we are called to belong. "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God" (Eph. 2:19).

It was with much joy that the Chicago congregation heard that God has called Bro. Steve Hofstetter and Sis. Tammy Zimmerman to belong together as husband and wife. They have both assembled with us for some time now and we have grown to love them very much. Sis. Tammy's parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Madelyn of Roanoke, IL. We extend our congratulations and wishes for many years of happiness.

A new baby boy has been born to Greg and Rachel Carder (grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi). Zachary Ryan joins two-year-old twin sisters, Katherine and Sierra. We pray that God will bless this dear family and we send congratulations and love to all.

We were happy to have received visits from four ministers this month. They are Bros. Tim Roecker and Tim Funk (Peoria), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park), and Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO). Thank you, brothers, and please come again.

It was a privilege for our Sin-

gles Group to host Single Focus Weekend (a gathering of working singles) on July 10-11. The theme was "In the World, but not of the World." It was well attended and a blessing to all. A sincere thank you goes out to the ministers who took the time to come and share Spirit-inspired exhortations. They are Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley), Andy Moser (Valparaiso), Fred Witzig (Indianapolis) and Tim Funk (Peoria).

I'd like to share a thought that came to me a couple of days ago as I was trying to strengthen and build up muscle in an arm I broke several years ago, which is hard work! It is taking a lot more time and attention than I thought. But I need to do this because sometimes I get nervous picking up a child for fear of dropping him/her, or I'm nervous when I'm sharing my end of the load carrying a heavy object because I don't want to hurt someone. Plus, I just don't like feeling the weakness. Feeling spiritual weakness is not pleasant either, and we are taught in the Word that we draw much strength by being an active part of Christ's Body, the church. "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." (Eph. 4:16).

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Andrea Walder
Susan Waldbeser

“For this God is our God for ever and ever: He will be our guide even unto death.”

Psalm 48:14

We were saddened to say farewell, yet thankful that Bro. Dale Walder could be relieved of his earthly suffering. Our prayers and sympathy go out to his family and especially his dear wife, Sis. Dorothy, who faithfully stood by his side for many years. We think of his children, Ron and Louise Walder, Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay Knapp, Bro. Barb and Sis. Larry Stevig, Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn Hohulin, Bro. Russ and Sis. Darlene Walder and Joe and Tricia Walder and the many grandchildren that will miss him. We also want to remember his brother, Bro. Les Walder, from our congregation. It is our prayer that each of these dear ones will find peace and comfort during this time of sorrow.

We are grateful to the following ministers for serving us this past month: Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Bro. David Oberfel (Peoria, IL), Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA). May God bless these brothers for being willing servants.

June 27 we had the blessed opportunity of gathering together for our annual all church picnic at the fellowship hall.

It is with sadness in our hearts that we bid farewell to Sis. Shonda

Maul (Mike and Sis. Kathy) as she moves to Silverton, OR. We will miss her smiling face here in Cissna Park and pray that God will keep her in His tender care until we meet again.

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

Each step I take my Saviour goes
 before me
 And with His loving hand He leads
 the way
 And with each breath I whisper “I
 adore Thee”
 Oh, what joy to walk with Him
 each day.

We rejoice with Sis. Alicia Maul (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann) and Bro. Lee Fehr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon) of West Bend as their engagement was made known to the church. May God direct each step they take during this engagement time.

Notes of Thanks:

A heartfelt thanks for the love, kindness and prayers shown to us at the time of our father’s passing. May God bless each and every one of you.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie Kaeb

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who so generously supported us through Dale’s illness and since his passing. We thank you for the cards, gifts, calls and especially for the prayers that were offered for him and us. We will never forget your love and kindness. May God richly

bless you.

God saw that he was getting tired
 and a cure was not to be;
 So He put his arms around him
 and whispered, “come with
 me”.

With tearful eyes of silence, we
 saw him fade away.
 Although we loved him dearly we
 could not make him stay.
 A golden heart stopped beating;
 hard working hands laid to rest.
 God broke our hearts to prove to
 us, He only takes the best.

The Dale Walder family

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Rachel Schrock

One Sunday morning, the minister read from St. Matthew 6 where the Lord teaches us all how to pray. We were encouraged that this model prayer is simple yet sincere, and that is how our prayers should usually be, understanding that life’s trials sometimes cause us to need to pray until the morning light shines through.

We are thankful that Bro. Rudy and Sis. Katie Wiegand have sincerely prayed for the Lord’s direction and have been willing to follow His leading back to Central Illinois. We welcome them and their darling children into our congregation.

Prayers of many hearts have been answered lately as three dear souls have turned their lives to the Lord. Andy Stevens, Caleb Zobrist (Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie) and Elizabeth Virkler (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gayle) began their walk on the straight and narrow

path that leads to Heaven. We wish them grace to carry them through the joys and burdens that this new life will bring.

Ruth Miller (Elmer, deceased), a dear soul who attended our church for many years, recently passed from this life. Our prayers are with her children, Linda Lou Coggan of Cocoa, FL, and Duane Miller of Congerville, as they adjust to life without her nearness. May God fill the emptiness they feel.

We welcome Sis. Whitney Anderson (Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee) and Sis. Martha Hoerr (Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne) into the fold as they proclaimed the weekend of July 11 that God has filled their empty lives with His wondrous peace. Visiting ministering brethren that helped in this work were Elder Bros. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington) and Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park), Bros. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott), Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott), John Lehman (Sis. RuthAnn, Wolcott) and Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy, Wolcott).

Other visiting ministers this month include Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka), Bros. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rose, Goodfield), Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka), Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan, Elgin, IA), Dan Stoller (Sis. Debra, Remington), Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern), John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury), Dale Frank (Sis. Christine, Oakville) and Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City). We thank them for joining us as we wit-

nessed the marriage of Bro. Clint Metzger (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley, West Bend) to Sis. Kayla Steffen (Kent and Sis. Beth) on July 4. May they simply and sincerely pray daily together as they begin their new life as one in the Lord.

Prayers have been felt by our recent hospital patients. Bro. Ben Knapp and Perry Hartman (Bro. Jim and Sis. Ree) are recovering well. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Marilyn McClure and their family have also felt the prayers of the brethren as they suffered loss of earthly possessions during the F4 tornado that came through our area. May God continue to be near them all as they put the pieces of life back together again.

Note of Thanks:

My family and I want to thank everyone for all the many prayers, visits, cards and meals sent during my recuperation from knee surgery. They were all very much appreciated. May the Lord bless you for all your love and kindness.

Sis. Mardell Ott (Bro. Glen)

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy Schambach returned home safely, after spending over three weeks in Canada. Their plans to be in Regina for services June 27 had been disrupted by Bro. Ron's need for medical treatment. During hospitalization in Calgary, tests revealed that open-heart surgery was required; and a triple

bypass was performed on July 7. Bro. Ron has made gradual progress since then, and our prayers are that it will continue.

We benefited from the ministry of Bros. Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL) and Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), who came to visit their families in the past month. May God bless them.

As late Summer brings thoughts of Fall, students and teachers anticipate their return to school. Sisters Alison Schambach (Bro. Les) and Karen Weiss (Bro. Roger) were selected as our new Sunday School teachers. We thank Sisters Lynette Buckheister (Bro. Bob) and Kay Kellenberger for their labors, knowing that all of these sisters have an important role in sowing the good seed in tender hearts.

It's hard to bid farewell to Sis. Kay and Bro. Dan Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida), who have accepted teaching positions outside Illinois. Sis. Kay plans to depart in early August for a one-year term in Tokyo, Japan, while Bro. Dan will be teaching at the Heritage School near Rittman, OH. May God's blessings rest on their endeavors.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Shaena Dietz are thankful for a new addition to their family. Leighton John was born July 3 and is welcomed home by his brother Logan and sister Ashlyn. The happy grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Leann Schambach and Bro. Ken and Sis. Mardell Dietz (Bradford, IL).

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay Cargill were pleased to announce the ar-

rival of another grandson, Justus Lee. He was born July 9 to Darren and Rachel (Cargill) Richardson of Annapolis, MD.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Cindy Stoller
Lisa Metzger**

We rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Chris and Sis. Jill Wynkoop, in the birth of their son, Noah Christopher. Grandparents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Elaine Blunier and Harold Wynkoop (Eureka) and Vickie McQuellon (Peoria).

Our prayers are with Jonathan Leman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy) as he begins his repentance. May the Lord provide sufficient grace to complete this work.

Several of our congregation visited Congerville for the wedding of Bro. Clint Metzger (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley, West Bend, IA) and Sis. Kayla Steffen (Kent and Sis. Beth, Congerville, IL) on July 4. We wish them God's rich blessings as they walk through this life together.

Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) shared the Word with us this month. May God's blessings be upon him and his family for his labors on our behalf.

Those who have endured surgery or illness recently are dear Sisters Ruth Feucht, Ruby Grusy, Clara Lou Blunier (Bro. Lewis) and Louise Rocke (Bro. Ray). We know the Lord will provide for them during these times of difficulty.

We pray for Sis. Viola Leman (Bro. Vernon) as she has experienced the loss of her brother, Bro.

Howard Beer (Milford, IN). May the Lord be near and grant comfort.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Anna Schmidgall
Tammy Hinrichsen**

Greetings of love from Fairbury. Heaven and the children of God rejoice at the news of yet another soul coming to Christ: Dale McCasky. Dale and his two daughters, Rachel and Mariah, have just recently made Fairbury their home congregation. We welcome them as part of our family!

Loved ones in the hospital this month were Andy Mashburn and Sis. Carol Kafer. We pray for complete healing and for God's nearness and strength.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the families of Sis. Anna Louise Hibsich, 98, who passed away on July 5; and Sis. Martha Maier, 100, who passed away on July 10. May the Lord comfort them as only He can.

The third weekend of June was filled with joy! We were blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three dear souls. Our new brother and sisters in Christ are Derrick and Joslyn Steidinger (Dave and Deann Steidinger, Dan and Marcie Grosshans) and Janelle Steidinger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn). May God bless and keep each of them.

June 26 was the wedding day for Trent Runyon (Bro. Mark and Julie) and Michelle Fryman (Dusty and Sharon). We trust that God will be with this couple as they walk down the pathway of

life together.

The last Sunday of June was the day for our Sunday School picnic. As always, the picnic was enjoyed by all. This was also Bro. Ted Steidinger's last Sunday as a Sunday School teacher and superintendent. May God bless Bro. Ted and Sis. Sara for all of the time and effort that they have given to our precious children. We also offer our support and prayers to our new Sunday School teacher, Bro. Bryan (Sis. Kara) Stoller.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT), Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Ralph Garber (Sis. Lynn, Morton, IL). Thank you for your labors and for worshipping with us.

A note of thanks to our Sis. Joann Zehr who has helped write the Silver Lining news from Fairbury for the past six years (as well as a previous term). She has been a joy to work with and an excellent example to follow. Sis. Joann is being replaced by Sis. Anna Schmidgall. May God reward each of these dear sisters.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jill Wenger
Lori Dotterer**

Beloved brethren, fare ye well!
As we must part, in love we tell,
Farewell; until we meet again...

Hymns of Zion #230

We bid a fond farewell to Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy Young and daughter, Sis. Tami, as they have

relocated to Silverton, OR, for a job opportunity. May this dear family feel the presence of the Lord no matter where they call home. We will miss them assembling with us here in Forrest.

We as a congregation want to thank Sis. Barb Edelman for her years of dedicated service in teaching the young children in Sunday School about Jesus and His love for them. May the Lord bless Sis. Barb for her special love of children.

“And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”

Luke 11:9

We are so thankful Jeremy Leman (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol) has opened his heart's door to the Saviour in repentance. Our prayers are with him as he learns to walk with the Lord.

We share the news of the engagement of Bro. Ben Leman (Sis. Donna and the late Bro. Bob) to Sis. Lori Dotterer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy). We pray the blessings of the Lord be upon this new couple as they take this important step in faith.

Justin Nicholas is the newest addition to the family of Bro. Brian and Sis. Marie Ricketts. Thankful siblings are Emily, Laura, Phillip, Matthew and Megan, along with grandparents, Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean Ricketts and Bro. Ken and Sis. Janice Steffen.

We were recently blessed with the ministry of Bro. Carroll

Gerber of the Bluffton North congregation and Bro. Ken Weerts of Cissna Park. May God continue to bless the efforts of those who bring forth the message of salvation.

Hospitalizations this month include Sis. Doris Koehl and Bro. Wayne (Sis. Nancy) Zimmerman. They have already felt the healing power from above for which we are thankful.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Rita Bauman
Heather Hohulin**

We rejoice to hear that Michelle Schwenk (Tim) has found peace with God. We pray that God will continue to be with her and her family. We look forward to hearing how God worked in her life and witnessing her baptism.

Ryan and Sis. Elizabeth Knapp welcomed home a baby girl. Emerie Ann is also welcomed by her brother, Cade.

Rod, Robyn, Halle and Tessa Wiegand welcomed home their new baby boy, Dakota Lou. We pray for each of these families and wish them Gods blessings.

Joshua Wyss and Jennifer Scheitlin were joined in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Susie Wyss and Dave and Denise Scheitlin. May God be with them as they start a new life together.

Our prayers are with Sis. Carolyn Rokey as she has been hospitalized. May the Lord strengthen her daily.

Notes of Thanks:

Sam and I would like to thank everyone for your prayers, before, during and after my surgery. When I got home, those of you who came up to visit, we enjoyed it so much. The phone calls, and again the thoughts and prayers, got me through and climbing up the hill.

Sam and Sandy Hohulin

Please accept our deepest heartfelt thanks for your many prayers, visits, cards, letters and words of encouragement for mother during her stay at the nursing home. Also for your prayers, food, cards, and expressions of sympathy at her death. May God Bless You.

The Anna Marti Family

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

“...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”

John 8:31-32

Continuing in the truth can be accomplished by the grace of God. Our remaining in the truth through faithful obedience to the Word is to precede our being true disciples. How thankful we can be that the truth, and following it, will make us free of sin. Freedom from sin is a wonderful blessing, and requires lifelong diligence.

The passing of Sis. Viola L. Hany on July 21 (at age 83) was a sadness for our congregation. Her gentleness and kindly smile will be missed by everyone. She is survived by three daughters: Sis. Lila

Schlipf, Gridley, Joyce Hendron, Gridley, and Doris Ziegler, Concord, Georgia; and two sons, John Hany, Ellisville, Missouri, and Gary Hany, El Paso; 14 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Also, she is survived by one brother, Joe Jenkins, El Paso; and one sister, Bernice Kuranda, Cecil, Wisconsin.

Her husband, the late Bro. Chester "Chet" Hany, passed away on December 30, 1982. They had been married for 36 years.

Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) were visiting ministers on July 18. We are appreciative of their labors, and may the Lord bless them. When the Scriptures are read and the meditation comes from a humble heart, the congregation benefits.

Bro. Bernie Ferneau was nominated to serve on the Fairview Haven Board. Bro. Todd Witzig is the new board member on the Sunrise Manor board. Elected as song leaders were Bros. Phillip Romersberger and Eric Zehr. Elected as Sunday School teachers were Bros. Brian Stoller, Roger Stoller and Kyle Wettstein; and Sisters Becky Ringger, Jodie Schlipf, and Kathy Wiegand.

New landscaping has been designed around the church building. Many brothers and friends worked together on Saturday, July 17, to accomplish this improvement. Bros. Ron Romersberger and Roger Gramm led the efforts.

Willis Aupperle is home from the hospital. Sis. Vi McKinley is home from Heritage Manor. May

the Lord be with those whose health is in decline. Praying for the sick is a noble exercise.

The family of deceased Bro. Louis Kieser wishes to state the following: "We would like to thank the Gridley church for the warm welcome accorded our parents during the past two years. And now that Dad has gone to his eternal rest, we appreciate all the kindnesses shown to us." (Sis. Jean Kieser and family)

The Kieser family also stated that their departed father, Bro. Louis, left a legacy of three principles he considered very important: (1) Love the Lord with all your heart, (2) Don't be slothful, but diligent in all things, and (3) Feed the hungry and help those in need.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Julie Bahr
Christie Zeller**

We are so thankful and happy for Bro. Curt and Sis. Geana Tanner who have recently adopted a new little baby boy, Wyatt Joseph. May God bless their little family.

We are also happy to announce the wedding engagement of our Sis. Kari Ackerman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Margie) to Bro. Doug Mangers (Rockville, CT). His parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cheryl Mangers of Champaign, IL. Also, our Sis. Mandy Koehl (Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol, Sarasota, FL) was announced to Bro. Dustin Hodel (Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty) of Roanoke, IL. We wish these dear couples God's continual blessings.

We are saddened by the move of

our Bro. Scott and Sis. Shayna Mangers to the St. Louis, MO, area. Sis. Shayna is continuing her education there in ophthalmology. They will be greatly missed by our Morton congregation.

We are thankful that J.R. Sauder has repented and professes peace and we are looking forward to his testimony and baptism the weekend of July 24 and 25. May our Heavenly Father continue to bless him.

Our Family Worship was held July 7. Bro. Jaye Rinckenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL) shared with us the message of having a strong and healthy family relationship entitled "Home: A Trauma Center". May God bless him for his willingness to share God's Word with us.

Our Sunday School picnic was held July 11 at the Fellowship Hall. Great food and fellowship was shared by all who attended. We also had a slide presentation from our Bible Class's recent trip to Rio Bravo, Mexico. We are thankful they all had a blessed and memorable trip.

Bro. Clyde Grimm (Oakville, IA) passed away. He is a brother to our Sis. Mavis (Bro. Don) Hermann. Elmer Schmidgall passed away. He is a brother to our Bro. Clarence (Sis. Helen) Schmidgall, Bro. Irvin (Sis. Lucille) Schmidgall, and Bro. Harry (Sis. Helen) Schmidgall. May God comfort these dear families.

Our visiting minister for the month was Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Atlanta, GA).

May God continue to bless him

for his labors of love.

Notes of Thanks:

Our family cannot thank everyone enough for the outpouring of love shown to us following the death of Bro. Fred. We were lifted up by everyone's prayers, support, and kindness. May God richly bless each of you.

Sis. Joanni Endress and family

I want to thank everyone who sent a card or made a page for my calendar for my 75th birthday. Your poems, Bible verses, thoughts, pictures, and memories are a blessing to me each day as I read my calendar. May God bless all of you.

Sis. Pat Landes

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Lou and Marjean Lonteen

"If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

Philippians 2:1-3

On Sunday, June 20, Bro. Hans Schmidgall and Sis. Mandy Schwenk were united in Holy Matrimony. Parents: Bro. Steve and Sis. Christine Schmidgall and Sis. Myrna and the late Bro. Doug Schwenk.

On Wednesday evening, June 23, Bro. Dave Obergefel spoke on the Beatitudes at our Family Night service.

Sunday, June 27, was the last day of Sunday School for the season. The Sunday School picnic was held in the afternoon. Family Night service on Wednesday evening, July 7; Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann spoke on the topic: "The Independent Spirit".

July 17, Saturday evening, we heard the testimony-of-faith of three dear souls. On Sunday, July 18, we witnessed their baptisms. Sis. Vanessa Johnson, Sis. Samantha Ginzel, and Sis. Andi Gerst are now soldiers in the army of the Lord.

The Lord has called and five dear souls have answered. They are: Allison Aupperle (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cindy Aupperle), Jessica Waibel (Bro. Mike and Sis. Rose Waibel), Brandon Stickling (Bro. Scott and Sis. Jan Stickling), Emily Kieser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy Kieser), and Cori Hoerr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kayla Hoerr).

"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in

earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Philippians 2:4-11

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Phyllis Knobloch
Crystal Streitmatter

"And I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God."

Exodus 29:25

This same God still dwells among His children here on this earth. He will never forsake His own if we remain faithful to His teachings. How thankful we should be for this promise!

Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) preached the Word to us on Father's Day, June 20. He spoke of many faithful Biblical fathers and compared them to our fathers of today. They had a deep faith but as all mankind, we sometimes make mistakes. If we confess and humble ourselves, our loving God will forgive us.

A precious baby has brought joy to the home of Ryan and Susie Siebenthal (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay). Caleb Ryan was born on June 23. Maternal grandparents are Teresa Chwal of Morton Grove and Edward Chwal of Chicago. We rejoice with them!

Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL) conducted a Bible study on June 25. It was entitled "Conditions for Spiritual Growth". This growth can be strengthened by meditation (solitude and quiet), a repentant heart

and by tests and trials. It was explained so well and we thank Bro. Ed for speaking to us. May we all strive to meet our Heavenly Goal.

The engagement of Clark Baurer (Bro. Art and Sis. Joy) and Irica Biddle (William and Sharon Scholl, St. Louis) was made known. They both live in Beijing, China. The wedding date has been set for August 15. We pray that God will be the center of their marriage.

We are rejoicing with Lance Martin and his parents, Bro. Alan and Sis. Janice, as he has begun his walk with the Lord. "Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart." (Psalm 32:11)

Bros. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) and Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN) shared our pulpit on July 4. We thank you for allowing yourselves to be used by our mighty God. Bro. Darren expounded on the following verse: "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 will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (II Chron. 7:14). This is also true today.

Our friend, Jeff Streitmatter (Chuck and Linda), was badly burned and spent some painful time in the hospital. He is now home and slowly improving. Jeff, we are praying for a complete recovery, if it be God's will. May God grant you patience!

May we continue to pray for the

leaders of our country and for all who are helping to bring peace to this world!

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Joan Leman
Doris Fischer**

The Word teaches that it's the will of God that all would be saved. We're thankful for that saving power in the lives of Heather Leman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Julie) and Colin Hodel (Bro. Curt and Sis. Jenell), who have recently answered the call to repent. As a church family, we pray God's grace and His peace will be felt by you both.

Bro. Sam Bertschi (Bro. Rich and Sis. Bev) and Sis. Marjorie Leman (Bro. Clark and Sis. Lisa) were married on June 20. We rejoice with them and their families, as we do another recently married couple. Jodi Aeschleman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jill) married Matthew Gordon (Rich and Sharon) on July 9.

We were pleased to hear of the engagement of Sis. Tammy Zimmerman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Madlyn) to Bro. Steve Hofstetter (the late Bro. Theodore and Sis. Lynetta, Wolcott) on July 4. The engagement of Bro. Dustin Hodel (Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty) to Sis. Mandy Koehl (Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl, Sarasota) was announced on July 11.

We're remembering to pray for those who have been hospitalized: Sis. Joan Leman (Russ), Bro. Dick Hoffman (Sis. Ann), Sis. Faye Blunier (Bro. Wally) and Sis. Rena Hodel (Bro. Jason). After that hospital stay, Bro. Jason and Sis.

Rena brought home a healthy baby girl, Natalie Joy. Natalie was welcomed by her older sister, Clara, and her grandparents, Bro. Harlan and Sis. Martha Braker and Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy Hodel.

Another greatly celebrated homecoming was that of Jason Rassi, son of Bill and Jan Rassi. He returned home to Roanoke after serving in the Army National Guard in Iraq for 16 months. We thank God for his safe return – a blessed answer to many prayers.

The Sunday school year has come to a close, and our church enjoyed a picnic on a sunny Sunday afternoon in June. Special thanks to those who planned the picnic, and to the teachers who have served in the past year.

Our weather isn't always so sunny in Roanoke, as many can attest. On Tuesday, July 13, a tornado cut a path of destruction through the countryside near Roanoke measuring approximately ¼ mile wide. It was rated F-4, with winds estimated to be 210-240 miles per hour. In its path were Parsons Manufacturing and 11 farms, not to mention about 7 miles of corn and bean crops. At its worst, it left total destruction – such that you can't imagine anyone surviving. Yet, 150 employees and visitors of Parsons walked out of that destruction without a scratch, and a family nearby found shelter in a small basement room – the only walls on the entire farm that weren't flattened.

One of our ministers commented that it reminded him of

the time when Satan asked permission to turn Job against the God he loved; God replied that Satan could do what he wished, but not take his life. In that storm, we witnessed an unleashing of power like most of us have never imagined. Yet, miraculously, not a single loss of life. Who but God could both destroy and protect in the same instant? Makes you think of a day that's coming for our race, doesn't it?

In the time following this disaster, individuals in our community have expressed heartfelt thanks to God for the preservation of life, for the safety of the town of Roanoke, and other simple things we normally take for granted. Yards have been cleaned up without complaint and neighbors have pitched in to help where damage occurred. We would never wish for a storm of this magnitude, but the resulting feelings of goodwill and the awareness of God all around us are welcome!

All those who sustained loss wish to express their sincere thanks to the many of our brethren who participated in the hours of volunteer labor following the storm. Whatever your role, please know that your selfless acts of love and service are greatly appreciated.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Heather Rassi
LaVonne Wagenbach**

We were blessed by a visit from Bro. Roger Sauder and his wife, Sis. Judy (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). We appreciate his willingness to minister to us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Arnold Rassi (Sis. Lydia) as he is in the hospital at this time. May he feel God's nearness as he struggles with failing health.

Sis. Michelle Bachtold has moved to the area and is now worshipping with us. We welcome her and wish her God's nearness as she continues to walk with Him.

Bro. Leslie and Sis. Wilma Pulfer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house. They wish to extend their appreciation for all the cards, gifts, and money received and also to all who attended their open house.

We think of all those who are preparing to return to school, as that time of the year is approaching. May they seek God's guidance as they attend school each day.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Marcia Koch
Dianne Wyss**

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Christ Jesus."

I Cor. 3:11

We extend our thanks to Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL) for his topical Bible Study on "What Are You Building On Your Foundation?" Following the perfect and complete "blueprint" of God's Word, he encouraged us to search the "building project" of our hearts.

We also want to thank Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandra, Eureka, IL), Bro. Doug

Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA), Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth, Wolcott, IN) for their words of encouragement and exhortation.

The Sunday School students enjoyed our annual picnic, and we pray that the Lord will be the reward of faithful Sunday School teachers who have served this year.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Amber Steffen
Elizabeth Frauhiger**

We rejoice this month with two dear couples who have been joined together in holy matrimony. On June 20, Bro. Byron Gerber (Bro. Leon and Sis. Pat) took Sis. Brittany Aschliman (Bro. Kelly and Sis. Lisa, Bluffton North) to be his wife. Bro. Mark Reinhard (Bro. John and Sis. Pam) and Sis. Angie Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) were united as one on July 11 in Milford. May God richly bless these couples as they blend their lives together.

Our prayers are with those who have been battling physical infirmities this month. Sis. Pat Kaehr, Sis. Alice Aschliman, Sis. Rose Frauhiger (Bro. Tom) and Sis. Doris Frauhiger have all spent some time in the hospital this month.

We rejoice with Bro. Lane and Sis. Tara Moser as they welcome their firstborn into their family. Blake Russell was born on July 6. His thankful grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda Moser and Elder Bro. John and Sis. Marcia Laukhuf (Latty, OH).

We extend our sympathy to Sis.

Eunice Fiechter (Bro. Gerald) in the passing of her brother, Bro. Howard Beer (Milford, IN).

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 5:1

We rejoice with four dear souls who have professed to have peace with God and man and are ready for baptism. Lori and Alicia Steffen (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean), Kevin Dailey (Bro. Doug and Sis. Susan) and Travis Fiechter (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill) are looking forward to July 24-25 when they will, Lord willing, share their testimonies and become brothers and sisters in Christ.

We appreciated the visit of Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) on July 4. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful fellowship of brethren.

Many prayers have been answered this month as we have had many new converts. Leah Gerber (Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb), Amber Byerly (Sis. Susan), Cassie Bertsch (Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon), Annie Giltner (Bro. Rocky and Sis. Melinda), Bob and Jane Isch, Stacy Troxel (Bro. Brad and Sis. Dahlys) and Katie Longenberger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Joni) have begun repenting. We wish them God's grace as they make a new beginning.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Darren Drayer
Tiffani Schladenhauffen**

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

II Corinthians 5:17

Lance Aschliman, son of Bro. Kelly and Sis. Lisa, decided that he wanted to be a new creature in Christ, as he began repenting this month. We are prayerful for him as he takes this step and pray that he will allow the Lord to shape his life.

Bro. Kelly and Sis. Lisa Aschliman had another reason to rejoice this month as they witnessed the wedding of their daughter, Sis. Brittany, to Bro. Byron Gerber (Bluffton, IN), son of Bro. Leon and Sis. Pat (Bluffton, IN). We rejoice with the happy couple and pray that they will seek the Lord's guidance in their marriage.

Bro. Tad and Sis. Stephanie Baumgartner's lives have become much busier as they are now first time parents to a baby boy, Samuel Ryan. The thankful grandparents are Bro. Galen and Sis. Joyce Baumgartner and Jan Elliot.

Also welcoming a new little one into their home are Bro. Graig and Sis. Corinne Stettner. Their new daughter, Mimi Corinne, joins big sister, Ella, and big brother, Aidan. Mimi Corinne's grandparents are Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen Stettner and Daryle and June Hari.

We were thankful to have Bro.

Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) share in the Word with us this month.

Spending some time in the hospital this month were Sis. Wanda Gerber (Bro. Wendell), Bro. Mick Culp (Sis. Coleen), Bro. Leonard Bertsch (Sis. Wava), and Sis. Rochelle Gerber (Bro. Rod). We also want to be prayerful for Sis. Clarice Isch (Bro. Harry) as she must undergo another round of chemotherapy.

We have a special prayer request for Josh Gerber, son of Bro. Brent and Ann Gerber, as he was wounded while serving in Iraq. He is back in the States now and has undergone surgery, and a complete recovery is expected. We just want to be prayerful for him, and may this help us all to remember that God can bring good from any situation.

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

Romans 8:28

**INDIANA
FRANCESVILLE
Barbara Huber**

Greetings of love in Jesus' name from all of us at Francesville. We have enjoyed the wonderful blessing of Vacation Bible School. Our week was centered around the theme “Investigating the Power of God.” Graciously serving us through the week were ministers: Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO); Bro. Rustin Meister (Sis. Amanda, West Lafayette, IN);

Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN); Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN), and Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL). God truly blessed us through them and we are rejoicing that two young people have surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ. To God be the glory! "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." II Corinthians 9:15

In the midst of the joy over our new converts, we have had the earthly sadness of bidding farewell to our beloved Bro. Jim Gudeman. "Only one life, 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last." Bro. Jim was a loving example of a life yielded to service in the Lord. He will be sorely missed by his family: Bro. Tim (Sis. Mim) of Indianapolis, IN; Sis. Trudi of Rensselaer, IN; Bro. Todd; Sis. Tami Putt (Bro. Brian) both of Francesville, and Tricia (Mike) Oberholzer of Greenfield, IN. Nine precious grand-children live on to cherish his memory. His loving wife, Sis. Lois Ann (Huber) Gudeman, preceded him in death. Our Parkview Haven residents will also feel this absence as he often served with the ministry there and voluntarily offered many hours sharing his love for them through his gift of music and hospitality. May we all be thankful to God for Bro. Jim's life and example and be stirred to give of ourselves to the fulfillment of others. We pray that the family feels the warmth and tenderness of the Holy Spirit through the coming days. "And this is the promise that he hath

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

We were privileged to have a presentation of slides by Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy Huber and daughters, Chloe and Salome, who have been serving in Imuris and now Magdalena, Mexico. As was stated in the June issue of the "Silver Lining", our church has now approved the undertaking of the project of starting a children's home and Christian school. This project, Bro. Bob explained, is a joint effort of both the World Relief and Mission committees as two important goals are in mind: physical and spiritual. Bro. Bob showed slides of work teams who have gone to Casa de Elisabeth to help with the children and now Magdalena to upgrade the existing home, dormitories and auditorium to make them habitable and welcoming. The name chosen for the Children's Home is "Casa Vida de Esperanza" which means "Home of Life and Hope". The evening was very informative and spiritually uplifting. It was evident that the Lord has been the Designer of this entire project. Bro. Bob, Sis. Joy and their family have sold their home near Francesville and will live on the Magdalena campus. May we as a congregation prayerfully and actively support their efforts and the leadership of our faith, World Relief and Mission Committee as they proceed with this labor of love and outreach.

With further reference to Magdalena, our Sunday School Superintendent, Bro. Dave (Sis. Arlene) Metzger, and other breth-

ren will be accompanying the Bible Class on a work mission to Magdalena. They are leaving Saturday, July 17, and will be traveling with the Chicago, IL, Bible Class and brethren. Our prayers will certainly be with them all as they have this wonderful, sharing experience. Only our Heavenly Father knows the blessings and benefits that will affect their lives for years to come.

Our little Lana Kaeb, daughter of Bro. Les and Sis. Christine Kaeb, has returned to Riley Children's Hospital for her third round of chemotherapy. We will continue to pray for and support this precious family as they experience these difficult days. How thankful we are that it is God alone who strengthens and comforts them. Human helps are only "band-aids" in the surgery of life. "For thou art my hope, O Lord God: thou art my trust from my youth." Psalms 71:5

There are many others in our congregation we can prayerfully lift before the throne of God concerning health problems. Sis. Betty Huber has spent some time in the hospital and has been diagnosed with asthma and Sis. Velda Overmyer had pacemaker surgery. Other brethren have not been hospitalized but are going through trials of health. May we lift them all in prayer, always keeping in mind the promise of Psalms 34:17 which reads, "The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles."

Our dear friend, Blair Neihouser, son of ministering

Bro. Jeff and Sis Sue, was announced to have peace with God and man and is looking forward to baptism. We rejoice with Blair and his family. Lord willing, he will be baptized with his sister, Kendra, who was announced previously. How precious this is for all of us to witness and praise the Lord for. We look forward to the blessing of their addition to our fellowship.

In thinking of the rapid passing of these summer days, this little writing was given to me in a book and it seems to "pigeonhole" the importance of living each day. May it bless you as it has me.

EVERY DAY IS SACRED

Every morning God quietly and routinely pours another twenty-four hours of existence into our small cupped hands. We, so dazed and benumbed by its everlasting regularity, are careless — letting slip some of the precious moments He has given. Most often, we take the day for granted without realizing it was never promised, never put into a contract, never guaranteed.

But must we continue ignoring our blessings because they be so abundant? We can choose to live life as a sacred gift, but to do so we must live with intentionality and purpose. We must remember that peace of mind is from within and has nothing to do with surface surroundings. We must remember the philosopher's words that "living requires practice, like playing the violin." And that we will get better at living life as we go on. We must remember that

life is really found between the two great everlasting eternities of Yesterday and Tomorrow. While both are important, we must be slaves to neither. It is the Present Moment, the Divine Today that we serve, and that in turn serves us. We must daily seek out kindred spirits, those dear souls who share and relish our need to discover all the sweet richness each day brings.

When every day is sacred, we will find contentment in the midst of turmoil, depth in the pools of shallowness, quietness among the clamor of the crowd. Life will then be truly a gift from God — a gift we receive with expectance and treasure with gratitude.

— *Paul C. Brownlow*

INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS Gail Bradford Debbie Anliker

Greetings from Indianapolis. As I look back and think about how quickly this month has passed, I also think about how faithfully the Lord has provided for us.

We had the joy of welcoming visiting ministers this month. Bro. Chris (Sis. Sharon) Huber from Francesville and Bro. Bob (Sis. Sue) Beebe from South Bend were here and shared God's Word with us. We ask the Lord to richly bless them for their labors of love on our behalf. We are thankful they both have family ties that bring them to Indy.

Austin and Stacey Metzger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene) from Francesville were recently mar-

ried and have moved to Indianapolis. Adam Huber (Bro. Chris and Sis. Sharon) from Francesville has also moved to Indianapolis to attend Franklin College. We welcome them and look forward to worshiping with and getting to know them better.

Sis. Kathy (Bro. Tom) Freed recently had foot surgery. Thankfully, the recovery process is going well for her.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Tim, Sis. Mim, Megan, and Melissa Gudeman as their father and grandfather, Bro. Jim Gudeman, went Home to be with the Lord. It was always a blessing when Bro. Jim came for a visit. You could feel his love for the Lord in his warm handshake, in his smile, and you could certainly hear that love as he raised his voice in song. Our prayer is that the Lord will continue to bless, comfort, and provide for Bro. Jim's family.

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Hebrews 4:16

INDIANA, LACROSSE Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold

We were thankful to hear that our convert, Ross Feller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie), has found peace with God and man and is looking forward to giving his testimony of faith to the church and Lord willing, baptism in the near future.

We thank Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) for sharing the Word of God with us this past

month.

We are very thankful for the many visitors we have had this summer and welcome all that are visiting or passing through the area to join us for worship and Christian fellowship. We have also had many from our congregation who have been traveling on their summer vacations with their families and pray that each one will be kept safe during their journeys.

**INDIANA, LEO
Laura Fischer**

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

Ephesians 4:32

June 14-18 the children had their VBS. The theme was “Being Like Jesus” and each day had a similar theme: Monday – Walk Like Jesus; Tuesday – Talk Like Jesus; Wednesday – Pray Like Jesus; Thursday – Love Like Jesus; and Friday – Forgive Like Jesus. Saturday, the 19th, we were blessed by the children’s program. Most of the songs were Scripture set to music, and it was a pleasure to hear the Word of God sung enthusiastically by young voices. Songs included Psalm 1, the books of the Bible – both the Old Testament and the New Testament – and Ephesians 4:32. The VBS collection was for Wheels for the Word, a ministry of Joni Erickson Tada, which collects used wheelchairs and refurbishes them for needy handicapped peo-

ple in poor countries. The children (and parents, the night of the program) gave enough to refurbish and ship about twenty wheelchairs.

On June 18, Smith Keller Wieland was born to Bro. Jaret and Sis. Sharlin. He has an older sister, Aviah, and his grandparents are Bro. Brace and Sis. Brenda Wieland and Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki Huber (Francesville, IN). Our joy is with them on this blessed occasion.

Bros. Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN) and Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) visited us on the 20th. The Word of God was true and strong on their lips, and we thank them for their ministry.

**INDIANA, MILFORD
Carlton Beer
Paula Haab**

Our congregation got to see Eccles. 3:1 (“To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven) fulfilled as we experienced many different emotions this past month.

The church picnic was well attended with the adults spending quality time with the children as we all enjoyed a blessed evening together.

On June 26, Bro. Howard Beer, age 87, crossed over Jordan to his eternal home. He was able to care for his wife and feed his calves till his last few days on earth. His family will surely miss him as well as our church family will miss his warm handshake and welcome on Sunday morning. In addition to his wife, Sis. Eleanor, he is survived by two sons: Bro. Nelson

and Sis. Shelby, and Bro. Bob; two daughters: Sis. Linda and Bro. Stan Wuthrich, and Jane and Jerry Templin; all of the Milford area; 13 grandchildren and 28 great – grandchildren. Also feeling his loss will be his brothers and sisters: Bros. Maurice, Carlton and Jesse, all of Milford, and Sisters Viola Lemman (Eureka), Kathryn Emch (Archbold, OH), and Eunice Fiechter (Bluffton). We pray that all of them will feel the Holy Spirit comforting them.

Sis. Eleanor Beer is now making her home in the Lakeland Health Care Center. In this change for her life and in her sorrow, she seems content and assures us that God is good and faithful.

Our good friend, Everett Price, is again experiencing health problems. He misses his dear wife whom he cared for so long. We know God will provide as we continue to pray for him.

Bro. Bill Longcor, Sis. Judy and their children, Blessing and Matthew, will certainly miss Bro. Bill’s father, Colter, who went to his eternal reward after a long and full life of service to others. God is always near and can fill the void you now feel.

Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby Beer are happy God has given them a healthy new granddaughter. Breanne Nicole was born to Bro. Brett and Sis. Renee Lanz (Rittman) on July 9. Big brother, Brendon, will help take care of her.

With joy and gladness in our hearts, on July 11, Sis. Angie Beer

and Bro. Mark Reinhard became one in the Lord. Their parents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat (Milford) and Bro. John and Sis. Pam (Bluffton). May God be the Unseen Guest in the home they establish in West Lafayette.

Recently the church was full for several occasions which brings many blessings to us. Among them were many visiting ministers who were all appreciated very much. Those that lent themselves to God's service on our pulpit were: Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI), and Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton). Also, Bros. Tom Troxel (Sis. Lou Ann, LaCrosse), Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend), Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North), John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton), Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington), Neil Widmer (Sis. Kristine, West Lafayette) and Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton).

On July 15, we were all invited to the home of Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer to help celebrate Kenny Brook's birthday. It was a nice way to show him we appreciate him in our assembly. He is such a good helper in the kitchen or wherever he can be of assistance. He hasn't much family and he feels the need to worship in the church where his parents were members.

Note of Thanks:

May God richly bless each of you who remembered us during the loss of our dear husband, fa-

ther and grandfather.

Howard Beer family

Reminder to all of those who called Milford their home for a time, you are invited to the 100th year reunion on August 29. Any questions, contact Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy Schlipf, ph. #574-658-4693.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Rochelle Ward

Beth Virkler

Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA) ministered to us on July 4 while here visiting his sister. I often hear grateful comments from others on the distinct advantage our brotherhood offers us by enjoying the structure of our fellowship from church to church. Having churches from coast to coast, what a privilege we have to travel and share our faith, along with experiencing each other's cultures with those from a distance.

Miss Sandra Waibel (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Helen) announced her engagement to Mr. Loren Hunt of Brownsburg, IN (Indianapolis area). We look forward to celebrating their wedding with them on September 4.

Joe Frantz (Sis. Cheri) experienced knee surgery on July 16. Being laid up with surgery always provides contrast to our constant lives on the go.

A few thoughts on "working".

A Working Prescription

Seldom do physicians of the various medical schools agree in

the diagnosis and treatment of diseases, but the following prescription is one that is unanimously recommended and accepted: If health is threatened – work. If disappointments come – work. If you are rich – continue to work. If faith falters and reason begins to fail – work. If dreams are shattered and hope seems dead – work. If sorrow overwhelms you and loved ones are untrue – work. If you are burdened with seemingly unfair responsibilities – work. If you are happy – keep right on working. For where there is idleness, there is room for doubt and fear. No matter what ails you – work. Work as if your life were in peril, for it is! Thank God every morning when you get up that you have something to do that day which must be done, whether you like it or not. Being forced to work, and forced to do your best, will breed in you temperance and self-control, diligence and strength of will, cheerfulness and contentment, and a hundred virtues which the idle never know.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Melisa Gerst

Stacey Feller

We have had several visiting ministers this summer which include Bros. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH), Jim Butikofer and Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), and Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN). We want to thank these brothers and their families for their willingness to travel here and share our pulpit.

We enjoyed a beautiful Sunday afternoon together at a local state park for our Sunday school picnic.

Our prayers go with the children as they now return their studies for the year. May the Lord keep each one under the shadow of His wing.

Our Sis. Ernastine Meister has had some discomforts of health to endure. Our prayers go out to her as she faithfully continues with her responsibilities.

In early July, the World Relief truck came through our area. We thank all involved for the work accomplished here.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Lois Bucher

Our VBS was held the second week in July. Visiting ministers were: Bros. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL) and Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN). It was a week of blessings. We wish to thank the brothers, the special singers, the teachers in Sunday School, and all who took part to make it a week enjoyed by all.

Bro. Dave Obergfel (Sis. Kathy, Peoria, IL) ministered to us one Sunday. We thank him for the Word brought to us.

The Memorandum was given to us on a Wednesday evening by our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) and Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN). Their service to us was much appreciated.

Two Wednesday nights a month we have A.C.T.I.V.E. (Apostolic Christian Training in Virtue Education) for the Sunday School children held during our Wednesday evening service. Bro.

Lance and Sis. Hope Bucher are the teachers. They do World Relief projects and charitable activities along with a lesson. The children really enjoy ACTIVE and the lessons they are learning. Many take part.

We have been blessed by many visitors this month. It gives our little church a boost and is a foretaste of the joys to come.

INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

Diana Houston Nettie Haab

“Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth.”

Psalm 119:90

United in marriage on July 11 were Sis. Angie Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat, Milford, IN) to Bro. Mark Reinhard (Bro. John and Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN).

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

Rev. 21:4

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Russ and Sis. Darlene Walder and family in the death of Russ's Dad, Bro. Dale Walder from Cissna Park, IL.

Sis. Reva Waibel (Bro. Leon, Wolcott, IN) recently had surgery. We pray for the Lord's healing and quick recovery.

We are happy to announce a

new baby, Micah Reed Meister. First-time parents are Bro. Rustin and Sis. Amanda. Grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Sharon Meister and Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandi Ward (Francesville, IN).

We thank our past visiting ministers for being willing to come and share the Word: Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN), Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS).

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lisa Furrer Heidi Bahler

As we have come through another Independence Day in America, let us with gratefulness appreciate God's care over the generations, giving us freedom from the power of sin, and also from the ruling of foreign lands. In one of our hymn books, the song “God of Our Fathers” is labeled as National Hymn.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past,
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;
Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay,
Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way,
Lead us from night to never ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,

And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine!

The last Sunday in June is our annual Sunday School picnic, which proved to be quite a spread at our community building. Students young and old were promoted to the next class. Seeds of goodness we are sowing...

Class reunions representing by-gone school days of 50-60 years ago brought familiar visitors in our midst. Thanks to each one of you who included Wolcott Church in your weekend!

Our visiting ministers from afar this month have been Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO) and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL). They each were passing through on different Wednesday evenings, and we so appreciate their willingness to stop in and feed us from the Word of Life.

Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette) came "home" one Sunday afternoon to proclaim the gospel and get a last glimpse of our present church house before we extensively remodel this summer. We will be worshipping at our World Relief building north of Wolcott. The last Sunday of each month during construction there won't be services in Wolcott, but we're encouraged to visit other of our churches.

"Haste and seek your soul's salvation..." there is joyful news of Benjy Lehman (Bro. Rob and Sis. Beckie) and Rebekah Edelman (Bro. Kip and Sis. Donita) each turning their hearts

to the Lord in repentance. May He be your guide and stay as you seek to walk the straight and narrow way!

On July 17-18 our Bible Class traveled to Bluffton for Christian Endeavor. We trust the spiritual message was well received and many friendships were established throughout the weekend also.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Brenda Schulz
Laurie Schulz

Greetings! We appreciated our visiting ministers this month, Bros. Brad Funk (Garden Grove, IA) and Jerry Wagenbach, Jr. (Oakville, IA).

Bro. Paul Eisenmann was a hospital patient. We're glad he's back with us and doing well.

We were saddened by the death of our dear Bro. Blaine Applegarth on July 9. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Sis. Margaret, and their children, Michael and Jennifer, James and Carla, Lelia and Randy Wilkerson, Ann Veith, John and Kimberly Jones, James Jones, and David and Gay. We thank retired Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) for conducting the service for Bro. Blaine.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

"The Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him."

Genesis 2:18

On July 16, the marriage of Meg Butikofer (Bro. Tim and Sis. Kathy) and Nick Benson (Mark and Mona) took place in Colorado. We wish them God's direction and blessings as they continue their earthly pilgrimage as man and wife.

Children's children bring a special joy to the family circle. We rejoice with Bro. Dale and Sis. Cheryl Moore as they welcome their newest little grandson, Grant Joseph Kramer (Kurt and Danette). Paternal grandparents for Grant are Lloyd and Marlene Kramer.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Willa Clark

The start of another school year and we see families making preparations for school, registering for classes, purchasing new clothes, books and school supplies. All in readiness so that students might learn what they need to know in life. Shouldn't we place even more importance on learning the spiritual lessons we need to know, that even as adults we must be students of God's Word, with minds always open to His will for us? What preparations are we making, so that we as students might study to be ready for life eternal?

We are so thankful for Bro. Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) for visiting us and sharing God's precious Word.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer

It seems we've hardly seen our

brothers and sisters recently, with many traveling (including us) during the summer. We enjoy catching up with everyone again after our travels.

We appreciate Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), and Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA) coming to cover our pulpit on Sundays when we were gone and Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL) coming to present a topical Bible Study on a Wednesday evening. We are grateful for their willingness to serve our Lord and His brethren by presenting His Word to us.

Our thanks to Sis. Sharon Gerst, Sis. Becky (Bro. Wayne) Snodgrass and Bro. Ben (Sis. Wendy) Weyrick for teaching our children in Sunday School this past year. We appreciate the services of each teacher and prayerfully wish our new teacher, Sis. Emily (Bro. Larry) Peterson, and reelected teachers, Sis. Sharon and Bro. Ben, God's Spirit and wisdom in their duties this coming year.

We will miss Sis. Amy Gerst (Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie) since she has moved to South Bend, IN, but will pray for her as she settles into a new job and new congregation.

"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."

Num. 6:24-26

IOWA, LESTER Dawn Knobloch Dawn Metzger

We thank the many ministering Brothers who visited us this past month. They were Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield/Pulaski, IA), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Bro. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA).

On June 29, Bro. Jacob Wulf was called to his eternal rest. Mourning his loss is his wife, Sis. Alice, along with their eight children, Madonna and Jerry Krieger, Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock, Tom and Colleen Dogotch, Bro. Roy and Sis. Janel Koehl, Bro. Mike and Sis. Mavis Schmidt, Bro. Harlan and Sis. Betty Wulf, Bro. Walt and Sis. Nola Gerst and Albert Wulf. We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Bill and Sis. Leona Wulf, Bro. Lawrence Wulf, Sis. Amelia Roemen and Leah Doorneweerd in the loss of their brother.

As one family is saddened by the loss of a life, others are rejoicing because of a new life. Preston James was born into Bro. Justin and Sis. Jodi Metzger's family circle. Isabelle is now a big sister. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Kris Metzger. Bro. Dudley and Sis. Sara Knobloch along with Talia and Ambria welcomed Lane Thomas on July 6. Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb Metzger and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch are grandparents and Sis. Esty

Metzger is Lane's great-grandmother. On July 13, Emily Kay was born to Chad and Sandi TerWee. Chase now has a little sister to love. Grandparents to Emily are Bro. George Meyer and Jerry and Mary TerWee. Great-grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Emily Leuthold and Sis. Emma Meyer.

Our prayers are with Bro. Dale Metzger (Sis. Chris) as he is recovering at home from undergoing surgery this past month.

Congratulations to Jaimee Leuthold and Chris Tiesler on their recent engagement. Jaimee is the daughter of Carl and Deb Leuthold. Our wish for them is God's blessings and direction will be with them as they make their future plans.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers, memorials and deeds of kindness extended to our family during the illness and loss of our dear husband, father and grandfather, Bro. Jacob Wulf. May the Lord bless each of you.

Sis. Alice Wulf and family

IOWA, OAKVILLE Rosalie Wiegand Sharla Wiegand

It has been a busy month for our congregation. We weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice.

On June 19, Bro. Regan and Sis. Tricia Lanz were blessed with a precious baby girl, Emmalee Ann. She is welcomed home by Raiann, Claire and Bryant.

Grandparents are Bro. Robert and the late Sis. Emma Jean Lanz and Dave and Phyllis Tapp (Marion, IA).

Our annual Sunday School election was held on June 20. Our new teachers are Bro. Dan Frank, Bro. Ken Lanz, Bro. Marc Wagenbach, Sis. Timna Lanz and Sis. Rosalie Wiegand. We wish them God's grace and strength as they carry out their new duties. We wish to thank the teachers who have finished their terms: Bro. Tom Lanz, Bro. Dave Wagenbach, Bro. Walt Gerst, Sis. Linda Gerst and Sis. Monica Wagenbach.

June 27 was the wedding day of Bro. Randy Steiner (Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn) and Sis. Shayla Marti (Bro. Ervin and Sis. Teresa). May God richly bless this union.

Fourth of July weekend brought visiting single members from Bradford, Princeville, Lamar and West Bend. On Sunday, July 4, the engagement of Bro. Kent Schmidgall (Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie) and Sis. Megan Kellenberger (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa) of Sabetha, KS was announced. We wish them God's richest blessings as they plan their new life together.

On July 5, we bid farewell to our dear Bro. Clyde Grimm, age 85, who leaves behind his dear wife, Frances (Montrose, IA); and children, Keith and Carla Grimm (Wapello, IA); Dick and Cindy Grimm (Letts, IA); Sandie Hook (Donnellson, IA) and Cheyrel and Mike McConahay (Corydon, IA). We are thankful for his faithful example through the years.

FOUND: A pitchpipe was found in our Fellowship Center parking lot the weekend of Bro. Dallas and Sis. Christy (Frank) Massner's wedding on June 13. To claim it, please contact Bro. Conrad Gerst at 319/937-6235.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to send a belated "Thank you" for all the prayers, gifts, cards and phone calls before and since returning from Mayo Clinic. Your kindness and concern was greatly appreciated.

Bro. Doss Massner

**IOWA
BLOOMFIELD / PULASKI
Barbara Schock**

Beyond the sunset, O blissful morning,
When with our Savior heav'n is begun.
Earth's toiling ended, O glorious dawning;
Beyond the sunset, when day is done.
Hymns of Zion #172

On June 29, my family, Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock, said goodbye to our father and grandpa, Bro. Jake Wulf (Sis. Alice, Lester, IA). We will miss him, but are glad that he is Home, free from pain and bodily troubles.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Joel Wuthrich (Sis. Shirley) as he underwent surgery. May he feel God's healing hand as he recovers.

As the Brotherhood Conference approaches, may we remember our Elders in our prayers as they plan to meet together in

Peoria, Lord willing.

Answer to last month's question:
Acts 9:33-35

Who builds a church within his heart
And takes it with him everywhere
Is holier far than he whose church
Is but a one-day house of prayer.
—*Morris Abel Beer*

**IOWA, WEST BEND
Betty Wirtz
Lori Skoglund**

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Gen. 2:24

In just the second chapter of the first book in the Bible, God instituted marriage. We have had two weddings this month. On July 9, John Zaugg (Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie) and Audrey Montag (Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Montag) were married. July 11 was the wedding day for Bro. Kent Fehr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon) and Sis. Joleen Grimm (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose). We wish these couples a lifetime of love, commitment to one another and contentment along the way.

Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) traveled the many miles to be here on two occasions this past month and we thank him for speaking God's Word to us. Special thanks to the other visiting ministers who were here recently also: Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) and Bro.

Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL).

Anticipating marriage are Bro. Lee Fehr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon) and Sis. Alisha Mahl (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann) from Cissna Park, IL. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare for an August wedding.

Bro. Silas (Sis. Della) Metzger and Sis. Sara (Bro. Carl) Gerber have both been hospitalized but are home again and doing well and Sis. Darlene Metzger has undergone surgery and is recovering.

Patsy Wirtz passed away on June 28. We offer our deepest sympathy to her dear husband, Fred Jr., and her children, David and Kristin. We pray that God will comfort them as only He can. Her shortened life span brings the following verse to mind:

Not now, but in the coming years,

It may be in the better land,

We'll read the meaning of our tears,

And there, sometime, we'll understand.

Then trust in God thro' all the days;

Fear not, for He doth hold thy hand;

Tho' dark thy way, still sing and praise,

Sometime, sometime, we'll understand.

Hymns of Zion #165

We also offer sympathy to the brothers and extended family of Emil Metzger who passed away recently, and to Lucille Wirtz in the passing of her sister from Denver, CO.

"Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety."

Proverbs 11:14

May the Elders feel our prayerful support as they gather for the Brotherhood Conference.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Jana Klaus

Greetings from very hot and humid Tokyo! This July is one of the hottest on record and that is with very high humidity. Our guests from America this month will be ready to tell you the same should you run into them — Bro. Anthony Gutwein (Indianapolis, IN), Bro. David Thames (Washington, IL) and Bro. Lafe Bailey (Sabetha, KS.) We are thankful they put up with the heat with a good attitude so we could enjoy their Christian fellowship. Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie's son, Bro. Makoto (Washington, IL), was back for a visit and brought Anthony and David with him. It is always a joy to see Makoto back.

July 23-24, we held our summer Shuyokai (church fellowship meeting) at Budo no oka (Hill of Grapes) in Yamanashi Prefecture, near our Shioda Church. Wow — the name fits it well. It is situated high on a hill and one can see grape vine after grape vine going down the hills and into the valley. Beautiful sight! The theme was "Our confidence in Jesus". Bros. Akito Inoue and Andrew Klaus were the speakers as it was Tokyo's turn to host. The children had a separate Bible class each day and presented a little pro-

gram at the end. It is our hope that each of us was drawn closer to our Lord during this time of study and fellowship.

Sis. Haruyo Onoda has a new grandchild, much to her delight. A son was born to her son, Kunihiro and his wife, Miho, on July 20. He is their first child, and Sis. Onoda's third grandchild. God's blessings to this family.

Friends of the Klaus and Ehnle families, Takehiko and Kate Hirata, and children, Mikoh, Kie, Seiju, Sami and baby Rayna, have recently moved to Illinois and are job and house hunting. We, and they, sincerely appreciate all the various kinds of help that they have received from many of our brethren there and ask for continued prayers for them to find God's guidance and peace in their life.

KANSAS, BERN

Sheri Edelman

Sally Strahm

Our thoughts and prayers are always with our Elders, but especially as they gather around God's Word together and ponder current issues. This summer the Elder/General Conference is in Peoria, IL. We hope the Elders feel God's guidance as they make decisions together to preserve the faith of our fathers.

Bro. Brandon Edelman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna) gave his testimony on June 19 and was baptized the following day. It is such a blessing to witness God's work in our church family!

A wedding reception for Bro. Brent and Sis. Brianna Strahm was held on June 27 at the fellow-

shipcenter. We pray God will continue to work in their lives as they journey through life as one.

Troy Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan) and Amity Wales from Kansas City (Sis. Carol and Don) have announced their wedding engagement. May God direct them as they make plans to be united!

The week of June 13 was Vacation Bible School. The annual Sunday school picnic was held July 18. It is a pleasure to watch the youth mature physically and spiritually.

Grandparents, Earl and Sis. Darlene Meyer, were excited to welcome Mason Lee into the family on July 9. Mason's parents are Bro. Brandon and Sis. Rhoda Plattner (Sabetha, KS). The happy paternal grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Ada Plattner (Sabetha, KS).

We extend a special thank you for the labors of visiting ministers to our congregation this past month. Bro. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice) of Kiowa, KS; Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen) of Sabetha, KS; Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora) of West Bend, IA; Bro. Kenneth Dietz (Sis. Mardell) and Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn), both of Bradford, IL; Bro. Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy) of Wolcott, IN; Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky) of Lester, IA; and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary) of Chicago, IL, all served us well!

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT **Ethel Smith**

Christian Greetings and may the joy of the Lord reign in our hearts.

We have had such a wonderfully cool spring and summer through June with much rain, but July has really brought some warm temperatures, which promotes an excellent growing season. It would be exciting to see the same growth in our churches and our spiritual lives. May it be so.

We extend our love and sympathy to Sis. Betty and Bro. Bob Lemons in the passing of her mother, Thelma Miller, on June 22, here in Ft. Scott. Betty's mother was from Phoenix and had come to spend a few months with the Lemons. The congregation here learned to know and love Thelma and our hearts are saddened. Thelma would have been 90 this month.

Bro. Lyle and Sis. Lillian Fischer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Their children, Eddy and Carol Fischer, Stephen and Janet Fischer, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gloria Fischer, Sis. Lynne and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter, and their families hosted a cruise to Alaska and dinner reception July 4th. It was such a blessing to have their families come to Ft. Scott for the occasion.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) on June 27, Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL) on July 4, and Bro. Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington, IL) on July 11, and their families. We heard such wonderful exhortations of the joys of serving the Lord, His grace and His love. Even in times of adversity and tribulation, we can feel His tender mercies and

can rejoice. In one of the services the illustration that in the Apostolic churches we have the women sit on one side and the men on the other with an isle in between was likened to Judgment Day. There will be two places with an isle between. Those who have served the true and living God on the right, to be ever with the Lord, and those who refused will be on the left in everlasting darkness. Think about that - who would not want to be on the right - a child of God through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Why take a chance on missing the mark. One cannot imagine!

Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness!

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

"Haste and seek your soul's salvation" concluded Bro. Shawn Metzger's inspiring message and we then sang Zion's Harp #52. His emotions were mixed - glad to "be home" on one hand, the other sad that his dad, Bro. Eldon, is in the hospital with acute leukemia taking chemo treatments and will be in Topeka until August. He and Sis. Sandy and family had planned a two week vacation home in two weeks and his employer let them come earlier from Pennsylvania.

Bro. Eldon (Sis. Dorene) Metzger was hospitalized in Burlington with a blood clot in his leg when blood tests showed he had leukemia. He was transferred to Topeka where they (laymen's

term) put a filter in to keep the clot fragments from traveling to his heart and lungs. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and the family. Their home address is: P.O. Box 222, Gridley, KS 66852. Phone (612) 836-2105.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Dawn Strahm
Jeanette Plattner

We were thankful to have Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) minister to our congregation this month. May God bless him for sharing God's Word with us.

A wedding reception was held on June 27 for Bro. Brent and Sis. Brianna Strahm who were married in Silverton, OR. We welcome another young couple to our community and pray God will bless this union.

This same weekend we were privileged to hear the testimony of Travis Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon) in Morris, MN. What a blessing to have Bro. Travis as part of our precious brotherhood. May God stand by his side throughout his pilgrim journey.

On July 4, the engagement of Sis. Megan Kellenberger to Bro. Kent Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) was announced. Sis. Megan is the daughter of Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger and Bro. Kent is the son of Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall. Our thoughts and prayers are with this couple as they look forward to becoming one in the Lord on September 19.

It was recently announced that Tasha Knoblock (Bro. Steven and Sis. Rose Ann) and Maggie

Eisenbise (Bro. David and Sis. Shari) feel that they are at peace with God and all mankind. We look forward to hearing their testimony of faith and pray for them God's nearness in the days ahead.

Bro. Brandon and Sis. Rhoda Plattner are thankful first-time parents of Mason Lee who was born on Friday, July 9. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Ada Plattner and Earl and Sis. Darlene Meyer (Bern, KS). What a wonderful blessing to welcome this little one into their hearts and home!

How happy we were to hear that little Ethan Edelman (Bro. Steven and Sis. Kelly) was released from the hospital where he was for several weeks after his birth. We pray that he will continue to grow stronger day by day and that the blessings of the Lord will be with their family.

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

Many prayers were offered for Dwaine Reeves when we heard of his unexpected major surgery in mid June. Thankfully, he is able to resume some of his activities, one of them being to attend morning church services with his wife, Sis. RoseAnn. Dwaine frequently uses his many talents to help with the upkeep of the church building. He recently painted the new outside kitchen door.

Prayers are also being offered for ministering Bro. Cory Metzger's dad, Bro. Eldon Metzger (Lamont-Gridley), who is undergoing chemotherapy treatments at St. Francis hospital

in Topeka.

Rainfall in June for our part of Kansas was more than twice the expected average. As a result, my garden turned to crab grass so I have been trying to eradicate the intruder. In my mind, I make the comparison of crab grass to a fault, bad habit, or sin. Pull it while it is young and the task isn't too difficult; however, the longer it grows the greater its root ball gets and removing it is much more difficult.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Betty Baltic
Barb Huber

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

Matthew 5:16

At our monthly nursing home ministry, we invite the shut-in's to come for the service. Last week, when we went to invite Helen, a former music teacher with a happy spirit and confined to a wheelchair, she was not in her room. We soon located her in another shut-in's room. When asked if she would like to come to the service, she quickly replied, "I'm trying to help put a smile on these patient's faces." What an inspiration that was! Helen was doing what she could to help others. May we continue to "brighten the corner where we are."

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Lester Huber and his family on the passing of his brother-in-law, Bro. Jim Gudeman (Frances-

ville, IN). Bro. Jim, a dear soldier of the cross, will always be remembered for his joyful spirit to encourage and minister to others around him.

Words fail to express our heartfelt appreciation to all our visiting ministers during the last month. Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA), Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH), Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA), Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) and their families. May the Lord bless you in a rich measure for your willingness to be used in His service.

It is always an encouragement to have other visitors come worship with our small assembly. Truly it's a foretaste of fellowship we'll have in heaven. We had visitors represented from Eureka, Princeville, Roanoke, IL; Indianapolis, Milford, IN; and Rittman, Smithville, OH.

Finally, we want to again remember all our servicemen in prayer as they continue to serve their country in different places of duty. We're thankful to offer up a prayer of praise to our dear Lord for Jonathan Huber (Ben and June) who has arrived home safely from his assignment in Iraq the last six months.

A warm welcome is always extended to anyone who may be in our area or travelling through on vacation to come and visit us in Lexington. You may contact Bro. Doug Germann (859) 224-8710, Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541, or Bro. Jan Neukomm

(859) 273-8574.

MEXICO, IXTLAN **Rosario Gonzalez**

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God; it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

Psalm 100

This past month our Sis. Berenice Navarro Cervantes (see Sep. 2002 Silver Lining), daughter of Sis. Teresa Cervantes and one of the believers in the little flock in Morelia, received her degree in odontology. We wish her God's blessings in her year of social service as she follows the footsteps of our Master, Jesus Christ.

MICHIGAN, ALTO **Rose Watson** **Terri Huber**

What a busy time of year! A full week of Vacation Bible School was accomplished through prayer and hard work. When the church bathes such an effort in prayer, we can rest assured God's purpose will be fulfilled. Speaking to the Bible Class and adults on the same theme, The Life of Paul and Relying on Others (Teamwork),

were visiting Bros. Neal Widmer (West Lafayette, IN) and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN). We were doubly blessed, not only by hearing the Word in an organized presentation, but also by fellowship with them and their wives.

Thanks are also extended to our other visiting minister last month, Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL).

There is joy in the camp! Lisa Zaagman (Ed and Sis. Joy) has come forward with her desire to repent and serve the Lord. We know the way is not always easy, but there is tremendous relief in being able to put our worries in the Lord's hands. Lisa, we know that God will take you through anything life hands you.

Congratulations to Ted and Kathi Austin in Oregon on the birth of Matthew Douglas. Emily is excited to have a brother, but Grandpa and Grandma (Doug and Marilyn Byam) wish he lived closer!

Note of Thanks:

Greetings to our Brothers, Sisters and Friends throughout our churches,

Thanks seems too simple a word for everyone's prayers, cards, phone calls, e-mails and support during our daughter Ramona's long battle with breast cancer. It has been over two years now, but many loved ones from all over have not forgotten.

As many of you are aware, we spent four months in Houston at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center as a final push with advanced treatments to try to conquer this

disease. As always, we must commit all to the Lord's will placing our hope and trust in Him.

As of mid-June, in her first major check-up in Houston, all tests came back clear. We are grateful and humbled by the Lord's goodness to us.

May our Dear Lord and Saviour bless each and every one of you – and thanks again.

*Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Gerst
Ramona, Jalen and Jerrod
Humphreys*

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
safe from corroding care,
Safe from the world's temptations,
sin cannot harm me there.

Free from the blight of sorrow,
free from my doubts and fears;
Only a few more trials,
only a few more tears!

Jesus, my heart's dear Refuge,
Jesus has died for me;
Firm on the Rock of Ages,
ever my trust shall be.

Here let me wait with patience,
wait till the night is over,
Wait till I see the morning
break on the golden shore.

Hymns of Zion #215

June 21-25 was Bay City's Vacation Bible School. This year's theme, "Safe in the Arms of Jesus", helped us become aware that no matter where we are, what our trials, if we trust and believe in Jesus, we can be safe in His arms. We are thankful that we could learn

of the experiences of five visiting brothers: Personal Loss (Bro. Ron Bollier, Indianapolis, IN); Daily Burdens of Life (Bro. Ned Stoller, Alto, MI); When Your Life is Threatened (Elder Bro. John Laukhuf, Latty, OH); When Childbirth Goes Wrong (Bro. Dean Steffen, Belvidere, IL); and The Loss of a Spouse (Bro. Doyle Frauhiger, Bluffton, IN).

We trust that the Lord's comforting hand will be with Sis. Mabelle Wackerle in the recent loss of her sister, Bernice Fritz.

Our prayers continue to be with those who are facing serious illnesses. Sis. Leah Ramseyer is now at The Carriage House nursing home after a short hospital stay. We also want to remember Sis. Margaret Ruegsegger (Bro. Glen, Sr.) as she has moved into "The Carriage House". Bro. Glen has also spent time in the hospital and we pray that he will make a speedy recovery. Bro. Glen and Sis. Margaret's son, Clinton (Sherry), has met with a very serious accident. He is currently at the U of M hospital in Ann Arbor. We sincerely pray for this family as they are going through these trying times and pray that the Holy Comforter may be with them.

Over the past month, the Bay City congregation has been blessed with several visiting ministers in addition to those who have come for Vacation Bible School. Our deep gratitude goes out to Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI), Bro. David Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL), Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane,

Leo, IN) and Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) for their willingness to serve on our behalf. May the Lord richly provide for them and continue to help them in His service.

Norm and Sis. Linda Andrzejewski are thankful grandparents once again. Keagan Lee was born to Rob and Kim Wardynski. Big sister, Destiny, is very happy to have a little brother. We wish the family the Lord's blessings in this joyous time in their lives.

According to God's pleasure,
Christ's grace in richest measure
He did on me bestow.
There was to me accorded
the holy gift afforded,
When Jesus Christ I learned to
know.

Zion's Harp #222

We are thankful to hear of two dear souls who have learned to know the Lord and have found peace in their hearts. Christina Jackson (Bro. Don and Sis. Tina) and Andreas Schlatter (Bro. Jay and Sis. Carola) both profess peace with God and man. As we approach the time of baptism, we pray that the Lord will continue to walk beside them and guide them in the path of life.

As we come into the new school year, we hope the prayer on all our hearts will be that our children can be a light and example to those in the world around them and that the Lord will continue to guide and direct them in all the trials they may face.

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS

LaRae Dill

The annual Sunday School picnic was enjoyed with good food and fellowship, June 27, at Vista View Park. Many thanks to the Sunday School teachers for their time and energy given to the students, and Sunday School activities throughout the year. Some of our high school students participated in the youth fellowship weekend in Lester, IA, in June as well.

Father's Day took on new meaning for Bro. Damon and Sis. Stephanie Knobloch. This day, June 20, marked the birthday of their first child, a son, Sawyer Allen. Sawyer's grandparents are Sis. Carol Ann Messner (Winthrop, MN), and Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl Knobloch (Lester, IA). Congratulations.

Sis. Krissa Skoglund (West Bend, IA), is a welcome addition to our congregation. A recent graduate of Drake University, Krissa is living and working in St. Paul as a pharmacy resident. We welcome you, Sis. Krissa.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Emily Stoller (Princeville, IL) are frequent visitors as they tend to their farm in western Wisconsin, and assemble here in Minneapolis on those occasions. It seemed strange not to hear Bro. Joe's ministry and interesting stories, as he is now retired from the pulpit. Thanks so much for your visit and fellowship.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Don Miller and Kent Mogler at the Kozlak Funeral Chapel in Minneapolis for

Ann Krutzig, who passed away on July 6. Ann was born here in Minneapolis and lived to the age of 87. She is survived by brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews. Ann was a sweet, generous and virtuous woman who attended our church on occasion. We'll miss her.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Heidi Nohl

Katie Koehl

We were thankful to have many visiting ministers with us the past month. They were Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS), and Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Dan Moser (Elgin, IL), Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA), Wes Moser (Lester, IA), Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), Jim Furrer (Prescott, AZ), and Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL). May God bless them for their labors.

We were blessed to have the provings and witness the baptism of six dear souls. They were Susie Nohl (Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice), Bridget Backman (Eric), Kevin Nohl (Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice), Travis Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon), Brent Wulf (Bro. Dave and Sis. Nancy) and Andrea Koehl (Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley).

Those who spent time in the hospital this month were Bro. Chris and Sis. Marion Moser, Sis. Pearl Moser, Bro. Dale

Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel), and Sis. Josie Esterling (Bro. Don). We trust God will provide for each of them.

On July 4, Charles Lee was born to Bro. Eric and Sis. Kim Koehl. He is welcomed home by Benjamin, Callie and Anne. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Karen Koehl and Bro. Wallis and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Roy and Sis. Jenell Koehl as Sis. Jenell's dad, Bro. Jacob Wulf (Sis. Alice), from Lester, IA, was laid to rest.

We want to welcome Aaron Rokey from Bern, KS, as he has sought employment in our area.

We want to wish Sis. Lanette Feuchtenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gwen) God's blessings as she is leaving our area and starting a new job in the Silverton, OR, area.

Our prayers will be with our Elder brethren as they meet in the coming month. We trust they will rely on God's Word and His Holy Spirit as they discuss matters concerning our precious faith.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Ginny Stoll

Rachel Steiner

With Independence Day usually comes family reunions. Will the circle be unbroken – by and by? Do we possess and exercise the faith of our fathers, so following generations continue to have this special blessing? Are we willing to choose and stand up for the freedom of our nation under God?

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Sis. Julia Messner and family in the death of Julia's

brother, Chuck Wuthrich, of Galena, IL. We also extend our sympathy and prayers to Sis. Jamie Schmidt (Bro. Verl) and Sis. Sue Sward and families in the death of their father, James Lueck, of Indianapolis, IN. May each one feel God's nearness in their time of sorrow.

Our hospital patient this month was Sis. Geri Messner (Bro. Marvin). May the Lord continue to place His healing hands upon our loved ones.

Notes of Thanks:

Thank you for all your deeds of kindness, prayers, cards and visits offered during my surgery and recovery.

Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Sis. JoAnn)

Thank you for your prayers and kindness during my surgery and hospital stay and recovery at home.

*In Christian love,
Sis. Delores Messerli
Your least sister-in-faith*

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Wendy Braker
Becky Marti

Our congregation has been blessed with many visitors this past month. Among them were ministering Bros. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA). May God bless them for their willingness to be used in His service.

Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jodi Luthi are thankful for the safe arrival of Danielle Mari on June 26. Wel-

coming her home were Audrey, Jared, Jessica, Ryan, Caleb, Nathan, Amber and Austin. Grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Violet Luthi and Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary Kellenberger.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Krista Banwart

Freedom of travel is definitely a freedom we enjoy in our country, especially in the summertime. We had several visiting ministers this past month including: Bro. Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL), Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI), Bro. Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita, KS), Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL). As we celebrate our many physical and spiritual freedoms this month, I think of a prayer request of a man who'd been confined to bed for many years. Upon receiving an electric wheelchair he asked, "Pray that I could use my new freedom wisely." Freedom is both a gift and a responsibility — may we use this time to not only recognize our many freedoms — but check to see if we are using them wisely.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Susan Haerr

We are enjoying the blessing of our annual July Bible studies. We are studying the book of James this year. So far this month, we have been privileged to have Bros. Andy Moser (Sis. Diane,

Valparaiso, IN) and Dave Zehr (Sis. Vicki, Gridley, IL) here to minister to us. We are looking forward to the remaining weeks.

In addition to those Brothers already mentioned, we have also been blessed with the following visiting ministers: Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie) and Bro. Jim Kaeb (Sis. Diane), both of Bern, KS, and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA). Thank you so much for being willing to share the Word of God with us. May God bless you.

We want to express our deep sympathy to Sis. Barb Uppinghouse, her husband, David, and her family at the death of Sis. Barb's mother, Lois Humke. We pray that God will comfort you as you remember her.

It was a blessing to have Bro. Ed and Sis. Deb Graf, representatives of Gateway Woods, here to explain more about that ministry. Thank you for spending that time with us and educating us on the opportunities that are available.

NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Hope Graves

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of the workers that helped with our church roofing project over the July 4th weekend. The Lord provided us with beautiful weather and many willing hands that truly made for a blessed time of work and fellowship. May the Lord bless ministering Bro. Victor Bauman (Smithville, OH) for not only his

labors on the pulpit, but also in organizing the work that took place over the weekend. We realize that a lot of time and effort was made in preparation so that everything could go so smoothly once work began. Watching the new roof being put on so quickly, we were given a spiritual reminder how we can accomplish so much when we strive toward the same goal with unity, working side by side. After work was completed, we were able to share a potluck dinner and singing together on Saturday evening. Our hearts were full of thanksgiving to see our church benches so full! "Each day I'll do a golden deed, by helping those who are in need. My life on earth is but a span, and so I'll do the best I can." (Hymns of Zion #139)

Bro. Mike Reinhard and Sis. Sherice Bahler were united in marriage on June 20 in Wolcott, IN. Parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard and Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler. We pray that the Lord will bless them as they make their home in Detroit, MI.

Our prayers were extended to Sis. Anna Mellnitz as she has had surgery this past month and pray that the Lord will be by her side in the days ahead as she will be undergoing further surgery.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

The engagement of Bro. Ben Henico and Sis. Joanne Maibach of Rittman has been announced. Parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah Henico and Bro. Alpha and Sis. Denise Maibach. We wish

them the Lord's blessings in planning their marriage and thereafter.

A new baby boy, Zoltan, was born to Bro. Sandor and Sis. Gyongyi Hegedus on June 24. Also welcoming Zoltan home are brothers Ruben, Daniel, Samuel, Sanyi, and Janos. Grandparents are Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy Bako. We wish them well with their precious boys.

Michelle Hrubik has completed the college course for Practical Nursing at Wayne County School for Adult Education July 23. We are happy for her accomplishment.

Bro. Joseph Grossenbacher (Sis. Esther) was hospitalized. Sis. Kathy Graf (Bro. Carl) was hospitalized and has been transferred to our Nursing Home. We wish those of our beloved ones that have been sick, as well as their families who give loving support, God's continuing grace and comfort.

We thank our visiting ministers, who were willing to serve us in the ministry. They were Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH), Bro. David Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL), and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH).

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Nancy Banks

We welcome our summer visitors, especially when the numbers of our own congregation dwindle due to vacations, reunions, etc. We are thankful for visiting ministers, Bros. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), Everett

Gerber (Rockville, CT), Larry Wenninger and Gary Sinn (Latty, OH) who traveled to share with us this month.

OHIO, JUNCTION
Cindy Schlatter

We enjoyed gathering together at a local park for our annual Sunday School picnic. Many thanks to the teachers and their families for the efforts put forth to make the event take place; we all enjoyed a blessed evening.

It was a blessing to have several ministering brothers visit us this past month. A special thank you goes out to Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH) for bringing forth the Word to us. May God richly continue to be with you each one as you preach the Word.

Sis. Carolyn Spangler had surgery this past month. We are thankful for the healing hand of our Heavenly Father and trust Sis. Carolyn's recovery will continue to go well.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Pete Hurd (Sis. Helen) as his sister, Jeaninne Morey, of Gloversville, NY, passed away.

OHIO, LATTY
Amanda Steffen
Bonny Wenninger

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

Jeremiah 29:11

We were blessed to have many visiting ministers this past month. Joining us were Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), Bro. Ron Koehl (Sis. Carol, Sarasota, FL), Bro. Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn, Junction, OH) and Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lana, Toledo, OH).

Rejoicing over the birth of their first child are Bro. Tim and Sis. Kari Stoller. They welcomed a daughter, Kasee Joy, on June 14. First-time grandparents on both sides are Bro. Rod and Sis. Leann Stoller and Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer (Milford, IN).

The week of June 14-18 was a busy one for our congregation as Vacation Bible School was going on. A special thanks to all those who worked on behalf of the young in the congregation.

Sis. Mildred Stoller was our only hospital and surgical patient this past month. Thankfully, God heard many prayers and she is recovering.

Note: Effective the first part of July, remodeling began on the Latty church building. As of this writing, the parking lot is torn up, but vehicles can still part there. This note is not intended to deter anyone from visiting us now or in the future. There will be updates on the construction in coming issues.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Esther Baumann

“Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.”

Proverbs 4:13

The week of June 14 – 18 we were privileged to be instructed in God’s Word in our annual Vacation Bible School. We are thankful to God and these brothers for teaching us on the following topics: Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI) on “Walking in the Spirit”; Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH) on “Fighting Discouragement”; Bro. Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rosemary, Smithville, OH) for our Wednesday evening service; Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) on “Blaspheme of the Holy Ghost”; and Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH) on “Giving Comfort”. We also thank all of the teachers who instructed the children.

Bro. Matt Domka (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Ann) and Sis. Tami Baltic (Bro. Pete and Sis. Karen) were united in Holy Matrimony on June 20. We were blessed with many visitors including five ministering brethren the day of the wedding: Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH), Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH), Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN), and Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI). Bro. Randy and Elder Bro. Mark Masters conducted the wedding service.

Recently hospitalized patients include Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Marcella), Bro. Wayne Rufener (Sis. Nina), Sis. Catherine Armstrong and Ashley Gabor. Continue to keep them in your prayers.

The week of June 26 – July 3

many of the Seniors and Juniors in the Sunday School, as well as other adults who accompanied them, took the opportunity to serve God in Jamaica at the deaf school in Knockpatrick. Our Mansfield group was joined by several from the Ohio congregations of Sardis, Latty, Junction and Toledo. Prayers of the congregation were felt as we received many blessings and returned home safely.

Special thanks are extended to Dan and Sis. Barb Tucker for hosting the Sunday School Picnic this past month. Despite the rain, we enjoyed a rich time in fellowship.

OHIO, RITTMAN Laurel Indermuhle Anne Widmer

Lord, to Thee, not to the world, we belong –
Thou shalt awake us.
This pow’r of the better world
let us taste when death does take
us.

May we here in faith abide
and in death with Thee reside.

Zion’s Harp #104

We are encouraged as those who have been faithful unto death are laid in earth’s grave. Bro. Vernon Hartzler was relieved from his walk in this world on June 30. May we look on those who remain fervent until the end and continue striving in our walk of life to become more firmly rooted in the Truth.

Our prayers continue to be with Myles Rufener and his family as his recovery in the hospital

continues. And as God showed His mercy in sparing Myles's life, He also spared the life of Tony Indermuhle who was in an accident on June 25. May God open each of our eyes to see that only through His strength and power is anything possible and in our weakness is when His power is most evident. May He also continue to grant healing within His will during each process of recovery. Also hospitalized this month was Sis. Lib Landis (Bro. Vernon). Our thoughts and prayers go out to each one.

The engagement of Bro. Ben Henico (Akron, OH) and Sis. Joanne Maibach was announced July 11. We rejoice with them and their parents, Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah Henico (Akron, OH) and Bro. Alpha and Sis. Denise Maibach. May God be their ever present guide now and in their marriage to come.

We want to thank Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) for visiting and sharing in the Word. May God be his Rich Rewarder.

Many new little ones were born this month. May God grant each of these parents strength that they may be faithful examples to their children. On June 24, Bro. Dean and Sis. Julia Ramsier became the parents of Luke Carsor. Grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terri Ramsier and Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake (Sardis, OH).

July 8, Bro. Shawn and Sis. Judy Acker became parents to Noah Reuben. Grandparents are Boyd and Barb Acker and Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie

Hartzler. Breann Nicole was born on July 9 to Bro. Brett and Sis. Renee Lanz. She will be joining older brother, Brandon. Grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Diane Lanz and Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby Beer (Milford, IN).

On July 12, Lauren Emily was born to Bro. Tony and Sis. Mary Beth Stoller. Grandparents are Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne Stoller and Bro. John and Sis. Emily Rufener (Smithville, OH).

Another little girl was added to the family of Bro. Joe and Sis. Kendra Ramsier. Esther Joy joined sisters, Elizabeth and Brenda, and brother, Kenneth, on July 12. Grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terri Ramsier and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Janice Steffen (Forrest, IL).

OHIO, SARDIS
Jami Hartzler
Terry Zollinger

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

II Cor. 9:7

Bro. Tim Ramsier (Rittman, OH) gave a wonderful and timely exhortation on being good stewards of the blessings of God at our annual Sunday School picnic. May he be blessed for taking the time to teach our young people and remind us of the Christian's responsibility to give in His name.

Faith of our fathers! Living still
 In spite of dungeon, fire and

sword,
 O how our hearts beat high with
 joy
 Whene'er we hear that glorious
 word
 Faith of our fathers! Holy faith!
 We will be true to Thee till death!
Hymns of Zion #85

A blessed and beautiful day on June 27 was the annual memorial service at the New Martinsville, WV, church. Visiting ministers among us were Bros. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) and Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH). We are thankful for the reminder of our forefathers who preserved the faith down through the generations. May it continue by His grace.

When pure and upright hearts,
 By flames of love ignited,
 Are by the bond of faith
 More firmly yet united
 The light of hope beams forth
 In radiance far and nigh,
 Invites us to partake
 The blessings from on high.
Zion's Harp #79

It is a joyous occasion when we can witness two hearts of our own congregation become one in marriage. On July 4, Bro. Eric Hartzler (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan, Rittman, OH) and Sis. Jami Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry) were united as one in the Lord's name. We're thankful for Bro. Eric and Sis. Jami as they make their home here in Sardis. Visiting ministers who helped Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle carry out this work were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Bro.

Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Bros. Matthew and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL). Bless these brothers for traveling many miles to help make this a blessed day.

Prayers are for Sis. Martha Indermuhle as she spent time in the hospital. May the Lord do according to His will in comforting her through trials and afflictions of the body.

A dear soul was admitted into the hospital last week and knowing he was living his final hours here on earth, gave his heart to the Lord and through spiritual counseling, was able to repent and be baptized. Bro. Raymond Headley (Sis. Ruth) was called Home a few days later on July 13. May the Comforter be with Sis. Ruth and the family as they will surely miss him.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Rachel Maibach
Alyssa Miller

E're I knew Thee and Thy sweet
 compassion,
 My unhappy heart sought peace in
 vain;
 For a thousand lusts of evil fash-
 ion
 Burnt within me yielding naught
 but pain...
 O, in misery I would have per-
 ished,
 Crushed by great affliction and
 distress
 Had I not by Thee been found and
 cherished,
 Had I not by Thy grace been re-
 freshed.

Zion's Harp #182

When we witness a convert's

repentance and conversion, it is a reminder of God's grace and mercy to each one of us. How thankful we are that He continues to call souls to repentance and then grants forgiveness of sins, and grace to walk a new life! We rejoice with our friend, Tyler Gerber (John Gerber and Ricki Glessner), who has been given the gift of peace with God.

...Now Thou cheerest heart and
 mind;
 Only peace and happiness possess
 me
 Since my blessed lot in Thee I find.

We extend our thoughts and prayers to Roger Beery (Bro. Ted and Sis. Rhea) as he underwent a major surgery this month. We trust that he will feel God's nearness and His healing hand during recovery.

Bro. Craig and Sis. Gale Emch are the happy grandparents of little Cheyenne. We wish them, and Cheyenne's parents, Bryan and Krissy, much joy as they watch her grow. Also, Bro. John and Sis. Emily Rufener have been blessed to become grandparents this month when Lauren Emily was born to Bro. Tony and Sis. Mary Beth.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Rebecca Beard
Teresa Rywalski

"Remember now thy Creator
 in the days of thy youth, while the
 evil days come not, nor the years
 draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I
 have no pleasure in them;"

Ecclesiastes 12:1

On the weekend of June 27, we gathered with our Sunday School children for our annual Sunday School picnic. Along with the many visitors were Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Joe Dotterer (Rittman, OH). What a blessing it is to know that the seed has been planted in such young hearts.

Sunday, July 11, the nieces and nephews of Bro. Gene and Sis. Marilyn Fetter gathered with us to wish their aunt and uncle a farewell pending their move to Bern, KS. Joining us that day on the pulpit was our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH). It was a joy to have a full church and we pray that all will return to visit in the future.

"I thank my God upon every
 remembrance of you..."

Philippians 1:3

OREGON, SILVERTON
Kelsey Walder

Greetings in the Lord from the
 Silvertown brethren.

The last weekend in June was the Bible Class weekend. They were able to spend a blessed weekend of fellowship at the coast. We were thankful to have Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary) from Fairbury, IL, here for this special weekend. We were thankful Bro. Rick also willingly shared the Word with us on Sunday. The weekend was closed with an all-church potluck supper on Sunday afternoon.

Little Johanna Lynn was welcomed into the hearts and home

of first-time parents, Bro. Brian and Sis. Amanda Dietrich, on July 13. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn and Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich. May God bless and guide this couple as they seek to raise their daughter up in the fear of the Lord.

In the hospital this month was our friend, Chad Stadel (Sis. Cathy). We are thankful for the Lord's healing powers after surgery.

Our congregation experienced two deaths this month. Our Sis. Esther Dettwyler went on to her reward. Our loving sympathy extends to the Dettwyler family as Sis. Esther will be missed, though we are thankful she has been able to lay down her armor and be at home with the Lord. We also extend our loving sympathy to Bro. Tim Hansen (Carol) in the loss of his father Alvin Hansen. May God comfort and provide for each one who has lost a loved one.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) from Portland, OR, with us recently. May God bless him for his labors to bring the Word to us.

Our congregation has been blessed with the addition of several brethren from across the states. We're thankful to have with us and wish to extend a loving welcome to Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy Young and daughter, Sis. Tami, from Forrest, IL; Sis. Shonda Maul (Mike and Sis. Kathy) from Cissna Park, IL; and Sis. Lanette Feuchtenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gwen) from Morris, MN.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Nathan and MaryElizabeth Gasser

This month we had the privilege of hosting a marriage seminar by Bro. Jeff Thames from Apostolic Christian Family Services. The seminar, titled "Greater Love", presented God's plan for marriage, beginning with the foundations laid in Genesis, and focusing on Christ's example of marriage to His Church. We were exhorted to emulate this "Greater Love" in our relationships with our spouses, in our roles in the home, and in the way the world perceives our marriages. We are very grateful to Bro. Jeff for taking time to share these valuable lessons with us, and to ACFS for making available such important resources to our church body. May God help us put these lessons into practice in our lives and in our congregation, and may He continue to strengthen others through this teaching.

We are pleased to be moving forward with an expansion of our church building, and have put in place a building committee to assist in carrying out our plans. We are grateful to God for the way He has blessed our church with growth over the past thirty years, and we humbly pray that He will guide our efforts that our church can continue to be a source of blessing for those who gather here, and a glory to His Name.

This month we welcomed many visitors, including Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto,

MI), as well as Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) who shared the Word with us.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

The Lord has provided for us abundantly in the past month with visiting ministering brothers, and with the precious exhortations and encouragement they have brought to us from His Word. Our visitors have been Bros. Gary Tonner (Sis. Diann, Bluffton, IN), Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI), Jeff Streitmatter III (Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL), and Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL), and our Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton, IN). We have also appreciated the willingness of retired ministering brothers to share in the Word: retired Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Andy Virkler (Sis. Maxine, Bay City, MI), and Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Sis. Dorothy, Eureka, IL). It has also been a privilege to fellowship with brethren and friends visiting from Rockville, CT; Sarasota, FL; Champaign, Chicago, Eureka, Forrest, Roanoke, and Tremont, IL; Bluffton, Bluffton North, La-Crosse, Leo, and Remington, IN; Oakville, IA; Alto and Bay City, MI; and Junction, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Remington, IN (8/22); Tremont, IL (8/29); Francesville,

IN (9/5); Burlington, IA (9/12); Rittman, OH (9/19); Morton, IL (9/26). 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

This month we've been blessed to have one extra person attending services with us. Bro. Adam Young (Elgin, IL) has been with us for six weeks over the summer months. We pray that the Holy Spirit will direct him as he returns to school in the fall.

Many thanks to Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury) for his willingness to visit our church as part of our rotation of ministers. We look forward to hosting a minister from Morris in August and one from Detroit in September.

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 Ringger

Our garden is entering its turning phase from the spring garden to the fall garden. The green beans and potatoes have been finished for a while, and we have started our fall pepper and tomato plants to plant outside in two weeks. As I was weeding the garden one evening, I pondered how to get better production in our fall garden than this spring. I know that we are still getting the new garden established, so low yields are somewhat expected in these beginning stages. We will weed, and fertilize, hoping for greater yields in the next harvest. I also hope that God still works in the garden of my heart preparing it to produce more fruit in each subsequent season.

Our ministers this month were Bros. Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield), Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis), Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata), Alan Schambach (Sis. Sara, Remington), and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign). We're thankful for them and our visitors from Pharr, TX, and Kansas City.

We look forward to hosting visiting ministers from the following churches in September: Elgin, IL (5), Wolcott (12), Minneapolis (19), LaCrosse (26). We also ex-

tend 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 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 are thankful that Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (Mansfield, OH) have moved to Zapata to make it their permanent home. We certainly appreciate them gathering with us each Sunday.

Our visitors this past month have been from Silvertown and Mansfield and we certainly appreciate the visitors that stop in Zapata on their vacations.

Our area has been blessed with rains this summer after nearly 15 years of drought. Falcon Lake which is 70 miles long is filling and the countryside is green from the rains which we have had most of the summer.

We are anticipating our winter congregation to begin arriving in September and look forward to their arrival.

VERMONT, NORWICH

Doug Mangers

Church services for the month were held on July 11. We were very thankful to have ministering Bro. Ted Luginbuhl and his family with us from Smithville. Also with us to share God's Word was Bro. Warren Zahner from Rockville. We were blessed with a large contingent of visitors on this busy summer weekend from Rockville, Smithville, Burlington, Elgin, IL, Morton, and Tucson. We are thankful for each one who came to be with us and pray that the blessing of sharing God's Word together was not lost on any that were present.

There is some news to share in our small congregation this month and it is a little awkward to report as it involves the author of this monthly update. Firmly believing it to be God's will, Bro. Doug Mangers from Norwich/

Rockville (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cheryl, Champaign, IL) and Sis. Kary Ackerman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Marge) from Morton, IL, announced their engagement. In addition to this news, it will be my last time writing this piece as I will be moving to Denver after spending the last 2 ½ years living in New Hampshire. It has been a blessing to me to move to an area of the country I had never been before and have an opportunity to meet and get to know those who worship in the Rockville congregation and once per month here in Vermont. As we consider this small gathering now well into it's second year of meeting together, may we all take an opportunity to consider the many small churches that are included in our fellowship throughout this country and in other parts of the world as well. In many of these places, things that are taken for granted

in our larger churches such as having ministers to preach the Word or having enough people and room to have a Sunday School class are difficult to maintain. We can each do our part by praying for these churches, praying for the ministers and their families that travel to assist with their services, and visiting them if we can. May each of us, no matter where we find ourselves, seek to demonstrate the love of Christ in our daily walk so that we could introduce and attract others to His saving message.

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 Morey Weiss at (802) 295-5981.



Sermon continued from page 2

and of Christ.” (Colossians 2:2). Of course there was only a few people that were right close to Jerusalem that witnessed the crucifixion and again the arising of Christ. But how that God in His mercy would bring up these prophets and missionaries to go out into the world at that time. To remind everyone and to bring it as a first time to many, what God’s will is and what really we will be confronted with in this life. That we know that so many things that are going on in the world today are against God’s will. The forces that are out there against God. And then that we have those that are willing to follow God’s Word and to forego much in the world today. But to seek to do God’s will, for as we learn from the scriptures, there will be a time after our time here upon this earth. That there are two destinations.

You know how it is whenever we go to travel to a place that we have not been before, we look to a map or to someone’s instructions of how do we get there. Because we know there are many, many roads. Many cross roads. Many opportunities to turn this way or that way. Yet if we are mindful and look at the trap and pay attention, we can arrive at our destination safe and sound. So that is what we are looking for here and that was Paul’s mission, that these people at that time would be guided right. He gave of himself, not only appearing before them, but also in writing of letters.

He said, to the understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God. To the understanding of the ways of God, what God would want us to do. “...and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” (Colossians 2:2,3). If we want wisdom and knowledge, we need to put our trust in the Lord

and ask the Lord for that divine guidance. For the answers to our questions of things in this life.

As in the fore reading, we read of Solomon. At that time, he asked God for wisdom, for direction, for guidance. How he should make judgment. The same is open and available to us in this day. We are a blest people. Just to be awakened. To know that there are two ways.

We recognize there are probably a lot of people, even in our own communities, do not realize this. There are different ways to go in this life. There are different ways to live our life. We see many that seem to be lost. That they don’t understand. They are hurting. As time goes on, it doesn’t get any better. It probably gets worse for them. They seek comfort but don’t know where to find it.

We know we have opportunities. It isn’t that we need to be out standing on the street corners preaching. But just our life style. Yet as we each one, if we stop and think, as we were growing up, how many that were a living example to you and me to be obedient to God’s Word, that they wouldn’t get themselves troubles? We many times didn’t listen. But we went ahead on our own and found out that it was not the right way. That if we wanted comfort of body and soul, and soul particularly, that we had to make a change in our life. We know that there are some sitting here today that through example of some individual, that they are here today. They can make that change in their life. And today that they can have comfort in body and soul.

“And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.” (Colossians 2:4). There is so much today, the advertising and the offering of so many things for the enjoyment, so to say, in this world. Of the comfort of the body to offer to mankind today. The entice-

ment, in some ways, we would say is getting out of hand. We just need to stop and think, we are not exempt. Those enticing words and individuals would want to misdirect and misguide us that we would not have the comfort that we have in this day.

He makes excuse here. “For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.” (Colossians 2:5). Apparently he had been to Laodicea. He had spoken to them and there were many followers. Now is he writing to them to continually comfort them, to guide them, to remind them that he is in their mind. That he is praying for them. That they would continue to follow the Word of God. That they would not again fall away. But that they would have the comfort of God’s Word. Then they could have the fulfillment of the promise. That when their time on this earth is over, that they could then rest in peace.

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.” (Colossians 2:6,7). We need to thank God every day for sending His Son into this world for each one of our benefits. Without Him, without Christ, we cannot have this promise. We cannot have this comfort. We would be the same as the lost in the world today.

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” (Colossians 2:8). In this we can see Paul realized the many things that are in the world today. Paul felt very much alone. Him and those that were close to

Sermon continued on next page...

... sermon continued

him. They were out there bringing this Word. He realized that for every one of him, there were a thousand others that were trying to, not necessarily trying to, but just as our life was for the world, that they would soon be falling. Those that love the Lord are still a minimum in this world. They are a minority. We have to come out from them, come out from the masses. Live a life according to what we desire.

I am sure that each one of us has in the back of their mind that, when this life is over, then I'll have comfort. The enemy will not be there to misguide and misdirect. But that wherever I look will be good. And here today we see, when we are out in public, the many things that are going on today. The many things that are happening. The advertisements are full of things that we could entertain our self with. Or that we could indulge in. They are enticing. We just need to realize that.

It says, "for in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:" (Colossians 2:9-11). We know that before the time of Christ, all the males were to be circumcised. There had to be the shedding of blood. We know how they had to bring a sacrifice to the temple, that blood was shed. They found that it didn't fulfill God's will.

But yet He loved His creation. So He sent His only Son into this world. He also

taught the masses and traveled with them. He performed miracles that would get our attention. And it certainly did. It got our attention.

It got the attention of many. But many still didn't follow.

Christ knew, when He came into this world, that the day would come when He would give His life. That His blood would be shed to fulfill God's work, that there needed to be blood shed. It was so. Those that were against Him, crucified Him. They killed Him. They took His life. They didn't like what he was saying. Whether they understood or not, I know not. But it remains that they took His life. His divine blood was shed for you and me. Now we have the opportunity to follow or to turn it away.

There were so many of the prophets that came and prophesied of what would come to pass in this world, from the time of Christ until the time the world, as we know it today, will end.

Just this last week, didn't observe, but we understand of the hurricane or the typhoon that landed on our land. Again, a fulfillment of God's Word. That these things would come to pass. I am sure that many of those people that were in the center of the activity, whether they remained or whether they traveled away from it, they had to stop and think, what came to pass? Why did it come to pass? What does it mean? Perhaps there were a few that turned to God. There were probably just as many cursed God. Yet God let this come to pass, that you and I, our minds would be re-fortified. Maybe it would awaken some, that they would realize what happened.

There is a lot of material damage. But it can all be replaced. The soul of man lives on. Where do you want your soul to end? That is the question. That is what Paul wanted to bring to these people's attention. We are thinking of long term. We are thinking of the soul. Today is a day of decision.

Just because we repented and

fulfilled all that God has asked us to do, to be forgiven of sin, doesn't mean that we cannot be enticed back into this way of the world. But very easily, we can be enticed. The enemy does not rest. The enemy apparently has a lot of soldiers. So let us not let this happen to us. But let us remain faithful, that we would be soldiers of Christ.

We are not all asked to be Pauls or Peters or Johns. Those that personally went out and brought this Word to the multitudes, it was not easy for them. Very few died what we call a natural death. Very few today, in our land, are sacrificed. There are our fore fathers. The fore fathers of the anti-Baptist movement, many of them gave their lives. They were separated from families, which may even have been worse. They were in prison or, sent to slave camps. Their family was sold individually. It is unimaginable how man will treat man. There is no respect. But with God, there is all respect. It is His creation. Today we are benefactors. We just need to stop and realize it.

"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead" (Colossians 2:12). We know how it is in baptism. The sinful nature is buried. Then as we can arise unto a new life and live for Christ, that we would make a total change in our life. That we would then be risen in a new life and a new walk.

"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;" (Colossians 2:13). Not that we are worthy. Not that we earn it. But we are forgiven. It is something that we cannot repay. There is no way that we can pay for our past deeds. But we can be a soldier of Christ.

We are all examples of one kind or another. Today as we have more and more opportunities to be a witness, and many times a silent witness, just of our life, we have opportunities to mingle in the world, in many places and many stations. The question is, what kind of a witness are we? If someone is looking today to change their life, or if they see something in us, what will it tell them? Will we be different from the world? Perhaps in the way we dress, perhaps in our conversation, in our dealings, our whole life. As we sing in one song, Let your whole life be an offering... (Self-Sacrifice, Zion's Harp #159). Not just sometimes or some places, but always. That we can be that witness that the Lord would want us to be.

We know that many think that I am a nobody. I don't see anybody. I don't know what to say. We don't need to say anything. Our deeds and our actions - and if we just stop and think, in our own life, when we

were growing up, wasn't it those that were silent? Wasn't it because of what they said in conversation and in dealings and how they dressed and what they did in this life? Wasn't that a greater witness? So we just need to stop and think of these things. To think of all those that gave so much more than we. Of the early church, how many martyrs were there? The least we can do is be obedient to the Word.

"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it," (Colossians 2:14,15). They lied, there were false witnesses, there were so many things that they tried to suppress Christ with. And not only Christ, but many, many of the prophets. The soldiers, how they tried to find fault. Yet, the more they tried, and when Christ was dead, they

thought it was all over. But He surprised them. He arose. That is what you and I are looking forward to.

We live in a wicked world. There are pleasures. And you and I have pleasures doing God's will and living that life. We can enjoy many things in this life. Today we can come here together peacefully. We are not worried today that somebody is going to come in and overtake us and imprison us, if we just stop and think, there are those in the world today that have that hanging over their head. Whenever they are assembled together, even in small groups, they are afraid somebody may break in and haul part of them off to jail or to eliminate them. We have so many benefits today, we can't hardly realize what some pay for salvation. The least we can do is be obedient to the Word of God.

NOTE: Work Teams to Jamaica are now being scheduled for the 2005 calendar year. Due to current shortfalls in World Relief collections, World Relief funding assistance for Jamaica work teams may be decreased for 2005. Please contact Bro. Kevin Sauder for more information on scheduling a Jamaica work team for your church.

**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.

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.

- 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

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Morton, IL 61550
309-263-5536 (local#)
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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.

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
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Bluffton, IN 46714
Phone and Fax 260/824-5587
E-mail: bibledist@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

U.S.A. BOARD WORK PROJECTS

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

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

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.



Below are excerpts from a series of writings on church practices. They are distributed by Apostolic Christian Publishing, Eureka, Illinois

MAKING A COVENANT WITH GOD

A Promise

Entering into an everlasting covenant with a holy and eternal God is a very serious matter. So serious, in fact, that a soul intending to erect such a covenant must possess a clear understanding of its enormous substance, importance, meaning and enduring quality. Reducing the definition (of a covenant) to its simplest form, a covenant is an agreement between two persons, both of whom intend to keep their end of the bargain.

In the spiritual realm we find a deeply important covenant: that in which God promises eternal life through Christ Jesus to all who will turn to Him in repentance, live in obedience to Him, and hold fast by His grace until life's end — a two-way promise.

Biblical Covenants

There are two major Biblical covenants: the old covenant, found in the Old Testament, and the new covenant, found in the New Testament. The old cove-

nant gave way to the new because Christ came to fulfill the old Jewish law.

The old covenant was conditional, predicated on the faithfulness of the people. In Exodus 19:5, God uses the language, "...if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant. Thus, it is easy to see that on one side of the covenant are great and precious promises; on the other is man's obligation to be faithful. God's reaction to covenant-breakers (in the Old Testament) was chastisement.

Covenant-making

In the New Testament, God's covenant is salvation by grace through faith. This is made possible by Christ's death on the Cross. From this, God extends great and precious promises, and the believing, converted soul makes a declaration to be true and faithful — that is, to keep his end of the two-way promise (a covenant with God).

The public act of making a covenant (with God) reveals the believer's recognition of the covenant and his readiness to keep his side of it. Because there is the possibility, through carelessness, that one could break the covenant with God, it is necessary for a soul to promise in the beginning an all-out intent (by His grace) to

keep the covenant with his Maker.

If the church believed in the doctrine of eternal security — once saved, always saved — there would be no need to make a covenant (a public promise). Recognizing the need for faithfulness (to the end) prompts the necessity to make a promise (to God in the presence of the church) to be true and faithful to the end.

Bro. Samuel Froehlich wrote, in *Baptismal Truth* (p.139), "The new covenant is mutual (as was the old) and not one-sided. As God gives and fulfills the promise, so the regenerated person takes over his responsibilities and must fulfill them."

In his *Meditations on Hebrews* (p.290), Bro. Froehlich states, "Whoever does not, with his whole heart, wish to become a subject of Christ does not belong to the congregation and to the new covenant."

"The new covenant consists herein that God puts His laws into our mind and writes them in our heart, so that we live accordingly, and that our heart becomes the living law of God, and our mind a mirror of His holiness." (p. 291).

"Jesus is become the surety of a new covenant, which, however, is

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REMEMBERING

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mutually made between God and man so that God on His part makes all promises in Christ 'yea and amen'." (p. 254)

"No one will be saved unconditionally, but only under two conditions, that man accept the offered grace and then rightly use and preserve it unto the end." (p. 230).

Summary

The making of a covenant is an official acknowledgement of God's promises to man and man's intent to accept and be obedient to God's promises and commandments. The covenant with God is conditional on man's obedience until life's end.

Diligent fathers of old thought the new covenant belongs "only to the one who covenants himself to God and promises himself to Him in the power of the Holy Spirit in faith."

Making a covenant with God while standing in those baptismal waters is an impressive ceremony, which serves as an inspiration to the church, and leaves a lasting imprint and obligation on the heart and mind of the one who has entered into such a holy commitment to the Lord.

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next issue:

More Church Practices

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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"Enjoying vs. Enduring"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

There is a great deal in the Bible about enduring. In Matthew 24:13, the Lord Jesus said, "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

The Apostle Paul wrote "All your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure." II Thessalonians 1:4.

The Apostle James wrote in James 5:11, "Behold, we count them happy which endure."

The word "endure" indicates that something very difficult has come upon us. That could be a temptation, an illness, or an accident. Or it could be that we have no food, clothing, or shelter, or that someone is shooting at us, in case of war. These things require endurance.

The Apostle James talks about being happy if we endure, so evidently you can do both at the same time, although we do not enjoy what we endure, we can be happy about something else.

The question I ask myself is, do I enjoy living for Christ, or do I endure living for Christ? I choose the former. In I Timothy 6:17 we read, "Trust ... in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy." Among other things, God gives us salvation which we should enjoy, even though we may have to endure some things because of our faith.

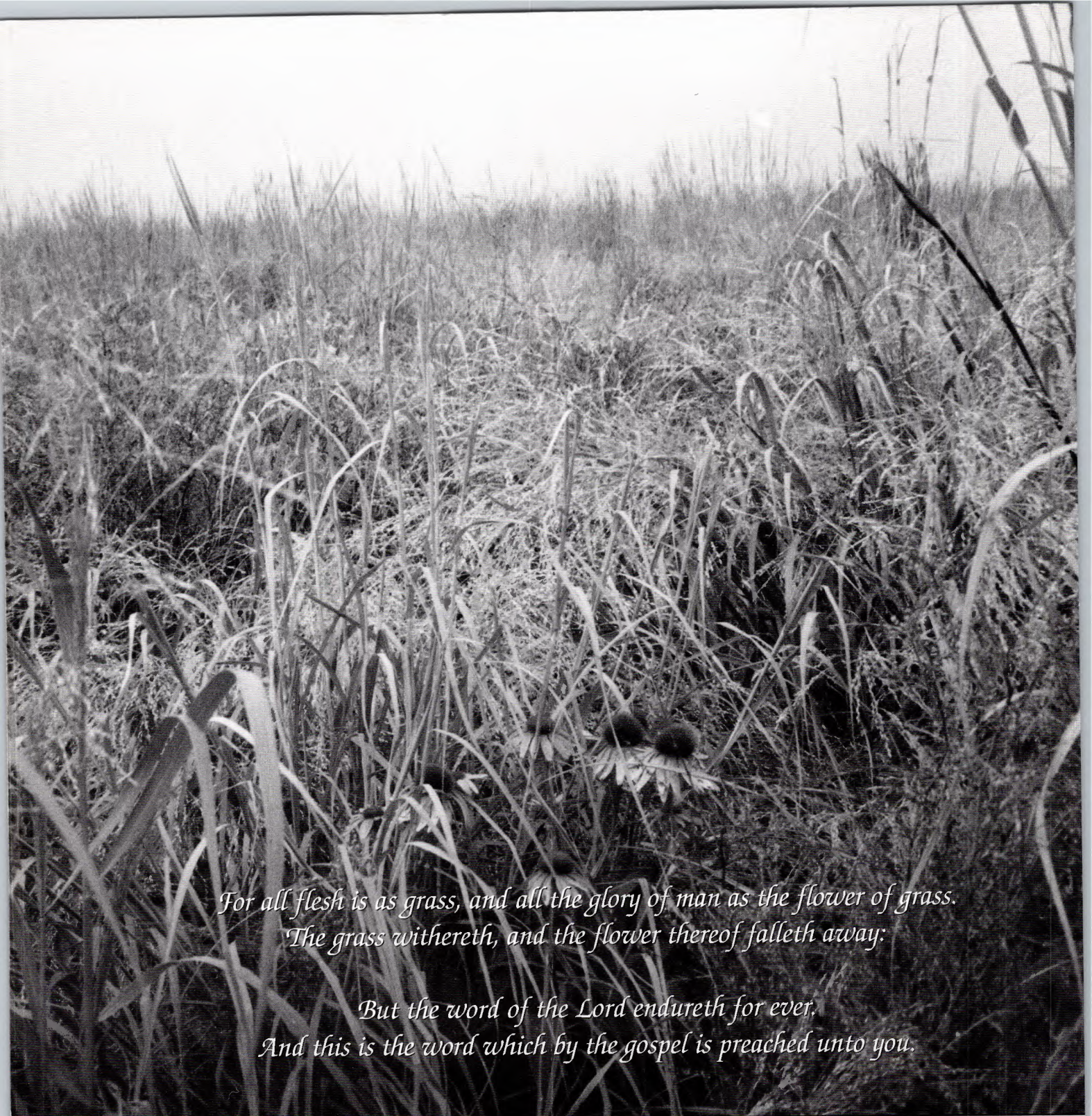
The enjoyment that one has who follows Christ, is much deeper and longer lasting than the enjoyment

that one has who follows the world. The world says anything that your body enjoys is all right, don't worry about it, but the consequences are overwhelming. You then have many problems to endure and to try to forget.

How can you enjoy life in Christ? Set up a daily routine of prayer and Bible reading which you learn to enjoy and count on. Cultivate a manner of politeness and kindness to others, especially to those of your own family. The tendency to be kind to guests and rough with your own family, is not good. It keeps you from enjoying your life for the Lord Jesus Christ. I hope I am wrong but maybe there is someone who is rough with his or her own family.

It is important to enjoy the simple things in life, such as a new kitchen table, or a watermelon. Enjoy the members of your family; each one is a treasure. Forget self entirely and live for others. In this way, the words of the Lord Jesus Christ are fulfilled, "He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." Matthew 10:39.

What is your attitude about life? Is it something for you to enjoy in a good way, or is it something for you to endure? Every morning when we get up, let's think about enjoying the new day, rather than enduring it. It's your choice.



*For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass.
The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:*

*But the word of the Lord endureth for ever,
And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.*

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