

The Silver Lining



*Thy righteousness is like the great mountains;
thy judgments are a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest man and beast.*

September 2004

Sermon by Bro. Dan Beer, Milford, IN

I Chronicles 28:1-13 and I Timothy 6

We read through here, I had to notice that David realized it wasn't always going to be things as good as this if they didn't follow after the Lord. If they didn't follow after Him, God would take away His blessing from them. He was giving them a warning. (I Chronicles 28:9)

We find this so often. We find Moses did the same thing. Joshua did the same thing. David did it. It is something that people have passed on for generations to those that are following after them: that if you are faithful, God will be with you. If you aren't, it is not going to go well for you.

We sing that song, It Is Well With My Soul (#55 Hymns of Zion). It is easy to sing when things are going good and when things are well. Our soul can sometimes, when our heart is troubled, is it really well with our soul? It is if we are standing in favor with God.

As we think about these children of Israel, God tried to be so good to them. He brought Abraham and He brought his family. He put him there in the land of Israel. Then He had a plan, if He took them down to Egypt, that He allowed them to establish a large group of people, He could bring them back then, into this land and they could conquer it and it could be uniquely theirs. They could have this one spot where they could worship God and it would be this whole place where they could have this desire to serve Him. He did that. He brought them back there.

But there were two things that He didn't do for those people. He brought them back, and we know what happened. They had their ups and their downs. Two things He didn't do. One is He didn't change their hearts. He didn't change the makeup of man. He brought them back and established this land, but He didn't change their hearts. The

second thing, He didn't cast out the devil out of there. So we see their struggles and we see that it wasn't very successful, completely successful.

So then God had this second plan. That is what the New Testament is all about. He sent Jesus, and with Jesus came a conversion. He changed the hearts of men. Instead of trying to establish all in one spot, He just changed the hearts of man. He didn't cast out the devil again, but what did He do? He gave us grace to overcome the devil.

Those two things we have that are different than the Old Testament people. What a blessing it is when God gives us those two things within the heart. Yet the world looks at those things and rejects them. The world rejects conversion. The world rejects grace. But it is something each one of us should really treasure.

Paul started out here (I Timothy 6) with instructions as far as servants and masters. Something we don't relate real well to today. Yet we can relate to it as far as those that would be in charge of other people.

It talks about that we want to remember that we are brothers (I Timothy 6:2). In life, when we are a brother or a sister of someone in the faith, it means we have the same goals. It means we have the same striving. We have the same desire to walk circumspectly before our Lord. We have that goal of being there with Jesus Christ.

He talked about them. "...These things teach and exhort." I Timothy 6:2. That man would have these ideas, that they would follow Him. "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ..." I Timothy 6:3. We can read about Jesus and we can think of the

things that Jesus did for us, the life that He lived. The perfect example that He was.

There are things that we can read about His life that make us feel like we need to start over, like we're beginners. When we see the instructions that He has. Every day we need to remember that we have a new day and we can strive to walk

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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

September 2004

An Independent Spirit II

In the previous article of "Light from the Word", an independent spirit was defined as an attitude of not feeling much need for others and looking at things our own way. Several scriptural examples were cited. The seriousness of the problem was briefly outlined. Some ways were given by which we can recognize if we have a problem of an independent spirit and what is at stake if we allow this condition in our lives.

This article will continue to focus on what is at stake if we have an independent spirit and will offer some solutions that will help us avoid or eliminate the attitude of an independent spirit.

The love, unity and peace in our brotherhood are at stake. The deep and abiding commitment that we have to the Apostolic Christian body of believers will be weakened if we allow an independent spirit to prevail. What is ultimately at stake is our way of worshipping, our lifestyle and the very nature and character of the Apostolic Christian Church.

In addition to causing problems within the brotherhood, an independent spirit can cause us much grief in our family. Our marriage can be severely disrupted if we insist on fulfilling our selfish desires rather than meeting the needs of our spouse and children. Relationships with others can be damaged by a selfish attitude. An independent spirit will increase the chances of looking for a way out of a problem rather than seeking God's help to find solutions.

There are solutions to the dangers that we face as a result of an independent spirit. The solution begins with an examination of ourselves. It will require a change of attitude.

If we begin by recognizing what others need to improve upon, we have missed the first point. We need to be renewed in the spirit of our minds with godly attitudes (Eph. 4:23-24). Each day we need to put on the mind of Christ with its special virtues - lowliness of mind, meekness, a submissive spirit and putting the welfare of others above our own.

Are we nurturing the carnal mind or

the spiritual mind? The carnal mind craves the entertainment of the world. Predominant topics in the media today are immorality, violence and sensationalism. Paul reminded us of this when he itemized many evil things and then wrote that there would be those "Who, knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them" (Ro. 1:32). Paul recognized that there would be people who loved to engage in sin as well as those who were entertained by watching it.

Nurturing the carnal man unsettles the spiritual man. Avoiding the evils of movies, television, ungodly internet sites, etc. helps us clear our mind of evil and allows us to focus on the spiritual man. Again the Word of God is clear on these issues: "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners" (I Cor. 15:33). The Bible doesn't say it might corrupt, it says it does. Do we think we can escape? If we abstain from these things, we will not miss anything we need.

An essential part of the solution is to heed warnings that are given by the Word of God. "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip" (Heb. 2:1). Do we appreciate the cautions or do we get a bit weary of the "negative" messages?

We also must avoid the trap of self-righteousness whereby we require a much stricter way than the scripture requires and what is taught by our church. A self-righteous outlook causes us to become so critical of others, and so sure of ourselves that we are blinded to our own faults. We must become more discerning in recognizing the independent spirit in ourselves.

We can also help ourselves by spending quiet time with God. We must get away from the loud, fast-paced environment and in a very quiet manner focus on God in prayer and reading His Word. "Be still and know that I am God..." (Ps. 46:10). When Elijah was looking for God, he did not find him in the strong wind, nor in the earthquake, nor in the fire. He found him in "...a still small

voice" (I Kings 19:12).

If we spend quiet time in serious reading of the Bible and studying it to find ways that we can apply it to our lives, we will grow spiritually and weaken the independent spirit that wants to occupy so much of our lives. Serious study of the Word will also help us mature in our faith so we can partake of the meat of the Word. "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Heb. 5:14).

Additionally, we can use opportunities to keep busy with the Lord's work to keep our minds off of self and dwelling on things of eternal value. There are many opportunities to serve others and to fill our lives with the Fruit of the Spirit, thereby reducing the opportunity for the works of the flesh to occupy our time and thoughts.

Jesus gave a good summary of how we can keep the independent spirit under control. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength and with all thy mind and thy neighbor as thyself" (Luke 10:27).

An independent spirit goes hand in hand with pride and casualness. It is incompatible with obedience and submission. An attitude of this nature makes it easier to make bad decisions and to justify doing things we should not be doing. An independent spirit will lead us away from the moderate, reasonable, Bible-based positions of our church and lead us off to the right or to the left. It doesn't respond well to warnings. An independent spirit can lead us into such deception that we are convinced the Lord is telling us to do something when it is actually our own self will that is leading us.

If we can recognize the independent spirit and seek God's help in removing it from our lives, this will make a significant difference in our service to God. It will also go a long way toward preserving and strengthening our beloved church.



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

Eastern Europe

The Mission Committee is continuing to send assistance to our brethren in Eastern Europe.

Ukraine

The latest effort undertaken by the Mission Committee in Ukraine was the construction of the church in Ostrita that is currently serving the needs of nearly 500 persons. Recently we granted their request for the sum of \$5,000 to deepen the well on the church property.

Romania

The property of the Antioch Corporation formed last year by our Romanian, German, and American brethren is being updated on a regular basis. We have a room that contains Bibles and Hymnbooks in all European languages. In October we are planning to send a team of German brethren to work on this facility so that it will provide accommodations for up to 10 persons. This is vitally needed here, at the crossroads of Eastern Europe, and the Mission Committee has approved the sum of \$10,000 to assist in this effort. A team of American and German brethren plan to be in this country during the time the work is done. At this time it seems that this project has been a success, and we intend to continue to use it to further our efforts for all brethren in the area.

Hungary

For a couple of years the brethren in Budapest have been trying to purchase a parcel of land adjacent to the church so that they can have some measure of control on their neighborhood as well as room for future expansion. The Mission

Committee has approved a sum of money to be loaned to this congregation with the intent that it will be returned sometime in the future. This action was approved by both the European Board and the Mission Committee.

Money has been sent to the Baja congregation for the purpose of building a new church. The Hungarians are working their way through permits and other local regulations. It is hoped that construction can soon be underway here, because it is vitally needed by this congregation. They have far outgrown their present facility.

Serbia and Croatia

We maintain close contact and a good relationship with our brethren in the states that were a former part of the Yugoslav federation. Funds are sent as approved by both the Mission and World Relief Committees on a regular basis.

The brethren in these lands are very good at keeping records and furnishing reports of their needs as well as how funds are disbursed. It is easy to communicate with them either by phone, fax, or e-mail, which we greatly appreciate. Virtually everywhere in Eastern Europe our methods of communication have vastly improved in the last few years. We thank God for this, because it does make our working relationship much easier.

In recent years we have assisted in the purchase of 15 vans in Serbia. These are used to transport passengers to baptisms or funerals as well as assisting in daily needs. There are requests for a couple more, which are being duly considered.

For some years it has also been our practice to furnish funds for

heating homes and churches in the winter. The money is sent in the summer time when wood is cheaper, and it is bought and stored before winter sets in.

Brethren report that wages average about \$200/month, but many people are unemployed. The actual cost of consumer goods is not a whole lot less than here in the US, which makes assistance from outside the country of great necessity. We continue to monitor the situation as events unfold. It is very hard for working people to make ends meet, as is typical throughout the former communist lands.

We have supported several self-help projects, and they seem to be working well. Brethren have repaid loans, and these funds are then loaned to others to continue the cycle of assistance. We have also furnished a number of garden tillers and other tools to help the believers make their living.

At this time one new church is nearly completed, and permits are being obtained to remodel another one. We are making steady progress in renovating or building churches, and this seems to be helping the believers.

Slovakia

Bibles in the Slovakian language have been purchased for the small group of believers remaining in this former communist land. There are not very many persons here, but each soul is precious to God. Our current system of assigning various brethren to specific lands seems to be working, and we have good hopes for the future.

The European Board and the Mission Committee wish to thank God first of all, and then each of our brethren who support this work.



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

Food Distribution For the Hungry

The World Relief Distribution Centers serve as a hub for our efforts to help those in need. The centers each specialize in specific projects that allow the brethren to operate efficiently. Two of these projects will be discussed in this article. We are thankful for many brethren, being moved with compassion, who have provided countless labors at our distribution centers.

Corn and wheat packaging and distribution

There is great need for these two basic grains to provide food for people. In the past year contributions from our brethren to this project have allowed us to ship over sixty sea containers of grain. The shipping of these containers was funded by a secondary organization. This arrangement provides opportunity for brethren to give grain or money to this project.

Currently the centers participating in grain packaging are Bluffton, Ohio and Fairbury. The shipments were sent to Haiti, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Armenia, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, St. Lucia, Israel, Jordan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Grenada, and Dominica. The recipients of these shipments were non-government organizations including orphanages, hospitals, and group homes for the elderly and homeless. Often the recipients are not receiving the social and government assistance that we are accustomed to in America. The grain is usually ground for flour or made into a porridge cereal. It is not hard to recognize that the needs of these people are much greater than what

we see in our daily lives. A state of emergency was declared in an area of Honduras due to adverse weather and economic shocks in July of 2004 just as three to four containers of our grain was reaching them. Thanks be to God for those who have been moved to help these needy souls.

Packaged Meals Program

In 1999 a variety of dry goods was donated to a World Relief warehouse. Recipes were used to blend the ingredients into ready to make meals. Brethren then began developing a project to produce low cost nutritious meals using dry ingredients. The program of packaging and shipping dry mix meals was approved by the National World Relief Board as the "Meals in a Bucket" program in 1999. The research and development of this program included sending meals to Haiti and Jamaica to test their reception. It was discovered that a one pot meal is essential, with the chicken flavored rice dishes being received the best across all cultures.

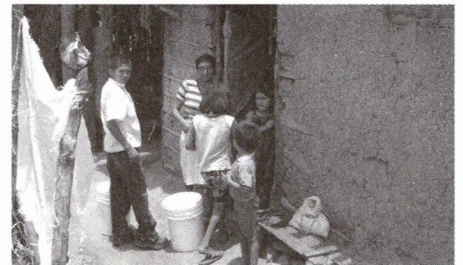


A Chicken Rice Pilaf dish was developed using soy protein, chicken flavor and rice. This dish provides valuable protein to people who are nutritionally deficit in this area. A chicken or beef flavored barley soup was also developed using barley, rice, soy protein, flavoring, and dried vegetables.

The current national Packaged

Meals Program has two aspects. The first consists of meal kits which are available from the Ohio and Fairbury Distribution Centers for churches who would like to have a project packaging meals. The kits provide a nice evening project for a group of about thirty people. In an evening they can make 5,700 meals at a cost of about 5.2 cents a serving.

The second part is a Chicken Rice Pilaf packaging system in the Fairbury Distribution Center. The system produces about 9,000 meals an hour in a sealed bag printed with the World Relief logo. The cooking directions are printed in English, Spanish, Creole, and Romanian. The current cost of production including packaging material is 5.3 cents each serving. World Relief has shipped packaged meals to Jamaica, Haiti, Mexico, Honduras, Costa Rica and Guatemala as well as within the United States.



The needs are great and the recipients, like this family in Honduras, are appreciative. Thanks be to God for the many brethren who through the generations have been moved of heart to help those in need. The example of our forefathers quietly laboring, not knowing what the left hand is doing, reaped the blessings of God. Often unknowingly your efforts and/or financial contributions have filled a hungry stomach from a bucket sitting in the mud of Hurricane Isabel, an orphanage in Mexico, or the deaf in Jamaica.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell,
How great is God almighty,
Who has made all things well.

Hymns of Zion #207

Summer in Illinois is a beautiful time, even though it has been unseasonably cool. Our residents have enjoyed God's creation by relaxing outside and taking walks. They love to hear the birds sing, feel the warm sunshine, and look at the beautiful flowers. We are all looking forward to watching as the trees turn beautiful colors as the autumn season rapidly approaches us.

We would like to express our gratefulness to all the church young groups for coming and fellowshiping with our residents. Playing games, singing, and talking are some of the activities they participate in.

We did not receive a raise in our rates from the State of Illinois this year and have received very minimal raises in recent years. Because of this we were not able to give our staff a raise last year. We are thankful that with the loving support we receive from many of you, we were able to give our hardworking, dedicated staff a modest raise this year to help them with their living expenses.

OCTOBER birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550 are: Tricia O'Donnell (10/1), Erin York (10/1), Julie Urish (10/3), Carol Fahrni (10/5), Emma

Walker (10/15), Curt Jewett (10/24), Jan Springer (10/30).

At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550: Lois Baumgartner (10/4), Alan Fischer (10/10), Keren Pickering (10/21).

At Linden Estate, 1000 Linden St., Morton, IL 61550: Kent Knobloch (10/14).

At 652 Detroit St., Morton, IL 61550: Anita Schuon (10/13).

At 1001 E. Idlewood, Morton, IL 61550: Chadwich Gerber (10/9).

At 208 S. Indiana Ave., Morton, IL 61550: Bryan Tiezzi (10/30).

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

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Bro. Clint Plattner

It seems there are times while working here that we feel "worn out". Whether it's from physical fatigue, accomplishing tasks, or facing the constant battle against our enemy, we can all relate to feeling "worn out". We look around and we see that life seems to be a constant striving. We observe a world that wears itself out on striving for things that are insignificant for the Kingdom of God and then look to recharge themselves by ways that leave a person empty in the end. As followers of Jesus, we are not exempt from the life of striving, but we have a goal and purpose that will be eternally significant. Whether it is being a salt and a light in the workplace, raising our families, or supporting one another within the family of God, we have been given a purpose. We know what we are striving for. So while feeling "worn out" isn't necessarily enjoyable, let's wear ourselves out on accom-

plishing God's goals for our life and then recharge ourselves with the communion we have with our Creator, the fellowship we have with His children, and the promises we have from His Word. Take courage and know our labor for the Kingdom is not in vain!

Information Update

Gateway Woods would like to offer our sincerest thanks to everyone who made the 2004 Auction a success! Through your prayers and generosity, we were able to raise over \$300,000 to help the many troubled and hurting children and families we serve. This represents approximately 15% of our operating budget. It's a lot to raise in one day, but God is faithful! Thanks again for all those who prayed, donated items, bought items, volunteered, and attended.

On July 12, Bro. Kurt and Sis. Kristen Slagel welcomed Josiah Ray Slagel into the world. We rejoice with the Slagels and pray for their continued strength and endurance. The Slagels are Houseparents in the West House. Josiah joins older sister Michaela.

In late August, Gateway Woods School started the 2004-2005 school year. We are excited to see how God is going to work in the upcoming year! Bro. Ryan Donaghy (Bluffton, IN) was recently hired to fill Bro. Kirk Plattner's position. Bro. Kirk has been promoted to Education Coordinator. Bro. Ryan is married to Sis. Bethany and has two children, Kyler and Kinsey. We are also pleased to announce that Bro. Kirk Plattner is engaged to Sis. Keri Kaeb (Roanoke, IL). All of our school staff would appreciate your prayers.

As the summer months come to a close, we look back and give God

thanks. Our volunteer program was again a success under the leadership of Bro. Joel Virkler (Remington, IN), the Auction met our goals, and our Houseparents survived the hectic summer months. Please remember to pray for the staff and children of Gateway Woods. Your prayers are a major factor in the continued success of Gateway Woods. We are in particular need of prayer that God would send the right residents at the right time. To God be the glory, great things He has done!

Open House and Dedication: Gateway Woods Family Services and World Relief Child Sponsorship offices will hold an open house on Sunday, September 19, from 1:30 to 4 PM with a dedication service at 2:15. We are so thankful to have this new office space at 923 Detroit Court on the southwest side of Morton, Illinois. If you are in the area, please plan to tour the beautiful new location of these vital ministries.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama
Melissa Slagel**

If I were a butterfly, I thank Thee,
Lord, for giving me wings.
And if I were a robin in the tree, I
thank Thee, Lord, that I could
sing.
And if I were a fuzzy, wuzzy bear, I
thank Thee, Lord, for my fuzzy,
wuzzy hair.
But I just thank Thee, Father, for
making me ... me.
Cause You gave me a heart and
You gave me a smile,
You gave me Jesus, and You made
me Your child
So I just Thank Thee, Father, for
making me ... me.

School is off to a great start! With

a more structured day and class time, I am learning even more how very unique God has made each of His children. While some love to sit in their chair and listen intently to the story I have to tell, others would much rather be upside down on their chair. While some love to follow my directions and cut only on the line I told them to cut on, others would much rather turn their paper into their own very unique creation. While some need to be told only once, for others it takes 16. But the beautiful thing is, however, they are just as God created them to be. Our job then is to form that personality to have Christ-like traits. It certainly makes each day a new but enjoyable adventure.

Our theme for the month of August has been "Back to School". Our Bible stories have been about Adam and Eve, Noah and Abraham. We also started back at A with our Bible Memory verses. So far we have learned A: "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23), and B: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." (Acts 16:31)

A huge thank you to the volunteers that came down and helped with painting and work around the church and preschool: Bro. Kevin and Sis. Laurie Edelman, Sis. Tiffany Edelman, and Maggie Huber, Fairbury, IL. We had a great time working together and it felt so good to get so much accomplished, that we could not have gotten done on our own. God will bless you.

We have been touched and very encouraged by all of the sponsor/donation money that has been sent to the preschool. It is a tremendous help and God will certainly reward you.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

"For where your treasure is,
there will your heart be also."

Matthew 6:21

This was the theme for our Vacation Bible School July 26-30. It was a busy week and it took every person doing their part to make it all go smoothly. It was rewarding to have so many children attend, aside from our regular Sunday School attendance. Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL) joined us on Friday evening to speak with the adults and parents. It was a great way to end the week and may God bless them for making the trip down here and being used in His work.

Thank you to ministering Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN). Other visitors this month were Bro. Doug and Sis. Julie and their children from Cissna Park, IL. Sis. Julie worked at the preschool in previous years and so it was great to see them again.

We had a work day at the church and preschool to trim shrubs. With great teamwork, lots of work was accomplished in a short amount of time. Special thanks to Bro. Kevin, Sis. Laurie, Sis. Tiffany Edelman, and Maggie Huber, Fairbury, IL, for all of your helping hands and for spending the weekend with us.

In the hospital this month were Sis. Eunice Kelly (Bro. Winifred Kelly) and Bro. Ed Haggemaker (Sis. Louise). We pray for a speedy recovery for them.

Most of our congregation traveled together up to Leo, IN, to the Gateway Woods Auction. It was a wonderful weekend and we are thankful for times like these that draw us closer to each other and to

the Lord. We also want to especially thank Bro. Dave and Sis. Marie Bertsch for their hospitality and love that never seems to run out.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr

“God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble.”

Psalm 46:1

How wonderful that we can go to God anytime, anywhere, for His help and strength!

We are thankful our Elders met in conference in Peoria, Illinois, to seek God’s direction in keeping our churches close to Him. We trust God to richly bless each one of them for their time and effort. How blessed we are to have brothers who care, and are willing to give of their time and talents!

We are grateful that His love has touched the hearts of our friends, Brent Emch, Abbey Freed, and Doug Banwart, who have made a beginning in repentance. What joy and blessings await you!

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Jay Knapp (Tucson), Bro. Ken Lawson (Dallas), and Bro. Curt Kaufman (Tucson). May God bless them for their service.

Dakota Thorpe had surgery and Bro. Dick Beery was hospitalized.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Jane Hodges

Approximately one hundred adults and children from Phoenix and Prescott enjoyed an evening of food and fellowship at our annual corn-on-the-cob picnic. We wish to thank everyone who attended and helped make the evening a success

and also to thank the good Lord for giving us the opportunity to share together and for protecting everyone at the park and in their travels. Over twenty people stayed to worship with us on Sunday.

Our friend, Ray (Llse) Massner, was hospitalized again due to complications from his previous surgery. We ask that you continue to pray for him and his family as he recovers. Sis. Mary (Bro. Wayne) Koehl also had surgery and we pray for God’s continued healing for her.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy) for his visit and service to our congregation and pray the Lord will richly bless him and his family.

ARIZONA, TUCSON
Lisa Knapp

It’s been a quiet, warm month in our little church. We have been enjoying our monsoon season with thunderstorms and rain mingling with our warm sunshine. Our highs have been in the 90’s which is a welcome relief from our 100 degree temperatures.

Our children are back in school, many starting at new schools. We pray God will watch over them all as they head into our public schools. Sunday School will be starting up soon as will our monthly Fellowship Suppers. Hopefully fall won’t be too far behind! Our greetings to you all.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Robin Moser

“What joy I feel, what peace is mine as I my all to thee resign. Redemption, Lord, thou didst achieve; my Jesus, I will never leave.”

These are the beginning words of the song, “Trust and Confidence” that we sang as a congregation to bid

farewell to three dear members of our congregation. We will miss Bro. Johnny Klotzle, Bro. John Gerst and Sis. Lynn Hartzler as they make their moves to the Midwest. Bro. Johnny plans to establish residency in Indiana; Bro. John G. is returning to his studies at Michigan State University; and Sis. Lynn will teach collegiate science courses in Ohio. Another former resident, Sis. Stephany Moser, will be heading back to China this month and we pray for her protection and God’s blessing on His work there. We trust the Lord will provide for each one of these travelers, and fill the gap their departure has left in our fellowship.

We were thankful for visiting ministers that shared the Word this month including: Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), and Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Shioda, Japan). Bro. Willis provided us with a bit of history on the missionary efforts in Japan over the past fifty years.

Prayers were answered for Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kay Hackenjos’s daughter, Joyce, as she underwent a successful surgery to remove a brain tumor. We will continue to pray for her complete recovery, and are reminded of Bro. Glenn’s previous healing as well.

Visitors are welcome here in Altadena.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Peggy Jevremov

Greetings in our dear Saviour’s name. We heartily welcome Bro. Jim and Sis. Hildegard Koehl and their daughters, Sis. Stacy and Ashlee, back into our congregation. We also are thankful to have Bro. Jim assisting Elder Bro. Peter and

Bro. Doug in ministering God's Word to us. We trust the Lord will provide for him in this work also.

Our hearts were saddened twice in this past month. First, we learned of the sudden passing of Sis. Hildegard's father, Bro. William Stefan, of the Lamar, MO, congregation in an auto accident. Then came word of the death of Sis. Linde Zimmer's grandson, Quinn, from an airplane crash. His mother, Janet Peyton, is Sis. Linde's daughter. We extend our heartfelt sympathy and pray the comforting arm of the Lord will be around each one that has suffered the loss of a loved one.

Those of us who were able to attend the Brotherhood Conference felt very blessed and uplifted. We wish to thank the Peoria congregation for their love, hospitality and hard work on our behalf.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

Ingrid Fortenbacher

We are so thankful that once again that our dear Elder Brothers were able to meet together for the annual Conference in Peoria. Many prayers were lifted heavenward for this occasion.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane, Rockville, CT).

We have been blessed with company this summer. It's always nice for a small church when loved ones make the effort to add us to their holiday plans.

COLORADO, DENVER

Ann Gonglach

By now the new school year has started and our students are busy with their studies. Let's remember to pray for them and also to teach them where true wisdom comes from. "For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?" (I Cor. 1:19-20)

We're thankful for the ministers who have visited and shared God's Word with us: Bro. Jim Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS), Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda, Silverton, OR), Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL), and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Patricia, Congerville, IL).

On August 15, Bro. Britt Steffen (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sue) was joined in marriage to Sis. Megan DesCarpentrie (Bro. Stan and Sis. Jane, Washington, IL). The couple plans to make their home in Illinois. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they spend their lives serving Him together.

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

Zion's Harp #237

CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE

Laura Virkler Amber Reutter

Greetings to one and all! Visiting us this past month was Elder Bro. Lynn (Sis. Leonda) Stieglitz from the Leo, Indiana, congregation. We

were grateful for his presence and his service to us. Throughout the summer months visitors seem to come and go quite frequently. We would like to take the time to thank each one for making the effort to worship with us and trust that each one feels a hearty welcome to visit at any time.

Recovering from surgery this past month is Bro. Leon (Sis. Martha) Schneider. Also recovering from a recent injury is Sis. Eloise Webb. We pray for these two dear souls that the Lord will grant them much patience and long suffering as they await for healing.

Our congregation rejoices with yet another convert, Sarah Virkler (Bro. Rudolph and Sis. Susan). It is such an encouragement to the believers to see the Lord working still among His children. It is also uplifting to the Young Group to experience some growth. May the Lord provide her much strength through her conversion.

We welcome Bro. Ben Rocke from the Eureka congregation as he pursues employment in our area. May he feel the love, support and prayers from our congregation, as well as his own, as he makes the necessary adjustments. We feel blessed to have him assemble with us. Our prayers also extend to Bro. Kirby and Sis. Areli Reutter as they establish a new home in Vermont, as he seeks employment there.

It is always a relief when our Elder returns home with a peaceful report of the Conference. Thankfully our prayers were answered. To those of us who were unable to attend, we look forward to hearing the tapes.

On July 22, Bro. Phil, Sis. Michelle, Amanda, Chelsea, Caleb and Kent Bahler welcomed Wade

Mitchell. Grandparents are Sis. Maxine Bahler (the late Bro. Lee) and Richard and Lorraine Behling. Great-grandparents are Sis. Eloise Webb and Stella Blotniski. Also, on July 28, Lindsey Brielle Hany was born. Her parents are Peter and Kelly Hany and her siblings are Katie, Christopher and Ethan. Grandparents are Bro. Peter and Sis. Virgene Hany and Dean and Bonnie Kloter and Roger and Pauline Pinard. Great-grandparents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Martha Schneider and Jules Kupferschmid. May God be with each of these families and may they raise these dear ones in the ways of the Lord.

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

Phillipians 4:11

Sometimes this is a hard concept to grasp, especially when the tide seems turned against us. May we keep this in mind as we struggle to face the next battle, or make more adjustments in life. The Lord is merciful, and often blesses us in ways we never would have imagined. May the Lord be with you through yet another month.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Henrietta Meyer

We have been blest this summer with many visitors. Now that school is starting we say farewell to Bro. Brent Kellenberger and Sis. Julie Beer as they return to their home churches and schools. We pray they have received as many blessings from being a part of our congregation as we have received from them being with us.

As the Subra family said good bye

to Sis. Julie, they also welcomed Adina Balas from Romania. We also welcome Adina to our congregation.

We welcome Stephanie Beutel from Tremont as she has found employment in this area.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) and Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI). Other visitors were from Morris, MN; Morton, Princeville, Tremont, and Washington, IL; Rockville, CT; Kansas City, MO; LaCrosse and Francesville, IN; and Rittman, OH.

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 Renee Mangold

We were grateful to have with us several visiting ministers this past month. There were two brothers

from Gridley, Illinois, visiting, Bro. David Zehr (Sis. Vicki) and Bro. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou). Also Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol Anne) visited from Peoria, Illinois. We pray for God's blessings on these faithful servants of His Word.

We were happy to welcome back Bro. Roger Sauder (Sis. Judy) from the Elder conference and are looking forward to sharing the tapes together.

As our children are heading back to school, we pray that God would watch over them and keep a protective hedge around them and that they would grow in Christian learning as well as academic learning.

Although Bro. Bob Huber (Sis. Doris) experienced a setback and had to undergo gallbladder surgery, he has bounced back and has been able to join us in worship once again. We continue to pray for his good health.

FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS Mary Masters

Hurricane Charley hit us hard here in the Fort Myers area. We are so thankful to God for protecting each one of us in our congregation. There were reports of minor damage to some of our houses, but God was so merciful in protecting all of us from any injuries. Today, in church, the reading of Psalm 46 took on new meaning as we heard the words "God is our protection and our strength. He always helps in times of trouble. So we will not be afraid even if the earth shakes or the mountains fall into the sea, even if the oceans roar and foam, or the mountains shake at the raging sea."

Sis. Verna Hodel (Bro. Stan) is scheduled for surgery. Let us keep them in our prayers. They are some

of our first snowbirds to arrive and the last to leave, so we consider them one of "ours".

Alice Myer is still struggling with health issues and has not been able to assemble with us on a regular basis. Sis. Sara Hunyady (Bro. Andy) is having some very severe eye problems. Let us keep all of these loved ones in our prayers.

Have you ever heard a little one describe heaven? Several weeks ago, we were visiting in Bloomington, IL, when I asked our 4 year old granddaughter what she learned about in Sunday School. Her answer came quick and clear. She said, "We learned about heaven." "Oh", I said, "what did you learn about heaven?" "We learned that the streets are going to be made out of gold and the gates are going to have beautiful jewels and all the families will live happy together." What a lot we can learn from these little ones and how thankful we are to have faithful teachers exposing them to the truths of God's Word each week.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to Sis. Jane Huette and her husband, Curt, in the loss of her father, just six months after the death of her mother.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA **Carol Koehl**

We rejoice that the Lord continues to call souls to repentance. We are so thankful for our two new converts, Larry and Diane Brown. They moved to our area recently from North Carolina, and had previously attended our church in Goodfield, IL. We wish them much grace as they move forward in working out their soul's salvation in accordance with God's Word and by faith in the shed blood of Christ. We also wish to

extend our sympathy to Diane, in the recent passing of her father.

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who shared with us the precious Word of God: Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH) and our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL).

We are saddened to learn that our dear Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Margaret Pflederer will no longer be residing in our area. Due to health concerns they are moving to Morton, IL. We have fond memories of the many years they were such a blessing to our Sarasota congregation.

We are humbled that our area was spared the terrible destruction of the recent hurricane which swept through just south of Sarasota. It is so apparent how helpless we are in such times: "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed..." (Lam. 3:22). There will be many opportunities for our Brotherhood to help the victims of this devastating storm, and our congregation was exhorted this past Sunday to open their hearts and share in whatever way we can.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA **Carol Kaufman**

Our theme for Vacation Bible School was "For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised." I Chronicles 16:25. The question posed to all was: Why should God be praised and honored? We heard about God creating all good things for us to enjoy, we were individually created in His own image and are His most beloved creation, God had mercy on us even when we were separated from Him in sin, and God gave us His unspeakable gift, Salvation. We have so many reasons to praise Him.

One of the many blessings that

God has given us this past month are three people moving to the Atlanta area. We want to welcome Bro. Kevin Kipfer (Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Kieser (Phoenix, AZ). Bro. Kevin has given a two-year commitment to teaching at an inner city middle school. He appreciates the prayers of each one, as there are many challenges each day. The children would benefit from your prayers as well. Bro. Chuck is retiring and they are enjoying seeing their granddaughter more.

Visiting ministers this month included: Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Shioda, Japan), Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Vic Beer (Sis. Dorothy, North Fort Myers, FL). We are so thankful that they were willing to give of their time and bring forth the Word of God in truth and purity. We pray that God will richly bless them and their families in their service for Him.

We would love to have more visitors to fill our sanctuary and encourage us on the straight and narrow way. Please let us know of your plans to help us prepare for Sunday lunch and other activities. We encourage you to set aside time Saturday evening, Sunday evening or during the week for fellowship. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. The church is located off I-85 south of the Atlanta airport at Exit 64 in Fairburn, GA. Once off the exit, go west four miles and the church will be on the left. For more information or to let us know of your plans, please call Bro. Tom Waldbeser 770-463-4788, Bro. Ted Hirstein 770-632-1287, Bro. Linn Stoller 770-631-4554, or Bro. Keith Kaufman 770-304-8335.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Sheila McCoy
Doreen Moser

“God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes...”

Revelations 21:4

With sorrow upon our hearts, we laid to rest Sis. Karen Spencer who died on August 14. She had not been feeling well for several weeks and had only been diagnosed with cancer a few days prior to her death. We will miss the gentle, thoughtful and loving spirit of Sis. Karen, but are grateful she will have no more tears nor pain. May God comfort her dear mother, Mary Spencer.

Again our congregation was wiping away tears when we said our farewells to Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Wettstein and family. They have moved to the LaCrosse, IN, area.

We are thankful to have Sis. Rachael Wenger from Forrest, IL, in our assembly. She is a medical student in Rockford.

Another addition we welcome to our church is Trevor Lee Jepson, born on August 16. His parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Carlene and siblings are Eric, Emily, Ryan, Jacob and Brianna. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Millie Jepson and Bro. Larry and Sis. Carol Fehr, West Bend, IA.

A sign by a church stated, “God answers knee-mail.” As our small congregation ponders the loss of loved ones, the sobering sight of the first two graves in our new cemetery and the trials of life, may we always take our concerns and thanksgivings to our Lord in prayer.

ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Rebekah Kaufmann
Kara Martin

We were grateful for the visiting ministers who visited us this past month. We thank Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Bros. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) for being used to share the Word with us.

The weekend of July 24 and 25 was encouraging for the church as we heard Bro. Todd May’s testimony and witnessed his baptism. It brought joy to our hearts to hear how God had faithfully led Bro. Todd to this point. May Bro. Todd continue to lean heavily on the Lord for guidance and instruction!

It always brings joy to our church to hear about souls who begin their repentance! Bro. Doug and Sis. Jean Greiner’s son, Eric, has begun his walk with God. Sarah Gilland began attending our church several weeks ago with a couple from our congregation and has begun her repentance. Kabir Rattan is a young man from India who was introduced to our church through one of our members and he has repented and begun his life with the Lord. May God give each one grace and a deep love for His Word. We are so grateful that God continues to call souls to Him!

Bro. Andy and Sis. Marla Hodel welcomed another little girl, Abigail Jo, into their family on August 17. May God give Bro. Andy and Sis. Marla lots of energy, wisdom, and patience as they raise Abigail and her big sister, Katy!

Our prayers are with Sis. Loretta Funk at the passing of her husband, Bro. Amos. May God comfort her and be her Protector in the days ahead.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Steve Endress

Among our visitors this past month were ministering Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), and Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO). We thank them for their willing service.

We are enjoying the fellowship of Bro. Phil and Sis. Donna (Kieser) Nenadov since their move from Chicago. They are residing near Kewanee. We hope they feel the love and care of our congregation.

We are thankful that God is granting healing to the afflictions of men. Bro. Loris Stisser (Sis. Lottie) and Sis. Jane Leman (Bro. Marvin) have both been able to reassemble with us after hospital stays. We always greatly rejoice to see our brethren once again.

We are thankful that two young men have turned their back on the world and wish to be part of the Lord’s army. Tyler Endress (Bro. Bill and Sis. Renee) and Cory Joos (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny) have made known their desire for repentance. We pray that they will prove all things and hold to only that which will ground them to the sure foundation, Jesus Christ.

We’ve been blessed with two births during the past month. Bro. Matt and Sis. Becky Elsasser are thankful for the safe arrival of their first child, Brittany Ann, on August 11. Her grandparents are Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon Elsasser and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle (Eureka).

Mallory Elise was born on August 7 to Bro. Ben and Sis. Katie Endress. Her excited brother and sisters are Corbin, Marissa, and Maria. Grandparents are Bro.

Larry and Sis. Becky Endress and Bro. Richard and Sis. Marilyn Slutz.

Each time we see the fields ready for harvest, it should remind us of our Lord's words in Luke 10:2. Let us pray that He will send more laborers into the harvest. As the Lord gives us the blessed opportunity to participate in His work, may we sow only good seed in this world as we walk from day to day, that the harvest can be great.

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Karla Kieser

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana! We have been experiencing some unusually cool temperatures this past month and it is hard to believe it is the end of August. We are glad to welcome the students back! We welcome several new students. They include Alyssa Leuthold (Peoria), Rachel Maurer (Bloomington), Erin Stevig (Bloomington), Bro. Martin Rebbec (Roanoke), Sis. Betsie Rudin (Forrest), Sis. Jaclyn Kellenberger (Elgin), Luke Anliker (Chicago), Bro. Philip Endress (Bradford), Bro. Jonathon Aupperle (Peoria), Lindsey Mashburn (Fairbury), Wesley Steidinger (Fairbury), Philip Kieser (Bloomington), James Martin (Bloomington), Steve Ott (Roanoke), Bro. Caleb Wyss (Goodfield), Tristan Mueller (Belvidere), Brian Rudin (Cissna Park) and Carrie Leman (Peoria). In the spring we expect Bro. Joe Hinrichsen (Fairbury) to join us. I apologize if I have accidentally omitted anyone. We had an all church picnic on August 22 to welcome all of our new students and their families. We hope they feel at home here.

We said farewell to dear Sis.

Isabelle Bauer this past month as she has moved from our area to Gridley where she will be closer to her daughter. She had an ice cream social for all of us here in Champaign where we enjoyed ice cream with lots of yummy toppings. We will miss her and continue to pray for her.

We wish to welcome Sis. Heather Messner (Washington) who is now employed in our area.

We thank our visiting ministers from this past month. They include Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia), Bros. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington), Ken Schneider (Remington), Marshall Heinold (Ixtlan, Mexico), Steve Sauder (Tremont), and Byron Stoller (Gridley.) Several of our Wednesday evening services will not be held at the church this semester. For anyone coming to Champaign on any of the Wednesday evenings of September 8, October 20, or December 1, we will have services at the Illini Union on campus and not at the church.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Rachel Meyer

Greetings to all from Chicago. This has been a month of many blessings to our congregation. With thankful hearts, we heard the testimony of Hope Nenadov and witnessed her baptism last Sunday. It was so touching to see all of the brothers, sisters, and friends who came to support her on this special day. We also thank the following brothers for ministering to us for the weekend: Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA), Elder Bro. Misho Bilek (Padina, Serbia), and Bros. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Randy Gudeman (Francesville, IN), and Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL).

We welcome Sis. Hope to God's family.

There are always vacancies in God's family, and four loved ones here have answered the call to repentance. They are Leah Neu (Bro. Tom and Sis. Sandy), Greg Eisenmann (Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy), Leila Yahi (Sis. Rose Yahi and Azam Yahi), and Austin Anliker (Bro. Rod and Sis. Anne). It has been a joy to talk with them, see their smiles, and share in what they are experiencing. It somehow feels as if there is an extra surge of energy and hope in our church, and we give them our whole-hearted love and support.

We welcome a new couple into our congregation. Bro. Daniel and Sis. Kasey (Kaeb) Messner were recently married and have made Chicago their home. We look forward to getting to know them and are so thankful for their presence.

I would like to add that it was an extra blessing to meet and hear Elder Bro. Misho Bilek from Padina, Serbia. He had attended the Elder Conference and was able to spend the weekend in Chicago. Bro. Peter Petrovic translated as Bro. Misho spoke and it was a wonderful reminder that God's love and care is for all people and surpasses all boundaries.

Finally, we all realize that we will be leaving this earth at some point in time. We don't know when, but we do know how to prepare because God has given us a guide, or "primer" to follow - the Holy Bible. Sis. Hope shared in her testimony that at one point she thought her chance to repent was gone, that time had run out. We hear it said so often, "time is short." Several weeks ago I reported to work at a summer camp to be greeted by a t-shirt one was

wearing that said, "It's not that life is short, death is just so long." I wondered if the woman wearing it realized the enormity of that phrase. It seemed so flip, so casual, and all that day my mind kept going to eternity. The final destination. I felt sobered and suddenly very conscious that there is no way possible that I or anyone else can know which day is our last. But I also felt comforted, knowing the one who DOES know is my Father. Perhaps the phrase should have simply been, "Long Life Not Guaranteed - Eternity Is - Be Ready."

May God bless each one of you.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Susan Waldbeser
Andrea Walder

Should I restrain the Spirit's
 course
 For fear of man so feeble?
 Though Satan's hosts are raging
 here,
 Should I not be more faithful?
 Awed by a mortal's frown, shall I
 Conceal the Word of God Most
 High?
Zion's Harp #113

We have been blessed with many visiting ministers throughout this past month and we want to thank these brothers for allowing the Spirit to work through them to bring forth the true Word of God. May God bless Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Wayne Fehr (Portland, OR) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), and Bros. Dale Banwart (Wolcott, IN), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Dan Moser (Elgin, IA), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL), Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT), Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA),

Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Wes Moser (Lester, IA) and Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH).

Those in our congregation who have been hospitalized or had surgery recently and need our prayers are Sis. Tresa Maul (Bro. John), Sis. Kate Young, Bro. Clarence Maul, and Bro. John Fehr (Sis. Jennifer). We are thankful that they are all back home and recovering again.

Our Bro. Kenneth Bauer passed away on July 30 and we want to hold up in prayer his dear wife, Sis. Loretta, and their children, Rick Bauer, Jim and Cindy Bauer, Michael and Gail Bauer, and Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla Ringger and their families. We pray that God will comfort them in this time of sorrow. Our prayers are also with Bro. Herman and Sis. Arcelia Bauer, Sis. Helen Janssen, and Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser from our congregation in the loss of their brother and brother-in-law.

On October 8, Sis. Alicia Maul (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann) and Bro. Lee Fehr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon, West Bend, IA) were united as one in Christ. We will miss Sis. Alicia and her daughter, Aubrey, in our congregation and pray that God will bless this dear couple as they establish their own home together in West Bend.

We rejoice with Bro. John and Sis. Tresa Maul in the birth of their precious daughter, Riley Jo, who was born on August 14. She is welcomed home by her big sisters, Marti and Josie. Riley's grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Wanda Maul and Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Bazzell of Fairbury, IL. Bro. John and Sis. Jayne Conrad also welcomed a new grandson into their family. Nolan Jacob was born on July 18 and is the son of Phillip and

Heather Conrad.

We are thankful for every soul who comes in repentance, and our prayers are with Belinda Frank (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita). We wish her God's abundant grace that she might become firmly grounded upon the Solid Rock.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Rachel Schrock

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

John 14:27

What a comfort we can receive from these words! We pray that the family of our Bro. Ben Knapp can feel this peace, especially his children, Bro. Ralph (Sis. Linda), Sis. Marge (Bro. Don) Bauman and Doris (German) Baldeon. Bro. Ben has passed on from this earthly life to his eternal one.

As so often seems to happen, just as one dear soul departed from our midst, a new soul was brought into this life. Welcoming Luke Andrew into their home is Bro. Grant, Sis. Rachel, Erica and Jared Rinkenberger. May God grant this family His peace as they adapt to life with a new little bundle of joy around.

Joy also filled the hearts of our new Sisters Anna Rinkenberger and Miranda Luthi as they gave their testimony and were welcomed into the family of God. We wish to thank all those who joined us for that blessed weekend, including: Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN) and Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar), Bros. Duane Reutter

(Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT), Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere), Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN), Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar, MO) and Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH).

Other visiting ministers we enjoyed this past month include Elder Bros. Mihal Bilek (Serbia - Montenegro), Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH), Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego), and Bros. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL), Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener, ON), Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO), Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT), Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy, Wolcott, IN), Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL), Greg Braker (Sis. Wendy, Lamar, MO), Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield, IL) and Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN). Many of these were visiting during the Brotherhood Conference time. May God bless them all as well as all of our Elder brothers for their many hours and labors of love they sacrifice as they strive to preserve our beloved brotherhood. We will never be able to fully thank them on this side of Heaven for their efforts.

Another thankful soul is our dear Rosie Hoerr (Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne) who has recently turned her life to the Lord. As she begins along the pathway towards the Heavenly goal, we pray that she can feel God's divine peace and guidance.

Bro. Jim Schrock (Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerry) is also full of thankfulness, peace and joy as his engagement was recently announced to Sis. Sarah Bauman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty, Goodfield, IL). May God be

near them as they begin to entwine their two lives into one.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser

Elgin's annual Sunday School picnic was held at the Fellowship Center on July 25. The following week, many contributed their efforts to Vacation Bible School, and we trust it was a blessing for all who participated. A special note of appreciation goes to the ministering brothers who prepared topics and traveled here to present them. The visitors were Bros. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL), Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) and Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL). On Wednesday evening, Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) gave an inspiring message to the entire church.

We also had two visiting Elders on a recent Sunday afternoon: Bros. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) and Misho Bilek (Padina, Serbia). After Bro. Petrovic conducted the main service, we had the rare opportunity of hearing him translate while Bro. Bilek spoke. May God reward them for their labors on our behalf.

Sympathy was extended to the family of Bro. Gene and Sis. Sue Braun in the loss of Sue's mother, Sis. Mary Jane Hirschey. She passed away on July 27, after residing for several years at Resthaven in Elgin.

We are thankful for answered prayer on behalf of Elder Bro. Ron (Sis. Nancy) Schambach. He is receiving cardiac rehab therapy and recently felt well enough to return to the pulpit. After being hospitalized for testing and evaluation, Bro. Keith (Sis. Ida) Kellenberger was

treated and is doing better. Our prayers continue for Bro. Delbert (Sis. Jeanette) Schmidt, who had open-heart surgery on August 16, and for Sis. Jeannette (Bro. Richard) Kilgus. The courage and serenity with which she is accepting life's changes is an inspiration to us.

Note of Thanks:

I want to humbly thank all who remembered me in your prayers, and for all your cards, phone calls, and gifts of love during my recent surgery in Canada and recovery at home. May God richly bless each of you for your love and concern for my family and me.

Sincerely,
Bro. Ron Schambach

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Cindy Stoller
Lisa Metzger

We are so thankful for the labors of our Elder brethren put forth for the welfare of our Apostolic Christian faith. May we always support them with prayers and be willing to obey the Holy Spirit's direction given through them. With the General Conference being in Peoria this year, we were privileged to have several visiting ministers in Eureka. They include Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Misho Bilek (Yugoslavia) and Bros. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR), Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), Don Manz (Junction, OH), Gene Metzger (Lester, IA), Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT), Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) and Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO). Though we were not able to hear them all, we appreciate their willingness and service to God and to us.

Bro. Eric and Sis. Tami Vierling are blessed with another baby boy, Daniel Keith. He is the new little brother of excited siblings, Jonathan, Michael and Rachel. His grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda Vierling and Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta Martin. Also, as first-time parents, Bro. Tony and Sis. Lisa Metzger welcome home a healthy little son, Levi Ross. Levi's grandparents are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry Stoller.

Sis. Barb Meiss (Edwin) said a final farewell to her brother, Bro. Amos Funk (Gridley, IL). May the Lord be a warm comfort to the sorrowing.

We have several in our congregation who have spent time in the hospital. These include Sis. Cindy Kupferschmid (Bro. Rod), Bro. Lewis Blunier (Sis. Clara Lou), Bro. Melvin Stoller, Sis. Verna Lehmann, and Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Sis. Ethel). Also, our young friend, Tracy Leman (Bro. Scott and Sis. Phyllis) had a serious biking accident. We hope, Lord willing, that he will have a full and speedy recovery.

The engagement of Sis. Laurel Zimmerman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl) to Bro. Ben Wyss (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna, Goodfield) was announced July 25. We are thankful for the Lord's direction in their lives. Also following the Lord's guidance, Bro. Steven Dotterer (Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne) and Sis. Rachel Kupferschmid (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Donna) were united in marriage on August 22. May God bless and provide for these new couples.

Thankfully, we again have had precious souls start on the way of Truth. We rejoice with Doug

Banwart (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lisa) and Miranda Blunier (Bro. Sam and Sis. Luann). We are also thankful to welcome Ervin Prediy as a convert. He has left his family in Ohio to assemble with the Eureka congregation. May God grant these three souls grace and guidance in their repentance.

As we welcome one, we say farewell to another. Bro. Ben Rocke (Bro. Robyn and Sis. Jan) has relocated to the Rockville, CT, congregation as he begins employment out there. We pray the Lord will watch between us and continue to lead each of our lives.

Note of Thanks:

Many thanks to all my dear friends and relatives for all the cards and flowers that were given to me during my week at Eureka Hospital and short stay at the nursing home. As of July 1, I have entered the Apostolic Christian Home to stay permanently. I live upstairs in room 203. All the acts of kindness were greatly appreciated. May God bless everyone.

Sis. Ruby Grusy

**ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Tammy Hinrichsen
Anna Schmidgall**

This past month our congregation said farewell to Bro. Jason, Sis. Joy, Courtney, Tyler and Landon Kilgus and also Sis. Karla Kaisner. The Kilgus family is filling a position at Gateway Woods Children's Home at Leo, IN, and Sis. Karla will begin teaching in Sabetha, KS. They will be missed, but we trust God will guide them in their lives.

Two precious babies were born in July. Braeden Randall was born on July 20 to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Hope

Stoller. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Ronda Stoller and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger. Bro. Charles and Sis. Kathy Fehr welcomed Koryn Renae born on July 30. Her brother, Kent, and sister, Kamryn, along with grandparents, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma Fehr and Bro. Duane and Sis. Juanita Schneider, rejoice at her arrival.

Those in the hospital this past month were Sis. LaVina Moser and Sis. Laura Knapp. May God continue to touch them with His healing hand.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven that Sharla Steidinger has turned her back on the world in repentance. Her thankful parents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Sara Steidinger.

On August 1, Bro. Alex Steidinger and Sis. Traci Fehr were joined together in marriage. Parents are Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda Fehr and Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish Steidinger. August 15 was the wedding day for Bro. Jeff Stoller and Sis. Janelle Hartman. Parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandra Stoller and Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman. We pray God will go with these new couples throughout their lives.

We are thankful for visiting ministers that brought God's Word to us this month: Bros. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), Greg Stoller and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Nathan Wieland (Goodfield, IL), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Ontario).

We extend our sympathy to Martha Roth on the passing of her brother, Bro. Ben Knapp, from Congerville. Our prayers also go out

to John and Debra Slagel as their infant twins, Andrew and Emma, were called to be buds in the Master's bouquet. Grandparents are Ron and Sis. June Slagel of Fairbury and Michael and Jean Wilderman.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jill Wenger
Lori Dotterer**

Our hearts are filled with joyful thanksgiving as we welcome new lambs into the fold. Our new brothers and sister are Bro. Andy Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy), Bro. Josh Schmidgall (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary), Bro. Wesley Dotterer (Sis. Kathy and the late Bro. Wendell), and Sis. Krystle Kaeb (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie). May God continue to direct their lives.

July 18 was the joyful wedding day of our Bro. Matthew Schneider and Sis. Katie Rinkenberger. Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra Schneider and Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally Rinkenberger. We pray that God will continue to guide them and provide as they walk life's pathway as one.

We also pray for God's guidance for our Sis. Rachel Schlatter (Sis. Sherri and the late Bro. Mark) and Bro. Scott Hartzler (Dick and Sis. Karen) of Rittman, OH, as their engagement was announced. We rejoice with them and ask God to continue to bless them.

Bro. Jacob and Sis. Brooke Kuntz were blessed with the arrival of their twins, Levi Shawn and Lucas Stephen. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda Kuntz and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy Gutwein. Levi and Lucas were born early and had to spend extra time in the hospital, but we are thankful that they are gaining strength and

we hope that they will soon be able to go home.

Bro. Meredith Ricketts also had to spend time in the hospital this month and we pray that God will continue to stand by him and his family.

We were richly blessed with many visiting ministers this month. We thank our Elder Bros. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Art Metz (Silverton, OR), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), as well as Bros. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), John Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Joe Dotterer (Smithville, OH), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Mike Ursu (Kitchener, ON) and Dale Stoller and Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL). May they continue to bring forth the Word in truth and purity.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Heather Hohulin
Rita Bauman**

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

II Timothy 4:2

We had several visiting ministers this past month, for which we are thankful. They were Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville), Bros. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke), Gene Metzger (Sis. Delores, Lester, IA), James Knapp, (Sis. Lisa, Congerville), Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Sue, Sarasota, FL), Galen Rokey, (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS), John Jackson, (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI), Ralph Garber, (Sis. Lynn, Morton), and Paul Zimmerman, (Sis. Loretta, Forrest). We thank each one for the

Word of Life brought forth to each of us, and may we take it into our hearts and live by His will. May God continue to be with you and grant you the grace to continue in His service.

The marriage engagement of Bro. Benjamin Wyss (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Laurel Zimmerman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl, Eureka) was announced. Also, the engagement of Sis. Sarah Bauman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty) and Bro. Jim Schrock (Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri, Congerville) was made known on August 15. Sis. Gina Kloter (Bro. Kent and Sis. Janell) was announced to Bro. Andy Getz (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Charlene, Remington, IN). We wish these dear couples God's blessings and guidance as they prepare for their special day.

The Lord has blessed us with reason to rejoice. Along with the angels in heaven, we are rejoicing with Bro. Mikel Steffen (Bro. Mark and Sis. Joan) who was baptized on August 15. We wish him grace as he goes forth surrendering his heart and life to God.

We'll never say good-by in heaven,
We'll never say good-by,
For in that land of joy and song,
We'll never say good-by.

Hymns of Zion #122

Our prayers are with Bro. Don and Sis. Marge Bauman in the loss of her father, Bro. Ben Knapp, Congerville. Dave Bloom also has passed away. He was the husband of Jeannie (Zimmerman) Bloom, and a son-in-law to Bro. Morrie and Sis. Kathy Zimmerman, and brother-in-law to Bro. Mark and Sis. Debbie Farney and Bruce and Sis. Teresa Ruder. We extend our heartfelt sym-

pathy to Sis. Pearl Nohl and Sis. Wilma Knapp on the death of their sister, Sis. Edna Kyburz, of Wolcott, IN. Sis. Violet Reeser has gone on to meet her Creator. We extend our condolences to her dear husband, Bro. Harold, and to their children, Doug and Steve. May each one feel God's loving arms around them and the prayers of many as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

Sis. Connie Allen (Bro. Gary), and Sis. Irene Rinkenberger (Bro. Joe) have recently been in the hospital. We pray they will be strengthened by the Lord according to their needs.

The summer has passed and the school year has started. May we continue to remember our children in special prayer knowing the trials and temptations they may be up against.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

On the weekend of August 14-15, two souls were taken into the fold. They were Sis. Beverly Wolf and her daughter, Sis. Danielle. Bro. Rod Wolf, the husband and father, was taken up a few years ago. We wish them the best in their spiritual walk. It is a blessing this family, who did not grow up in the church, could find their salvation.

We welcome Sis. Ginny Wulf (Morris, MN) to our congregation. She is living with her grandparents, Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Zimmerman. They have been ill, especially Sis. Helen, who is recovering from surgery and blood clots.

Abby Kuntz, daughter of Bro. Rich and RaeJean Kuntz, is recovering from a broken arm and surgery. Sis. Peggy (Meiss) Poppen was hospitalized at St. Francis Hospital in

Peoria with a pregnancy-related condition. Then, on August 9, she gave birth to Darci Grace Poppen, who was born six weeks prior to expectations. Sis. Peggy and her husband, Dave Poppen, rejoice over their fourth child. Siblings are Amanda, 13, Alex, 11, and Sam, 6. Grandparents are Sis. Marge Meiss, Gridley; and Al and Ruby Poppen, Normal. We extend our best wishes to the parents as they raise their family.

Creedon Heath Welch was born to Hadly and Heidi (Schlipf) Welch on July 21. There is one sibling, Saylor, 3. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Vicki Schlipf, Gridley; and Harold and Marjorie Welch, El Paso. Great-grandparents are Mary Heck, Roanoke, and Bernice Grebner, Peoria. May these parents look to God as they raise their children.

Bro. Amos J. Funk, 90, who attended our Gridley church most of his life prior to moving to Bloomington and eventually to Eureka, passed away on August 7 at the Eureka Home. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Loretta Funk, whom he married on March 4, 1990. He lost his previous two wives, Sis. Helen Funk, on November 22, 1977, and Sis. Frances Dominick, on December 6, 1986. He is survived also by one stepson, John Kauffman, Hudson; one sister, Sis. Barbara Meiss, Eureka, and one brother, Bro. Eugene Funk, Washington. Bro. Amos loved to visit among brethren; and he enjoyed singing bass in the assembly.

Many of our young members and friends have returned to college, and are pursuing educational opportunities that will serve them in making a living. The times are perilous, both in society and in educa-

tional circles with precepts espoused today that are at variance with unchanging Biblical teachings. We pray that God will grant grace to our believing youth, and will offer protection to the unconverted. And our greatest hope is that all youth who have reached the age of accountability will hear the call of God, and turn to him in a sincere repentance!

The Elder Conference was held on August 11 and 12 at Peoria. We thank the Lord that our Elder brothers are willing to spend so much time in council. Indeed, the world is pressing in on the beloved faith — and it is heartening when they offer both admonition and exhortation to the churches. We offer thanks that our Elder Bro. Earl Ringger attended, and we wish him God's direction (and ongoing stamina) in his duties as shepherd here.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Julie Bahr

Christie Zeller

Sadness has again touched the lives of us here in Morton. Bro. Dayton Russell passed away and his funeral was held July 17. He is the father to Steve Russell.

Becky Winter of Creve Coeur passed away July 21. She is the sister to our Bro. Bob Joos. May God comfort these dear families.

We are very happy and thankful for the testimony and baptism of our Bro. J.R. Sauder (Bro. John and Sis. Peg) on July 24 and 25. May God continue to strengthen and bless our dear brother in his walk with Him.

Our Family Worship was held on August 4, by Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL). His topic was "Are You Ready to be Caught?"

Many analogies were made towards fishing. Jesus and Satan are both "fishers of souls". We, as Christians, need to be persistent and have a burden to be "fishers of men" and not to be "caught" by Satan's snares.

Our visiting ministers for the month were: Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL), Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donna Lou, Gridley, IL), Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH), and Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debbie, Peoria, IL).

May God bless these dear brothers for their continual service for Him.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Lou and Marjean Lonteen

"How pleasant, how divinely fair, O Lord of hosts, Thy dwellings are! With strong desire my spirit faints to meet the assemblies of thy saints." (How Pleasant Thy Dwellings)

The week of August 9 through 13, the Peoria congregation was blessed to host the annual "Brotherhood Conference".

On August 4, Bro. Fred Funk (Morton) spoke at "Family Night".

On July 21, Bro. Ken Hoerr spoke on the "Beautitudes". His topic was: Blessed are the peacemakers and blessed are they which are persecuted.

We were blessed with guest ministers: Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), and Bro. Roger Sauder (Fort Lauderdale, FL).

Welcome to our congregation: Bro. Daren and Sis. Marie Yergler and their children, Ryan and Grace.

Bro. Joey and Sis. Julie Hoerr welcomed their new baby, Aja JoAnne, into their lives on July 19.

Kai is happy to have a little sister.

Luke and Amanda Gangloff have moved to the Naperville Area. Luke is on a one-year assignment for work.

Our congregation remembers in prayer for those dear ones experiencing health challenges. They are: Bro. Chris Feucht (Sis. JoAnn), Sis. Judy Martin (Bro. Dean) and Bro. Ivan Thomas (May). "My Jesus, as Thou wilt; oh, may Thy will be mine; into Thy hand of love I would my all resign: thro' sorrow or thro' joy, conduct me as Thine own, and help me still to say, my Lord, Thy will be done." (My Jesus, as Thou Wilt)

Notes of Thanks:

I want to thank you for reaching out to me in so many kind ways during my stay in the hospital, and since I've returned home. Thank you most of all for your prayers. I praise God for my healing, and for you, my church family.

Shirley Leuthold

A special thank you to all of those who remembered us with prayers, beautiful cards of encouragement, visits, phone calls, and gifts during my illness. God richly reward each one for your love and kindness.

Bob and Lorene Joos

The Peoria congregation extends sincere sympathy to the family of: Bro. Eugene Christ and Sis. Elsa Christ (Princeville). Sis. Frida Christ and Sis. Martha Plattner (Bro. Robert) both said good-bye to their brother. Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Christ experienced the loss of their uncle and aunt.

"Oh they tell me of a home far beyond the skies;
Oh they tell me of a home far

away.

Oh they tell me of a home where
no storm clouds rise;
Oh they tell me of an unclouded
day."

We think of the words of this hymn as students of all ages return to their study for knowledge and wisdom. "I never can forget the day I heard my mother kindly say, you're leaving now my tender care; remember, child, your mother's prayer. I never can forget the voice that always made my heart rejoice; tho' I have wandered God knows where, still I remember mother's prayer. Whene'er I think of her so dear, it seems her angel spirit's near; a voice comes floating on the air, reminding me of mother's prayer." (My Mother's Prayer)

"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

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Phyllis Knobloch

Crystal Streitmatter

We rejoice with Elder Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner to hear of the engagement on July 18 of their son, Bro. Kirk (Leo, IN), to Sis. Keri Kaeb from Roanoke, IL (Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy). July 10 was the wedding day of Jeff Rumbold and Beth McIntyre. Parents are Sis. Loretta Rumbold and the late Bro. Elwin, and Darrell and Mary McIntyre (Peoria, IL). August 1 was the wedding day in Leo, IN, of Bro. Trent and Sis. Mandy Regier (Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay Regier and Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda Stieglitz, Leo, IN). A reception was held in Princeville on August 14 for

them. We wish each of these three couples many blessings as they seek God's direction and guidance in their marriages.

Asleep in Jesus! Blessed sleep,
From which none ever wakes to
weep!

A calm and undisturbed repose,
Unbroken by the last of foes.

Hymns of Zion #111

Our hearts are saddened at the sudden death of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Elsa Christ in a fatal car accident on July 26. We miss them in our presence as we gather together in church. Our sympathy goes to their children, grandchildren, brothers and sisters in the United States as well as in Germany.

We were privileged to have visitors after the Brotherhood Conference held in Peoria. Both Wednesday and Friday evening services were held that week, and Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), as well as Bros. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA), Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) and Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) were with us. We thank each one!

Our prayers have been with Bro. Gale Stoller (Sis. Sonia) and Sis. Dorothy Stoller (the late Bro. Floren) during their recent hospital stays. We pray for God's nearness in their hearts and lives as they recover.

Four converts gave their testimony and were baptized on August 14-15. These new lambs are Bro. Kyle Plattner (Elder Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene), Bro. Tristan Herrmann (Bro. Roger and Sis. Darlene), Bro. Greg Herrmann (Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn) and Sis.

Brittany Streitmatter (Bro. David and Sis. Crystal). Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Shioda, Japan) and Bros. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), John Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL) shared the weekend with us.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Joan Leman
Doris Fischer**

We were pleased to witness the wedding of Bro. Jake Zimmerman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Mary Beth) and Sis. Betsy Braker (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge Braker) on July 18. On August 8, Sis. Kasey Kaeb (Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy) and Bro. Daniel Messner (Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam, Washington) made their vows to each other, and August 14 was the wedding day for Sarah Knepp (Bro. Rich and Sis. Janet) and Luke Wiegand (Ed and Joanne, Goodfield). The engagement of Sis. Keri Kaeb (Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy) and Bro. Kirk Plattner (Elder Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene, Princeville) was announced on July 18. We rejoice with each of these couples, and pray God's rich blessing upon their lives together.

An added benefit of having those weddings is the visitors it has brought to Roanoke. We've enjoyed having a good number of visiting ministers here for various reasons, and thank God for their willingness to serve us. May He reward them abundantly!

There's rejoicing in heaven and in the hearts of Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty Hodel, whose daughter Erin is repenting.

As they joy in the miracle of re-birth, another family finds joy in the

miracle of a baby's birth. Lily Jane is the new daughter of Bro. Brad and Sis. Jill Sauder. Lily is welcomed by big sister, Elly, big brother, Carter, and grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sauder and Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Hoffman.

We rejoice with those who rejoice, and also weep with those who weep. Bro. Earl Bowald passed from this life at the beginning of August. We extend our condolences to his wife, Sis. Martha, and to his daughter, Kathy Funk.

We're thankful for the gift of healing, and join in prayer with the families of loved ones who have been in the hospital - Sis. Marge Fehr (Bro. Gene), Bro. Ben Fehr (Sis. Helen), and Bro. Bob Hartter (Sis. Chris). May God grant complete recovery, and a measure of comfort in the meantime.

My concern as I write tonight is that all is reported accurately. What if I use someone's maiden name instead of her married name? Uh-oh. What if an Elder announces the engagement of the wrong sibling? Oops. How many mothers go through more than one child's name until they land on the one they'd intended in the first place? Most, I'd guess. Isn't it amazing that the God of all people past, present and future knows each of our names, as well as our hearts? I rejoice in Isaiah 55:9. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Note of Thanks:

The family of Earl Bowald extends a sincere thank you to all who expressed deeds of love and kindness to our loved one in his days of failing health and in his passing. Your prayers, visits, flowers, help

with funeral and meal, food donations, and other gestures of love are deeply appreciated. May God bless you.

Love, Martha, Kathy and family.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Heather Rassi

LaVonne Wagenbach

We were privileged to have Haitian visitors for several weeks. We wish Enoch and Fredrick a safe journey back to Haiti.

We thank our visiting ministers who were so willing to serve us in the ministry. They were Bros. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL), Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Virgil Kaeb (Sarasota, FL), Dwayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) and Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT).

Several families were blessed with precious babies. First-time parents are Bro. Russ and Sis. Beth Koehl. Helping welcome little Tasha Beth are grandparents, Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jane Ehnle (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Karen Koehl (Morris, MN). Bro. Steven and Sis. Kari Beutel were blessed with their third son, Jacob Steven. Big brothers are Austin and Ethan. Bro. Jordan and Sis. Cathy Feucht (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette Beutel are his grandparents. Joshua Dean was born to Bro. Todd and Sis. Valerie Steiner. He is welcomed by Victoria, Trent, Corbin, Phillip, Thad and Faith. Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Mardell Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner are his grandparents. We also rejoice with Bro. Earl and Sis. Marsha Koch who welcomed Tanya Rose to their family. Helping care for her are Bro. Craig, Nichole, Trent and Brittany. Grandparents are Bro.

Kenneth and Sis. Arlene Huette and Bro. Paul and Sis. Florence Koch.

Spending time in the hospital were Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie), Sis. Nancy Koch (Bro. Cleo), Bro. Earl Sauder (Sis. Glenna), Whitney Wagenbach (daughter of Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Rebekah), Julie Ista (Jake) and Trish Davis. May we continue to be prayerful for them as they recover.

We are so very thankful for all the efforts put out by the Elders of our precious faith at the recent Conference in Peoria. May they each one feel God's nearness as they continue to lead us.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Marcia Koch

Dianne Wyss

We want to thank Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra, Alto, MI) for making the effort to come to Washington for our monthly Bible studies. We are thankful for their many efforts put forth.

We rejoice with Bro. Daniel Messner who was united in holy marriage to Sis. Kasey Kaeb. Their wedding was in Roanoke on August 8. Parents are Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam Messner and Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy Kaeb. The following Sunday, Sis. Megan DesCarpentrie was married to Bro. Britt Steffen. Their parents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Jane DesCarpentrie and Bro. Larry and Sis. Sue Steffen, from Denver. May both couples experience the joys of a strong "three fold cord" We thank Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) for serving from the pulpit along with Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL) and Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL).

Our Bro. Ron Kellenberger (Sis. Carole) has been going through many severe trials the past several years. He has been diagnosed with a rare liver disease called Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis. Testing also found cancer cells from the bile ducts of his liver. He is currently on a liver transplant list. They have gone through many difficult days and need the prayers of us all. We trust the Father knows their needs and will carry them through this stormy season. Bro. Ron and Sis. Carole wish to express their appreciation for the many prayers offered on their behalf.

Our church is very thankful that God has raised up a brother to serve from the pulpit. Bro. Justin Koch is willing to be His "mouth piece." Our many prayers will be with Bro. Justin and his dear wife, Sis. Marcia, along with their boys, Ben and Logan. May the Lord's nearness and grace be with this dear family. We thank Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene, Goodfield, IL) for assisting Bro. Ron in carrying out this work.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Amber Steffen

Elizabeth Frauhiger

We rejoice this month with several dear souls who have turned to the Lord in repentance. Beth Drayer (Bro. Herman and Sis. Julie), Trent Earney (Bro. Todd and Sis. Teresa) and Brent Fiechter (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill) have realized the need for the Saviour in their lives. We are thankful for their trusting hearts.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Bro. Joe Stroup (Sis. Julie) in the passing of his father, John Stroup. Our prayers are with this dear fam-

ily.

Wedding bells have been ringing strong this month as we have had several weddings. July 17 was the day Janelle Schwartz (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joni) and Tyler Geels exchanged vows. Also on this day, Breanne Everett (Bro. Dick and Sis. Rita) and Adam Popplewell became man and wife.

August 1 was the day that Bro. John Sprunger (Bro. Kent and Sis. Sheila) and Sis. Andria Gudeman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Peg, Francesville, IN) promised their lives together before God and man. We wish these couples God's grace as they begin their new lives together as one.

Several loved ones have recently experienced various medical needs. Brandy Aschliman (Ryan), Bro. Butch Moser (Sis. Pat), Bro. Nick Bertsch (Sis. Brooke), Sis. Delutha Moser, Bro. Dick Clark, and Sis. Edith Stultz all have our prayers as they battle their infirmities.

Abigail May Isch is the second daughter of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Leslie Isch. Her big sister, Cora, and her grandparents, Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene Isch and Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy Stoller (Bluffton North), all welcomed Abigail on July 28.

Our congregation welcomed several new brothers and sisters into the fold recently. July 24-25 was the weekend of testimonies and baptisms for Sis. Lori and Sis. Alicia Steffen (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean), Bro. Travis Fiechter (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill) and Bro. Kevin Dailey (Bro. Doug and Sis. Susan). Sis. Rozanna and Bro. Jayson Grube (Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda) and Bro. Kevin Isch (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Karen) gave their testimonies and made a public statement of their faith as they were baptized on August 14 and 15.

It is such a blessing to have visiting ministers willing to share the Word with us. Thank you to Elder Bros. Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene, Goodfield, IL) and John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) and Bros. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North) and Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL) for allowing the Holy Spirit to minister through them.

Bro. Brady Ripple and Sis. Jackie Moser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda) announced their engagement on August 8. We wish them God's grace as they plan for a lifetime of marriage.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Tiffani Schladenhauffen
Darren Drayer**

Greetings loved ones. We were thrilled to have Bro. Dan Dubach (Sis. Bethany, Prescott, AZ) share the Word with us this month. Bro. Dan grew up in Bluffton, so it is always a blessing when he travels here.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy Stoller rejoiced on July 28 on the birth of their granddaughter, Abigail May. Abigail is the daughter of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Leslie Isch (Bluffton).

On August 7, Bro. Jason and Sis. Gwen Craighead welcomed their daughter, Mallory Elizabeth, into the world. She joins two siblings: Maranda and Hayden.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda Maller were also grandparents this month. Their grandson, Ty Edward, was born on August 13. His parents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Jami Maller (Philadelphia, PA).

Bro. Bill and Sis. Carolyn Gerber rejoiced on the arrival of their grandson, Ethan Michael. He is the son of Mike and Tammy Gerber.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Sue Baller are the new grandparents of Bracen. He is the son of Tony and Angie Chaney.

Spending time in the hospital this month were Bro. Joe Kipfer, Bro. Mick Culp (Sis. Coleen) and Bro. Butch Moser (Sis. Pat). Please add them to your prayer list. If you do not have one, now would be a great time to start.

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

James 5:16

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Jessica Murray**

We had the opportunity to host the Fort Sam Reunion in July. It was a pleasure to have those in our presence who have served our country and can share how God has worked in their lives. We want to thank all those who took the time to travel to be with us. May the Lord bless you and your families.

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

Matthew 19:6

Two lives were joined together in the name of the Lord as Sis. Andria Gudeman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Peg) and Bro. John Sprunger (Bro. Kent and Sis. Sheila) of the Bluffton congregation, were united in marriage on August 1. May the Lord continue to guide your lives as you build your home together.

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of

life.”

Romans 6:4

On August 7-8, we had the joy of listening to the testimonies of three dear souls and witnessing the baptisms of Sis. Tess Gutwein (Bro. Jan and Sis. Val), Bro. Blair Neihouser, and Sis. Kendra Neihouser (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sue Neihouser). May the Lord continue to work in their young hearts as they begin their school year and can lead as examples unto many others. Keep the Spirit of the Lord in your hearts always.

It is a joy to have ministering brothers visit and share with us. Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Rustin Meister (West Lafayette, IN), Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Remington, IN), Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), and Bro. Herbert Knochel, Jr. (Phoenix, AZ) were here to share this past month. Many thanks to you and your wives and families.

We were prayerful as Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein attended the Elder Conference in Peoria, IL, and we look forward to hearing what he has to share in the coming weeks. What a blessing it is that fellowship can take place, and that God brings many great things to those who seek Him.

We continue to pray for those who deal with health issues daily and have faith that God is in control. Sis. Valera Culp (Bro. Walter) has joined her husband at Parkview Haven. The Lord bless each and every one of you as you leave your worries and cares in His hands.

Sis. Tianne Overmyer and her daughter, Chelsey, have moved out of the Francesville area. They will remain in our prayers and are so welcome to come and visit any time. We will miss you and your loving

hearts at Francesville. Their new address is: 3138 Butterfly Drive, Normal, IL 61761.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Debbie Anliker
Gail Bradford**

Summertime in Indiana – a time to enjoy county fairs, go to the lake, watch the corn and beans grow tall, and thank our Creator God for His beautiful world.

Two young families celebrated the arrival of babies. We rejoice with them!

Issac Aaron Cook was welcomed by Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle Cook and their children, Noah, Samantha, and Clay. Baby Cook's happy grandparents are Bro. Herb and Sis. Susan Cook of Francesville, and Bro. Mick and Sis. Connie Cupp of Bluffton North.

Carter Lane was born to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Kara Klopfenstein. He has a big brother, Caleb, and delighted grandparents, Bro. Cleve and Sis. Kathleen Klopfenstein of Peoria, IL, and Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart of Champaign, IL.

Bro. Dan Guingrich is recovering from an accident. We are glad that his injuries, though serious, were not life threatening.

Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart held a Bible study on the Holy Spirit recently.

We were served by several visiting ministers: Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN), Bro. Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty, OH), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN), and Bro. Dennis

Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington-Normal, IL). We are always encouraged and edified by the Word preached in earnest sincerity.

Some of our young people have returned from international journeys. Bro. Mark Zeller helped with a work project in Mongolia. Bro. Michael Zeller visited his sister, Andrea and family in India. Torey and Blake Guingrich returned from England where they visited their brother, Bryce, who is employed in London. And Tia Wuethrich has departed for a year of teaching English in China. We pray for all our children, but our prayers are especially fervent when they are far away. God's protection is our comfort and confidence.

An opportunity for Bible instruction and service projects has begun for any young person from kindergarten through 8th grade. The groups, one for boys and one for girls, will be called "Keepers of the Faith".

Results of Sunday school teacher elections were announced. Thanks to the alternate teachers who filled in during summer "recess".

Some of us attended the annual Conference hosted by Peoria, IL, church. We heard many exhortations and instructions, and joined with brethren in singing inspiring hymns from Zion's Harp.

"Therefore, let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober."

II Thessalonians 5:6

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

Our new Sunday School teachers that were elected to serve a four year

term beginning in September were Bro. Steve Stoller, Bro. Joe Feller and Sis. Judy Gudeman. We pray that each one will feel the Lord's guidance and nearness as they help nurture young souls. We would like to thank our outgoing teachers, Bro. Glen Gudeman, Bro. Calvin Schneider and Sis. Kerri Gudeman. We have greatly appreciated your years of service and pray that God will richly bless you for your efforts!

This past month has brought joy and thankfulness for a new baby girl. Laura Dawn Stoller was born on August 6 to Bro. Ben and Sis. Kendra Stoller. Laura is welcomed home by her two older sisters, Lucy and Maria. Her grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene Banwart (West Bend, IA).

Much sadness is mixed with pride as a young man has gone to serve our Country in Iraq. Ben McClanahan is the grandson of John & Carol Ailes and the son of Drue and Diane McClanahan. Ben's grandparents have asked that we keep him in our thoughts and pray that he will return home safely.

Sis. Mary Ann Feller had a knee replacement surgery this past month. She is doing very well. Her wonderful attitude and smile have continued to be an encouragement to all, even during her time of pain. We pray that she continues to get along well with her therapy and recovery.

Our dear sister, Sis. Erma Moser, has been in the hospital this past month and is in failing health. We pray that God will comfort her and her sister, Sis. Lorene, who has been helping care for her during her time of illness.

We rejoice with Scott Cambern (Bill and Crystal) as he has given his

life to the Lord. We pray that he will feel God's guidance and direction as he turns his back on the world and begins his walk with God.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Wettstein and their family have recently moved to the area and will be worshipping with our congregation. We are so thankful to have them with us and look forward to the added blessings they will bring to our small congregation!

Thomas Hoenicke of Germany is an exchange student of Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel and family. Thomas will be worshipping with us for the entire upcoming school year. We are excited that he is here and pray that he feels at home with our church family.

We had two ministering brothers who shared the gospel message with us this past month. Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) were able to spend time with us. Thanks to each of you brothers for your labor of love on our behalf.

**INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter
Laura Fischer**

Truman Levi Wirtz was welcomed into the home of Bro. Matt and Sis. Danielle on July 3. He has a brother, Dallen. We pray for blessings on their family. Truman's grandparents are Bro. Michael and Sis. Lila Wirtz (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Dale and Sis. Diane Stickling (Bloomington, IL).

We were blessed by the visits of Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) on July 4 and Bro. John Jackson (Detroit, MI) on July 18. We appreciated the encouragement from Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) on

Wednesday evening, July 21. Also visiting us that evening was Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL).

The engagement of Bro. Kirk Plattner and Sis. Keri Kaeb (Roanoke, IL) was announced. May their relationship grow in purity and truth during this time of their engagement.

August 1 was the wedding day of Sis. Mandy Stieglitz and Bro. Trent Regier. Her parents are Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda. Trent's parents are Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay Regier (Princeville, IL). Among the many guests were ministering Bros. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) and Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN), both cousins of the bride. Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN) ministered at the morning worship service. Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL) had the wedding service on I Thessalonians 5:16-22. Elder Bro. Lynn performed the vows. Psalm 61 is a bond and encouragement to the couple. May they be obedient to God's Word and rejoice in His love.

"But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine."

Titus 2:1

We are grateful for the concern the Elders have for the church body, and thank the Lord for His guidance. Our Elder Bro. Lynn remarked on his return that responsibility is not only with the Elders at the Conference, but it lies with everyone who hears and reads the truth. May God bless the Word in our hearts continually.

INDIANA, MILFORD**Paula Haab
Cap Beer**

This month some of the younger couples of our church served a delicious meal for the old people of our congregation. In addition to the good meal, we enjoyed memories from the past. It was a wonderful time of Christian fellowship.

We had three visiting ministers this month. Bro. Ron Kipfer is always welcomed at Milford. His father, Carl, worked at Milford at one time and sometimes worshipped with us. Bro. Ron encouraged each of us to do our part in the congregation, because the Lord gives us all some talents.

Bro. Dave Graf was with us for a Wednesday evening service. Bro. Steve Ringger explained how we are in the world but should not be part of the world. He also encouraged us to keep our lives pure so that the church will be pure. Once again we are very grateful to these brothers and their wives for the love that they show us in visiting us and giving these messages of hope.

Sis. Eleanor Beer, Bro. Howard's widow, is now in the Lakeland nursing home in Milford where she enjoys the visits of her family and many friends.

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle was with us on Wednesday evening, August 18. He reminded us that we were God's possession and we owe Him our allegiance. Also we should be grateful and happy in His service.

I am thankful for the opportunity to write this column. Many of you readers I will never meet on this earth. But in heaven we shall know as we are known. So I'm looking forward to meeting you all there.

INDIANA, REMINGTON**Beth Virkler
Rochelle Ward**

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

Ephesians 5:31

Justin Clark (Bro. Ron and Sis. Brenda) was united in marriage with Cheryl Buergler on July 24. Justin and Cheryl live in West Lafayette. It is our prayer that God will bless them in their new lives together.

Sis. Rachel Virkler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth) and Bro. Craig Langhofer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Lavilla, South Bend, IN) were also joined in Holy Matrimony on August 8. We pray for them as well that God will be present as they weave their lives together as one.

Bro. Andy Getz (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Charlene) announced his engagement to Sis. Gina Kloter (Bro. Kent and Sis. Janell, Goodfield, IL). May God be with them as they get to know one another and plan for their December wedding.

Our prayers for a speedy recovery are with Sis. Mary Zickmund and Bro. Walt Bahler as they are both healing from surgeries.

We thank Bros. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) and Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS) for traveling the miles and sharing the Word with us.

We are also thankful for the Elder brothers who gathered together to prayerfully consider the desires of the Lord for the direction of our churches. May God bless those who have labored together for the work of the Lord.

Note of Thanks:

Words fail me to totally express my deepest thanks for the "Shower of Cards" for my 80th birthday and for the prayers and best wishes during my recent eye surgery. God bless you as only He can do!

Sincerely,

*Sis. Lois Bahler***INDIANA, SOUTH BEND****Melisa Gerst
Stacey Feller**

"There is beauty all around when there's love at home!" (Hymns of Zion #64) We rejoice with Bro. Craig and Sis. Rachel Langhofer as they begin their life together as husband and wife in the Lord! Congratulations to John and Ann Marie Ranchert on the birth of their daughter, Anna Rose (granddaughter of Sis. Sharon Flis).

Congratulations are also in order for Bro. Ben Flis for his college graduation from IUSB. Our prayers are for God's continuing presence in his life as he enters the working world.

Bro. Luke Schafer (Sis. Andrea) will be beginning medical school this fall. Our prayers are with him and his family as he endeavors to follow God's calling to help and heal.

As Sis. Jennifer Mangold (Bro. Matt) continues to heal from surgery, our prayers are for a full and timely recovery.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO**Lois Bucher**

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held July 25 at the Kouts school. It was well attended. It is always a blessing to hear of what each class is doing and what they have accomplished during the past school year. Thank you to the teachers who so tirelessly plant the seeds in their hearts. Sunday School will be taking

a short break, resuming again after Labor Day.

August 15 was our quarterly church potluck and singing. It is an activity thoroughly enjoyed by all; especially when we raise our voices in song and praise to our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Our visiting ministers this month was Bro. Herb Knochel, Jr. (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ). We appreciate so much his willingness to speak the Gospel to us. Sis. Laurie is the daughter of our Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger. We always look forward to their visits.

The following was submitted by Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol Bucher:

August 1 was a special Sunday. Eight descendants of the late Bro. Bill and Sis. Nettie (Zimmerman) Jacob family attended our service for a heritage Sunday honoring their parents. After church they traveled to their former home in LaPorte, and then to the cemetery at LaCrosse where their parents are buried. They were from San Francisco, Atlanta, Monticello and Cincinnati.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE**

**Diana Houston
Nettie Haab**

Many thanks to our visiting ministers who were Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN), Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), and Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Sis. Kathy, Burlington, IA).

A son, Braxton, came to bless the home of Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Tonya Schieler. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Darl and Sis. Cindy Schieler from Bloomington, IL, and Bro. Chris and Sis. Sharon Huber from Francesville, IN.

We extend a hearty welcome to two new families who have recently relocated to our area. They are Bro. Doug, Sis. Peggy, Chad, Natalie, Ellie, and Seth Hoerr who moved from Peoria, IL, and also Jason, Maggie, Alexandra, Maya, Leanna and Ethan Getz who moved from South Bend, IN.

Bro. John Sprunger and Sis. Andria Gudeman were married August 1 in Francesville, IN. Both have graduated from Purdue and we are thankful they are staying in the area. Parents are Bro. Kent and Sis. Sheila Sprunger of Bluffton and Bro. Dale and Sis. Peg Gudeman of Francesville.

Recently elected Sunday School teachers are Bros. Tim Lehman, Grant Gudeman, and Sisters Annette Bahler, Cara Gudeman, and Amber Lehman. They are replacing Bros. Brian Furrer, Ryan Meister, and Sisters Darlene Walder, Tonya Schieler, and Amanda Meister who have been faithfully teaching our children for the past two years.

We welcome back our college students as they began another year of study, and especially all the new students. We hope you will feel at home and worship with us often.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Lisa Furrer

We wish to thank ministers who traveled far and near to share the gospel. Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL) presented a very timely and interesting Bible topic, and Bro. Jeff Luthi (Sis. Shirley, Altadena, CA) lent himself to talk of God's love.

"A wise man will hear, and will increase learning..."

Proverbs 1:5

It's back to school time across our nation. Let's remember our children, from the little ones starting pre-school to the graduates working toward their masters in our prayers. May they have a safe and enjoyable learning experience. We hope those students will also "let their light shine" to those they come in contact with.

After many years of illness, Sis. Edna Kyburz gained her eternal rest on August 18. Our love and prayers are extended to her children, Bro. Lloyd (Sis. Pat), Bro. Jerry (Sis. Nancy), Ron (Donna), Roger (Brenda), brother Levi (Fran) Klopfenstein, and many grandchildren and great grandchildren in our area.

Our remodel/add-on project is well under way. Just a reminder that we meet for church at the World Relief building north of town and on the last Sunday of the month we have no service.

IOWA, ELGIN
**Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer**

The weekend of August 7-8 many from here were able to attend the proving and baptism of Aaron Frank (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy) in Oakville. We have appreciated having Aaron with us during his John Deere training at NEICC in Calmar and welcome him now as our brother in faith.

Bro. Elmer Butikofer came to the end of his earthly pilgrimage on August 12. Bro. Elmer has patiently endured his physical afflictions for some time and can now be at rest. May God comfort his family.

Little Grant Kramer (Kurt and

Danette) recently underwent surgery. He is still in the hospital at this time and our prayers are with him that he might be granted a complete recovery soon.

Sis. Sharla Schneider was elected to replace her mother, Sis. Sue, as Sunday School teacher for the intermediate class. As she teaches the wonderful truths and stories from the Bible, may she also be blessed. So often as teachers we learn as much as the students do.

Again, we have been thankful for visiting ministers, Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Sis. Kathy, Burlington, IA) and Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA). How encouraging it is that the message stays the same whether it comes from our home or visiting ministers.

We welcome Sis. Abby Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet) back home. Abby had been employed at the Home for the Handicapped for around a year.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Willa Clark

We are grateful to those who have traveled many miles to serve us, and trust the Lord that they will be blessed both in this life and in Heaven for their labors of love. Our visiting brothers have been Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Bro. Craig Martin (Princeville, IL), and our Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA). We thank them and their families for spending time with us. We also thank others who worship with us, and welcome any who might come this way.

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

Ephesians 4:32

On a recent Sunday we were reminded we are supposed to forgive as Christ forgives. That would be in two ways. Christ forgave us even before we sinned against Him. And He forgave us our sins and wiped the account clean, never to bring up those sins again. We must be willing to forgive those who hurt us, even before it happens. And we must not only forgive, but forget the transgression, as if it had never happened. Forgiving in this Christ-like way is not only following God’s direction, but lightens the load, when we can truly forget and not carry the weight of anger in our heart.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Diana Butikofer

We were thankful to have four visiting ministers this last month. Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Oakville, IA) served us on a Wednesday evening, and Bro. Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA) and Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL) assisted on recent Sundays. May God bless them for their willingness to proclaim His Word to us.

We would like to thank the Peoria congregation for all they put into the Brotherhood Conference this year and also thank each Elder and his family for their work, sacrifice, and prayers this past year!

IOWA, LESTER Dawn Knobloch Dawn Metzger

“Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.”

Proverbs 3:13

It is with gladness that we share that Mark and Lee Leuthold have found peace with God and man. They are looking forward to baptism which is scheduled for August 29.

We always appreciate coming to worship the Lord on the Sabbath day. To hear the Word proclaimed that we might be reminded of the love and commandments given by God. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) was our visiting minister this past month and we appreciate him being used on our behalf.

Bro. Troy Metzger (Sis. Gwen) was hospitalized for surgery and it is good to know his recuperation seems to be going well. Brendon Leuthold (Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle) was also hospitalized but is home and doing better.

Charles Knobloch Jr. is home from serving our nation overseas for a short time. No doubt it was wonderful for him to spend time with his wife, Annie, and new son, Cole. May God be with him as he returns and we often remember his parents, Bro. Charles and Sis. Coralee, as safety is a great concern.

Our congregation has three families enjoying the birth of a child. On July 20, Evan John was born to Bro. Dwight and Sis. Donna Mogler. Grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Lillian Mogler. Janae, Drew, Kendra and Quinn are delighted to have a new brother. Clark and Susie Meyer became parents on July 30 to Colby Japhet Meyer. His grandpa is Bro. George Meyer and Sis. Emma Meyer is his great - grandmother. Jude Michael was born on August 7 to Keith and Julie Moser. Lucas is his brother. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy Leuthold and great - grandparents are Tina Moser, Bro. Eli and Sis. Alice

Metzger and Bro. Paul and Sis. Betty Leuthold.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Harvey and Sis. Mary Metzger and their family as they bear the loss of Sis. Mary's mother, Ione Bush.

Sunday School resumes for another year this month. May we sincerely pray for our teachers and encourage our children to respect their teachers and the Word of God as it is taught to them in love.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Sharla Wiegand
Rosalie Wiegand

Baptized, I feel His grace,
 My sinful mind subduing,
 And look in all distress
 To God, my faith renewing.
 Thou art the central force,
 Help me to manifest
 What true baptism means
 And what is should attest.

Zion's Harp #43

On Sunday, August 8, we welcomed two new Brothers in Christ, Bro. Clinton Wagenbach (Bro. Jerry Jr. and Sis. Bonnie) and Bro. Aaron Frank (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy). In faith they have come to the foot of the cross and received forgiveness of sins. Elder Bro. Curt Frank (La-Crosse, IN) assisted in baptizing these two dear souls. Other visiting ministers were Bro. Floyd Frieden and Bro. Kent Getz (both from Elgin, IA). It was a blessing to have many of the Elgin congregation here to share in this day of rejoicing as Bro. Aaron has spent time there with his schooling.

Bro. Koertland and Sis. Rebekah (Rokey) Beyer were united in Holy Matrimony on May 30. On August 14, they came "home" to Oakville for an all-church singing shower. It

is a joy to witness God's working in regenerated hearts and we pray that they may ever seek the Lord's perfect will in their life together. Sis. Rebekah's parents were in attendance, too. Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) preached the Gospel message on Sunday, along with Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA). May God bless these dear brothers.

School is starting again. But more importantly, Sunday School is starting again. It is our prayer that God will bless the teachers as they speak of our Heavenly Father and His love for mankind. May they not rely on their earthly wisdom, but seek the "wisdom that is from above (which) is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." (James 3:17)

IOWA
BLOOMFIELD/PULASKI
Barbara Schock

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

Zion's Harp # 237

On August 1, Stacy Wuthrich (Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn) and Andy Joos (Bro. Ron and Sis. Christy) were joined together in marriage. We wish them the Lord's blessings as a couple as they begin their life together. Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend) were here to share in this special weekend.

In the past month we have been blessed with many visiting ministers. On July 17-18, Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin,

IL) was here for the weekend. The following weekend, July 24-25, we had the privilege of hosting a Fort Sam Reunion. We had many visiting ministers. They include Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), and Bros. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN), Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA), Max Reimschisel (Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS), John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN), and Ben Wysong (Sis. Janice, Sabetha, KS). Many of the brothers that were here shared some of their army memories with us. It is always interesting to hear stories that brothers who have been called to serve their country have to tell, whether they had been shipped overseas or not.

School time is here again. Children of all ages are getting ready to return to school to learn for a year before taking a summer break. Let us all continue to learn even though we may not be in school. If we studied God's Word as much as the school children study their schoolwork, who knows how much more we may know and understand.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Betty Wirtz
Lori Skoglund

As we write this, it is apparent summer will soon be over and the children will be returning to school. Our thoughts and prayers go with them all, from the kindergarten students to those who are in college. May God be with them each day.

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

Gen. 2:18

We welcome into our fellowship Sis. Alicia Maul who became the bride of Bro. Lee Fehr on August 8. Parents of the couple are Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann Maul from Cissna Park, IL, and Bro. James and Sis. Sharon Fehr. We hope Sis. Alicia and her daughter, Aubrey, will feel the love of our congregation and soon feel at home here.

Hospital patients this month were Arlo Grimm (Marilyn) and Sis. Phyllis (Bro. Alvin) for surgery. Sis. Elma Mogler and Sis. Hulda Wirtz were in the hospital for medical reasons. They have returned to their homes now. At this time, Garth and Felicia Fehr, small children of Bro. Byron and Sis. Anita, remain in the hospital with pneumonia. Prayers that they will be returned to good health again soon are with them.

First-time parents are Mike and Amy VanWyhe. They welcomed a son, Kaden Michael, born July 28. We pray they will seek God's guidance in raising this new little one. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Gary VanWyhe of Rock Rapids, IA, and first-time grandparents, Bro. James and Sis. Joan Wirtz.

During the summer months we often have family reunions and it is a blessed time to be
 With family — often many we haven't seen for some time.
 Family ties are precious things
 Woven through the years of memories,
 Of togetherness, of laughter, love and tears.
 Family ties are cherished things
 Forged in childhood days
 By love of parents, deep and true,
 By tradition of family ways.
 Family ties are treasured things
 For though we may roam,

The tender bonds of those we love,
 Pull our hearts toward home.

—author unknown

Our visiting minister this month was Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) and we thank him for taking time to be with us. He encouraged us to take advantage of this day of grace that God is providing.

“Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.”

Proverbs 30:5

“Remove far from me vanity and lies; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:”

Proverbs 30:8

JAPAN, SHIODA Eiko Nozawa

Summer! Time for visiting!

Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle are now visiting the States. We miss them a lot. May God bless them through the rest of their visit and bring them safely home in Shioda at the end of August.

Shuyokai (the fellowship meeting, July 23 - 24) was a joyous time for all of us. It was so good to see each other again and make a joyful noise together in harmony. Bros. Anthony Gutwein (Indianapolis, IN) and David Thames (Washington, IL) joined us with Bro. Makoto Inoue, who came back to spend some time with his family. They were our church guests on the following Sunday along with Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue's family. Bro. Akito delivered God's Word to us.

Bro. Andrew Klaus conducted

the service on the first Sunday of August in Shioda. Sis. Susie Katanic visited us again with the Klaus family. We also enjoyed her presence at the Shuyokai. We appreciate each of these visitors.

Mr. A. N. Intruder was another visitor. He showed up rather unexpectedly sometime between 7/30 - 8/10. On August 4 (Wed.), I found a south door being unlocked. I thought we forgot to lock it on Sunday before. Who knows how he looks like or how many times he was in and out. His entrance was a south window of the Sunday School room. He skillfully made a little hole on the glass to unlock the window. Then he made himself at home and entertained himself with the lock to upstairs apartment. On the Sunday of August 8, the lock was still on the door; on Wednesday (8/11) it was lying on the floor with screws and powdery mess. And south doors were left being unlocked in two places. I called the police and they sent two officers over immediately to investigate. Since then, a policeman from a near-by police box has been making his rounds to our church. We appreciate their good service very much. While waiting for the police officers, I got a little scared. I was sitting by a window and was afraid someone was creeping behind me. When I looked back, I saw this on the back of an old tin cabinet: “What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.” (Psalm 56:3). It seems like nothing is missing, so maybe he came here just for good night's rest. We hope he will visit us again some day in the future at 10:30 on Sunday morning. God's blessings to all of you.

**KANSAS, BERN
Sally Strahm
Sheri Edelman**

Robbie and Gail Nutter were blessed with a baby girl, Sara Ellen, who was born July 16. Her brother, Levi, 2, welcomes her home. Sara's grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois Hartter and her great-grandfather is retired Elder Bro. Lester Hartter.

Bro. Jason and Sis. Natalie Stratton welcomed Jackson John into their family circle on August 2. Jackson's grandparents are Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman and Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Stratton of Taylor, Missouri.

Bro. Adrian and Sis. Harriett Strahm welcomed Alaina Marie into their family circle on August 7. Laif, 4, and Alyssa, 2, welcome their new little sister. Alaina's grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia Strahm and Bro. John and Sis. Esther Orcsik of Ontario, Canada.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Sheila Rokey were blessed with Luke Eugene on August 12. Luke's siblings are Hannah, Travis, Kristin and Jared. His grandparents are Eugene and Judy Edelman and Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda Rokey. We pray God will be with each of these dear couples as they take care of their precious little ones and raise them up in the fear and admonition of Thee.

We pray for our ministers each time they speak the Holy Word of God. Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) were with us this past month.

**KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Ethel Smith**

Our love and greetings to all. May our hearts be so filled with the goodness of God that there is no

room for that which is not wholesome.

We feel very blessed to be able to report that we have a new birth and a wedding within a few weeks. In little churches like ours, this is especially exciting. Taira and Daniel Williams have a new son, Elias Daniel, born July 22. His older brother, Alexander, will enjoy having a little brother. Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie Banwart are grandparents; Sis. Mabel Springer, retired Elder Bro. Raymond and Sis. Kathryn Banwart are the great -grandparents.

The weekend of August 8, many of our congregation traveled to Gridley, IL, for the wedding of Bro. Tyler Banwart (Ft. Scott) and Sis. Tina Gramm (Gridley, IL). Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie Banwart are the parents of the groom. Bro. Roger and Sis. Darleta Gramm are parents of the bride. We pray God will bless them richly as they establish their home in Ft. Scott, KS.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Raymond and Sis. Kathryn Banwart on the death of his brother, Bro. Art Banwart, Lamar, MO. We rejoice with the birth and wedding, but we can also rejoice for Bro. Art that he could go to be with the Lord and receive his crown of victory. He lost his wife just a few months ago and so it is a joy that he can be with her in all eternity.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO) on July 18; and Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, LaCrosse, IN) on August 15. We were blessed with many words of encouragement from their sermons.

FAITH NEVER KNOWS WHERE IT IS BEING LED, BUT IT LOVES AND

KNOWS THE ONE WHO IS LEADING.

**KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Eileen Bahr**

Vacation time – we missed Bro. Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS) on July 25 as we had the privilege of attending the Ft. Sam Reunion at Francesville that weekend. The wonderful memories of Christian fellowship that started in Texas during the Korean War instilled special friendships “away from home” because of God's blessings. Looking back some fifty years ago I believe it was all in God's plan because I would never have met Rudy from Kansas – he came to visit Bro. Frank Schock in Elgin – they came back from Korea on a memorable troop ship that included being in a typhoon. These brothers have service memories they haven't shared with their families – not one was killed.

We are happy to report that Bro. Eldon Metzger returned from the hospital last Friday. He is in remission and has two more consolidations to take in the future.

Last evening the brothers and friends started preliminary construction for a Habitat for Humanity home they plan to assemble Thursday and Friday in Emporia with the aid of brothers from other congregations.

Note of Thanks:

I certainly want to thank all who prayed for myself and Dorene during my initial bout with leukemia. I am in remission at this time but still covet your prayers for the future. Also thank you for the cards and gifts we received. What a blessing it is to know that many brethren and

friends throughout the land lifted us in prayer to God for grace each day.

*Love in Him,
Eldon, Dorene and family*

KANSAS, SABETHA

Jeanelle Plattner

Dawn Strahm

We extend a warm welcome to Sisters Karla Kaisner (Fairbury, IL) and Emily Koehl (Morris, MN) who have recently moved to our area and will be assembling with us in Sabetha. May you both feel at home here.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter have two new grandsons to love. Kodi Dale Miller is the son of Kenny and Kalynn Miller. May we keep this family in our prayers as Kodi spends time in the hospital. Remington John is the son of Bro. Tim and Sis. Kristin Schaefer (Morris, MN).

Our visiting ministers this past month included Bros. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS). May God bless each one as they willingly fed us His Holy Word.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Hertzell as well as Elder Bro. Gerry and Sis. Ellen and their family in the recent loss of their grandson and nephew, Ryker Schweitzer (Brian and Kristy Schweitzer). May God's comfort be their strength in this time of sorrow. We never know what the future holds, but trust that God's timing is always right and someday we'll understand why.

Many thanks to our Sunday School teachers whom have completed their terms: Bro. Gordon Huber, Bro. Dave Hartter, and Sis. Christy Meeks. May you each be blessed for your labors of love in teaching our youth. We lend our

support and prayers to our new teachers in the coming year, including Bros. Tom Strahm and Koertland Beyer and Sis. Beth Hartter (Bro. Dave).

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

When I first heard about the recall of reservists to again report for duty in the war with Iraq, my thoughts turned to Derek Funk. Derek and Emily and their precious little Taylor had just recently settled in a home in Wichita and yes, his reserve unit was called back to active duty. As of this writing, he has not been deployed but that will come soon. I took courage in Derek's remark when I met him after it was definite that he had been recalled. He was not bitter but said to this effect that God had been with him when he was in the war zone before and he trusted Him to be with him again. He appreciates the prayers that are offered for him and his comrades as well as for his family.

Bro. Roger Reimschisel is also in need of prayers as he is presently undergoing some medical problems. So many in our congregation have close relatives and friends who are experiencing health problems. We commit them all to the Heavenly Father's mercy.

We have had an unusual summer as far as weather is concerned. Our rains have been frequent and plentiful. Also, it has been unusual in that we have had very few visitors in our church attendance. In the past, it was common to have travelers stop in Wichita and attend worship services with our congregation. Instead our numbers have been reduced by our own families who were out of town on vacations or family celebra-

tions. Travelers, take note, you are welcome to worship with us when you are in the area.

Our Sunday School went on vacation in July and reconvened this past Sunday. One of the little boys made the remark earlier, "Well, how am I going to learn about God and Jesus if we don't have Sunday School?"

Two of our former Sunday School students have chosen helpmates this year. In late June, Sis. Ann Greiner's granddaughter, Jennifer, married Josh Malcom. In September, Matthew Long and Jennifer Hoefer plan to be married. Matt is the son of Bro. Jonathon and Sis. Ruth Long and the grandson of Bro. Milton and Sis. Lillian Bowers. We pray that the three fold cord will bind them in their unions. (Zion's Harp, #79)

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Barb Huber

Betty Baltic

We are rejoicing that another soul has taken advantage of Christ's "living water". Scott Germann (Bro. Doug and Sis. Rebecca) has made a beginning in repentance some time ago and has received peace with God and man. He is awaiting baptism which is scheduled the weekend of October 16-17. May God grant him grace and wisdom to build a firm foundation upon the Solid Rock.

On July 25, we welcomed a number of visitors from Bluffton and Indianapolis, IN; Lamar, MO; Peoria, Washington and Eureka, IL.

This month we were blessed to have ministering Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN), along with Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne Hoerr and family

(Congerville, IL) whom traveled to Kentucky together. In addition, we have been privileged to enjoy the fellowship of brethren from Milford, Bluffton and Francesville, IN; Washington and Forrest, IL; and Rittman, OH. Our sincere appreciation is extended to all our visitors that made an effort to be with us.

It was good news to hear that Jonathon Huber (Ben and June) was able to visit family and friends for a few weeks before returning to California to further his marine duties. May God continue to protect and watch over him with His love and grace.

Again, we extend a welcome to come and visit us in Lexington. You may contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541; Bro. Doug Germann (859) 224-8710; Bro. Jan Neukomm (859) 273-8574; or Bro. Dan Baltic (812) 218-8140.

MEXICO, IXTLAN **Rosario Gonzalez**

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

Proverbs 22:6

This past month, the Young Group was willing to help at VBS where many young children and a few mothers who were taking care of their little ones came and heard God’s Word. Some were from here and others came from nearby towns. They liked this time at church and could hardly wait each day for VBS. It is a blessing how the Lord puts this desire in these tender hearts. The church was full with an average daily attendance of more than 200 children. Now some are attending the Saturday night young group

gatherings and also the Sunday School.

VBS also took place at the little flock in Morelia. God is touching hearts around the world. They had about 40 children each day.

The Lord continues to open doors. The last VBS was in Acapulco in the state of Guerrero, where our sisters Pauli and Fernanda Angelito are from. Sis. Pauli and Sis. Claudia Gonzalez went to two different villages and had one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. There were more than 100 children who attended there.

Twice a year Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) comes to have clinic and to share with us his spiritual as well as physical gifts. On July 25, he shared God’s Word from the pulpit and then during the following week, did about ten eye surgeries. Some of the people are from here and others come from nearby towns. May the Lord open the understanding for these people who had surgery so that they come to know Him. Thanks to all for their prayers and to those who were willing to come and help in this work. As we know, all that we do is to praise His name.

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn.”

Isaiah 61:1-2

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY **Sarah Knochel** **Janelle Ramseyer**

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

Luke 15:10

We rejoice with the angels that Patty Wackerle (Kip) has turned over her life to the Lord. Our prayer is that the Lord will continue to go with her and guide her on her new life’s journey. We also rejoice to hear that Kim Wackerle (Bro. Tom) professes peace with God and man. May the Lord continue to walk with her and bless her as she lives for Him.

Our prayers continue to be with Sis. Shirley Wright (Bro. Gary) as she recovers from surgery. We are thankful that Sis. Leah Ramseyer was able to return home after a stay in a local nursing home. May the Lord continue to provide for her and heal her. We also are thankful that Clinton Ruegsegger was able to return home after an extended hospital stay. Our prayers continue to be with Clinton and his family that the Lord would walk with him and His will would be done.

August 7-8, our congregation hosted an Invite – A – Friend weekend. It is such a joy to gather with those of like mind and faith. We are thankful the Lord provided traveling mercies to all our visitors. Our visiting ministers included Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Dave Steffen (Elgin, IL). We also appreciate the kind counsel of Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) who were in our presence recently.

Our entire congregation was saddened by the sudden death of Bro.

Gary Meylan. Our support and prayers go out to his wife, Sis. Marilyn; his children, Gary (Melissa) and Wade (Amanda), and five grandchildren, Shelby, Connor, Spencer, Victoria and Devin Meylan. We also pray God's comforting hand will rest with his father, Bro. Henry Meylan, and his siblings, especially those from our congregation, Sis. Shirley Wright (Bro. Gary), Bro. Eugene Meylan (Sis. Carol), Dale Meylan (Sue) and Sis. Cindy Sochacki (Jim).

With the start of the new school year, we have also changed classes in Sunday School. Our prayers are with all the teachers as they strive to help the children grow in the Lord. We especially pray for our newly elected Sunday School teachers: Sis. Bonnie Schlatter, Bro. Jim Knochel (Sis. Kay) and Bro. Alan Schlatter (Vicki), that the Lord would guide and bless them. Our thanks go out to those teachers whose terms have expired: Sis. Carol Wieland (Bro. Dale) and Bro. Bob Grew (Sis. Kayleen) for their services over the past years. May the Lord richly reward them.

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

His love shone upon us before we believed,
And when we were burdened, His loving heart grieved.

Our parents He gives who provide in each day,
And teachers to show us the heavenly way.

In schools of the righteous we ever

can find
The heavenly wisdom, the purified mind.
He calls to His children: Come hither, you blest;
Give heed to my words, I will bring you to rest.

We'll learn and we'll labor in cheerful accord,
And do what we can in the strength of the Lord.
O blessed is he, when the summer is gone,
Who harvests the fruit from good seed he has sown!
Zion's Harp #165

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Krista Wieland
Jamie Bahr**

The following news was inadvertently omitted from the August issue:

On July 11 our congregation held the 16th annual Woodhaven Benefit Day. As always, it was a blessing for all and we want to thank everyone that took part in the occasion. Thank you especially to those who traveled a distance to be with us for the weekend.

Thank you to ministering Bros. Jim Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS), Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH), Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI), and Elder Bros. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Art Bahler (Sis. Suzanne, Fairbury, IL) for sharing with us in recent times.

Our prayers are with Sis. Anna Sabados as she has been in the hospital for a period of time. We also want to remember her family as they balance their time with her and with their many responsibilities. Others hospitalized this past month include Sis. Trudy Schmidt (Bill) and Jacob Kujawa, son of Laura

Kujawa. Also in our thoughts and prayers are the family of Larry Smiley as he passed away recently. His daughter and son-in-law are Bro. Ben and Barb Maibach. Larry's wife, Virginia Smiley, was recently hospitalized and is recovering from surgery. May they feel God's comfort in this time.

We apologize for missing one of our graduates recently. Cecily Meyer, daughter of Sis. Kristie Meyer and Mark Meyer, has graduated with a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. Sis. Julie Waibel has recently moved to Battle Creek due to a new job, but plans to continue attending with us in Detroit. We also welcome Bro. Mark Knepp, who has moved to the area. We are glad to have both of you here!

September Issue News

We wish to remember those who have been hospitalized or met with accident this month. Hospitalized were Sis. Vi Barton and Sis. Maria Sabados; we are grateful they are home now and doing better. Kirk Maibach, son of Bro. Doug and Carole, suffered from a broken collarbone, and Sis. Sheryl Maibach broke her foot. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Bro. Ted Orcsik (Bro. John and Sis. Eszter) and Sis. Andrea Farkas (Bro. Zoltan and Sis. Ilona) were united in marriage in Dunavecse, Hungary, on July 4. We wish them God's richest blessings and welcome Sis. Andrea to our congregation.

We wish to thank the following visiting ministers and their wives for visiting us and sharing the Word with us this month: Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont/Gridley, KS); Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Sis. Suzanne, Fairbury, IL); Bro. Jim Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS); and Bro.

Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy, Rockville, CT). Also we thank ministering Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), who came with his wife, Sis. Lana, and his father, Bro. Howard Harmon to serve at Woodhaven this month.

We want to remember Sis. Alexis Gasser in prayer as she has moved to attend college at Illinois State University. Also, Sis. Michelle Bahr, who was here for the summer, has moved back to Kansas where she is doing her student teaching through Kansas State University. We will miss you both!

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS

LaRae Dill

"...Think on these things." In a recent sermon, many thoughts were shared on this verse, found in Philippians 4:8. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Truth, honesty, justice, purity, loveliness - these may not be things we think on after reading the daily newspaper, or news article. The ministering brother shared that often, items that are newsworthy in a worldly sense are things that divide - Democrat vs. Republican, pro-life vs. pro-choice, war vs. anti-war. As Christians, if we think on things of virtue and of a good report, as encouraged in this verse, it will naturally draw us to shared blessings which unify our brotherhood.

We have enjoyed many summer visitors! The weekend of July 24 and

25 was our annual Invite-a-Friend weekend. Many greetings were shared. Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL) was here that weekend and ministered. Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. Joanne, Winthrop, MN) also visited our congregation this month.

The Deragisch family celebrated two summer weddings. Tera married Justin (Bud) Runquist, son of Jim and Maureen Runquist of Eagan, MN, on July 16. Brent's marriage to Tina Vucetich, daughter of Tom and Jane Vucetich of Hibbing, MN, took place on August 14. Both couples are living here in the Twin Cities. We rejoice with Dan and Lola Deragisch and their family on these special occasions. God's blessings to you all.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Katie Koehl Heidi Nohl

We were blessed to have visiting Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH) and ministering Bros. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Daryl Stoller (Bern, KS) and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL).

July 17 was the day of Renee Luthi and Adam Kontz's wedding. Their parents are Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte Luthi. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their life together.

Doug and Amber Nohl welcomed Lewis Allen into their home. Also enjoying the new baby is big sister, Crystal, and grandparents, Bro.

Larry and Sis. Bonnie Nohl and Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth Stuber (Tremont, IL).

Remington John was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Kristin Schafer. Welcoming him home is his sister, Greta, and grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam Schafer and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter (Sabetha, KS).

Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte Luthi are pleased with the arrival of their granddaughter, Marissa Kay, born to Scott and Stacy Kjorness.

Bro. Josh Schmidgall and Sis. Heidi Sauder were married July 25. We wish them and their parents, Bro. Dave and Sis. June Schmidgall and Bro. Verle and Sis. Christa Sauder, God's richest blessings as they begin their life together.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Sis. Melinda Schmidgall (Bro. Loren) on the passing of her grandfather, William Stefan (Lamar, MO). We pray that God will provide comfort to his family.

Sis. Shawn Schmidgall (Bro. Paul) had surgery this month. We are thankful that God has provided His healing to her. Also undergoing treatments is Bro. Dick Metzger (Sis. Gail). Our thoughts are with them as we pray God will provide His care and comfort.

Our convert, Blane Koehl (Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn), was announced for peace. We rejoice with Blane and look forward to hearing his testimony.

Sis. Ginny Wulf has moved from our congregation to Gridley, IL, and Sis. Emily Koehl has moved to Sabetha, KS. We will miss our sisters but we trust that God will be with them as they settle in a new church family.

Amber Jones and Tom Rath have announced their engagement

and upcoming marriage. Our prayers are with them and their parents, Bro. Shane and Sis. Ruth Jones and Dick and Mary Leigh Raths.

Amy Fehr and Anthony Ekren are also looking forward to their upcoming marriage. Our prayers are with them as well as their parents, Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy Fehr and Vance and Kim Gullickson and Mark Ekren.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Ginny Stoll
Rachel Steiner

A farewell singing was held for Sis. Shayla Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda) who has moved to the Lamar, MO, area for employment. May the Lord continue to guide and bless Sis. Shayla.

As Sunday School starts again, we pray for God's guidance and wisdom for the teachers to lead and teach the children.

Many prayers were sent heavenward as Elders from all our congregations gathered in Peoria, IL. Isaiah 62:6 – "I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence." How thankful we should be for the "faithful watchmen" of our churches. Many brethren were encouraged and uplifted as they attended the Brotherhood Conference.

We are grateful for Bro. Don Miller (Sis. Bernadine, Minneapolis, MN) for sharing God's Word with us this past month.

July 31 was the wedding day for Scott VanDeest and Kimberly Nachreiner. Parents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Nancy VanDeest and Tom Nachreiner and Deb Nachreiner.

May God stand by their sides as they join hand and heart.

Our hospital patient this month was Bro. Harold Messner (Sis. Geraldine). We pray for God's grace and strength for Bro. Harold and Sis. Gerry as they face this earthly trial.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Garry and Marty Rokey

We would like to thank recent visiting ministers: Bros. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL) Dale Frank (Sis. Christine, Oakville, IA) and Elder Bros. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) and Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR). May God bless each one for their labors. Bro. Randy not only came to speak to our young group on Saturday, but also had both services on Sunday. Bro. Mark, Elder Bro. John and Elder Bro. Wayne were here to assist our Elder Bro. Don Braker in the proving and baptism of Alan Banwart (Dean and Irene) of West Bend, IA. We rejoice with Bro. Alan and warmly welcome him to our fold.

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

Genesis 2:24

We are happy to announce the engagement of Amity Wales (Sis. Carol Wales and Donald Wales) and Troy Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan, Bern, KS). May God richly bless this young couple. A fall wedding is being planned.

Grandparents, Bro. Garry and Sis. Marty Rokey, welcome Penelope Mae who was born to their

daughter, Megan, and her husband, Robert Kerns, of Washington Township, OH. Penelope, who was born on June 30, is also the grandchild of John and Sandra Kerns of West Carrollton, OH.

We also rejoice with Bro. Joe and Sis. Joan Fehr as their daughter, Brittany, has begun her walk with the Lord. May she feel the presence of the Holy Spirit as she begins her repentance.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Becky Marti
Wendy Braker

We are thankful to have Sis. Shayla Messner from the Winthrop, MN, congregation move here. She has found employment in our area and we hope she feels welcome.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. William Stefan, who passed away on July 18. Survivors include two sons, Willie Stefan (Natalie) and Paul Stefan (Debbie), both of this area; one daughter, Sis. Hildegard Koehl (Bro. Jim, San Diego, CA), 11 grandchildren and 10 great – grandchildren.

Bro. Art Banwart passed into his eternal rest on August 11, after an extended illness. We extend our sympathy to his surviving family: a son, Bro. Gene Banwart (Sis. Linda), and daughter, Joan Baslee (Teal), both of this area; daughter, Gail Strahm (Phil) of Rainbow, TX; 9 grandchildren and 4 great – grandchildren. We thank Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS) for taking part in the funeral service.

We were blessed to have Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto, MI) minister God's Word to us this past month. We are thankful for the simple truth

that is yet being spoken.

Bro. Joe Marti (Sis. Evelyn) was a hospital patient this past month. We pray God will be with him always.

Notes of Thanks:

Our heartfelt expression of thanks to the Lamar and Francesville congregations and all who offered our family the loving support of sympathy with the many prayers, food, memorials and kind deeds done for our family during the passing of our beloved father, grandfather and great – grandfather. May the Lord bless you each and every one.

The family of Bro. William Stefan

The family of Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth Banwart wishes to express our thanks to all who helped at the time of their deaths. Thanks for all the food, placing out – of – town guests, grave personnel, preparing meals and in every way you gave of yourselves. Above all, thank you for your prayers and support. May God richly bless you.

Bro. Gene and

Sis. Linda Banwart

Joan and Teal Baslee

Phil and Gail Strahm

and families

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Krista Banwart

This past month brought quite a few visitors and we had a couple Sundays of between seventy and a hundred (in a church of about a dozen people, this is a “big” Sunday). Special thanks to the visitors who stayed to help with singing at the nursing home and the program for the men’s shelter. Visiting ministers this past month included:

Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Oakville, IA), Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), and Bro. Jon Zellar (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL). In our last service at the men’s shelter we were reminded of Jesus’ warnings against hypocrisy, and how important it is that we examine ourselves and guard our hearts against this.

Hypocrisy

You can fool a lot of people, who
may never see to tell
And if you’re longing to be justified
can fool yourself as well
You can dot your i’s and cross your
t’s, and never miss a beat
But someday you will stand before
a Holy judgment seat
You can fake a love that’s genuine
and motives that are pure
But when you stand before God’s
throne ... of one thing do be
sure
His light unveils the things, which
others only see in part
And He’ll make no provision for
hypocrisy of heart
So turn your heart to Jesus in to-
day the day of grace
And ask Him for the strength to
fight the battles that you face
For strength to fight temptation to
be righteous in man’s eyes
Humility to strip away each false-
hood and disguise
Ask Him to give to you a heart
that longs for Him alone
That seeks to follow in the path of
His will, not your own
And learn the joy of living ... a life
that’s pure and free
A life that’s full of Jesus ... and not
hypocrisy.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Susan Haerr

As we concluded our annual July Bible Studies, we learned that the

tongue can be deadly (James 3), worldliness should be scorned (James 4) and that prayer is alive (James 5)! A very special thank you to the following brothers for taking time out of their busy schedules and using their gift of ministry to bless us: Bro. Randy Moser (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) and Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL).

In addition to those brothers already mentioned, we have also been blessed with the following visiting ministers: Bro. Max Reimschisel (Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS) and Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO). Thank you so much for being willing to share the Word of God with us.

We are excited to announce the birth of Jackson John Stratton on August 2. Jackson’s parents are Bro. Jason and Sis. Natalie Stratton. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Stratton and great – grandmother, Sis. Loida Hodel, all of Taylor. Maternal grandparents are Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman and great – grandmothers, Sis. Pearl Miller and Sis. Leola Lehman, all of Bern, KS. Congratulations to Bro. Jason and Sis. Natalie on their beautiful baby boy.

Among those receiving medical attention in the last month were Bro. Arnie Gerst (Sis. Marge) and Bro. Allen Massner (Sis. Rosie). May God bless you and heal you.

We say goodbye to many college students this month. Our prayers and love go with you all. You will be missed!

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Hope Graves**

Our annual church business meeting was held on Monday evening, July 26. We are thankful for each one that was able to attend and ask the Lord's blessing on each one as we all work toward our heavenly calling.

We were thankful to have ministering Bro. Donald Manz (Junction, OH) with us on the weekend of July 25. May the Lord bless him for bringing forth the Word to us.

The Lord provided us with a beautiful day for our Sunday School picnic on August 7. We had a wonderful day of fellowshiping and enjoying the outdoors at Whetstone Gulf State Park.

Our prayers traveled across the many miles with the brethren who gathered at the Brotherhood Conference in Peoria, IL, on August 13. Those who were able to attend told us what a blessing and encouragement it was. We are now anxiously waiting for the opportunity to listen to the tapes.

We also sent our prayers heavenward for Sis. Anna Mellnitz who has undergone surgery. May the Lord be with her and grant her healing and increased strength each day.

**OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser**

We are thankful that we have the freedom in our land to travel freely to our other churches. We rejoice in blessed fellowship we can have with Brothers and Sisters in faith from near or far whether we are the ones traveling or whether they visit us.

We also recognize that during the summer time many people travel to and from our annual Church Conference. We appreciate the good

counsel and instruction that our Elders give at the Conference and later through recorded messages. We welcome visitors to come to Akron. We thank those that have visited us in the past and we continue to welcome visitors.

We appreciated the services of Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman) who served us in the ministry August 8.

Believing that the Lord has given them mutual faith, our Bro. Mark Steidl (Bro. Don and Sis. Nan) and Sis. Megan Rupp (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol) of the Rittman congregation have announced their engagement. We pray for God's many blessings on them.

**OHIO, COLUMBUS
Julie Grimm**

We are thankful for the many visitors who support our congregation by joining us for worship services. This month's visiting ministers were Bros. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH). May the Lord richly bless these brothers for sharing God's Word with us.

We are thankful for the Lord's safety and protection for Will Sauder (Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky) who is home for a two week leave from military service in Iraq.

In a small congregation we realize how much we rely on each other. We deeply miss Bro. Larry Banks (Sis. Nancy), who has spent a considerable amount of time hospitalized due to an accident. Our prayers are for God's nearness and continued renewal in health and strength.

**OHIO, JUNCTION
Cindy Schlatter**

Word of Life, the fountain flowing
Purely from the throne above,
Life and strength to him imparting,

Who accepts the Word in love.

Zion's Harp #176

We were blessed to hear this "Word of Life" brought forth from many visiting brothers this past month. We would like to extend our thankfulness to Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Bro. Floyd Graves (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), and Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH). May God continue to richly bless you each one.

The last weekend in July was the weekend for the Mansfield Youth Day gathering. We appreciate the efforts of those in Rittman for their labors on Saturday evening and the many efforts put forth in Mansfield on Sunday. We trust that friendships can be made that will grow and bind the children together over the years.

Our prayers will be with Sis. Charlene Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily) and Bro. Roger Gasser (Sis. Sue) as they were recently voted in as our new Sunday School teachers. It is our prayer that the words that our precious children hear will be planted in fertile hearts that some day will bear precious fruit for our Heavenly Father.

"Love, of all gifts, is the greatest Which the Spirit does bestow." (Zion's Harp #37). Bro. Greg Manz (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra) and Sis. Julie Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne) of the Latty, OH, con-

gregation recently made known their engagement. May God be with you and direct you as you make plans for your future.

We thank God for being with our Bro. Eli Manz (Sis. Evelyn) as he had knee surgery. We are thankful you are back assembling with us again, Bro. Eli.

OHIO, LATTY
Bonny Wenninger
Amanda Steffen

Ministering brothers visiting our congregation this past month were Bros. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Earl Beery (Rittman, OH). A special thanks to them for sharing God's Word with us.

On July 26, Breanna Michelle was born to Brian and Mackenzie Wenninger. The thankful grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Deb Wenninger and Ed and Jackie Scarbrough (Grover Hill, OH).

Our dear friends, Krystal Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol) and Jana Sinn (Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn), have answered the call to repentance. We are so thankful that they have turned to the Lord, and pray that they can forsake what the world has to offer.

The engagement of Sis. Julie Klopfenstein to Bro. Greg Manz (Junction, OH) was made known on August 1. Parents of the couple are Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne Klopfenstein and Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra Manz (Junction, OH). We rejoice with them and wish them God's blessings as they prepare for their wedding.

Those who spent time in the hospital this month include Bros. Charles Dunham and Ralph Stoller and Sisters Sharon Keysor, Della Wenninger, Sally Stoller, Minnie

Sinn and Marge Gerber. May God's healing hand be on each one of them.

We would like to welcome Katherine Emch (Archbold, OH) to assemble with us now, as her husband, Harold, now resides in Archbold.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Esther Baumann

I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how He could love
me,

A sinner condem'd, unclean.

Hymns of Zion #174

This song was the theme for our thirty-second annual Youth Fellowship Day held on July 25. It was uplifting to see the youth (grades 7-12) from our Michigan and Ohio churches gather to learn more about Jesus. Visiting ministers were Bro. Jerry Baumann (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH). We thank all who helped and prayed for this weekend.

Additional visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH), Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH), and Bro. Walt Rager (Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH). We appreciate their service of love.

Hospitalized patients this past month include Sis. Vi Popp (Bro. Lawrence), Bro. Elmer Oesch and Melinda Robertson (Steve). We pray for God's continued healing hand in their lives according to His will.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you to all who remembered me with prayers, cards and visits during my hospitalization and

recovery. Your love and kindness were sincerely appreciated. May God bless each one of you.

Bro. Wayne Rufener

OHIO, RITTMAN
Anne Widmer

I need the prayers of those I love
While traveling o'er life's rugged
way,

That I may true and faithful be,
And live for Jesus every day.

Hymns of Zion #201

As the Elder brethren gathered for the summer Conference, no doubt they could feel the prayers of those who loved and support them. At the same time, we continue to need the love and prayers of our dear, faithful watchmen on the wall. We are thankful for the work that was done on the behalf of the church, the Bride of Christ, by our Elder brethren. For those who attended the Conference, may the Word that was spoken grow and for those who were unable to attend, may God prepare our hearts for when we listen to it on tapes. It is such a blessing that God has given us a Faith that stays united and has unceasing love.

This past month has brought many new babies to our congregation. Caleb Robert was born to first-time parents, Bro. Eric and Sis. Lisa Gasser, on July 22. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ellen Gasser and Bro. Richard and Sis. Pat Steiner are the grandparents of little Caleb. On July 22, Peter was born to Bro. Peter and Sis. Laura Bodrogi. Peter is welcomed home by his twin siblings, Rebekah and Benjamin, and grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Karen Ramsier. Named after his great-grandfather and father, Jack

Anthony was born on July 24 to Bro. Tony and Sis. Cherie Stoller. Baily and Alayna most assuredly are excited to have a brother in their family. Jack's grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeannette Stoller and Jeff and Elsie Maibach. On July 29, Aubrey became a big sister to Carly Joy. Carly's mom and dad are Bro. Matt and Sis. Darlene Csapo. Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser and Frank and Rosemary Csapo are the grandparents of this little bundle of joy.

In the June Silver Lining, it was announced that Charity Schar was born on May 14; however, she was born on June 14 to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Linda Schar.

Sis. Carole Widmer (Bro. Harold), Bro. Irwin Klotzle (Sis. Jane) and Sis. Ruth Hilty all spent some time in the hospital this month. Thankfully, each one of them had prayers of those who loved them to help them through their down time and each one of them is home and doing well.

This past month, Myles Rufener was moved to Pennsylvania to a rehabilitation center. He is doing much better and each piece of news that we hear is an encouragement that he is recovering from his accident. Tony Indermuhle is home and in therapy and is doing well. Both of these young men need our continued prayers, but their futures look hopeful.

OHIO, SARDIS
Jami Hartzler
Terry Zollinger

"Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases..."

Psalm 103:3

Many prayers were raised up to

the Lord for Malachi Blough (Bro. Alan and Sis. Renee) as he spent time in the intensive care unit. He is now home but needs surgery in the future. May the Lord continue to give strength to the Blough family.

"And Hiram sent in the navy his servants, shipmen that had knowledge of the sea, with the servants of Solomon."

I Kings 9:27

Several of our loved ones have been called to serve our country in the armed forces to go overseas, including our son, Ben Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry). We pray these young men can do their service to our country and God protects them from harm and evil. If anyone is interested writing to Ben, here is his address: CW2 Benjamin Zollinger, 411th Transportation Detachment (LSV-6), APO AE 09366. You can e-mail him at bch@saltsmail.salts.navy.mil. Enter Zollinger for subject. If you want to send pictures, you need to send them to this e-mail address benjaminzollinger@yahoo.com because he cannot accept pictures on the former e-mail address. Any greeting sent is appreciated.

"And Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together, and said unto them, These are the words which the Lord hath commanded, that ye should do them."

Exodus 35:1

The Elder and General Conference was this past week. We would like to thank the Peoria, IL, congregation for all the work they did. We are looking forward to listening to the tapes in the future. We are

thankful our Elder and our ministers are back home safely.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Alyssa Miller
Rachel Maibach

Peace, perfect peace, In this dark world of sin?

The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.

Hymns of Zion #26

We are thankful that two more converts have sought their soul's salvation and profess peace with God and man. Our friends, Matt Saurer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue) and Kori Bauman (Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda), are looking forward to baptism in October, Lord willing.

"John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins."

Mark 1:4

On the weekend of July 31 and August 1, we welcomed three more souls into the fold. We rejoice with Sis. Becky Marty (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Marie), Bro. Mike Crist, and Bro. Tyler Gerber (John Gerber and Ricki Glessner) as they are now full members of Christ's body here on earth. We are thankful for Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) for helping in God's work on baptism weekend. Also, we appreciate Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) for ministering the Word of the Lord to us this past month. It is surely a self-sacrifice on their part to serve the church.

Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly;
 Call aloud and spare them not!

Jesus wants a faithful witness;
 Teachers not confessing Jesus
 Have stern judgment as their lot.
 Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly;
 Call aloud and spare them not!

Zion's Harp #112

Thankfully all who have traveled to Peoria, IL, for our Brotherhood Conference have made a safe return home. We look forward to hearing the tapes in September and hope each one can prepare to take the words of exhortation with love and submission in our hearts.

We welcomed little Cole Thomas Maibach into our lives this month. Parents, Bro. James and Sis. Susan, and siblings, Clint and Abigail, are thankful for his safe arrival. It is always such a treat to see these new little bundles of joy at church!

Our prayers are with Bro. Bob Ramsier (Sis. Inez) as he had extensive surgery recently. We are very thankful to our Master Healer that he is doing well and seems to be on the road to recovery.

OREGON, PORTLAND Louisa Gallup

Due to vacation I was not able to submit last month's news on time—my apologies for that. This article then, contains news from June 16 – August 15.

Another family felt led to attend our small congregation. We are truly thankful for this and welcome into our midst from Silverton Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sarah Kuenzi (Martin) and their two little boys, Remington and Harrison. We look forward to getting to know them better and wish them God's blessings as they made this change in their lives.

Recently, we have had two dear ones hospitalized briefly. We are

happy that Sis. Connie Steffen (Bro. Garth) is feeling better and able to assemble with us again, and likewise that Remington Kuenzi (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sarah) has recovered from his surgery.

We appreciated the many visitors these past weeks. Our thanks to the following ministering brethren and their families: Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bros. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda), Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele) and Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), all from Silverton, OR; Bro. Jeff Luthi (Sis. Shirley, Altadena, CA), Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury, IL), and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA). May God bless them all for their willingness to give of themselves.

OREGON, SILVERTON Kelsey Walder

Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly;
 Call aloud and spare them not!
 Jesus wants a faithful witness;
 Teachers not confessing Jesus
 Have stern judgment as their lot.
 Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly;
 Call aloud and spare them not.

Truly stones could not help crying
 If the watchmen's call would
 cease,
 And the very rocks about us,
 Every one a crying witness
 Could no longer hold their peace.
 Truly stones could not help crying
 If the watchmen's call would
 cease!

Zion's Harp #112, verse 1 and 2

Our thoughts and prayers were with our Elder brethren as they gathered for the Conference this month. We pray in all things God's will can be accomplished and the church body can be strengthened. May God

bless each of these brothers as they labor to be the watchmen on the wall, and shepherd their congregations.

Little Keegan Mathew was welcomed into the hearts and home of Bro. Kyle and Sis. Trisha Walter on July 28. Excited to have a baby brother is older sister, Kiana. Grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy Young and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter. We're thankful Keegan arrived safely and wish God's blessings upon this young family. We pray God will grant this couple much wisdom in raising their children up in the fear of the Lord.

Another dear older sister was laid to rest this month. Sis. Gloria Kuenzi (Bro. Lewis) will be missed in our congregation, but we're thankful she has been able to lay down her armor and reach the heavenly goal. We extend our loving sympathy and prayers to her husband, Bro. Lewis, and her extended family. May God comfort each one and provide for your needs as only He can. The family wished to express their thanks in the following note:

We would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers, deeds of love and kindness extended to us during the loss of our dear wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. May God richly bless you!

The Gloria Kuenzi family

We have been blessed with many visitors during the summer months. We're thankful in the past month this included ministering brother, Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky) from Lester, IA; Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle) from Philadelphia, PA; and Elder Bro. Wayne

Fehr (Sis. Kathy) from Portland, OR. We were thankful for their willingness to share the Word of Life with us, and pray the Lord will bless them for their labors here in Silverton as well as within their home congregations.

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA**

**Nathan and
MaryElizabeth Gasser**

The month of August often involves travel, which sometimes brings us many visitors and a full church, and sometimes leaves us with a pretty slim Sunday! But as we're told, "...where two or three are gathered..." and indeed we always find a blessing in gathering in the Lord's house. We were glad that Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) came and ministered the Word to us on a recent Wednesday evening. We realize it took an extra effort on his part, and were thankful that he was willing to be a servant on our behalf.

We look forward in the coming months to listening to the tapes of this year's Brotherhood Conference. We appreciate the work our dear Elders do, at this time and throughout the year, and our prayers are constantly with the leadership of our faith, that God's perfect will be done.

As some of us return to school for the fall, and others continue in the workplace, let us all strive to be a light in this troubled world, sharing the message of hope and truth in Jesus' name.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

Trent Stuber (Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth, Tremont, IL) has completed his schooling in Nashville and has

moved back to the Tremont, IL, area for employment. We have appreciated the time Trent has spent with us, and pray that God will guide him in the future.

We are so thankful for the willing ministering Brothers who came to share God's Living Word with us this past month. Our visitors were Bros. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN), Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, Lacrosse, IN), Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL), Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN), and Jim Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS). We have also been blessed to fellowship with brethren and friends visiting from Cissna Park, Eureka, Fairbury, Forrest, Peoria, Princeville, and Tremont, IL; Bluffton North, LaCrosse, Leo, and Remington, IN; Bern, KS; Lexington, KY; Winthrop, MN; and Junction and Latty, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Rittman, OH (9/19); Morton, IL (9/26); Peoria, IL (10/3); Bluffton North, IN (10/10); Mansfield, OH (10/17); Congerville, IL (10/24); and Taylor, MO (10/31). 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 mid-week 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.

The Athens, Alabama Apostolic Christian Church and the Tennessee Fellowship Board members would like to extend their thanks to

everyone who attended and donated so generously at the 2004 Tennessee Fellowship Singing and Auction. In total, over 260 people attended, representing 20 churches. May the Lord's blessings shine upon all who participated and made this year's event memorable.

Lord willing, the Tennessee Fellowship Singing and Auction will be held during Memorial Day Weekend in 2005.

**TEXAS
DALLAS/FORT WORTH
Carrie Beyer**

"God is faithful, by whom [we] were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."

I Corinthians 1:9

Wow. It's hard believe that our small congregation has been meeting for a whole year already. God has blessed us so abundantly, and we praise Him for His greatness. Since that first Sunday service on August 31, 2003, our group has experienced a net growth of three people - or should I say 60 percent? Quite aside from our numerical growth, though, we've felt the presence of the Holy Spirit compelling us to worship. We're excited to witness more of God's mighty works in the coming year!

As our group moves forward, 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).

DALLAS/FORT WORTH Welcomes You

Having held services in the Dallas/Fort Worth area for a year now, our church still heartily welcomes others to our Sunday services. If you know of anyone living in the Metroplex who may have an interest in worshipping with us, please forward their contact information on to us. Similarly, if you are considering relocating to the area, we welcome any questions. Thanks for your prayers of support as we worship our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Contact Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson: 817.431.0832

TEXAS, SAN MARCOS Amy Ringger

Greetings from Texas! We have been having a nice summer with some rain throughout when it seems to get too dry. As usual, we've

enjoyed the fellowship with our ministers this month who were Bros. Gary Endress (Sis. Ev, Bradford), Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago), Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata), Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka), and Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester). We also appreciated a visitor from the D/FW, TX congregation.

We look forward to hosting visiting ministers from the following churches in October: Sabetha (3), Princeville (10), Elgin, IA (17), Morris (24), Washington, IL (31). We also extend a hearty welcome to anyone who may be in the area to worship with us. Please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch and other activities. If you are available for fellowship on Saturday evening, Sunday evening, or during the week, we'd be happy to plan something then as well. See the ministers' book for contact information.

Our 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 looking forward to our

winter Texan family to begin arriving within a few weeks. We have had beautiful rains this summer and our desert area is greener than usual.

We have certainly appreciated those who have worked in the Rio Bravo, Mexico, area this summer and worshipped with us at the Pharr, Texas, location. We look forward to them returning another year.

Anyone wishing to spend time in Zapata this winter is most welcome.

VERMONT, NORWICH Debra Crary Areli Reutter

Church services for the month were held on August 8th. We were thankful to have ministering Bros. Dan Stoller and Duane Reutter with us from Rockville, CT, as well as a number of other visitors making the trip from Rockville, CT, and Tremont, IL. A total of 88 people were present for services. We also enjoyed the new chairs purchased the previous month! Bro. Kirby and Sis. Areli Reutter have moved to this area from Rockville, CT. Please include the Norwich congregation in your travel plans. Call Morey Weiss at (802) 295 - 5981 for directions and details.



CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2004/2005

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Tom Hitz, Ph. 734-454-9229, Fax 1-734-454-9259 or E-mail thitzhome@juno.com. For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-263-4036 or E-mail kjs@a5.com.

| HAITI | | | | | |
|------------|-----------------|------------|----------------|---------------------|----------|
| ORG. | DATE | AREA | COORDINATOR | PROJECT | CAPACITY |
| AWA-FRW | Oct. 14-22, '04 | Les Cayes | Rick Wuethrich | Vocational School | 4 |
| AWA-T | Oct. 14-22, '04 | Les Cayes | | Water Aid | 5 |
| AWA-B | Oct. 14-22, '04 | Les Cayes | Bill Rager | Vocational School | 2 |
| MEBSH | Nov. 4-12, '04 | Les Cayes | Jon Zeller | Construction/Maint. | 11 |
| MEBSH | Nov. 11-19, '04 | Les Cayes | Phil Isabel | Grade School | 9 |
| MEBSH | Dec. 2-10, '04 | Les Cayes | Ted Habegger | Grade School | 11 |
| MEBSH | Jan. 6-14, '05 | Les Cayes | Ron Palitto | Grade School | 11 |
| MEBSH | Jan. 13-21, '05 | Les Cayes | Dean Pashak | Grade School | 9 |
| AWA-T | Jan. 20-28, '05 | Les Cayes | | Water Aid | 5 |
| AWA-FRW | Jan. 20-28, '05 | Les Cayes | Rick Wuethrich | Vocational School | 4 |
| AWA-B | Jan. 20-28, '05 | Les Cayes | Bill Rager | Vocational School | 2 |
| SEED | Feb. 17-25, '05 | Les Cayes | Bob Beebe | Agriculture Aid | 9 |
| Palm Grove | Feb. 18-26, '05 | Puit Sales | Tom Hitz | Grade School | 11 |
| SEED | Mar. 10-18, '04 | Les Cayes | Bob Beebe | Agriculture Aid | 11 |
| MEBSH | Mar. 17-25, '05 | Les Cayes | Rich Bertschi | Grade School | 9 |
| Palm Grove | Mar. 18-26, '05 | Puit Sales | Mike Reinhard | Grade School | 11 |
| AWA-FRW | May 5-13, '05 | Les Cayes | Rick Wuethrich | Vocational School | 4 |
| AWA-T | May 5-13, '05 | Les Cayes | | Water Aid | 5 |
| AWA-B | May 5-13, '05 | Les Cayes | Bill Rager | Vocational School | 2 |

| COORDINATOR | PHONE | FAX | E-MAIL |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| Jon Zeller | 309-266-9009 | | |
| Ron Palitto | 330-336-5373 | | |
| Bob Beebe | 574-291-2158 | 574-299-8173 | rbeebe@surfpure.com |
| Tom Hitz | 734-454-9229 | 734-454-9259 | thitzhome@juno.com |
| Phil Isabel | 219-261-3541 | 219-261-2885 | |
| Dean Pashak | 989-662-7685 | 989-662-7685 | dwpashak@charter.net |
| Bill Rager | 419-263-2989 | | |
| Kevin Sauder | 309-263-4036 | 309-263-4036 | kjs@a5.com |
| Rich Bertschi | 309-467-6110 | | lemangm@mtco.com |
| Ted Habegger | 260-694-6765 | | th@parlorcity.com |
| Mike Reinhard | 248-477-2287 | 248-427-0396 | mlreinhard@msn.com |

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

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



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Gateway Woods. This position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a common mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore these possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below.

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

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



GATEWAY WOODS
Family Services

OPEN HOUSE

1:30 pm – 4 pm
SEPT. 19, 2004

Please join Gateway Woods Family Services and World Relief Child Sponsorship as we together celebrate God's goodness in our new facilities at 923 Detroit Court in Morton, IL.

2:15pm Dedication Service



THANK YOU!

Gateway Woods would like to thank everyone who prayed, donated items, bought items, volunteered, and

attended the 2004 Benefit Auction. The Auction is truly a team effort that shows what can be accomplished when God's children join together to serve. With your help and the Lord's blessing, we were able to raise over \$300,000 to help the many troubled and hurting children we serve in Indiana and Illinois through our various programs. May God bless each of you...and we hope to see you again next year on August 20, 2005!

BOOK STORE NOTICE: NEW ITEMS

Light From The Word Vol. 5 & 6 are now available. Please order your copies to update your Sunday School Curriculum Binders.

Apostolic Christian Publications Bookstore 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.

Sermon continued from page 2

closer and more Godly as He would have us.

We talked about these things that man has and he is proud (I Timothy 6:4). We know pride is one of the things that everyone struggles with. There needs to be a little - I don't know if pride is the right word - but a little self-worth in us or we become discouraged and downcast. But when we become proud, when we start to think we are proud - I mentioned about grace. God tells us He doesn't give grace to the proud (James 4:6). That grace, without it, we are not going to do very well. If we don't have grace in us, we are just not going to do very well in our service to the Lord.

So if we are proud, we are going to have all these problems. He talked about envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth (I Timothy 6:4,5). Think of that. Destitute of the truth. Totally without truth.

"...supposing that gain..." I Timothy 6:5. I don't know what kind of gain he is talking about, if he is talking about financial gain or position gains, or what he is talking about. But "...supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself." I Timothy 6:5.

We find so many things that we have in life - Satan puts desires within us to have these things. Satan wants us to be more and more like the world. He wants us to walk the way they do. He wants us to have these desires. Everyone around us has the desire to have more money. It is just the thing that people do in America. It is something that every one of us took at. It is a problem wherever you go.

We were in Haiti. They told us now, you pay these men three dollars a day. Oh, it just seemed awful to us to pay them three dollars a day. They said, don't you do anything

else. You pay three dollars a day. Well, the group that followed us in, they weren't instructed that way. They paid more wages. Pretty soon they had all kinds of fights among the people because some were getting paid too much.

So it doesn't make a lot of difference if you have three dollars a day or if you have three hundred dollars a day. If it is more or less than someone else has, it can cause problems. So it is not the amount that we have. It is the desire that we have. We even read about that later on, "For the love of money is the root of all evil..." I Timothy 6:10. That love of money. It even talked about those that would be rich would fall into temptation and snares, and many-foolish and hurtful lusts (I Timothy 6:9).

We don't like it when someone calls us foolish, when someone says the things we are doing is foolish. Yet here he describes some of the things that we do every day as being foolish if we would have a desire to be rich. We would have hurtful lusts. Something that we see every day. We are worried about tomorrows. We are worried about our children and their tomorrows. We are worried about our grandchildren and their tomorrows. Are they going to have enough money? Are they going to have enough this? What is going to happen to them? Yet we read back here in the sixth verse, "But godliness with contentment is great gain." I Timothy 6:6.

We read in another place, he tells us, there are things in this world that we think are important. Even in the eighth verse he says, "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." I Timothy 6:8. How many of us would be content with food and raiment? If all you had was the food you are eating right now and the clothes on your back, would we be content? I wouldn't be. I confess to you I wouldn't be. And yet, that is what it tells us here.

Is this wrong or are we wrong? Did Paul have the wrong idea? Or are we in our society wrong today?

We have so many things that we desire. If those things don't pull us away from God, there is nothing wrong. But if they are in between us and serving our Lord, we need to look at them and ask why they are there. We need to look at them and say, is this being a detriment to my life?

It is easy in our life to use work as an excuse to not do things of the Lord. We are working on a home here in town. It was easy to say, I was too busy, than to go. That is just the way that we are. But is it really the way God wants us to be?

It tells us, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." I Timothy 6:7. We all know that. We all agree with it. So do we think that this stuff that we have is going to make our life easier here? How easy is it for God to take that away from us? We sing that song, #178 in the Zion's Harp (Life And Full Abundance In Jesus), again it is a song that is a lot easier to sing than it is to do "...Though fortune should bereave me Of all that I possess, If Christ His love still leave me, I freely give the rest" (verse 2). Would we do that? If Christ His love still leave me?

We need to get our eyes focused on what is important in this world. So many times we get caught up in the affairs of the world. We get caught up in taking vacations. We get caught up in having a newer car. We get caught up in doing this and caught up in that. Instead of being caught up in serving the Lord and caught up in doing good deeds for others. We read about that even.

It talks here about, "Charge them that are rich in this world..." I Timothy 6:17. Now there are none of you out here that don't qualify as being rich in this world. It says, "...that

Sermon continued on next page...

... sermon continued

they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;" I Timothy 6:17. So it tells us here that God gave us these things to enjoy! So there is nothing wrong with enjoyment as long as they are not keeping us from the Lord.

But then it tells us what we should do. "That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves..." a big bank account? No, it says, "...a good foundation against the time to come..." I Timothy 6:18,19. Now that could be interpreted as a bank account. But that is not what Paul was talking about. Paul was talking about that foundation that lasts. That one that is going to take over when we come to the end.

We sang a song there, "Nearer My God to Thee" (#92 Hymns of Zion). It says, even when I am flying away, I will be nearer to my God (verse 5). All of us will come to that point when we are going to lay in that grave. When we are going to be cold and they will lay us in the face of the earth. Lay us in the hole in the earth. Are we going to have that foundation that we can rely upon? Or are we going to have a foundation that is built here on earth? A foundation that crumbles.

You see trees. When a storm comes through, trees that have lasted for years and years, when a storm comes through and they are just knocked over. You wonder what caused it. How they have stood storms through all these years and suddenly there they lay. They are built on this earthly foundation. They didn't have anything to last.

This morning we sang about Palms along the brooklet flourish (Communion With God, #239 Zion's Harp). This last week, as it got dry, you could see things like

that. You could see those that had a supply of water. They would grow.

I was working along a ditch. I was sucking water out of a ditch. You could see the corn that got right down along the ditch, where the ground was heavy. Where the water was close to the surface. It was doing real good. The corn that got up just a little farther on the hill, just maybe twenty feet away, but the ground would raise five feet and they just looked like they were ready to die.

Where are we getting our nourishment? Are we getting our nourishment from the Lord? Are we going to be out - it only took twenty feet to be away from the creek. And they would look like they were going to die. Are we twenty feet away from God? If we are, it is time to move and get closer. It is time to be there.

Along that creek where I worked, there is a cottonwood tree. I think it would take three men to put your arms around that tree, maybe four. One of the biggest trees I have ever seen in this area. Roots lay right out there in the water. Never one time has that creek ever been dry. Never one time has that water ever gone dry. That tree has always grown. There it grows. It gets bigger than all the other trees because it is right along that water.

The same thing applies to our life. If we are drawing right off that living tree of Jesus Christ, we can grow. These things of this world, these riches and these things that we read about, they are not going to seem important. They are not going to bother us because we won't need it. Because we have our faith and we are anchored in Jesus Christ.

But when we start to get away from the faith that we have and we start to become a little like we read about there in the Old Testament. They were going to build this temple for the Lord (I Chronicles 28:10). It was a great thing they were going to do. But all those years before, they had not needed it. It didn't affect

their worship. We need to remember that. Those things of that temple, they built this beautiful temple and it was such a great thing. But they were able to worship just as good when they had that tabernacle. When they had that thing that was just canvas that God had instructed them. It is in the heart of man that we worship. It is not about facilities. It is not about buildings. Those things — they were able to worship there just as good before. It didn't change it.

That is the same thing with our lives. As long as we have Jesus and we are grounded on Him and we are close to Him, we are like one of those palms along the brooklet. We've got our roots out there where there is living water. We are going to grow.

But if we are grounded on the sand - we sang that song as children (The Wise Man and The Foolish Man). Children love to sing it because they can make a lot of noise when it crashes. Does it really mean anything to them? I don't think it does until they grow up and they start to realize about how you build a foundation.

We have men in our congregation, brothers who are builders. They know about how deep you have to go and how solid you have to make that foundation and how you make it here when we are going to build it on this ground. So it doesn't move and so it doesn't break apart. But it is nothing compared to that foundation we can build with Jesus Christ. That foundation that lasted from years and years.

You can go back to Europe and you can find buildings. You can see the coliseum there. Maybe it is a couple of thousand years old. It is about washed away. Age has worked on it.

Jesus Christ died two thousand years ago. Is there anything washed away about that? Is there anything missing that was established two thousand years ago when Jesus

died? It is still there just as good as it was. That foundation is still there and we are just as strong as they were if we want to be. We can draw close to the Lord. That foundation is still there.

Then it talks about those that are rich in this world, that they lay hold on eternal life (I Timothy 6:17-19). That we lay hold on eternal life, that is the most important thing that we can do. We can only do that through Jesus Christ.

Some people think they can do it their own way. Buy their way into heaven. Some people think they can do it - Jesus talked about that - the ones that came in a different way. Those that didn't have a wedding garment. They got thrown out. (St. Matthew 22:11-13)

Jesus knows. He paid that price. He wants you to take advantage of it. He calls to you today. He says, come. Come see what I have done for you. Come see what I will do for you. Come see where I will take you if you follow Me.

When we put our trust in riches - I know I have told you this before - when I was in Mexico, I found a coin and I gave it to a little boy. He took it and flipped it away. Because they had taken that coin and divided it by one hundred. That coin was, it had ten cents on it. It said ten cents right on the back of it. I could read that. That wasn't in Spanish. But he threw it away. Because they had divided their money by one hundred.

If you had a million dollars and they divided it by one hundred, all of a sudden that million gets a little slim if you think you are going to live on it for life. That is what they did down there in Mexico. It doesn't mean they can't do it here. We think we have confidence in our government. Today we do. Who knows what tomorrow holds? But God knows what tomorrow holds.

We sing that song, "I don't know about tomorrow ... who holds tomorrow" (I Know Who Holds Tomorrow

row, #78 Heavenly Highway Hymns). That's where we want to have our foundation, on the One that is holding tomorrow. That foundation that is still there after years and years.

That temple that we read about there in that first reading, how David was telling Solomon how he was supposed to build it. He told him, you build it this way and you build it that way. There was supposed to be these porches and all this stuff (I Chronicles 28:11,12). I believe God had revealed to him how he was supposed to do it. You can't find it today. Maybe you can find a little bit of the temple that Herod built. But you can't find that temple. They maybe dig down and find a little bit of remains. But that temple that Jesus has built within our hearts, that is the one that is going to last forever. That is the one we want to have.

We read there in that first reading about keeping those commandments. He said, "Now therefore in the sight of all Israel the congregation of the Lord, and in the audience of our God, keep and seek for all the commandments of the Lord your God: that ye may possess this good land, and leave it for an inheritance for your children after you for ever." I Chronicles 28:8. Did that happen? David gave instruction. He told them, if you do this... Today they are still over there fighting for it. They just, in the last few years, had it. In the last fifty years, fifty five years. They even have been given parts of it. They are still fighting over it. It didn't last because they didn't do what? They didn't hold faithful to the commandments of the Lord your God.

It says keep and seek all the commandments. Two different instructions; keep and seek. Seek first. You have to go out and you have to look for them. You have to see what that Bible has to say for you. Spend time reading it! Know what it says and

then keep it.

Another place it talks about being hearers and doers (James 1:22). Same thing. He said serve God with a perfect heart and a willing mind. Pretty good advice for us today, isn't it? Serve God with a perfect heart and a willing mind (I Chronicles 28:9). "...for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever." I Chronicles 28:9. Pretty scary stuff. Casting off forever if we forsake Him. God wants us to build on a foundation that lasts. God wants us to build on a foundation that is eternal. God wants us to be there with Him. To lay hold on that thing of eternal life. To lay hold on eternal life.

Just think what that says. Lay hold. If you have something you can hold on to, if you start to fall, and you grab something, you can hold on to something that is solid, you know as long as your hand holds, you can hold onto that.

There is a story told in our family about a man. They were closing a door on the end of a barn. Just before they got it closed, he said grab a hold of that rail that runs across the barn. The man grabbed a hold of that rail and that door fell. If he hadn't grabbed a hold, he would have fallen.

Grab a hold of Jesus Christ, because the world is going to let you fall. You never know when it is going to happen, but the world is going to let you down. If you put your faith in man, they'll let you down. If you grab a hold, lay hold on eternal life through Jesus Christ; He'll be here forever.



- NOTICE -

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

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

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

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

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

Apostolic Christian Counseling Services

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

877-370-9988 (toll free)

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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.

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

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

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

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

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

To order, contact,

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

Mexico Work Teams 2004 - 2005

| Location | Date | Project | Coordinator | Phone & (e-mail) |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--|
| 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.



(The series on church practices is being delayed one month to allow for the following comments regarding the annual brotherhood conference at Peoria, Illinois on Friday, August 13, 2004)

General Conference

On the above date 1100 souls attended the national get-together at the Peoria, Illinois congregation. As usual, it was a day of inspiration and a time to meet loved ones from across the nation, and a few from across the seas. The presence of Almighty God, both in the spoken word and in the gorgeous singing, was an enrichment that all attendees took home with them.

The General Conference serves as a binding agent for our congregations. A nationwide coming together — both among leaders and laypersons — tends to mold and unite hearts into a common understanding of faith and practice. One of the distinguishing characteristics of our beloved church is that we strive for a common application of Scriptures. In an age of diversity and individualism (in the culture), God's Word gives a clear direction to converted souls to be likeminded and to walk by the same rule. "Conferring" on these matters in an annual meeting is a means to this end, by the

grace of God.

And while, year after year, we strive to hold fast to our common understandings and practices — and the General Conference underscores the Spirit's instructions — an additional force is also an important part of the annual meetings. A few of the speakers made reference to the beautiful singing during the day. Surely as approximately 900 to 1,000 men and the attending sisters sing with grace in their hearts to the Lord, it sends a wave of inspiration to each heart.

The hymns found in the Zion's Harp Hymnal were, in a sense, a special "conference" in itself. The exhortations found in this book gave an certain sound to all who were present, and they do each Sunday in all the churches as well. As brothers and sisters sat and sang the lyrics from this hymnal they were fed with wonderful exhortations, that are presented as an ongoing relevance. The Spirit surely speaks from this hymnal.

The grandeur of the sound and volume of the voices ignited an uplifting feeling. Yet, it is the deep meaning of the words that speak to the matters at hand — a life of duty, separation from sin, nonconformity to the world and obedience to the Word, to Christ Jesus, and to His body, the church. The church is referred to as the ground and pillar of truth, and the ideal is

for it to exist without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. Striving for that standard requires discernment and a constant pruning of the worldliness that wants to manifest itself. It is to the credit of the forefathers who, using God's grace and guidance, had striven to uphold high standards of godliness — and we are in a pivotal time in history, it seems, when the enemy wants to undermine both decency (in the culture) and holiness (in the church).

But we can be thankful that along with the God-inspired, sincere exhortations from the Elder brothers, we also received eloquent and meaningful exhortations from the Zion's Harp songs. A few verses are reflective of the hymnal's richness: "Love, since thou hast then commanded, That in love we should be rife, Oh, revive each drooping spirit, Bring the dying back to life! Light the flames of love undying. That each one may plainly see: We, as of one tribe and family, To one Lord devoted be." (P. 33, verse 9) "Call and cry, ye watchmen boldly: Call aloud and spare them not! Jesus wants a faithful witness; Teachers not confessing Jesus Have stern judgment as their lot. Call and cry ye watchmen boldly; Call aloud and spare them not (p. 112, verse 1).

The coming together on confer-

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REMEMBERING

...continued from page 50

ence day is a special blessing for our brotherhood. It stirs up our pure minds, and gives incentive to do better in our service to God. And as we gravitate back to our respective congregations may we, each one, gather ourselves into the twin-yoke of unity and common practice that will give a consistent witness to the world, and be pleasing to God above, who gives us grace when we are humble. And, if God tarries His coming, may we leave a sound heritage for future generations.

History Project

Efforts to update the church history, *Marching to Zion*, continue. The work is not a complete re-write but an update on significant happenings in each local church since the book was published in 1984. Of the 630 pages in that book, we are up to page 290. This is a laborious project, but a little work each day allows for progress.

It will be at least two years before the new book will be published. Because of new technology, the new update will have to be completely re-typeset so this will add to production time. In the meantime, you may order the first edition of *Marching To Zion* from Apostolic Christian publishing at Eureka, Illinois. About 1,000 copies still exist and we are hoping these will be sold before the updated book is done.

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

Church Practices

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

希望の光

"Don't Take A Chance, On Eternity"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Most of us are willing to take a chance, in hopes of reaping a benefit. Farmers plant their corn and take a chance with the weather. Business men and women invest capital to start their own company. They may go bankrupt but they are willing to risk it in hopes that they will become a huge success. Being willing to take a chance, to run a risk, seems to be an important part of being a success.

However, it has occurred to me that we should not take a chance on eternity. That's much too long, to take a chance on. Therefore, it goes through my mind over and over again, "I must not take a chance on eternity." That is, I must do all I know to do, to be ready for eternity, and not take any chances by relinquishing my faith in Christ, or by becoming lukewarm in my life of faith. I've heard the statement, "All this and heaven, too," meaning that I can live a rather self-centered life and I will still make it to heaven. Don't be too sure, because your self-centered life might separate you from Christ, and He is our salvation.

It is written in Ecclesiastes 9:11, "I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all." In this verse, Solomon concludes that time and chance are very important factors in whether or not you will be

sleeping between clean sheets every night or sleeping on the ground in a rat infested hut on the island of Borneo.

Something else to be considered in this discussion is whether or not we have a choice in time and chance. We did not decide where we would be born, nor did we choose our parents and their social standing, rich or poor. However, once we become adults, there are a lot of things which we must decide, and one of those things is how much risk we want to take in life.

Sam Walton was working for a Woolworth store in Arkansas and he had a disagreement with the management about how to run the store. He took a chance and quit his job; he was unemployed. Today, his company, Walmart, is the largest corporation in the world. He took a chance and made a decision. Sometimes it is good to take a chance. However, when it comes to eternity, don't take a chance. It is much too long for eternal regrets. Just make sure that you are in Christ and that you stay there.

In regard to time and chance being factors in our success in life, there is also the factor of divine providence, God's blessing on our undertakings. Psalm 37:23 reads, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord." If we are fully surrendered to God, He will bless us now and forever. Don't take a chance, on eternity.



*Remove far from me vanity and lies:
give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me.*

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