

The Silver Lining



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

October 2004

Sermon by Bro. Glen Braker, Princeville, IL
II Samuel 3 and The Acts 7:1-34

Again, as we have opportunity to gather, we trust that we come to hear the Word of God, the Spirit of God and the instruction that He would have for our hearts. We just sang in that hymn, I wish to love my Saviour more sincerely, And not to grieve Him, who loved me so dearly; For this would bring much grief and much affliction In my direction. (Zion's Harp #232). I had to think, as we sang that, some would think that perhaps we mean by that, that if we don't love the Lord and we don't serve Him, that He is going to punish us. I am not sure that is what the author of that hymn meant. Because God doesn't punish us directly, if we don't serve Him. We will face a judgment someday if we don't. But the grief and the affliction that comes to us often when we don't serve Him as we ought to, is from our own heart convicting us. Telling us, "You have a wonderful Savior and you are not serving Him."

That is why we need times like this today. We can come and we can hear messages like we heard this morning to remind us of our faith and of our faithfulness that He calls us to. I hope each of us have a prayer on our heart that God's Spirit will speak to us again in this afternoon as He already has in this morning hour, that we can be fed and edified.

As we read accounts such as this in the Old Testament, we wonder sometimes, how the will of God and the will of man interweave and affect one another. We do see that they do affect one another. Because we feel in our own hearts, that the will of God

has affected us, as many of us as have turned to Him and have acknowledged that His will is better than our will. Yet we find that our own will wants to rise up again and intertwine with God's will and to speak to us that possibly at times we know better than Him. We could order events better.

We read accounts such as this and our mind almost spins trying to comprehend the fighting and the occurrences of that time. But how wonderful it is that in our day and time, we can say, even as the author of this hymn said, "God, my hope and consolation, Ever Thou my refuge be! In Thy care I'll find protection, though no other light I see. Oft on rugged road of sadness I find comfort, joy and gladness; Guided by Thy hand alone, Thine and not my will be done." (Zion's Harp #93)

We know then that the rest of the account that Stephen gave here (Acts 7), of how Moses did go then into Egypt. With the signs and wonders that God gave him to work before Pharaoh even convinced Pharaoh to let them go. Even how he then gave the account of how Moses led them out of Egypt and through even the waters that engulfed those of their pursuers. (Acts 7:35,36). And how the people who had seen these great miracles, even it says, "To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt, saying unto Aaron, Make us gods to go before us..." (Acts 7:39,40). They spoke even against Moses.

What an account Stephen brought to them. How even Je-

sus was the end of the promise that God had made to them. How he even spoke to them of Jesus. We read then in the last few verses, that "When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth." (Acts 7:54). They even drew him out of the city and stoned him. (Acts 7:58).

Sermon continued on page 45

The Silver Lining subscriptions are due from the following churches. Please collect in:

November

1. Bluffton, IN
2. Bluffton North, IN
3. Lexington, KY
4. St. Louis, MO

Suggested Donation: \$11/subscription

Next correspondence due:

For November Issue

(16 Sept. News - 15 Oct. News)

Due: 20 October 2004

The Silver Lining (Vol. 59, #10)

1389 County Road 1600 N

Roanoke, IL 61561

USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America

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Roanoke, IL, 61561

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309-923-7359 (fax #2)

Periodical non-profit - postage paid at Roanoke, IL 61561, and additional offices. The subscription rate is a donation. Send zip number with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips). Postmaster send address changes to:

The Silver Lining

1389 County Road 1600 N

Roanoke, IL 61561

*"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

October 2004

Except Ye Be Converted

Jesus said "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 18:3). Jesus made it very clear that being converted was extremely important; so important that it is a requirement for entry into heaven. When we use the word "except" in this manner, it means that there are no alternatives. Unless we do this we will be excluded from heaven.

Since conversion is so important, it is necessary that we understand what it is and the impact it has on our life. What examples do we have in the scripture that help us understand how we can fulfill this extremely important step in our life? How does one become converted?

To be converted means to be transformed, to be changed, to become a different person. Before we are converted, we are not a child of God at that point in life. We really cannot call ourselves believers in the atoning power of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. It is important that we understand that it is not possible to go from being an unbeliever to being a child of God without becoming a different person.

Time and space do not permit a review of each of the dramatic examples of conversion that are contained in the holy Word of God. A few examples can help us understand the significance of conversion, the profound impact that it had on the one who was converted, and the thoroughness that was necessary to become useful to God and to remove the control that Satan had upon them.

Before Christ came to earth, it was apparent that conversion was necessary if someone wanted to serve God. When Saul was anointed King of Israel "...God gave him another heart..." (1 Sam. 10:9).

Peter was bold, very sure of himself and profane. Peter told Jesus "...I will lay down my life for thy sake" (Jn. 13:37). A few hours later "...began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man..." (Mt. 26:74). As his best friend was going through His most trying time, Peter could not even admit that he knew Jesus. He was of no use at all to Jesus at that time.

Previously Jesus had told Peter "...when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren" (Lk. 22:32).

Jesus knew that Peter needed to be changed and purified by faith in His shed blood. This profane man, who was of no use at one time, was so thoroughly converted that by God's grace he was able to perform miracles of healing (Acts 5:15) and restoring of life to the dead (Acts 9:40). Obviously it was not Peter, but the power of God working through him that allowed these miracles to be performed.

Saul was willing to lead Christians to their death and even participate as a supportive bystander in the killing of a servant of God (Acts 9:1 and 7:58). After he was converted, Paul was willing to give his life for the cause of Christianity and comforted those who were distressed at the possibility of him being persecuted unto death (Acts 21:13).

Numerous other examples, such as the Philippian jailer, the man possessed of demons and the woman of Samaria, show the power of conversion.

What message or lesson is there for us in these examples? Can the power of God still be depended upon to transform a lost (and spiritually useless) soul into a dynamic force for the message of Jesus Christ?

None of the individuals cited, and no one who has ever been converted, accomplished the task by themselves. They all were converted by the power of God. They had to become completely submissive to the will of God. Saul had to reach the point where he willingly submitted to God's call. "And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do...?" (Acts 9:6). He was told what his assignment was, one step at a time, and he willingly did it, even when it must have seemed very difficult.

What happens when a soul is only willing to become partly converted? Simon the Sorcerer believed and was baptized, but it appears to be obvious that he was neither submissive nor completely converted. He had pride and wanted power, even offering money to obtain it. Peter made it very clear that this was sin: "...for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps

the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity" (Acts 8:21-23). Partial conversion is an open invitation to Satan to destroy a soul. Simon didn't want to separate himself from the world. He wanted to keep the old life and add the new life to it.

Jesus made it abundantly clear that the old life must be put aside if we want to have the benefit of God's plan of salvation. We cannot "...put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish..." (Mt. 9:17). Both the wine and the bottles were lost.

If we try to put a new life into an old lifestyle, all will be lost. The conversion must be complete. We must separate ourselves from individuals and from behaviors that will cause us to be lost. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing..." (II Cor. 6:17). The separation from evil must be complete. The scribes and the Pharisees tried to be partly righteous and partly preserve their old life. Jesus said "...except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 5:20).

How thoroughly must a soul be converted? The rich, young ruler who came to Jesus wanted to know what he needed to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus reminded him of the commandments. The young man had observed all of these from his youth. Jesus' response to the young man was very sobering: "...One thing thou lackest..." (Mk. 10:21).

This does not mean if we make one mistake we are lost. Jesus didn't say "You made one mistake" but He taught us that if we have anything in our life that is more important than serving God, it must be removed so our sins "...shall be as white as snow..." (Is. 1:18). Does this sound too hard? "With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible" (Mk. 10:27).



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

Why Did He Die That Way?

This year VBS was held in three different locations in the churches of Mexico. Following are some reflections and observations from brothers and sisters involved with organizing and teaching.

Ixtlan

We experienced the blessing of the Lord in our VBS this year and saw His hand working in the hearts of the children. We had a very enthusiastic group of young boys. They had many questions after each story, but the one that had the most impact on them was the death of Jesus. After several minutes without speaking, they asked, "Why did He die that way? Why did God give His son for me and I am so bad?" There is so much need today to point the young people to Jesus. Many times we become discouraged because we don't immediately see fruit of our labors, but we remember that it is God who gives the increase. May the Lord always fill us with His love and grace to continue in this work with the children. (BRO. LALO)

It gives us much joy to teach Bible stories to the children. We like to ask them questions to get to know them better and to make them aware of the importance of good behavior in the school as well as in the home. We also teach them to pray. When we see one of our little students, they point us out to their mother and say "That's my teacher!" It gives us much joy to see their appreciation and love. It also points out the need to maintain a good testimony so that these children and their parents will be drawn to the Lord and come to repentance and salvation. (SIS. HERMILA)

This year we had about 30 young girls from 12-16 years of age come to VBS. These girls came in their own little groups so we split them up and encouraged them to learn to know each other. By the end of the week, there were new friendships made. For some of the girls, this was their first time to have the Word of God in their hands. For those who were somewhat skeptical, we would ask them to read the actual words from the Bible so that they could know the Truth.

One of the girls, who is only fourteen years old and also a mother, brought her young daughter with her to VBS. It was a joy to see how happy the girls were with the classes and how they are looking forward to next year. For us who were teachers, it was a blessing to be used as an instrument in helping the young people to learn the fear of God. (SIS. MARIA)

The mother of one of the children came in with her child and after observing the simplicity of the church inside, she asked, "If you believe in Jesus Christ, why don't you have a statue of Him?" It was such a joy to be able to tell her that we believe in a "living" Jesus who is now in heaven and also that God said in the Ten Commandments that we are not to make any image or bow down to it. She thought about these words and continued to come all week. We invited her to come back to church. (SIS. LOURDES)

Morelia

This was the first year for several of the children to come. Some came out of curiosity and were quick to let us know that they were only coming that day. We gave them a Bible story book to take home knowing that their parents would be

wanting to see what we were teaching. Not only did these children return the following day, their fathers accompanied them! We were so thankful for the books that were donated by brethren in the States because they helped us to get the "Word" into the homes of the children. Some children from another neighborhood heard about the VBS from their friends and came on their bicycles on Wednesday. They were disappointed that they hadn't heard about it from the beginning and said they wanted to come back next year! (SIS. FERNANDA)

Acapulco

In the year 2000 we had the first VBS in La Barra, a village near Acapulco. The second time for VBS in that area, more children attended. Also, the Lord opened the door to go to another nearby village, Las Lomas.

Then in July of this year, the Lord permitted us to return to this area where we could tell the children about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. There were more than 100 children between 4-14 years of age. Now these same children have a better understanding of what we are inviting them to come to. They said, "Oh yes, I went last year and still have the story book that the teachers gave to me." Some of the children were not able to attend all five days because they had to work or stay home and care for their younger siblings. It was exciting to see that they had memorized "Oh, be careful little eyes" and asked to sing it again this year.

Perhaps we think that Acapulco is only a tourist spot, but God has also chosen it as a place to receive His Word. We pray that the Lord will continue to open doors in this area for His glory. (SIS. CLAUDIA)



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

Planting Seeds of Hope in Haiti

Most people of Haiti need a better diet. It is said that the Haitians are not a starving people, but a malnourished people. They have ample sources of rice & other carbohydrates, but lack protein sources, such as beans, milk, eggs and meat.

The Haitian diet consists primarily of a bowl of rice and a few beans, with a broth poured over it. Small portions of vegetables, fruit and chicken or goat meat are occasionally eaten. Most Haitians eat one, or at the most, two meals daily. Analyzing what they eat, we find a diet very deficient in protein, vitamins and minerals.

Our Apostolic Christian brethren have been lead by God to help the Haitians with their agricultural production, and thus the diet of the people. We have supported them by helping S.E.E.D. Institute, an agricultural school and farm that trains students in many phases of agriculture. The 3-year school trains students in agronomy, soil science, animal science, veterinary science and marketing. They also have Bible classes so the students can teach and preach the Word of God.

The school has 3 years of training. The first two years are in classrooms in the institute near the city of Les Cayes. The 3rd year is spent in a rural area, usually living with a qualified minister, and growing a "demonstration garden", tending to ill livestock, and teaching surrounding farmers improved production methods. Each 3rd year student is visited monthly by the teacher to evaluate their progress. This 3rd year is called the "extension program" and is supported entirely by the

Apostolic Christian Church.

Since 1997, we have sent 12 agricultural World Relief work teams to S.E.E.D. Over 80 members and friends have participated in these work teams and have been involved in construction of the institute buildings, installing a water supply to the farm and a mountain outpost, treating and vaccinating livestock, and teaching classes on animal science, nutrition, genetics, soil science and poultry production. Classes have also been given on canning and dehydrating of foods, making goat cheese, and production of dairy cattle, rabbits and goats. Several of our brethren have spent 2 or more weeks at a time teaching and working at the school.



S.E.E.D. Classroom

The S.E.E.D. Institute buildings have expanded rapidly since we first sent work teams in 1997, and today are a complex of classrooms, offices, an auditorium, a veterinary pharmacy and a grain warehouse. The poultry facilities have expanded and now include a 300+ layer facility with automatic watering for the egg-producing birds. The farming area, where vegetable crops such as tomatoes, cabbage, carrots, egg-plant, papaya, and other crops are grown, also produces trees for lumber and has land set aside for research on various tropical plant crops. The farm is used for prod-

uction of cash crops, and as plots assigned to the students to raise their "classroom crops".

Each ag work team traveling by air to S.E.E.D. carries in a large amount of veterinary vaccines and medicines. The teams, comprised of up to 11 members, have always found God's blessings upon them as they travel the rough roads, view the beautiful scenes, work in the hot, humid air, fellowship with the team and work and teach along with the native Haitians. We often receive more from the Haitians and the experience than we feel we have given. Usually a team member who has gone on an ag work team wants to go back again.

Beside work teams, we support S.E.E.D. with monies for teacher salaries, a graduate loan program and building construction costs. Sea containers that go to Haiti from our distribution centers often have crop insecticides, animal medicines, fencing and office items, which are provided with World Relief funds. We support S.E.E.D. Institute because our relationship with this Haitian organization is excellent, they are very accountable to God and to us, and we hear of outstanding results about the graduates of the school.

The president of S.E.E.D. Ministries (the U.S. board) recently stated, referring to our Apostolic Christian brethren & friends, "Without the faithfulness of such a hard-working group of people, we wouldn't have such wonderful facilities. The Apostolic Christian Church has been very instrumental in helping to see the growth of S.E.E.D."

Ag work teams are usually scheduled for two different weeks during the winter, and interested brethren involved in agriculture are needed and appreciated.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Looking at the various facilities of ACHH can portray different things to the eyes of different folks. To a young job applicant seeing the place for the first time, it can be anticipation. There is the anticipation of working and learning in a field that interests the applicant. The more mature job applicant looking at ACHH services for the first time may feel they have found a job that would give them a sense of mission and fulfillment. When a seasoned employee comes in to start a shift, they are seeing the many duties to be done along with greeting old friends, both residents and co-workers.

When a surveyor or auditor walks the halls, they are looking with critical eyes to catch the items that need correction or adjustment to improve services for those who live here. And when a salesman makes his call, he must realize the potential for a large sale with so many consumers living in one place.

Faithful volunteers see opportunities to serve Christ by serving others, whether it be in driving a bus, taking a resident out to eat, helping in the office, serving on the Board of Directors, assisting in a maintenance project, or cleaning wheelchairs and vehicles.

To elderly parents seeking placement for a disabled child, the walls of our homes look like refuge from situations they can no longer handle. The resident coming in for admission may see a fearful place due to the unknown, or for some personalities there is great excitement

at having a place with new friends. For the folks who have lived here for a long time, ACHH is home. Like many of us, there are things we wish we could change about our homes, but it still feels comfortable and good to come home.

We trust that as our Heavenly Father's merciful eyes are upon us, He is seeing compassionate service being done according to His purpose. Please remember us in prayer that His grace and guidance will continue to be sent our way.

NOVEMBER birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125, Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Susan McGinley (11/1), Thomas Manley (11/8), Virginia Ellis (11/9), Amy Tucker (11/11), Samuel Sigulas (11/13), Janet Worner (11/17), Jennifer Cox (11/17), Kristie Furrer (11/18), and Vernon Heiniger (11/18).

At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Road: Keith Weyeneth (11/4), Marian Funk (11/20).

At Linden Estate, 1000 Linden St.: Duane Craig (11/4).

At 338 E. Hazelwood: Kenneth Clauss (11/2).

At 1001 E. Idlewood: Alan Unsicker (11/15).

At 241 S. Minnesota: Rhonda Pullen (11/4), Jane Aberle (11/14).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Judy Gehring

Working here at Gateway Woods has really been a privilege and responsibility. We all need encouragement and uplifting at times. The children need encour-

agement and likewise the Houseparents. The command to encourage is found throughout the Bible. In Thessalonians, Paul gives many specific examples of how we can encourage others. We are to build each other up. Point out to someone a quality you appreciate in him or her. Be sensitive to others' needs for encouragement and offer supportive words or actions. Give honor to leaders. Think of your ministers and express your appreciation. Tell them how you have been helped by their leadership and teaching. Thank them for their ministry in your life. They need our support and love.

We can also comfort the frightened by reminding them of God's promises. Tenderly care for the weak. Support those who are weak by loving them and praying for them. Our joy, prayers, and thankfulness to God should not fluctuate with our circumstances or feelings. Obeying these three commands - rejoice, keep praying, and give thanks - often goes against our natural inclinations. When we make a conscious decision to do what God says, however, we will begin to see people in a new perspective. When we do God's will, we will find it easier to be joyful and thankful.

Rejoice. Remember that even in the midst of turmoil, God is in control. Practice patience. Think of a situation that tries your patience and plan ahead of time how you can stay calm. Pray continually. God is always with you. Talk to Him. We should have a prayerful attitude at all times. This attitude is built upon acknowledging our dependence on God, realizing His presence within us, and determining to

obey Him fully. We then find it natural to pray frequent, spontaneous, short prayers. A prayerful attitude is not a substitute for regular times of prayer, but should be an outgrowth of those times. Be thankful. Make a list of all the gifts God has given you, giving thanks to God for each one. We should thank God for everything that happens to us. Hard to do sometimes, isn't it? I can thank God in good times but find it difficult to in hard times. It does say in everything. God can bring good through distress.

Do not smother the Holy Spirit. Cooperate with the Spirit the next time He prompts you to participate in Christian service. We should not ignore or toss aside the gifts the Holy Spirit gives. Keep away from evil. Avoid situations where you will be drawn into temptation. As Christians, we cannot avoid all evil because we live in a sinful world. We can, however, make sure that we don't give evil a foothold by avoiding tempting situations and concentrating on obeying God.

We also need to count on God's constant help. We need to realize that the Christian life is to be lived not in our own strength, but through God's power. The spirit, soul, and body are not separate but integrated parts of a person. God must be involved in every aspect of our lives. It is wrong to think we can detach our spiritual lives from everything else, obeying God only in some ethereal sense or living for Him only one day each week. Christ must control all of us.

Working with the children every day, we can use the helps listed above to show that we are living for the Lord. We want to be proper lights, examples and voices so that

the children want to live a life pleasing to God. Please pray for all of us.

Gateway Woods Family Services hosted an open house for their new offices in Morton, IL on September 19. The open house was well attended and showcased the benefits that will come from the office building at 923 Detroit Court, Suite 3. Thanks again to everyone who attended and for those who volunteered, donated material, and prayed for this project. If you missed the open house, feel free to us at 309-266-0767 to arrange a visit.

We are well into another Gateway Woods School year! We are excited and prayerful for what this school year will hold. Gateway Woods School is a fully accredited school with licensed teachers serving children who have struggled in public school settings. This includes most of our residents as well as some day students referred by local agencies.

Gateway Woods Adoption Services will be hosting a training seminar on October 23, 2004, for current and prospective adoptive parents. Our adoption program continues to provide quality home studies, and pre- and post-adoption supervision for Christian couples living in Indiana. Visit our website at:

www.gatewaywoods.org.

May God bless each of you as you pray, give, and support "the work of faith and labor of love" that is Gateway Woods. We trust the LORD's provision to bless and keep this ministry to troubled children and families. Thank you!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Melissa Slagel

With God, every day holds a miracle. We just have to have our eyes open to see them. Sometimes I guess I get too busy and don't notice and so a few weeks ago God sent a little caterpillar into our lives to show us His greatness. We took turns letting it tickle our arms and crawl on our hands. Then we put it in our bug box with all kinds of sticks and leaves to make him happy. It took only a few days and we saw a big change! He made himself a perfect chrysalis hanging by a delicate thread from the top of the box. It was fascinating to see but even more so to watch all the children's eyes become bigger and bigger to see what their caterpillar had done. Two weeks out he came with big wings ready to fly! What a powerful example of what only God could do! I am so impressed by a child's faith. It is so simple and they don't question. It was nothing for them to know exactly who turned that caterpillar into a butterfly! Just think if He can do that with a caterpillar, what He can do for us ... now that's a miracle.

This month our theme was community helpers/safety and the color blue. We took a field trip to the police and the fire station to see first hand what some of our community helpers really do. The children had so much fun exploring a real police car and a fire truck. Even after all that excitement and those loud noises, lunch at McDonalds still seemed to win out as being the best part.

We are so thankful for the volunteers we had this month. Some

of the Slagel family from Fairbury, IL, was here visiting and they were willing to do lots of painting. It looks great and God will bless you!

ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall

“Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

Galatians 6:9

There have been several that have been sick in our church over the past month so we have kept them in our prayers. Bro. J.R. Hall was hospitalized and we thank the Lord for His healing power and we continue to pray for him as he recovers.

We had several visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN). It was also a privilege to have the Witzig family come and spend the day with us: Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy) and Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. (Sis. Donna), both from Morton, IL. Also, Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) spent a Wednesday evening with us. We welcome him and are thankful that we may be seeing more of him and his family because of a temporary job project in Decatur. Other visitors this month were from Leo, IN, Fairbury, IL, and Morton, IL.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr

“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

I Peter 5:7

God’s love was abundant when we went to church on August 22. Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle (Shioda) were visiting and we delighted in God’s presence and His love. They have touched many of our lives for years. Also thanks to Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman) as he ministered God’s Word to us.

August 28 was Benjamin Seth Maurer’s birth date. His parents are Bro. Shawn and Sis. Shelly Maurer. Big brothers, Nicholas and Matthew, and sister, Brianna, are helping him find that life is beautiful. Grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Eileen Maurer and Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson (Dallas).

Labor Day weekend brought our Youth Group a time to meet and greet other young friends and converts in California and Illinois. Special thanks to our Congerville and Altadena brethren. Our church is most grateful.

Hospital patients were Bro. Floyd Banwart, Dakota Thorpe, and Sis. Connie Frautchi.

Our beloved Savior has touched many young hearts. A thankful Tyler Knochel, Ellen Wiegand, Kaitlyn Meiss and Jamie Corven (along with others reported earlier) have all made a beginning in repentance.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Jane Hodges

Our friend, Ray (Llse) Massner, spent much of last month in the hospital. Sis. Gayle (Bro. Ed) Schambach was also hospitalized. Thankfully, they have both been able to go home. Ray still has a long

recovery ahead of him and needs our prayers.

This is the first time, to this reporter’s knowledge, that there are no visiting ministers to report. It will be two years this coming November that the Lord blessed our congregation with two of our own ministers, Bros. Jim Furrer and Dan Dubach. Brethren and friends of our faith had been meeting in Prescott since 1984 and relied on taped services, phone services from Phoenix or visiting ministers.

“For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven. Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth and it abideth.”

Psalms 119:89-90

ARIZONA, TUCSON
Lisa Knapp

Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand was with us recently for Wednesday evening and Sunday services. Bro. Ben had business in Tucson and we were blessed to have him minister to us as a result. His wife, Sis. Michelle, joined him for the weekend so we enjoyed spending time with them both. May God richly bless them for their service. We welcome them back any time.

Our Bible Class students recently traveled to Altadena, CA, for a weekend of activities with the Phoenix, Altadena and San Diego students. As we have for quite some time, we joined the Phoenix Sunday School on their chartered bus which is always a highlight of the trip for our kids. We thoroughly enjoyed the beach, fun and fellowship! We wish to sincerely

thank the Altadena and Phoenix churches for all their efforts of love and hospitality on our behalf. May God richly bless you all!

Bro. Bob and Sis. Carole Haas welcomed a new granddaughter. Anna Mae was born to Ted and Kay Haas on August 26. Also welcoming her was big sister, Greta. May God bless Ted and Kay as they raise their beautiful little girls in His love and grace.

Our mornings and evenings are quite wonderfully cool but we're still quite warm during the day with highs in the low 90's. You can feel the change, though; fall is definitely coming. Hope springs eternal!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA **Robin Moser**

"Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away."

I Corinthians 13:8

Our congregation rejoices with Sis. Carol Graf (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marilyn) in her engagement to Bro. Doug Blunier (Sis. Joyce and the late Bro. Dale) of Princeville, IL. It is encouraging to see God molding relationships and forming new Christian families.

Multiple visiting ministers were willing to travel and to serve us this month including: Bro. Herb Knochel, Jr. (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Jay Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Tucson, AZ) and Bro. Andy Moser (Sis. Diane, Valparaiso, IN). Bro. Andy also spoke with the Junior

and Senior Bible classes at our Sunday School gathering on Labor Day weekend. Teachers and students were with us from Phoenix, Tucson, and San Diego. We were reminded to consider the signs of the times, and we pray that He will continue to work in the hearts of our youth.

Many of us were present for the housewarming of Sis. Elaine Graf this month. May we always be willing to share the blessing of our homes with others.

It seems as some are called to other geographies, we are blessed with new acquaintances. This summer, we welcomed Mike DeHoff from Bluffton, IN. Mike recently moved to the Long Beach area to pursue an education in underwater welding. We're thankful he can spend some time with us in Altadena.

We remembered this month that Sis. Judy Crockett (Bro. Bob) passed away a year ago. Our prayers are with Bro. Bob and his family as they continue to walk with the Lord through adversity.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO **Peggy Jevremov**

Among our visitors this past month was ministering Bro. Robert Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN) who shared God's Holy Word with us. May the Lord be his rich Rewarder both now and in Heaven. We truly appreciate all our visitors.

The Bible class spent Labor Day weekend in Altadena as they hosted the annual CA/AZ Bible class get together. We wish to thank the Altadena Bible class and teachers for all the time and efforts that they put into the weekend.

Our single group enjoyed a blessed weekend as guests of the Congerville single group over the Labor Day weekend. There were many other churches represented there also.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those in Florida who have suffered loss in the terrible hurricanes that have repeatedly hit their area. May we look to the Lord from whence all our help cometh.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO **CANADA** **Ingrid Fortenbacher**

Greetings one and all. We are so happy that Sis. Johanna Fortenbacher is home again after spending two weeks in the hospital. I think each of us could take a lesson from her in being content in whatsoever state we find ourselves (Phil. 4:11). We never know who is watching us and seeing the attitude we have towards our infirmities and sufferings. What a wonderful witness she has been.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Gary Tonner (Sis. Diann, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Jerry Baumann (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH).

COLORADO, DENVER **Ann Gonglach**

Recently Sis. Susie Katanic, who was with the Klaus family in Tokyo, Japan for the summer, returned to Colorado. Also Bro. Doug Mangers, who lived in New Hampshire for the past 2-1/2 years and worshipped with the Norwich and Rockville congregations, moved back here. We welcome them both and are glad that they are fellow-

shipping with us again.

September 19 our annual Sunday school picnic was held at a local park. Thanks to our Sunday school teachers for planning and organizing this event for us.

A Bible study for our Christian singles group is being held on the third Friday of every month in different homes. Also, World Relief sewing will be held at church on the first Friday of each month starting at 2:00 p.m. and lasting into the evening. Everyone is encouraged to attend as there are many projects to do that don't involve actual sewing.

Our visiting ministers have been Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL). We have been blessed by their efforts.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Laura Virkler
Amber Reutter**

Have mercy then, O Lord!
Before Thy feet I'm bowing;
Let into my weak heart
the stream of grace be flowing.

Zions Harp #45

It is so encouraging when souls come to repentance. We wish Ronnie and Sheila Gerber, and Heidi Beutel (Bro. Gene and Sis. Lynn) much grace as they begin to walk the narrow way. May others also heed the call while there is yet time.

Thus united and in concord,
let us walk the path of life.

Zions Harp #237

We rejoice with Bro. Scott and Sis. Tecca Virkler as they join hand and heart to walk this pathway as one. May God grant them grace as they begin their new life together. Parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy Virkler and Clair and Sis. Beverly Kever (Mansfield, OH).

We welcome two small bundles of joy to their new families. David Eli was born to Bro. Chad and Sis. Jennifer Virkler, and he joins his sister, Abigail, and twin brothers, Caleb and Ethan. Grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy Virkler and Debbie Rubitschun and Michael Hufnagel. James Stanley was born to Burt and Cherine Wheeler, and joins his new siblings Courtney, Daniel, Christian, and Samuel. Grandparents are Daryl and Sis. Norma Luginbuhl, and Burt and Margo Wheeler. May each of these parents feel God's nearness as they strive to raise their children to fear Him.

This month we began listening to the Conference tapes, and look forward to the privilege of hearing the words of encouragement, admonition and instruction. It is so important that we walk carefully and preserve the faith that we have.

We had, visiting with us this month, Bro. Mike Baumann (Sis. Florina, Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise, Bluffton North, IN). It was a blessing to have these brothers with us and we are grateful for their willingness to be used to speak the Word to us.

Live thou as thy wish will be,
to have lived when thou expirest.

Zions Harp #253

We grieve with those who have lost a loved one this past month, and yet rejoice in the victory that is won when a faithful soul goes to their rest. Sis. Frieda Lanz passed away, leaving her husband, Richard Lanz, her children, Stu (Rosemary) Lanz, Sis. Cindy (Bro. Terry) Virkler, Bro. Greg (Sis. Linda) Lanz, Bro. Barry (Karen) Lanz, Bro. Vern (Sis. Deanna) Lanz, Sis. Janis (Bro. Steve) Moser; her siblings, Walter (Ethel) Schneider, Sis. Martha (Bro. Clarence) Mangold, Hilda (Edward) Kayan, Flora (Elmer) Batz, Sis. Millie (Bro. Melvin) Gerber; seventeen grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and many nephews and nieces. Our prayers and support are with this family and we pray that God will comfort the hearts of each one.

Our prayers are also with Bro. Ken (Sis. Lois) Schultz and Sis. Amber (Bro. Jay) Fehr as they recover from recent surgery. May God heal and restore as He sees fit.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Henrietta Meyer**

This summer I have had the opportunity to travel more than just back to my home church in Illinois. Often when I introduce myself I get the response "I've seen your name in the Silver Lining." Lest the pride bubble up, I quite often get the response "I didn't know we had a church in Washington, DC." We are not in the city of Washington, DC, but are easily accessible by Metrorail or by auto. We have been meeting in the same location since 1986. We started out once a month, now we meet every Sunday but the 2nd of each month. (Let us

know ahead of time and we may even meet then if we know we will have visitors.) As with most big city congregations, we have seen folks come and go. Right now we have a pretty stable group of about 20-25 meeting each week. Several times this summer we had between 60-80 people. Thankfully they let us know ahead of time. We observe the same customs and traditions of the Church, including two services with a lunch between. We have a serving list, everyone takes their turn; currently nine on the list, much better than when there were only five.

Several from our congregation are meeting Sunday mornings for Bible Study at 9:15 in the room we hold services. We have no firm schedule, so I am unable to tell you which Sundays we are meeting. If you are in the area, you are more than welcome to attend. Contact anyone listed below to find out if we are meeting the Sunday you are here. If you get to Church and find the door closed, we haven't changed the starting time for services, it could be our Study is running a little long.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH), Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH) and Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH). Other visitors were from Rittman, Akron, and Latty, OH; and Eureka, Morton and Princeville, IL.

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 thankful to have a visiting minister this past month. Bro. Brace Wieland (Sis. Brenda) from the Leo congregation came to share the Word with us. We pray that God would bless His servants.

We have begun listening to the Conference tapes on Wednesday nights. There is a blessing to be had to sit quietly and listen to men of God speak of actions and events that shape our lives and the choices we make. Let us take to heart the message we hear and may God bless His servants who share with us that message.

Congratulations to Bro. George and Sis. Katherine Fulop as they welcome their 15th grandchild into the world. Little Frank Morgan Fulop was born August 5 and his brothers and sisters, Angelica, Hannah, Emma, George and Michael, are happy to have a new baby brother. May God bless this new child along with his siblings.

Once again, we have enjoyed the fellowship and good food at our monthly church potluck. It is always a blessed time of gathering.

Finally, we were fortunate to have been spared any bad affects from Hurricane Frances. While some of us were uncomfortable for a while with the loss of electricity and phone, there was no serious damage to our homes or our loved ones. Our prayers go out to others who have not been as fortunate during this hurricane season. There is such a comfort in knowing that God is with you even during a terrible storm.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Mary Masters**

Mark 4:41 says that the wind and the waves obey Him! (Jesus) It gives us a little chuckle when we read in the news of suggestions of how to dissipate the winds of the hurricanes. The talk of our communities has been centered on hurricanes for the last 6 weeks. The destruction of the hurricanes in our area have made us all aware of just how powerful the wind can be and yet at the same time makes us even more aware of verses such as Isaiah 25:4 which speak of the Lord God as our shelter from the storm.

Today, we went to the nursing home where our dear Bro. Rolland Kellar resides. There was a small group of us that went and we passed out hymnals for a sing along time. One lady came up to one of us after the singing and told us how she had been feeling so low because of the losses of the hurricane that when she first heard the singing

she was not going to come join us. Then came the hymn, Amazing Grace, and her resistance was melted away by the empowering of the Holy Spirit. She was compelled to join in the precious praise to our great God in heaven. The devastation that we saw as we entered into the communities of Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte where the home is located, was very extensive and we could sense the great need and appreciation of the residents there for some old familiar and comforting hymns that soothed them in their time of loss.

These dear ones are undergoing a difficult time in their lives as they see the area where they have known and loved looking so very different with trees toppled over and roofs torn off. Let's keep them in our prayers.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Carol Koehl

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Sis. Helen Laparo (Columbus, OH). Sis. Helen lived in Sarasota for many years. Our sympathy and love are also extended to Sis. Lorane Martin in the sudden loss of her sister-in-law, Sis. Donna Martin (Princeville, IL).

Please pray for Bro. Glenn Price, as he is again experiencing some health concerns.

We continue to thank our Father in Heaven for protecting us during the three recent hurricanes. Our support and prayers have been with the less fortunate victims. A number of us provided two meals to many people at Arcadia recently. The loss in our neighboring towns of Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda is absolutely devas-

tating. We do not understand, but we do realize that God is in control.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Carol Kaufman

We appreciate the visiting ministers that have come this past month. They include Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA), Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) and Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA). We thank them for the time they spent traveling here, ministering to us, and fellowshiping with us.

As autumn approaches there are many couples that are going to Florida for the winter. We would be honored if you took the opportunity to visit our assembly as you head for your winter destination. We enjoy the fellowship of other believers as they are traveling in or through our area. Our Sunday morning service starts at 10:15 for song service. The church is located off I-85 southwest of Atlanta. We are off exit 64 (Jonesboro Rd) exactly four miles west off the exit on the left hand side. If you have any questions or want to alert someone of your coming, please call either 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

Upon a stormy sea of life,
Thru many storms and gales

A Sturdy ship does bear us on
As t'ward our port it sails.
This Ship of faith is God's own
ark,
Our Captain is the Lord,
It carries to the land of rest
All passengers on board.

The land of rest was reached for
Niama Fehr (West Bend, IA),
grandmother of Sis. Carlene and
Bro. Jim Jepson. May the Lord
comfort the hearts of loved ones
left behind and may we all continue
to strive for that land of rest, even
when the storms of life continually
rage against our ships of faith.

Of all provisions there's no lack,
We have the living bread;
And living water we can drink,
On our long course ahead.
Our anchor is our saving hope,
God's Word our compass true,
Which points to us the living way
On which we must pursue.

The living bread was shared
across the pulpit by our visiting
ministers: Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis.
Edith, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Steve
Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL). We
appreciate their time they spend
with our small congregation blend-
ing their voice in song, the fellow-
ship and helping us to pursue our
course that lies before us.

Of any storm we have no fears,
We have a well built ark.
And at the helm we have a Man
Who guides this saving bark.
If He commands the wind and sea
The billows no more roll
Thru all the dangers He will bring
Us safely to our goal.

The Lord was at the helm
watching over our church camp

out and time spent traveling for ACYF this month. Memories made and time spent together will be something that will last into eternity.

As school is once again in session, may our prayers be that our children will remember Who should be at the helm of their ark.

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**

**Kara Martin
Rebekah Kaufmann**

We were blessed this month to have Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), and Bros. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL) and David Zehr (Gridley, IL) share their time with us.

We rejoice with Clark Kaeb (Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda) and Matt Schieler (Bro. Darl and Sis. Cindy) as they have turned their lives to the Lord!

Two babies were born this month and we welcome them to our congregation. On August 17, Abigail Jo was born to Bro. Andy and Sis. Marla Hodel. Her big sister is Kaitlyn, and grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine Hodel and Bro. Loris and Sis. Pat Knobloch (Peoria, IL). James Dean was born on September 9 to Jason and Katie Albritton. Excited grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Marsha Albritton and James McCauley.

Bro. Lynn Young (Sis. Anne Marie) and Sis. Verna Hodel (Bro. Stan) both had surgery this month. We are thankful they are both home, and we are prayerful for their recoveries.

On August 22 we were privi-

leged to have local college students and their families with us to start the school year. We pray that the students will feel at home in our congregation and welcome them to worship with us!

September 5 was the engagement day for Bro. Adrian Rabe (Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie) and Sis. Melodee Bachtold (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary, Forrest, IL). We wish God's blessings upon them as they plan for their life together.

Our Bro. Dick and Sis. Jan Gudeman have moved to Silverton, Oregon. We will miss their presence and welcome them to come back and visit anytime!

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Steve Endress**

We appreciate the labors of these ministering Brothers who were with us in the past month: Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), and Bros. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), John Bradle (Roanoke, IL), and Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL).

We rejoice with Bro. Jeb Joos and Sis. Kristy Miller (Sardis, OH) as they announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny Joos and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Doris Miller. A marriage begun in faith provides a firm foundation and stability against the future tests and trials of life.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Tracy Kieser welcomed their fifth child on August 24, James Gerald. Siblings are Erika, Erin, Joel, and Emma and grandparents are Sis. Gloria White (Princeville, IL), Claude White (Rossville, IN), and Bro. Gerald and Sis. Wilma Kieser.

Reghann Elizabeth was born to Chad and Jessica Pyles on August 26. Reghann is welcomed home by her brother, Gavin. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky Pyles, Steve McCasky of Toluca, and Donna Dennis of Lacon.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Dennis Pyles (Sis. Becky) at the passing of his brother, Eugene Pyles. Such times remind us that God is the giver and taker of life. We can be thankful that His wisdom is perfect and complete.

We enjoyed church invite-a-guest on September 12. It was perhaps the largest group we have had. We were reminded throughout the day of the blessings we enjoy as God's children, and as members of the Apostolic Christian Church.

Notes of Thanks:

We wish to convey our gratitude for the prayers and other kindnesses extended to John during his recent surgery and recovery from a broken hip. May God bless each one.

Bro. John and Sis. Lucille Endress

We wish to thank our dear church family and friends for the cards and gifts following the passing of Dennis' brother Eugene. Your prayers and encouragement are greatly appreciated.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky Pyles and Family

**ILLINOIS
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
Karla Kieser**

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana! We are overjoyed to relay

the news that we have a new convert! It isn't often that we get this kind of good news as we are so small. Erin Metzger answered the Lord's call on September 13. She is the daughter of Sis. Jeanne Metzger.

There have been several hospital patients this past month. Sis. Karen Kaiser's mother was hospitalized for lung problems and we are glad to learn that she has improved. Mary Tucker's mother, Sis. Vi Griener from Cissna Park, was also hospitalized for some hip replacement repair work and she is also mending well. Our prayers are with both families.

Our prayers are also with Bro. Greg and Sis. Shelly Kaeb and their family as they experienced the loss of a cousin, 17 year old Nathan Kaeb, in an automobile accident September 8. He was the fourth child of Morris and Brenda Kaeb from Arrowsmith, IL.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Joan Hanson are the proud grandparents to Elizabeth Anne who was born on September 1 to their son, Thane, and his wife, Heidi. Elizabeth is welcomed by big brother, Daniel, and big sister, Chloe. Maternal grandparents are Wayne and Jolene Gerst from Burlington, IA.

Our Sunday School started up again and the children were excited to begin another year. Sunday school teachers are a true blessing from God and we are thankful to have Bro. Nick Waibel and Sis. Margie Heintz as new teachers. We also want to thank past and returning teachers for their service and for the enthusiasm they bring to our Sunday

School.

A big thanks to all who helped with the church cleaning the second week of September. The efforts of all were greatly appreciated! We also thank Elder Bro. Ted Witzig from Morton for taking time to talk to the college students on Thursday, September 16. A big thanks also to Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart for hosting the evening and providing dinner.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. I am pleased to announce we have a new face in our congregation! Little Zahony Cordero was born to Aridio and Sis. Katrina Cordero. Welcoming him home is his little sister, Yireny, and grandparents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Schlatter. We wish them God's blessings as they raise this new little bundle from Heaven.

Congratulations go out to Sis. Penny Stahl (Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria) as her engagement to Bro. Peter Schroeder from Forrest, IL, was announced. Sis. Penny has been a blessing to our congregation and we look forward to getting to know Bro. Peter in the coming months. Although they will be making their home in Champaign, we hope to see them often. When two souls look to God for the one He has chosen for them, the result can be a beautiful union. The peace in a marriage from God makes the joys of life seem even sweeter, and the hard times more manageable. The Bible refers to the "three-fold cord" that is not easily broken. Pray God that families in America

and all over the world can find their stability in Him, especially as we see Satan ripping apart the institution of marriage and corrupting the biblical morals on which our lives should be based.

A sincere thank you to Bro. Dale Stoller, (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) for ministering to us this month. Bro. Erik kindly gave the exhortation at our annual Sunday School teacher and minister meeting.

We are currently listening to the recordings of the Brotherhood Conference. They are a blessing and inspiration to "spur us on" and to give us the strength to continue to fight the good fight of faith. I don't think we can appreciate enough the love of those who truly care for our souls—enough to spend hours on their knees interceding for us and praying they can do what is right in the eyes of our Father God.

To end, I would like to say my heart was somewhat saddened this month by an experience I had at the university I attend. The professor in my Biology lecture has been alluding to the Evolution Theory as our foundation of existence, with no mention of God whatsoever. I felt compelled to talk to him one day after class. In one of our first classes, he mentioned that he is an immigrant, and acting on a feeling I received by his age, demeanor and accent, I wondered exactly what kind of religious background he had growing up. I simply said, "So you don't believe in the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth?" He did not. He then told me he had grown up in a very religious back-

ground, and had heard those words many times in his life. He said his mother was a very strong religious woman and taught him much about God and he believed then – but now he is a scientist and they cannot believe in Creation because science is based on fact and evidence and there is no evidence of a Creator. I asked him if his mother was living, would she sit through his lectures and decide that he IS right and that God does not exist? He gave a small smile and said no, she would never, ever, change her mind. My final question (I can't remember my exact words) was then how could he, who once believed and was taught as a child the truth about God, now teach impressionable students a concept such as evolution that his mother would most likely weep to hear him speak? I received no answer and I didn't really expect one. All I knew as I stood there in the empty lecture hall, was that there were approximately 200 students in that class that were being taught the total opposite of what the professor had once believed, before he had been "enlightened" by science. How many of them had been taught something different? One, fifteen, twenty, fifty, any? As I walked out I was thankful that I had no doubts or worries about who created me and from where I came. I had been taught to always, always believe. How is it possible that beliefs once held can be discarded for something new and more acceptable? Let us pray without ceasing, as the Bible says, that the grip we have on the truth in our hearts will not be loosened one iota so as to lead us a different way.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Andrea Walder
Susan Waldbeser

We are truly enjoying the wise counsel of the Elders again through the Conference tapes, and are so thankful that God saw fit to establish a church order that called for submission to those who are over us in the Lord. It seems evident that it is this submission to each other, to our Elders, and to the Lord that is the "glue" that holds our church family together and brings us the blessing and grace of God (I Peter 5:5).

Besides our own ministers, we've had many visiting ministers who the Lord has used to bring forth the message of truth, salvation, and hope, each one in his own way, yet with the oneness of heart and mind. We thank Bro. Dale Banwart (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. James Knapp (Congerville, IL) for being willing servants.

Bill and Judy Drayer are experiencing the joys of a new grandchild, Abigail Teske, born to Doug and Kara Teske.

We continue to hold Sis. Emily Eisenmann and her family up in prayer as they go through some very difficult times during Sis. Emily's last days on earth. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." (Psalm 23:4)

We pray that Bro. Ralph and Sis. Verena Knapp will continue to feel God's nearness and guidance as

they now make their home in Bloomington. We will miss them here in Cissna and welcome them back often.

"Love of all gifts is the greatest..." Sarah Rudin (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Joan) and Josh Peoples were united in marriage this past month. May their love for one another continue to grow stronger as the years go by.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Rachel Schrock

"If we can see through the clouds at night, we can see the stars. They are God's handiwork. Likewise, if we look through the clouds of life, we can see God's hand at work in our lives," proclaimed a minister one Sunday recently. Bro. Clarence and Sis. Luann Zobrist and their family can attest to this as they recently attended to their daughter, Sis. Rebekah, in the hospital. Thankfully, all is going well for Sis. Rebekah once again.

We are thankful, too, for God's hand at work in our single members' lives, bringing a large number of them to visit us this Labor Day weekend. May each one keep their focus on Him so He can show them His hand at work in their daily lives.

Helping us to keep focused on our Heavenly Father every Sunday and Wednesday night are our ministering brothers. Sadly, we do not thank them enough for their efforts. We especially wish to thank Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City) for bringing us God's Word recently.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for all your prayers, gifts, visits, and cards during and after my double hip replacements. Thanks again. It was all very much appreciated. May God bless all of you.

Bro. Allen Schrock

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser**

It was a joyful occasion on August 22 when we witnessed the sacred union of two whose hearts were drawn together by faith: Bro. Eric Humbracht and Sis. Erica Schambach. Lyndon (Susan) Humbracht and Phoebe Hayes and Bro. Les and Sis. Alison Schambach are the couple's parents.

Most of the ministers who visited Elgin during the month attended that wedding. They were Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Bloomfield-Pulaski, IA) and Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Marshall Heinold (Ixtlan, Mexico), Brian Huber and Jeff Neihouser (Francesville, IN), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Art Mueller and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL) and Alan Schambach (Remington, IN).

One Sunday before services, there was encouraging news of a dear soul who has answered God's call. We are thankful not only for Heidi Krueger (Jim and Sis. Mary) who has begun her repentance, but also for Dick Hartman and Trisha Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida), who have found peace and are awaiting baptism.

The Senior Choir students and teachers prepared and served the Annual Pancake Breakfast at the Fellowship Center on September 11. It was a successful fundraiser that will support their ACYF trips and other projects.

On September 13, Brian and Kelly Heiniger announced the arrival of their first daughter, Olivia Cathleen. She was also welcomed home by her brothers, Brady and Brock. Olivia's happy grandparents are Linda Park and Bro. Don and Sis. Peg Heiniger.

It is good to see those who underwent surgery assembling with us again, including Bro. Delbert (Sis. Jeanette) Schmidt, Sis. Erika (Bro. Eric) Schambach, Sis. Cora (Bro. Bill) Schambach, and Bro. Bill (Sis. Marge) Wewetzer. May God's healing hand continue to restore.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank each one who remembered me with prayers, cards and gifts of love during my recent hospital stay and recuperation. May God richly bless you.

Bro. Delbert Schmidt

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Cindy Stoller
Lisa Metzger**

We truly appreciate having visiting ministers to share worship services with us. This month brought two visiting ministers to our congregation. We thank Bros. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL) and Ben Walder (Congerville, IL) for their willing service. May God richly bless them.

Our loved ones who have spent time in the hospital recently were

Sis. Charlene Schumacher (Bro. Robert), Henry Blunier (Sis. Wilma), Sis. Mary Fehr, and Sis. Ann Leman (Bro. Sid). We wish them God's continued nearness as they recover. Also, Sis. Edna Anliker has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. We offer our love and support to our dear sister. Let us all sincerely pray that she may feel God's sure peace and comfort as she copes with this disease.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Anna Schmidgall
Tammy Hinrichsen**

Greetings to all of our brethren and friends in the Lord! The summer months have flown by and we are enjoying the beautiful fall season. On Wednesday evenings we have been listening to the tapes of the recent Brotherhood Conference. As always, each topic is uplifting and thought - provoking.

Psalm 100

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

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jill Wenger
Lori Leman**

We have been privileged to listen to the tapes of the Annual

Brotherhood Conference for four Wednesday evenings. We were encouraged to continue to contend for our precious Faith.

Faith of our fathers! Living still
In spite of dungeon, fire and
sword,
O how our hearts beat high with
joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious
word!
Faith of our fathers! Holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!
Hymns of Zion #85

Many thanks to our visiting ministers of the past month. They were Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Joe Dotterer and Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Matthew Rassi and Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) and Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL).

On August 29 we witnessed the wedding vows of Bro. Ben Leman (Sis. Donna and the late Bro. Bob Leman) and Sis. Lori Dotterer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy) to love, honor and cherish one another till death do them part. May their home ever be blessed with the presence of God.

We are also rejoicing with our Bro. Pete Schroder (G. Paul Schroder and Carna Schroder) and Sis. Penny Stahl (Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria) of our Chicago congregation upon hearing of their wedding engagement and approaching marriage. We wish them God's nearness in this special time in their lives.

Our prayers continue to ascend to our Heavenly Father in behalf of Bro. Norval Knapp (Sis. Wilma) as

he is enduring a time of illness.

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

Luke 15:10

That one sinner is Brett Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy) who the angels are rejoicing with for he has made a beginning in serving the Lord. How we pray many more could take advantage of the day of grace and come in humble repentance before their great Maker.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Rita Bauman
Heather Hohulin**

Bro. Tim and Sis. Susie Blunier were blessed with a baby girl, Laura Leigh. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Pam Wiegand and Bro. Denny and Sis. Eddis Blunier. May God bless their new addition.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Wes and Sis. Millie Knapp in the death of their sister - in - law, Eleanor Knapp.

Our prayers are with our hospital patients this month: Melvin Hartter (Elaine), Bro. Melvin Heinold (the late Sis. Mary Helen), Mike Ellis (Sis. Jan), and Sis. Marie Goetzinger. May God grant them His healing.

Brock Gerber (Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish) and Jodi Knepp (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann) of Roanoke announced their engagement. A January wedding is planned. We pray for this couple and wish them God's blessings.

Visiting ministers this month are as follows: Bro. Jim Vierling

(Sis. Linda), Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria), Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie), and Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue). May God bless them for their efforts.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

Sometimes we encounter what are considered profound thoughts and statements. One follows:

"People will forget what you said...
People will forget what you did...
People will never forget how you
made them feel."

—*Author Unknown*

We were thankful for the recent visit of Bros. John Reinhard and Mark Gerber of Bluffton, IN. May God bless them for their labors in preaching.

Sis. Tina Gramm was married to Bro. Tyler Banwart of Ft. Scott, Kansas. We are happy for them and wish them the Lord's blessings throughout their lives together. It is a wonderful blessing when believers commit these important events to God, and then humbly follow His direction(s).

This fall 35 students from our Gridley congregation are enrolled in institutions of higher learning. They are studying at Illinois State, University of Illinois, Illinois Central, Heartland College, Eureka College, Indiana Wesleyan and Augustana College. We pray God will watch over these dear souls.

We welcome several to our congregation: Takehiko and Kate Hirata and their children, Mikoh, Kie, Seiju, Sami and Rayna; also Karen Nichols; and Sis. Isabel Baurer who lives at Sunrise

Manor.

Brittany Kiefer was treated for a serious kidney ailment. We pray the Lord will heal her, and restore her to a full life. She is in high school.

At this writing, farmers have had several continuous days to harvest corn and beans. A long run of wonderful weather has allowed much progress. Yields are large, and God has added the increase to farming efforts from planting henceforth. God is the giver of the increase in this sense.

In the spiritual harvest, the work goes on. Earthly harvests (of crops) stop, but the more important harvest of souls (spiritual) is unending. God's will is to preach the gospel, follow it, and provide light in a dark world. We as God's children are to "be ready" to give an answer to every man that asketh of the hope that is within us, with meekness and fear (I Peter 3:15). Many think the time is short — and such a prospect makes the work more and more important. Let us be about our Father's business, like the Lord Jesus was.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Julie Bahr
Christie Zeller**

We are happy to announce the engagement of our Bro. J.R. Sauder (Bro. John and Sis. Peg) to Sis. Tiffany Schwab of Indianapolis, Indiana. Her parents are Bro. John and Sis. Wendy Schwab of Wolcott, Indiana. We wish this dear couple the Lord's blessings.

A new little bundle of joy has joined the home of our Bro. Bob and Sis. Holly Salter, a daughter, Alexis Marie. May God bless their

little one.

Our Family Worship was held on September 1 by our Bro. Jon Zeller. His topic was from Acts 27 and was titled "I Should Have Listened".

We are thankful to have witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of three dear souls on September 12 and 13. They were McKenzie Ploussard (Bro. Dave and Sis. Krista), Tory Warner (Bro. Scott and Sis. Debbie), and Michelle Heinold (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pam). May God bless these dear souls.

Many more dear loved ones have gone Home to be with the Lord. Sis. Edna Kyburz (Wolcott, IN) passed away. She is a sister to our Sis. Dorothy Belsley. Bro. Harry Getz passed away at Restmor. He is the father to Roy (Phyllis) Getz and a brother to Ann (Getz) Foster. Mark Schmidt passed away August 28. His parents are Bro. Herman and Sis. Maxine. Sis. Vi Reeser (Bro. Harold, Goodfield, IL) passed away. She is a sister to our Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Jack) Krantz. May God comfort these dear families.

Our visiting minister for the month was Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL). May he ever be blessed for his labors of love.

Note of Thanks:

The sisters of Nathalia Pflederer want to express our appreciation to everyone for the many prayers, cards, and gifts, and to those who came to her Birthday Party at Restmor, to wish her well on her 100th Birthday. May God bless all of you for your love and

kindness.

Sis. Alice Hirstein

Sis. Alma and Bro. Walt Wittmer

Babe and Don Carey

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Lou and Marjean Lonteen

"To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."

Acts 26:18

On September 1 (Family Night), Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign) spoke on the topic: "Principles of Tradition". He explained the differences between Doctrine, Tradition, and Custom within the Apostolic Christian Church.

Bro. Ron Joos (Bloomfield-Pulaski) ministered to our congregation recently. We are blessed by our guest ministers' visits.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Peg Hoerr have moved to Lafayette, IN. Mary Leigh Funk has moved to Rio Rancho, NM.

Wade and Marjorie Fehr have made known their desire to walk with the Lord. We pray that you will grow in grace, love, and obedience to the Spirit working in your life.

Sis. Brenda Kieser (Bro. Randy) said good-by to her mother, Sis. Donna Martin (Bro. Ellsworth "Ike") of Princeville. Sis. Donna passed away on September 19. We remember you in our prayers.

Sis. Virginia Hoerr (Bro. Jim)

will miss her sister, Sis. Elizabeth "Betty" Moser (Morton), who passed away on September 17. Bro. Matt Moser (Sis. Aimee) will miss their dear aunt. The Lord be with you and comfort as only He can.

Sis. Helen Brumm passed away and we extend sympathy to her family and friends. Sis. Helen was a resident of Peoria Skylines.

On September 12, our congregation heard the engagement announcement of our Sis. Kristin Meister (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard) to Bro. Rodney Menold. His parents are Bro. James and Sis. Louise Menold (Bern, KS). They are planning a January 9, 2005, wedding. With the Lord at the center of their relationship, their future will be blessed.

Thankful grandparents: Bro. Cleve and Sis. Kathleen Klopfenstein and Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart (Champaign) welcome their new little grandson into their family circle. Carter Lane Klopfenstein was born on August 13. His parents are Bro. Aaron and Sis. Kara Klopfenstein (Indianapolis, IN). Caleb is Carter's very happy big brother.

Special prayers for healing would be appreciated on behalf of these dear souls: Sis. Judy Martin, Bro. Al Plattner, Bro. Art Pfister, Fred Rieker, Bro. Ken Sauder, Sis. Florence Schwartz, Bro. Ivan Thomas, and Bro. Roger Zehr.

Fred Rieker broke his neck in a fall while on vacation in Colorado. He has returned to Peoria for medical care. We know the fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so; I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

John 13:1-2

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Phyllis Knobloch
Crystal Streitmatter

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusteth in him, and I am helped: therefore, my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him."

Psalms 28:7

We rejoice with Bro. Doug Blunier (Sis. Joyce and the late Bro. Dale) and Sis. Carol Graf of Altadena, CA (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marilyn), as their engagement was made known to us. The wedding is planned for February 13. May the Lord continue to direct them as they take this important step in their lives.

Scott Streitmatter (Bro. Alf and Sis. Ginny) and Amanda Miller (Ed and Cindy Childer, Peoria) were married on August 25. We pray the Lord's blessing on this marriage!

Bro. Perry and Sis. Krista Kieser welcomed a new little girl, Alyssa Renee, to their home on September 2. Big sister, Allison, is very happy and excited! We all rejoice with them! Alyssa is privileged to be a part of a happy Christian home.

On September 5, it was a joy to have many single brothers and sisters with us. They came from Oakville, Burlington, Tremont,

Lamont-Gridley and Bern. The singing in church that day was so beautiful! We need these younger ones in our lives. We thank them for all the joy they brought to us! The singing at the Peoria Nursing Home and at Prairie Villa was also enjoyed by all.

Our visiting ministers have been Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN) on September 30, and Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA) on September 12. Thank you for giving of yourselves in your special ways. God bless you and continue to guide you!

The Princeville Choir held their annual Benefit Dinner and presentation on September 11. It was especially meaningful, since it was on the third anniversary of the Ground Zero attack. We thank the many who prayed for us and helped to make this event so enjoyable. We are drawn closer to each other in the spirit of love, when we work together; not only physical work, but also in singing praises to our Lord and Saviour. God has truly blessed us! We thank the many visitors that came to be with us that evening.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Doris Fischer
Joan Leman

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

Hebrews 6:10

We sincerely appreciate and

thank our visiting ministers who were willing to share God's Word with us this past month. They were Bro. Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy, Rockville, CT), Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH), Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL). We also thank Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), who spoke at our monthly Bible study. May God continue to bless these Brothers and their families for their willingness to be used in His service.

"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."

Hebrews 2:1

The past three Wednesday evenings we have been privileged to listen to the tapes of the recent Brotherhood Conference. We appreciate the efforts of our Elder brethren as they strive to preserve our precious faith. May the Lord richly reward them for their labours and may we all be more willing to heed their Godly instruction and guidance.

On Sunday evening, August 29, our congregation enjoyed a blessed evening of fellowship and singing. We enjoyed an all-church potluck followed by a family hymn sing. We thank the Gridley choir for blending their voices with our Prairie Choristers in singing praises to God.

The home of Bro. Neal and Sis. Jessica Beer was blessed with the arrival of little Riley Grace born August 23. May the Lord grant

them wisdom as they fulfill their new role as parents. Joyful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Linda Hodel (Roanoke) and Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer (Milford, IN).

Our thoughts and prayers are with those of our congregation who have spent time in the hospital this past month. They include Bro. Bob Hartter (Sis. Chris), Sis. Esther Sauder (Bro. John), and Tom Durand (Sis. Marsha). Also, we pray for those who have undergone tests and outpatient surgeries, including Sis. Marge Plattner (Bro. Russ), Sis. Carol Metz (Bro. Gene) and Sis. Jana Gastman (Bro. Matt). We continue to pray for Steven Hinrichsen (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue) as he recovers from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. May they each one feel God's comfort and healing touch.

Notes of Thanks:

I wish to extend my belated thank you and appreciation for the prayers and love of those who remembered me while I was in the hospital on my 90th birthday and since I am home. Thank you for the many cards, flowers, visits, phone calls, money, food and gifts. Also, thank you to the staff of the Roanoke A.C. Home for the good care given and for making my stay there a pleasant one. This was all quite an experience. I praise God as I have much to be thankful for. May God bless each of you for your good deeds.

With my thanks and appreciation,

*Love and prayers,
Sis. Mabel Bowald*

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the many kind deeds shown unto me and my family during the time of my chemotherapy treatments. I sincerely appreciate the many cards, gifts, flowers, visits, phone calls, meals that have been brought in, rides, and most importantly your continuing prayers. Your love and kindness will always be remembered. May God richly bless you all.

Sis. Joan Leman

Gene and I want to thank all of you throughout the land for your prayers, cards, gifts, flowers, food and visits during my heart attack and recovery time. How uplifting it all was.

*In Christian love,
Gene and Marge Fehr*

**ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Heather Rassi
LaVonne Wagenbach**

Gather golden sheaves for Jesus,
Ere too late, they ruined be;
Great and precious is the harvest,
And 'tis Jesus calleth thee.
Jesus shed His blood so precious,
On the cross for the thee didst die.
Therefore heed His call so earnest,
Swiftly to the harvest fly.

Gospel Hymns #800

As the weather turns to autumn, let us remember there is a day coming when spiritually our lives will be "harvested" by the Master and examined for the Kingdom. May we be as the precious grain that is stored rather than the chaff that will be destroyed.

Our sympathy is extended to Steve Garman (Sis. Sara) on the passing of his father, Vernon, of

Pekin, IL. We hope that he feels comforted during this time of sorrow.

Bro. Bob Frank (Sis. Rose) as well as Sis. Ida Schweigert (Bro. Chris) spent time in the hospital this month. May God continue to strengthen and heal both of them.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Nancy Knepp
Barb Banwart

Beautiful September days are ushering in a quieter season after an eventful summer. It gives one time to reflect on everyday blessings. A thankful man once wrote, "Let not the blessings we receive daily from God make us not to value them or not to praise Him because they be common." (Izaak Walton). A verse from "Holy Simplicity" (#246, Zion's Harp) also speaks of gratitude:

It seeks neither praise nor greatness;
Chiding, shame, no hurt imparts;
Thinks no evil; for all goodness
Has a deeply grateful heart.

This was sung some time ago at the funeral of a dear older sister. Could it be said of us? The early harvest of some fields in this area reminds us to be fruitful and ready for "harvest" also.

(One of our "everyday blessings" is a refreshing midweek service. How valued are words of truth spoken by a faithful brother! Recently, we were reminded that "...godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of..." (II Cor. 7:10). What cleansing it brings, followed by the peaceable fruit of righteousness. It is some-

thing each one can experience many times along life's pilgrimage. May each of our children who have not eagerly returned to Sunday School grow in understanding and desire for that true conversion some day.

We remember Sis. Judy Witzig in prayer as she undergoes surgery. May God grant her relief from pain and a good recovery.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Amber Steffen
Elizabeth Frauhiger

The month of September has yielded many events. We were blessed to have four new converts in this last month. Jennifer Gerber (Bro. Gene and Sis. Becky) and her brother, Randy Gerber, began their walk with the Lord, as well as their cousin, Vince Fiechter (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda). Clayton Tonner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Julie) chose to embark on a new life as well. We were very thankful as these four dear souls surrendered their life to Christ. It is always such a wonderful feeling to know that there are those who are following the message in II Timothy 3:14, which says...

"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them."

II Timothy 3:14

We are also pleased to proclaim that four converts have announced their peace and desire for baptism, Brandon Geisel (Bro. Charles and Sis. Marcia), Regan Reimschisel (Bro. Todd and Sis. Lori), Adam Stoller (Bro. Larry and Sis.

Sharon) and Jessica Reinhard (Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jan). We rejoice with them and are happy to announce that they are planning for baptisms on September 19.

There were two engagements in the fold this month, and we send our blessings with both couples in their walk with the Lord. Sis. Tiffany Aschliman (Bro. Darrell and Sis. Peg) has announced her engagement to Bro. Matt Drayer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois). In addition, Bro. Mick Gerber (Scott Gerber and the late Melinda Gerber) has asked for Sis. Brooke Neuenschwander (Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue). Our love and prayers go with these two couples as they travel through this new chapter in their lives.

August 23 was an exciting day for the family of Cale Robert, who was born to Chad and Tricia Coppess and whose grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Shirley Fiechter.

We also rejoice with the family of Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber Pfister, who welcomed little Seth Gabriel into the world on August 28. Seth's grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Lou Rager and Al and Becky Pfister.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Jaime Maller are the thankful parents of Ty Edward born to them on August 13. Ty's grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda Maller and Bro. Jack and Sis. Diane Schwartz.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Jean Moser welcomed their new grandson, Trevor Nelson. He was born to Bret and Krista Iceberg on August 5.

There was one adoption in the family of Michael and Tammy

Gerber as they welcomed little Ethan Michael into their family. The exuberant grandparents of Ethan are Bro. Mike and Sis. Becky Leyse and Bro. Bill and Sis. Carolyn Gerber. We are extremely happy for these families and wish them all of God's blessings in the future.

In spite of all of the wonderful blessings we have received in the last month, it is important for us to remember to keep many in the congregation in our prayers. Sis. Lavon Gerber (Bro. Rex) has had cancer for quite some time and has been taking treatments in Nevada sporadically. Recently, they have asked the church for prayers as Sis. Lavon has taken a turn. Our thoughts and sincerest prayers are with their entire family. Bro. Ralph Baumgartner has asked for the church's prayers as he has had testing done and is not doing very well. Also, Sis. Millie Schladenhauffen has been in and out of the hospital and needs the prayers of the church body.

It is a bittersweet time as we have experienced two deaths recently. The church has extended its sincerest sympathies to the family of Bro. Butch (Dwight) Moser who died September 4. Our sincerest prayers are with his wife, Sis. Pat, Sis. Kim Reinhard (Bro. Marv) and the rest of the family as these last few months have been incredibly hard for them.

Sis. Edith Stultz also passed from this life into eternity on August 24. Mourning her loss are her children, Sis. Elaine Reimschisel (Bro. Richard), Sis. Linda Stultz and Karen Baumgartner (Timothy). Her siblings were Bro. Harold

and Bro. Warren Schladenhauffen, as well as Sis. Clara Fiechter (Bro. Homer).

This month three visiting ministers came our way and we are always thankful for the ministers letting themselves be used by God in every possible way. Bro. Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise) and Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene), both from Bluffton North; and Bro. Dennis Kauffman (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL). We thank them for the extra effort of serving us.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Darren Drayer
Tiffani Schladenhauffen**

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he will be my son."

Revelation 21:7

The Lord called His son, Bro. Butch Moser, to come Home to Him on September 4. We are prayerful for Bro. Butch's wife, Sis. Pat, and his children, Sis. Kelli Bucher (Bro. Trent), Sis. Kim Reinhard (Bro. Marvin, Bluffton), Bro. Ked (Sis. Adrienne), and Bro. Kurt (Sis. Molli). He also leaves behind his mother, Sis. Aldine (Bluffton), and three siblings, Bro. Phil (Sis. Jean, Bluffton), Sis. Ann Gerber (Bro. Jerry, Bluffton), and Sis. Cindy Kauffman (Leon, Bluffton). We pray that the family will be comforted in knowing how many lives Bro. Butch touched and that he is now waiting for us in Heaven.

We also are prayerful for Bro. Everett Schladenhauffen (Sis. Luella) and Bro. Harold Schladen-

hauffen at the passing of their sister, Sis. Edith Stultz (Bluffton). How glad to know that she is now resting in Heaven after a long life here on Earth.

We rejoiced this month with our Bro. Matt Drayer, son of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois, as the announcement of his engagement was made to Sis. Tiffany Aschliman (Bluffton), daughter of Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy (Bluffton). We pray for the Lord's blessing on them as they go through their engagement period.

First-time parents this month were Bro. Jadon and Sis. Tundy Rauch. We rejoice with them at the birth of their son, Jamin Matthew, on September 18. His happy grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Rauch and Bro. Janos and Sis. Irma Namenyi (Budapest, Hungary).

The weekend of the Gateway Woods sale the Bluffton North and Bluffton Young Group hosted other singles for the weekend. It is always an encouragement when we have company from other churches.

Spending some time in the hospital this month were Bro. Mick Culp (Sis. Coleen) and Sis. Clarice Isch (Bro. Harry). We are prayerful that they will not become discouraged but just continue to take one step at a time remembering that:

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

Lamentations 3:22,23

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE**Barbara Huber**

"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Genesis 8:22

We greet you all in the Savior's name from Francesville. Here we are at another earthly harvest time and it is our prayer that the Lord of the Harvest will see everyone through it safely and successfully.

It is with joy that we announce the arrival of Ava Kate Gutwein (Bro. Stu and Sis. Alivia (Metzger) Gutwein) on September 1. Although baby Kate and her parents make their home in Indianapolis, first - time, maternal grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene (Leman) Metzger, and paternal grandparents, Bro. Harv Jr. and Sis. Ellen (Koebecke) Gutwein, are all beloved members of our local congregation. May God richly bless this family circle.

Our beloved Bro. Walter Culp has now realized the words of Jesus in John 6:47 which state that "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me hath everlasting life"; as he passed on to that life on September 8. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Valera (Pelsy); son, James (Diane) of Francesville; daughter, Sis. Shelby Beer (ministering Bro. Nelson, of Milford, IN); several grandchildren and great - grandchildren. He lived 92 years on this earth, had been married 66 years, and was a brother in Christ for 54 years. His was certainly a life of faithfulness and was an example of godliness with contentment and a blessing to all of us who

follow behind him. We pray God's comfort to this precious family circle.

We are saddened to report that Sis. Valera Culp has been hospitalized since the funeral of her husband and our prayers certainly go out to her. May our loving Father in Heaven be her source of healing and comfort.

Lord of the far horizons,
Give us the eyes to see
Over the verge of the sundown
The beauty that is to be.

— *Bliss Carman*

On September 12, we were privileged to host Junior High Sunday School classes from neighboring churches for a youth fellowship gathering. It is a joy to witness the preparation and love that preceded this event with the planning being done in a large part by the students themselves. We have to remember that these precious young people are our future church and our blessing and responsibility lies in guiding and loving them through Jesus Christ!

We have been listening to the tapes from the Elder Conference which was held in Peoria. We can certainly glean enduring and precious gems of truth from the labors of our Elders who have faithfully served God through their yielded lives. May we thank God for all of our Elders and intercede to God for their continued grace and strength and then willingly follow their leadership.

Sis. Betty Huber has been in the hospital also. We are thankful that she is now at her home and pray for her health, as the doctors seemed to have found the basis of her prob-

lems. It will be a blessing to have her in our midst once again. How thankful we can be again that all our days are in God's hands!

Lana Kaeb, daughter of Bro. Les and Sis. Christine, and beloved to all of us here at Francesville, is returning to her home for a three-week hiatus from her leukemia therapy. We pray as a congregation that she gains strength to return to Riley Hospital for her fifth round of chemotherapy which will be a very intense one. Please pray with us that God will grant her remission from this illness if it is His divine will.

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

James 5:16

Notes of Thanks:

My sincerest "Thank-You" for the lovely expressions of sympathy cards and gifts that I received when my sister, Martha Bittner, passed away. I sure appreciated them all!

Sis. Priscilla Anliker & Family

The family of Bro. Walter Culp wishes to express their sincere "thank you" to each one that has remembered them with acts of love and kindness. May God richly bless you.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Gail Bradford
Debbie Anliker**

Greetings from Indianapolis!
The changing leaves, the cool

crisp mornings, the beginning of harvest tell us that change is coming and fall will soon be here. It's comforting to know that the God who cares enough to change the color of the leaves so beautifully is the same God who cares for each of us.

Our new Sunday school year has begun and our church family enjoyed a picnic together on a beautiful Sunday evening. Thanks to all who worked to make it such a nice time of fellowship. Our prayer is that it will be a year full of learning and growing for both the students and the teachers.

Bro. Jeff Luthi (Sis. Shirley, Altadena, CA) and his family spent a Sunday with us. We so appreciate Bro. Jeff's willingness to share God's Word with us. He reminded us that now is the right time to get close to God.

August 28 - 29 was a special weekend for our congregation and for Katy Zeller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny). We were able to hear Katy share her testimony of faith and then witness her baptism. It is always encouraging to hear how the Lord works in and changes lives.

September 1 was a special day for Bro. Stuart and Sis. Alivia Gutwein as they welcomed their first child, Ava Kate, into their family. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene Metzger and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ellen Gutwein, all of Francesville.

This morning we read Luke 11:1-4 and spent our time studying the Lord's prayer. It is a very familiar passage, one we have memorized from our youth, and yet this morning it seemed all new. We were reminded that Jesus taught

His disciples to pray for their daily bread "day by day". What a wonderful reminder, at least for me, not to think or worry too much about tomorrow or next week or next year, but to daily ask and rely on the Lord for our daily bread. Thank Thee, Lord, for gems like this.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Eric & Bobbi Ann Heinold

Now it is accomplished! My soul
He hath healed;
A portion in heaven to me He hath
sealed.

O, may He direct me through joy
and through ill;
I'll never forsake Him, but follow
Him still.

Ah, now it is done! Now I live
unto Thee;
My Light and my Life, oh, abide
Thou with me!

To follow Thee ever shall be my
sole aim
Thro' shade or thro' sunshine,
thro' honor or shame.

Zion's Harp #209 verses 5 & 7

This past month we had two dear souls who shared their testimony of faith in Jesus Christ and were baptized. Bro. John Sawyer and Bro. Ross Feller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie) are now brothers in faith to Jesus Christ. We rejoice with them and pray that they will continue to be blessed and that God will grant them the grace to strive to do His will until their last breath. Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) was with us to share in this blessed weekend. We also appreciated Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth Ann,

Wolcott, IN) sharing God's Word with us during the morning service. May God richly bless each of these brothers for their labors of love.

Our 6th, 7th and 8th grade Sunday School students enjoyed a day of fellowship and fun at Francesville for Junior High ACYF. Other participating churches include Valparaiso, Wolcott, Remington and West Lafayette. We are so thankful for opportunities where our youth can make many friendships that will hopefully last a lifetime.

Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank are the grandparents of a new baby girl, Kylie Jo Zimmerman. Kylie is the daughter of Bro. Josh and Sis. Molly Zimmerman (Forrest, IL). Kylie is welcomed home by a sister, Allie, and a brother, Jerrett.

INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter
Laura Fischer

"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."

I Cor. 3:6-9

On August 12, Josiah Ray was born to Bro. Kurt and Sis. Kristen Slagel. Josiah also has an older sister, Michaela. We rejoice with

them on this blessed occasion.

We welcome Bro. John Klotzle from Altadena, CA. He is living with Bro. Steve and Sis. Jane Stieglitz as he establishes residency preparatory for attending college.

Sis. Pam Brown had knee surgery and we pray for God's healing and good recovery. Sis. Laura Fischer suffered a sprained lower back when she was rear-ended, but is recovering well. We praise God for merciful compassion.

We were blessed by the Word from visiting ministers, Bros. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN), Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH).

Congratulations are in order for Bro. John and Sis. Patsy Stoller who celebrated the birth of their granddaughter, Carman Patricia Schlatter (Bro. Carlton and Sis. Candi, Smithville, OH).

We also congratulate Bro. Bill and Sis. Jan Baumgartner on the engagement of their son, Chris, to Erin Palmer (Jim and Chris).

On September 20, the young people hosted Fort Wayne Outreach, a ministry opportunity for youth to reach out to the city in community service. The group who gathered was smaller than that of the past two years, but they blessed Fort Wayne with grace from God. The theme of the weekend was "The Seed", with the verses of I Cor. 3:6-9 as the watchword of the day.

INDIANA, MILFORD
Carlton Beer
Paula Haab

As I went for a walk this beautiful September day, I noticed that

the fields are ready for harvest. Then I thought how much more I should be concerned about the harvest of souls for the Lord said it is great and the laborers are few.

The 100th anniversary of the Milford church celebration was such a blessing to us. The church was full. The young people sang, Bro. Carlton Beer told of our history, and our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter assured us that God's church is alive and well and He is in control. Even though we don't know about tomorrow, we know Who holds our hand. A time of fellowship and a meal was enjoyed by all. We appreciated all that took the time to come from a distance as well as those that came from our community.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer happily and thankfully welcomed a new granddaughter as Riley Grace was born on August 23 to their son, Bro. Neal and Sis. Jessica of Roanoke. Riley's other grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Linda Hodel (Roanoke, IL).

Along with the happy times this past month, we've had those who are hurting because a loved one was called to their eternal home. Martin (Lorene) Stookey's brother, Bob, passed away in Florida. Sis. Jody (Bro. Marc) Beer's grandmother, Sis. Martha (Bro. Henry) Dotterer, passed away in Rittman. Sis. Shelby (Bro. Nelson) Beer's father, Bro. Walter (Sis. Valera) Culp, passed away in Francesville. He was also the grandpa of Bro. Randy (Sis. Deb) Beer. May they all feel our love and prayers at this time.

Martin (Lorene) Stookey recently learned that he has a health

problem, and is taking treatments at this time. Bro. Don Beer hasn't been able to be in church due to back pain and is scheduled for surgery. Little Riley James Haab (Tom and Jody) spent a short time in the hospital with a special concern that turned out okay. We pray for God's healing touch for these loved ones.

Bro. Arthur Haab has now moved from the Nursing Home to assisted living at 1212 Waterford Crossing Circle, Goshen 46526.

We appreciated so much the Sundays that Bro. Walter Herrmann (Sis. Betty Lou, Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and the Wednesday evening Bro. Ralph Garber (Sis. Lynn, Morton, IL) took time to be with us. The Conference tapes are being played. It is encouraging to hear that God is the same yesterday, today and forever as our beloved brothers from across the land speak the Word.

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Beth Virkler
Rochelle Ward

Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN) ministered to us on August 29.

Our baby room echoes again the cry of the newborn. Bro. Jason and Sis. Sara Getz welcomed Will Jacob into the home on September 1. Siblings, Sophie, Samuel, Chloe, are taking turns holding baby Will along with grandparents, Bro. Eldon and Sis. Charlene Getz and Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb Stoller (Latty, OH). On September 15,

first-time parents, Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Amanda Scheitlin, rejoiced with Ellie Jo. Grandparents, Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Stoller, along with Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori Scheitlin, are not missing any part of the celebration.

The Waibel family busied themselves with weddings this month during the beautiful fall weather we're having. Sandra Waibel (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Helen) became the bride of Loren Hunt on September 4. Their new address is: 9123 Tansel Park Court, Indianapolis, IN 46234. On September 18, Amy Waibel (Bro. Gene and Sis. Diane) joined hearts with Tim Woods. Residence for them is: 111 N. New York, Remington, IN 47977. We wish both these couples God's richest blessings.

Our little church was founded on the prairie back in 1904. So we had the blessing of planning our centennial this past year and praising God in song with 150 guests on September 12. Bro. Rustin Meister (West Lafayette, IN) and Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) were our guest ministers, both having been raised in Remington. After church, we gathered at our old church site for more reminiscing. A compiled book of memories can be ordered from Sis. Jayne Price. Please call (219) 261-3736.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Melisa Gerst
Stacey Feller

We were blessed with two visiting ministers late this summer. Our thanks and appreciation to Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) for their willingness to serve.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Samantha Gramm became first-time parents on September 4 when they were blessed with little Elena Rose. Grandparents are Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer and Bro. Ed and Sis. Lucille Gramm (Eureka, IL). May God bless this child with a sound body, mind, and spirit, and may she bring joy to these families as they watch her grow.

Our small congregation sadly bids farewell to Bro. Matt and Sis. Jennifer Mangold and their sons as they relocate to the Chicago area. They will be greatly missed here, but as we see God's hand working in the details of their lives, we wish them His nearness and continued blessings.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Edward Lester

Greetings once again to all the believers around the world.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

II Timothy 3:16

"Live what you believe, don't believe what you live."

Please add Sis. Lavina Schmeckpepper to your prayers. She was hospitalized and now is recovering.

This month we had an overwhelming turnout from "invite a friend." We also shared blessed fellowship from the dinner that followed. Everyone at Valpo would like to thank Bro. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North) for sharing God's infallible Word with us.

INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Diana Houston
Nettie Haab

Looks like fall is here so soon. The changing colors of the leaves are a precious sight, but it is also the season for hurricanes. This day as I am writing, the sun is shining, and it looks so peaceful outside, but yet there is flooding, wind damage and more rain yet to come to some of the states near the gulf. Let's keep those affected by the hurricane in our prayers.

Many thanks to our visiting ministers who brought us the Word throughout the past month, and one special occasion of testimonies and baptisms of Bro. Bill and Sis. Brenda Minick, John Widmer (Bro. Neal and Sis. Kris), Heather Furrer (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene), Stefanie Schwab (Bro. Mark and Sis. Shari, Wolcott, IN). May God bless them in their walk with the Lord and give them grace and strength each day.

Also, Matt Widmer (Bro. Neal and Sis. Kris) has answered the call to serve the Lord. May we all be shining lights and examples to each and every person that crosses our path each day.

Visiting ministers were Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth, Wolcott, IN), Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN), Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN), Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis.

Becky, Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN), Bro. Andy Moser (Sis. Diane, Valparaiso, IN), and Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN).

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Lisa Furrer
Heidi Bahler**

“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof...”

1 Peter 5:1-2

Still today we have the advantage of the multitude of counselors at the General Conference, as our Elder brothers gather in prayer, and then a number of them each year stand before the church to proclaim the inspired message from God to benefit us in this present world. For those who can't attend, it is a privilege to hear this all over tape, as we've shared with the Remington congregation on three Wednesday evenings. May God bless each shepherd of the flock in his responsibility thereof.

Three ministers of the Gospel have visited us, and we sincerely thank Bro. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis) and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane), both from Bluffton North, and Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI). You're all welcome back anytime!

Where God in truth abides,
Where two join hand and heart,

We find a three-fold cord,
Not lightly rent apart.

Zion's Harp

Sis. Tiffany Schwab (Terra Haute, IN) and Bro. J.R. Sauder (San Francisco, CA) have announced their engagement. Parents of the couple are Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy Schwab of our congregation, and Bro. John and Sis. Peg Sauder (Morton, IL). An April 24 wedding is being prepared for.

Fifteen-year-old Justin Schwab (Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel) has learned how to maneuver on crutches, after breaking his ankle recently. We hope it heals quickly for him, and he'll soon feel back to normal!

Bev Blume had cataract surgery, and we trust it was successful! May the Great Physician help you heal completely.

Bro. Don and Sis. Rita Furrer have a new grandchild to love. Jeff and Sharon Niese from Indianapolis were blessed with Andrew David on September 6. He joins big brothers, Kyle and Daniel.

On September 7, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi Bahler welcomed their first son, Jalen Jeffrey. He joins sisters, Abigail, Emily, Hannah, Sarah, Chloe and Nanci. Loving grandparents are Bro. Leonard and the late Sis. Nancy Baumgartner (Bern, KS) and Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler.

We're thankful for the growth of our church through converts! Kim Furrer (Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley) has the desire to follow in the steps of Jesus the Saviour, and our prayer is that she'll experience His kind leading and guiding during repentance.

“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

Isaiah 40:31

IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Brenda Schulz
Laurie Schulz**

Greetings! We were blessed to have Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) here as a visiting minister. May God ever continue to bless his willingness.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Dave and Sis. Sandy, Sis. Jaelyn, and Jessica Schaer, and Bro. Vern and Sis. Wilma Stoller (Oakville, IA). Sis. Wilma, Sis. Sandy's mother, recently had a brain tumor removed and is now receiving treatments. It is a hard time, but we know that all things can work together for good. May they continue to feel God's presence during this time.

Also, Bro. Jody Eberhardt (Sis. Ruby) had his leg injured in an accident. Thankfully, he is home now recovering. We pray God's healing will continue.

IOWA, ELGIN Glorida Frieden Heidi Butikofer

At this time of the year, many are harvesting the crops that were planted last spring. We read in Revelation 14:15 of another harvest. “... Thrust in thy sickle and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” The day may soon come when this prophecy shall take place. What shall the harvest be?

Everlasting punishment? Or life eternal? A thousand years in Heaven will only be the beginning of an eternity of bliss and a thousand years in Hell will only be the beginning of an eternity of regrets.

On August 21, Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue Schneider welcomed their first grandchild, Zachary Wayne Taylor (Kenny and Angie). May God bless this new arrival in their family circles.

August 28 was the wedding day for Beth Frieden (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan) and Mike Starkweather (Dan and Kelly). We wish them God's blessings and may He ever be the welcomed Unseen Guest in their home.

We want to thank Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend) for ministering to us from God's Word and for bringing his family and spending the weekend with us. May God be his rich Rewarder.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE **Willa Clark**

"We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves." The corn stands in golden rows, with mature ears hanging heavy, waiting for the harvester to sweep through the field, leaving nothing behind but shredded stalks. Indeed, it is the time for the harvest, both in a physical and spiritual sense. Every life has some sunshine and some rain, but it is up to the individual what the final harvest will be.

Our heartfelt thanks for the Word of God, and for those who come to worship and share His mighty Word with us. Our Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield - Pulaski) and Bros. Dave Marquart (Taylor, MO) and Wes Moser

(Lester, IA) have been our visiting ministers this month.

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

Baptized into Thy name most holy,
O Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Zion's Harp #41

The weekend of August 28 and 29 was encouraging as we were able to listen to the testimonies of Mark and Lee Leuthold and then witness their baptism on Sunday. Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Dennis Warner in this undertaking. Also here throughout the month to share the Word with us were Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL). Our appreciation and prayers go to each one of these brothers for their labors on our behalf.

Sis. Marie Knobloch (Bro. Ezra) and Sis. Sheryl Knobloch (Bro. Larry) were surgical patients this past month. We wish God's healing hand upon them as they are recovering at home. Little Tory Knobloch (Dallas and Amy) was hospitalized also and we hope he is feeling better, too.

September 4 was the wedding day for Rachel DeHaan and Steve Hartman. We congratulate them and wish the best for them in their married life. Bro. Tim and Lois DeHaan are Rachel's parents.

"And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children."

Isaiah 54:13

Our Sunday School students in the sixth through ninth grades were invited to West Bend, IA, on September 4-5. We thank them for hosting an enjoyable weekend for our youth.

Scott Metzger (Bro. Mark and Sis. Audrey) has moved to the Morris, MN, area for his new employment. Congratulations to Sis. Abby Metzger (Bro. Mark and Sis. Audrey) for completing her college training. We hope all goes well for both Scott and Sis. Abby as they start in their new positions.

The engagement of Bro. Greg Johnson and Sis. Kristin DeSmet (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley) was shared with the congregation on September 12. Bro. Greg is originally from the Princeville, IL, congregation but has been living in our area completing his degree. We wish this couple God's grace and blessings as they plan for a November wedding.

The brethren in our congregation have been listening to the Conference tapes for the past few Wednesday evenings. There has been much encouragement to continue to strive to do God's will to uphold our faith. "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised)." Hebrews 10:23

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

On September 5, we appreciated having visiting ministers, Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA) and Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL) bring

forth the Word of Life.

We have benefited the past four Wednesday nights of listening to the tapes from the Brotherhood Conference. How thankful we are for our dear loving Shepherds.

IOWA

BLOOMFIELD/PULASKI

Barbara Schock

On August 22, Bro. Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL) was here for the weekend. We thank him for lending himself to preach the Word of Life to us.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Brian Schaer (Don) as he prepares to be shipped over seas to Iraq to serve his country. May we remember to pray for all the men and women who put their lives in danger so that the rest of us here may have and continue to enjoy our freedom.

A visiting sister once told me when they were here, that they had had a little difficulty in finding our church. There is another church across the street from us. They weren't quite sure where our church was because one church had a sign and the other didn't. Then she looked at the church without the sign and said "That one's it. It looks like a Apostolic Christian Church." It just made me think how blessed we are to have a faith that we can go different areas and pick out the church building, even without the sign. (Our sign is now up.) Thank you, Bros. Joe and Mel. May the Lord bless you.

We have been able to gather together on Wednesday nights to hear the exhortations of our Elder brothers. May God bless each one.

Fall is fast approaching, and out here the fields are almost ready to harvest. The farmers are getting out the combines, preparing for harvest. May we prepare for the greater Harvest that is approaching.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Betty Wirtz

Lori Skoglund

At Home 'tis well.
Then let us hasten thither
Through pain and death on to our
homeland shore.

On boldly on.
When this short life is o'er
New life will bloom for us and
never wither.

Zion's Harp #170

God has called one of our dear older sisters from this life. We extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Nima Fehr who was called Home on September 25. She is survived by six children: Bro. Larry (Sis. Carol), Lowell (Gladys), Bro. Marvin (Sis. Charlotte), Bro. Melvin (Sis. Glenagene), Bro. Dennis (Sis. Judy) and Sis. Kathleen (Bro. Leland) Metzger; 40 grandchildren, one great - grandchild; her sister, Sis. Edna Banwart; and sisters - in - law, Sis. Ella Schneider and Sis. Hulda Wirtz.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH), Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA) and Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, LaCrosse, IN). We thank them for visiting us and speaking as inspired.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Eiko Nozawa

On August 28, Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle got home safely from the States. It was so good to see all the dear faces again around the lunch table on the next day, Sunday. We thank God for His protection on them throughout the trip.

On the Sunday before, Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue were here with us. Bro. Akito conducted the service. We were glad Sis. Tamino Inoue could also come with them.

During Ehnle-san's absence, Bros. Akito Inoue and Andrew Klaus came all the way from Tokyo to deliver God's Word to us, for which we appreciate very much. Our gratitude also goes out to Tokyo congregation for sharing their ministers with us.

Autumn is gradually coming. It's not so hot as mid-summer any more. This is the season that our God has made for us. Let us rejoice in it, praising and thanking God.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Jana Klaus

We welcomed Sis. Kay Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) to our congregation on August 8, but had a little celebration the following Sunday after church which her brother, Gary, and his wife, Yoko, and children, Koa and Kia, also attended for which we were thankful. It has been quite an adjustment for Sis. Kay settling into a whole new culture, but we see that she has determination and above all, the peace of the Lord with her, so we trust she will have a very blessed one year stay working

as a kindergarten teacher at her brother's international school and being a part of our fellowship. I am sure she would appreciate prayers.

At the end of the month, we then said good bye to Sis. Susie Katanic (Denver, CO) who had been a part of us for nearly three months helping out at the Klaus household. She is forever in our hearts and minds and we just pray for the Lord to richly bless her for her sacrificial giving.

I am very sorry to say that I neglected to report two guests that we had— one quite a few months back in late spring which was ministering Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) who was here for business and spent the morning with us. We so appreciated his willingness to preach with interpretation by Bro. Akito and were touched by his gentle and loving message. And the other, Alisa Hofsess, daughter of Bro. Darrel and Sis. MaryAlyce (Tremont, IL), who had been working in Japan with Tim and Christine Huber, teaching English and witnessing for the Lord, for nearly a year. We felt blessed to have her worship and fellowship with us in June just before she returned to the US. Please forgive my absent-mindedness!

I mentioned in a previous report about the Hirata family who had moved to Illinois and was job and house hunting. Well, we are so very thankful to the Lord to report that they have been taken under the wings of the Gridley congregation and have found both a place to live and a job, but above all, have experienced the Lord's graciousness, love and peace through the hearts of many brethren there. God richly

bless all who have reached out to them. We continue to pray for His blessings upon their new life there.

August was a slower month here with people traveling and no Sunday School, but now we are back in full swing and just recently had our annual big church cleaning. Many were able to come and hearts were drawn closer through mutual labors of love for our physical church.

KANSAS, BERN

**Sheri Edelman
Sally Strahm**

Babies are a blessing from God. We have three new ones to be thankful for and love. Luke Eugene arrived on August 12 to Bro. Todd and Sis. Sheila Rokey. Hannah, Travis, Kristin and Jared welcome him with open arms! Grandparents are Eugene and Judy Edelman and Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda Rokey.

Kendall Kathryn was born on August 16 to Michael and Yalana Edelman. Big sister, Molly, is excited to have a new sister! Grandparents, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman, as well as great - grandfather, Bro. Dan Edelman, are happy to share in the joy!

Reid Mitchell Plattner was born on August 27 to Bro. Brian and Sis. Jeanelle (Sabetha, KS). We pray for his complete recovery as he returned to the hospital due to complications. Kortney and Blake will be great siblings! Thankful grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman as well as Bro. Don and Sis. Ada Plattner (Sabetha, KS).

Two wedding engagements have been announced. Tabitha

Nan Reist and Michael Allen Steiner plan to marry on September 25. Parents, David and Marcia Reist, as well as Allen and Sara Steiner (New Strawn, KS) are the happy parents. Sis. Mavis Meyer is the grandmother.

Bro. Rodney Menold (Peoria, IL) and Sis. Kristin Meister (Peoria, IL) are planning a winter wedding. Parents are Bro. James and Sis. Lou Menold and Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard (Peoria, IL). May God bless both of these couples as they become one!

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Ruth Meyer (Fremond) as she underwent back surgery. May God heal her quickly!

We are anxious to listen to the Conference tapes beginning October 29. May the blessings of the Conference in August continue to be felt as we hear what our leaders have to share with us!

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Ethel Smith

Greetings in the Lord. Wishing you the grace of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we travel this road of life.

We were privileged to host a group of about 95 young people from 21 different churches over Labor Day weekend. It was a tremendous joy to see our church completely filled with wholesome young people eager to hear the Word. Bro. Corey Metzger (Sis. Jodie, Wichita, KS) was guest speaker. The entire church along with the young group enjoyed the evening meal at Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Lemons' lake home. Elder Bro. John Lehman was speaker for the evening. The weekend was

completed with a Monday morning breakfast at the home of Bro. Don and Sis. Aleta Banwart that was again enjoyed by all. Needless to say, it takes the entire church to work in unity on these occasions. Our small church enjoys working together as we all feel needed.

We rejoice with the angels that our beloved friend, Justin (Jud) Banwart (Bro. Don and Sis. Aleta Banwart), has answered the call of our Lord and Savior. We praise God for these blessings of encouragement to our little flock here in Fort Scott. We pray Jud will feel the guidance of the Lord on his journey of repentance.

September 15, Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and wife, Sis. Judy (Chicago, IL), spent the weekend. We were reminded that "He will keep us in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Him." Should not that be our goal, to keep our minds fixed on the Lord?

Christ bears a thousand crosses
now
Where once but one He bore;
Each cruel deed unto His brow
Adds one thorn more.
— C. Blanden

**KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Eileen Bahr**

"God thundereth marvelously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend."
Job 37:5

What has been talked about more these past weeks than the weather? September 4 was the wedding of friends, Tonya Edelman and John Mooney. Their

honeymoon left them stranded in their hotel in Jamaica when the hurricane came; our congregation prayers were answered for their safety. They are now back home.

We are harvesting an excellent crop (for Kansas) of corn. Fifty years ago our first corn crop was a drought disaster – the grasshoppers left only the stalks they cut for ensilage. It was a cultural shock for me coming from northern Illinois. I remember writing wedding thank you's in the 110 – 117 degree temp and the back of my dress getting some varnish on from the church bench. The thought came to me, "what am I doing here??" and then God reminded me that it was His will and indeed He has protected us. We experienced a tornado during the night in 1956 and felt our breath being sucked away as we took our baby into the basement. After the roar ceased, Rudy ventured out to find the barn and shed off of it's foundation, but the cattle were left standing in the corral. He went to the neighbor's to check on them – they were safe – only the hook and eye was taken off their porch but barns destroyed. The community helped us with the clean up. Christian friends from Bay City sent us a money gift. We wanted to return it when the insurance covered the loss ... and they said, "Pass it on." It's a good feeling to be able to pass it on. Sometimes our pride is hurt and people feel they need to pay it back in some way. If God has blessed us with an abundance and we share, just say "thank you" with a smile, pass it on – a smile is a gift ... don't rob the giver of a blessing.

**KANSAS, SABETHA
Dawn Strahm
Jeanelle Plattner**

Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) shared God's Word with us this past month. We appreciated his service and pray that he will be blessed for allowing God to work through him on our behalf.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Louise Aberle, who recently passed away. Sis. Louise's desire to go home has come after many years of life here on this earth.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Jeanelle Plattner were blessed with the arrival of Reid Mitchell on August 27. Siblings, Blake and Kortney, and grandparents, Bro. Don and Sis. Ada Plattner (Sabetha) and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman (Bern), also welcome Reid into their family circle. Reid has been hospitalized with many unknowns in his future. Our prayers are with this dear family as they face each new day.

Other hospital patients this month were Sis. Irene Lehman (Bro. Andy) and Sis. Loree Plattner (Bro. Hank). May God be with each of them also in dealing with their illnesses.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Louise Aberle wishes to thank each of you for flowers, cards and messages of sympathy at the time of her death. May God bless each of you.

**KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller**

As I am writing this, I can look out the window and rejoice in the

bright clear day that is before me. Unfortunately that is not the lot of those living in the Gulf Coast states where Hurricane Ivan is wrecking havoc. I think of the World Relief work projects in the Caribbean and wonder how they were affected. Is our willingness to help others less fortunate being tested?

We at Wichita are offering prayers for Bro. Roger Reimschisel. Roger is in the Chicago area and is being prepared to be a donor to his twin brother, Bro. Bob, from the Bluffton area. Bob is undergoing cancer treatments. We are holding both of them in our prayers for healing if it is in God's will.

On September 13, Sis. Nellie Lambert observed her 98th birthday. God graciously helps her cope with living alone in her mid town apartment where she walks to the grocery store. She is blessed with family members close who assist her in other needs. We are blessed every Sunday morning that we see her in the fellowship area and then again in the assembly where her beautiful voice lends itself in song.

My sister, Sis. Ann Greiner, underwent eye surgery in late August. Unfortunately this common procedure turned into something more major, so now we are waiting for more healing. In the meantime this has prevented her from going to the elementary school where she has been a faithful volunteer for years. She is not one who can be idle so she is working on quilts, which she makes for the Mennonite Central Committee Center in Newton and continues to hope that she can soon return to her work

with the children. She is known as Grandma Greiner at the school by students and staff.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Betty Baltic
Barb Huber

"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."

Phil. 4:8

As the Apostle Paul said to "think on these things", may this poem help us to ponder how important it is to think on those things which pertain to our Salvation and bring true happiness and peace with God.

WITHOUT!

Without a struggle, there is no strength.
 Without a battle, there is no victory.
 Without repentance, there is no forgiveness.
 Without a cross, there is no crown.
 Without death, there is no resurrection.
 Without Jesus, there is no salvation.
 Without salvation, there is no heaven.
 Without heaven, your life has been meaningless.

THINK ON THESE THINGS!

— *Joan Clayton*

We were thankful to have ministering brethren come again and share with us many life-giving

truths from the Bible. Our assembly was blessed when Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnne, LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL) came on two different occasions to bring several groups of young people and provide a wonderful time of fellowship. We pray God's special blessing for their many efforts and faithfulness in the service of our dear Lord.

Note of Thanks:

Dearest Ones of our most precious Faith in Christ: Words cannot express our deep appreciation for the many cards of well wishes and kind words of love toward us on our 60th Wedding Anniversary and 81st birthday. May God bless you each one. We are grateful and thankful to God for His many blessings down through the years. We feel very unworthy. Many thanks again!

Lester and Glendoris Huber

A warm welcome is always extended to anyone who may be in our area or travelling through on vacation to come and visit us in Lexington. You may contact Bro. Dan Baltic (812-218-8140), Bro. Doug Germann (859-224-8710), Bro. Lester Huber (859-745-2541), or Bro. Jan Neukomm (859-273-8574).

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Rose Watson
Terri Huber

Our prayers are with the loved ones who have been hospitalized in the past months. We are especially thankful they are home recovering at this time. This includes Marilyn Byam (Doug) and Bro. Lloyd

Blough (Sis. Ella Louise) and Ron Jenkins (Sis. Susan Steffen's father) who had open heart surgery.

By the time you read this, summer will be a distant memory. However, as I write, we are enjoying sunny weather in the seventies and eighties well into September. Another summer memory includes the precious fellowship we experienced while Bro. Robert and Sis. Mary Hermann lived in Alto over the summer. We send them back to Illinois with best wishes and God's blessings on their future plans.

Many thanks to the visiting ministers and their wives for stopping and sharing with us in their travels: Bro. Chris Wuethrich (La-Crosse, IN), Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT), Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN). It is encouraging to remember, as one of them preached, that Satan has been successful in confusing a few to wander off (out of the will of God), but the Lord has always preserved a remnant.

The Bible Class and young group traveled to Bay City for our annual Michigan Youth Day. They came back with changed hearts and deeper friendships. Thank you, Brothers and Sisters in Bay City, for the hard work it takes to pull together a weekend of that magnitude!

It has been our pleasure to gather four times over the past two weeks to listen to the Conference tapes.

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

Greetings of love in our Saviour's name! It seems like after a cool summer we are being blessed with a warm and refreshing harvest time.

May God richly bless Tim Wieland (Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn) and Barb Hartung (Keith and Jackie) as they became one on August 28. We pray that the Lord will be with them as they begin their life together.

September 11-12 was Bay City's turn to host Michigan Youth Day. We are thankful for the opportunities that our precious youth have to meet and interact with other Sunday School children and pray that these "Christian Friendships" will last them a lifetime.

During the past month, Sis. Hermine Kaeb (Bro. Alph), Bro. Floyd Knochel (Sis. Marian), Bro. Norman Knochel (Sis. Leanore), Sis. Marilyn Ruegsegger (Bro. Fred) and Bro. Dave Schlatter (Sis. Margaret) have each spent time under physician care. We pray that the Lord will continue to strengthen these dear ones and anyone who would call upon Him in time of need.

We rejoice with Norm and Sis. Linda Andrzejewski in the birth of a grandson, Keagan Lee Wardynski. Keagan is welcomed home by parents, Rob and Kim, and big sister, Destiny.

We truly feel blessed when we have visitors in our congregation. We are thankful that this summer brought many visitors to our area. We appreciate Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) and Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) lending

themselves on our behalf.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT **Jamie Bahr**

"...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 27:40). We recently held our annual Clothing Drive & Car Wash. Thank you to all who helped it run smoothly. We collected a large amount of clothes for God's Storehouse, a Detroit street ministry who distributes the clothes to the needy while sharing God's Word. We continue to appreciate a close working relationship with them.

Thank you to those in Bay City who organized this year's Michigan Youth Day. It is a great opportunity for our youth to establish long-lasting Christian friendships! The annual Sunday School Picnic was another blessing for our entire church family.

God continues to work, as is evidence in the life of Dan Coughlin. Dan has been assembling with us for about nine months now and has publicly expressed his desire to follow Jesus. We praise God for his continual provision of grace and mercy, and pray that Dan will continue to grow in his walk with the Lord.

Little Tatton Strassheim, son of Bro. Eric and Sis. Jodi, was recently hospitalized. Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly Ramseyer's son, Caleb, has broken his arm. We pray that he will be out of his cast soon and feel better!

Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner are grandparents to baby Caleb Josiah, born on September 30. Parents are Dan and Jane Kai-

ser and big brothers are Andrew and Joshua. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Loraine Kaiser (Morton, IL).

We welcome Zach Bauman and Kyler Hanzie (Rittman, OH) to our congregation while they study at the Detroit Center for Creative Studies. We also welcome Chad Pardo (Alto, MI), who recently began his schooling at the University of Michigan.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto) and Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto).

Our prayers go with Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr as Mark will be going to Japan and India for the next few weeks. Sis. Bev will be accompanying him to Japan. We pray that you will feel God's protection and guidance as you go to do His work. "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
LaRae Dill**

The North Shore, Boundry Waters Canoe Area, lakes many of these Minnesota attractions bring visitors our way throughout the summer months. Among our many visitors this past month were Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane Stoller (Rockville, CT). We enjoy visits from the Stoller's and Bro. Dan's ministry when they come to the Twin Cities to visit their daughter Dana, son-in-law Nathan, and three grandchildren.

Labor Day weekend brings summer vacation to a close, and finds local schools back in session.

A number of college students from our congregation are finding themselves in various places, some away from home for the first time. We wish each of you God's guidance as you pursue His will for you. Students this year are: Andrew Messner, Emily Messner, and Christa Deragisch (St. Cloud State), Carissa Deragisch (University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire), Tyler Bergstrom (Normandale), Kelsey Messner (University of North Dakota, Grand Forks), Tyler Messner (Dunwoody Institute), Josh Messner (University of Minnesota), and Sis. Meg Dill (University of Illinois).

We've had opportunities of late to pray for family members loved by those in our church family. Prayers are requested for Ron Lindwall, husband of Betty (Rassi) Lindwall. Ron is being treated for cancer at this time. We're also praying and thinking of Doug Olson and his family as he too is receiving treatments for cancer. Many here have close ties to Doug, especially his mother, Sis. Katie Blunier, and sisters, Maxine Larson and Sis. Diane Stewart and families.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Heidi Nohl
Katie Koehl**

We were thankful for the visiting ministers this month. They were Bro. Jeff Luthi (Altadena, CA), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield-Pulaski, IA), Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), and Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS). We pray God will bless them for their labors.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Bob Feuchtenberger (Sis. Gwen), Tyler Slutten (Bro. Randy and Sis. Lori Fehr) and Bro. Doug Koehl (Sis. Maxine).

We are so thankful that the following have begun their repentance: Myra Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl), Amy Hacker (Charles and Deb), Andy and Echo (Fehr) Hacker, Byron Wulf (Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce), and Josh and Marcy (Wulf) Sundheim. We trust God will grant them grace and wisdom as they take this most important step.

The engagement of Coby Backman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Cathy) and Chauntel Larson (Tami Larson) was announced. May they look to God for direction in their lives.

We welcome Scott Metzger who moved to our area to seek employment. He is the son of Bro. Mark and Sis. Audrey Metzger from Lester, IA.

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Ginny Stoll
Rachel Steiner**

After hearing testimony and witnessing their baptism, we know that Kory Sward (Sis. Sue) and Verna Bruns (Marvin) have come to know Christ as their Saviour. We are so thankful to welcome Bro. Kory and Sis. Verna into the fold. May God bless Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) and Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) for coming and assisting our Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner during this uplifting weekend.

What a privilege it is to sit and listen to the Conference tapes - to

know that our Elder brethren have a deep love and concern for our spiritual welfare. May we heed the words of wisdom and strive to serve our Heavenly Father with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength.

The Sunday School children enjoyed a camping/biking trip with the Minneapolis Sunday School. Even though the weather was rainy, precious fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended.

Our prayers are with the surgical/hospital patients this month: Bro. Dick Schmidt (Sis. MaryLou) and Bro. Harold Messner (Sis. Geraldine). May these brothers feel God's grace and strength.

Notes of Thanks:

To each and every one who remembered us with prayers, thoughts, cards and gifts in the death of our father and grandfather, we wish to express our heartfelt thanks. God bless you all.

In His Love,

Sis. Sue Sward

Angie and Mike Kimes, Laura, James

Bro. Kory Sward

Sis. Jamie Schmidt (Bro. Verl)

Bro. Nick Schmidt (Sis. Julie)

Sis. Lindsay Schmidt

Quintin Schmidt

God bless each one of you for your prayers, cards and calls that were given for me while recuperating at home from the hospital from my strokes I had. A special thanks to Darlene Schmidt for her concern about me and also for my daughter, Kimberly, for coming and staying with me.

In His Love,

Sis. Geri Messner (Bro. Marvin)

It's through people like you, that God's blessings are known. And I'm thankful to you for the kindness you have shown me in regarding the death of my brother, Charles Wuthrich.

In Christ's Love,

Sis. Julia Messner and family

**MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Garry and Marty Rokey**

"Give ear to my prayer, O God; and hide not thyself from my supplication."

Psalm 55:1

"In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness."

Psalm 31:1

"I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth."

Psalm 34:1

Grandparents, Bro. Garry and Sis. Marty Rokey, are so very thankful that after a trying week, they are able to welcome Dawson Benjamin as their new grandson. Parents are David and Andrea Kellgren and big brother is Hunter. After spending some time being hospitalized, both mother and son are home and doing fine. The many prayers offered on our family's behalf are greatly appreciated. Paternal grandparents are Frank and Louise Kellgren of Kansas City.

We are always thankful to have Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) as a visiting minister.

Many thanks, Bro. Roger.

On September 12, we held our annual Sunday School picnic in conjunction with the Fort Scott, KS, congregation. It is wonderful to be able to fellowship together with those of like mind and faith.

**MISSOURI, LAMAR
Wendy Braker
Becky Marti**

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Matthew 6:19-21

Our prayers are with Rachel Stoller (Bob and Sis. Janice) as she has found grace to repent and seeks to lay up treasures in Heaven.

Sis. LuEtta Braker (Bro. Raymond), Bro. Leonard Braker (Sis. Bonnie) and Bro. Raymond Luthi (Sis. Violet) spent time in the hospital this past month. We are thankful for God's healing mercies.

We rejoice with Bro. Leon and Sis. Teresa Luthi as they have been entrusted with a precious baby. Garrett Chad was born on August 31 and was welcomed home by Melinda, Courtney, Lane, Rachelle and Luke. Thankful grandparents are Nancy Neher and Bro. Raymond and Sis. Violet Luthi.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**Krista Banwart**

We continued to enjoy summer visitors this past month. Visiting ministers who were with us included: Bro. Dave Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO), Bro. Darrel Stoller (Sis. Gloria, Bern, KS), Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO), and Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL).

Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy Schrenk hosted a farewell dinner for Bro. Austin Smith this past month as well. Bro. Austin has moved back to his home state of Indiana. We thank him for serving with us for a time and wish him well in his transition.

As we transition here into fall weather, we are reminded again how the seasons of life reflect God working in our lives — what a privilege to have Him as Lord of the harvest!

For the Harvest

The summertime is gone and past
and harvest time is here at last
These are the days and are the
hours
to reap what grew through sun
and showers
Lessons of life to us are shown,
by watching the crops and how
they are grown
Plants need sunshine and the rain,

so God allows both joy and pain
Till our souls are laid to rest,
may we trust that God knows best
In every season what to send
that bountiful would be our end
He's growing us with tender care
for blessings He's preparing there
Oh what a privilege just to know
He gives what's best that we might
grow.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR**Susan Haerr**

The weekend of August 28-29 was a very special one for us as we were able to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Sis. Jan Stratton (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl). We are so thankful for the beautiful work God has done in her heart and life.

We had the following visiting ministers here in the past month: Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL), Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kristine, West Lafayette, IN), and Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL). Thank you to each one of you for taking the time to be with us. Your time here was a blessing to us.

It is with sad hearts that we say goodbye to Bro. Michael and Sis. Lori Stratton and their children, Collin and Haley. They are relocating to the Peoria area. We are thankful that God has provided them with a special career opportunity there, but can't help but hope that His will will some day lead them back here. We know that they will be as tremendous a blessing to the Peoria congregation as they have been to us. May God bless their special family.

Among those receiving medical attention in the last month were Lester Reiman (Jane) and Bro. Kenny Knapp (Sis. Phyllis). We are thankful that Bro. Kenny is recovering well from heart surgery and is back worshipping with us.

Also, a special thank you to all who helped plan and host the Jamaica Reunion on Labor Day weekend and to all those who made the effort to attend.

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Hope Graves**

We have just recently finished listening to the tapes of the Brotherhood Conference. What a blessing it was for us to be reminded of our need to serve the Lord wholeheartedly 24 hours a day. May we strive daily to fight against our nature and use the armor that the Lord provides for us to overcome the battles of life.

Our dear Bro. Larry Purvines finished his lifetime battle on September 12. The prayers of the church extend to his wife, Sis. Louise, and children, Larry Jr., Robert, Mike, Joyce Rice, Janet Beck and Linda Lawton. We remember Bro. Larry's admonishment to us in prayer to "keep the faith". May we each do our part to keep the faith for the generations that will follow.

Revive us again, fill each heart
with Thy love.
May each soul be rekindled with
fire from above.
Hallelujah, Thine the glory,
Hallelujah, amen.
Hallelujah, Thine the glory
Revive us again.

Zion's Harp #290

We rejoice with Bob Millard and Tessa Farney (Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen) in their marriage on August 28. May the Lord be their Helper and Guide through life.

We are thankful that the Lord has heard our prayers in seeing Loren Virkler through surgery and in allowing Sis. Anna Mellnitz to again assemble with us.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

Arthur Greenbank, son of Bro. Glen and Sis. Joan Greenbank, has turned to the Lord in repentance. We are happy for Arthur in making this change, and we know the Lord will be with him as he grows in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour.

Bro. Ben Henico of our Akron congregation and Sis. Joanne Maibach of Rittman were united in marriage at the Rittman church on Sunday, September 19. Parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah Henico and Bro. Alpha and Sis. Denise Maibach. We welcome Sis. Joanne to our Akron congregation and wish them well in their walk of life together.

We welcomed many visitors recently and were blessed with having visiting ministers, Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH).

OHIO, JUNCTION
Cindy Schlatter

Ministering Bros. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) brought forth the Word to us on a recent Sunday. May the Lord richly bless them both for their labors and we hope they will come back and visit us again soon.

Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter's family grew by two little grandsons this past month. Mark, Missy and Katrina Benware (Toledo, OH) welcomed home Reid Allen on August 20. Then on August 25, Isaac Walter was born to Bro. Warren and Sis. Cindy

Schlatter. Jesse, Nathan, Naomi, and Joanna are eager helpers with willing hands to take care of their new brother. Isaac's other grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn of Latty, OH.

OHIO, LATTY
Amanda Steffen
Bonny Wenninger

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

Psalm 37:4

A thankful family this month are the Ray Sinn's. Both Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann were surgery patients, and Bro. Ray was also hospitalized for a time for a serious condition. The same day that Bro. Ray came home from the hospital, one of his sons started repenting. Rejoicing with the angels for Duane Sinn are his wife, Carrie, and daughters, Leah, Brooke, and Claire.

We were grateful to have many visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL) and Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) were the visiting ministers. Our congregation held Holy Communion on September 11, and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) was here to assist in that holy remembrance.

A number of people were hospital and surgical patients this past month. Bro. Charles Dunham was a hospital patient and has been able to return home. Sis. Sally Stoller (Sis. Esther and the late

Bro. Kenny) and Sis. Brenda Wenninger (Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine) were surgery patients. We pray for all these loved ones and their families as they recuperate.

It is with joy that two souls have been able to find peace with Almighty God. Jeremy Stoller (Bro. Rod and Sis. Leann) and Carolyn Baird are thankful for this feeling in their hearts. Baptisms for them are tentatively scheduled for October 23-24.

A much awaited first baby joined the home of Bro. Reid and Sis. Amanda Stoller. Nyle Jay, born on August 31, is the first time grandson of John and Penny LaBounty of Payne. Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb Stoller are his paternal grandparents.

Note about construction: Currently, the men's foyer upstairs and downstairs is sealed off and the south stairs have been removed. The balcony is also off limits. Concrete foundation walls are being raised to the west of the building. A temporary plywood and plastic "wall" is in the back of the assembly room.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Esther Baumann

Our church family rejoices with Bro. Curt and Sis. Elizabeth Walter on the safe arrival of their first-born, Jadon Charles, on August 25. Excited grandparents are Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine Masters and Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Walter (Silverton, OR).

We are thankful to see God's leading in the lives of two young couples in our congregation. On August 29, Bro. Jared Keever

(Clair and Sis. Bev) and Sis. Abigail Ramsey (Bro. Ed and Sis. Laura) announced their engagement. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Many gathered together on August 22 to share in the joy of Bro. Scott Virkler (Bro. Daniel and Sis. Dorothy, Rockville, CT) and Sis. Tecca Keever (Clair and Sis. Bev) on their wedding day. May they continue to put their trust in God as they begin to serve Him together. Visiting ministers present for the occasion were Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT) and Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT).

Additional visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy, Rockville, CT). We thank all of our visiting ministers for their willingness to be used in the service of the Lord.

Sis. Anne Gromen has moved to our Rittman Nursing Home. Please remember her and her family as she adjusts to this change.

Jesse Dotterer (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Betty) was hospitalized in August. Continue to pray for him as he recovers.

"O Lord, thou art my God; ... thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth."

Isaiah 25:1

Recently, we were able to gather together to listen to tapes from our General Brotherhood Conference. We are thankful for the wise counsel we received. May each one of us put them into practice.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Laurel Indermuhle
Anne Widmer

"Then Peter said unto them, repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 2:38

Brought into the fold through baptism were Sis. Amanda Rupp (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol), Sis. Julie Stoller (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lori), and Bro. Michael Dotterer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn). Sharing in this special time were visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH) and Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT). We also want to thank Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bro. Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR) who were with us on separate occasions. May God bless each one of these brethren for their efforts. And may God be with these new lambs in faith, that they may grow each day for Him.

Our prayers and thoughts are with those who have been hospitalized. Recovering from illness and surgery are Greg Bachman (Bro. Scott and Sis. Ruth), Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth), Adam Gasser (Bro. Neil and Sis. Donna) and Bro. Ron Christian (Sis. Joann). May each feel God's nearness and His healing hand as it be His will.

The engagement of Bro. Mark Steidl (Bro. Don and Sis. Nan, Akron, OH) to Sis. Megan Rupp (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol) was announced. May God grant these two

continued peace and grace as they plan their lives together.

Mortal shell, so now thou art in thy cool grave calmly sleeping;
from earth did thy soul depart to take comfort in Christ's keeping,
thou wilt break thy grave's dark walls

And arise when Jesus calls.

Zion's Harp #104

On September 8, Sis. Martha Dotterer was called to her eternal rest. Our prayers go out to Bro. Henry and his family. May God grant comfort in this time and in those hours of need that come in later days.

Note of Thanks:

We, the family of Sis. Martha Dotterer, would like to thank everyone for their love and deeds of kindness shown to Martha and our family during her period of declining health and death. It is greatly appreciated. May God bless you all.

Bro. Henry Dotterer and family

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

Matthew 5:16

OHIO, SARDIS
Jami Hartzler
Terry Zollinger

O God of wisdom, life, and love,
Thine is the blessed plan
In holy bonds of love to join
The twain, created man.
As they go forth upon life's way,

Sustain them by Thy grace;
May they Thy holy laws obey
And live in joy and peace.

Hymns of Zion #286

The Lord has guided in prayer for the engagement of Sis. Kristy Miller (Bro. Denny and Sis. Doris) and Bro. Jeb Joos (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny, Bradford, IL) to be married, Lord willing, on October 24. May the Lord bless this dear couple as they prepare to serve Him as one.

We thank you loving teachers too,
For all your love and care.

You teach us of the heavenly
home,

How we may enter there.

Hymns of Zion #73

The Lord has blessed our congregation with many children that attend Sunday School and willing teachers to lovingly teach them the path of life. We want to thank the teachers that have stepped down from their service for the Lord. New teachers are Sis. Linda Indermuhle (Elder Bro. Ken) – 3 year olds; Sis. Lisa Indermuhle (Bro. Eric) – 4-5 year olds; Bro. Matt Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam) – 1st-3rd grade; Bro. Milan Indermuhle (Sis. Cheryl) – 4th-8th grade; Bro. Ed Beard (Sis. Dee) – high school. May the Holy Spirit grant these teachers guidance for their counsel to our youth.

“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.”

1 Timothy 5:17

What a blessing it was to have

the Hartzler family for a weekend visit. A special blessing to have Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) bring us the Word on the Sabbath. May he and his family be abundantly blessed for their willingness to serve.

Life is more than earthly living,
God shall be, We shall see,
All that's needful giving,
As on Him we are relying;
Ev'ry need, As we plead,
He will be supplying.

Zion's Harp #150

Prayers have been answered beyond our hopes for our loved ones, Sis. Paula Figel (Bro. John), Sis. Almeda Brake (John), Sis. Cyndi Figel (Bro. Andy) and Malachi Blough (Bro. Alan and Sis. Renee), as they are home from spending time in the hospital and are doing well. We are thankful to see Sis. Paula and Sis. Almeda in church, but continue to pray for Sis. Cyndi and Malachi as they are still homebound. What a joy to see Sis. Martha Indermuhle attending services again after a lengthy illness.

May we apply the teachings and chastisements from the Eldership as we have been listening to the General Conference tapes during the month of September. May our Elders feel the support as we hold them up in prayer.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Rachel Maibach

Alyssa Miller

“And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God...” (Luke 9:2). We are thankful for visiting brothers who have ministered the Word of Truth to us in the past month.

They are: Bros. Bill Brake (Sis. Mim), Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary), John Steiner (Sis. Carol), Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue), Vernon Wettstein (Sis. Judy) and Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy).

Bro. Carlton and Sis. Candi Schlatter and big sister, Carlie, welcomed another little girl, Carmen, into their hearts this month. Also, Bro. Dave and Shelly Colvin have been blessed with Paige. She became “little sister” to Zach, Morgan, Amanda, Lauren, Matthew and Sophia. On August 19, Bro. Steve and Sis. Jolene Hofacre became first-time grandparents to Sarah Elizabeth, born to Bob and Stephanie Sax. Bro. Kirby and Sis. Carrie Stoller, along with Wynn, are thankful for the safe arrival of Avery Daniel on September 14.

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

Mark 10:14

OHIO, TOLEDO

Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour! The end of summer has come and fall is upon us.

Katrina Benware is happy to have a new little brother to play with. Reid Allen has joined the family of Mark and Missy Benware. Happy grandparents are Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Stanley and Pam Benware.

May God bless the marriage of Ryan and Kristie Sancraint (Dave and Sis. Connie). We pray they will

always look to God for His guidance.

On Sunday, September 12, we welcomed our college students and their families with a picnic. What a joy these students bring to our little congregation. Joining us that weekend were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH). We wish to thank these brothers for serving on our behalf.

“Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.”

Psalm 100:2

A special thank you to all the song leaders, their families and friends who have come to Toledo to support us with our singing. May God bless you for taking the time to help us.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held recently at a local state park. Children and adults alike spent a very nice afternoon together, followed by a potluck supper.

We are thankful for our Elder brethren and their service to us and our church. We plan to finish listening to the Conference tapes over the next few weeks. Surely, the contents of the tapes will be a blessing to us as we apply the teachings therein to our lives. May the Lord bless the brethren who put in so much of their time and efforts on our behalf.

For those who came to Portland to worship with us; we thank you

all. Special gratitude to the following ministering brethren: Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) and Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) from Silverton, OR.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Kelsey Walder

We are thankful for the safe arrival of little Henry James born to Lyle and Andrea Kuenzi on August 27. Grandparents are Vikki and James Buss, Bohm and Ramona Townsend, and Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi. We also rejoice with Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter in the birth of their grandson, Jadon Charles, on August 25 to Bro. Curt and Sis. Elizabeth Walter from Mansfield, OH. Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine Masters, also from Mansfield, are the other set of thankful grandparents. May God provide for the needs of each of these families and grant them the much-needed wisdom to raise them up in the fear of the Lord.

“Love, of all gifts, is the greatest Which the Spirit does bestow...”

Zion's Harp # 37

We rejoice with Sis. Rosanna Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda) and Bro. Brett Kellenberger (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa) from Sabetha, KS, as they recently announced their engagement. May God be with this couple as they make plans for a November 7 wedding. Our prayers are with Sis. Rosanna as she anticipates relocating to Sabetha.

In the hospital this month for surgery was our ministering Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer). We

are thankful he is back in assembly with us and is recovering well.

Our loving prayers and sympathy are extended to Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger and family in the loss of Bro. Ed's sister, Sis. Martha Dotterer, from Rittman, OH. Sis. Martha was the wife of retired Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer. We also wish to extend our loving sympathy to Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene Dettwyler and family in the loss of their seventeen-year-old nephew and cousin, Nathan Kaeb, from Illinois. Nathan is the son of Morris and Brenda Kaeb. May God lift up these families at this time of loss in their lives and provide for their needs as only He can.

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

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA

Nathan and

MaryElizabeth Gasser

September brought a new addition to our congregation! Ty Maller was welcomed by parents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Jamie, along with brothers, Brant and Luke, and sister Breanna. We also rejoice with Daryl and Sis. Norma Luginbuhl as they welcome grandson, James Stanley Wheeler, born to Burt and Cherinne (Rockville, CT).

This month we were blessed to have Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) visit and share the Word with us. We encourage anyone traveling in our area to worship with us on Sunday or Wednesday eve-

nings.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Mike and Monica Fritz

The Lord has blessed us richly from His Word, and we are thankful for the ministering brothers who have so willingly brought it to us. Our visitor ministers this past month were Elder Bros. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) and Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and Bros. Glenn Dill (Sis. Marilyn, Tremont, IL), John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA), and Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield, OH). We have also been privileged to enjoy the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Roanoke and Tremont, IL; Remington, IN; Burlington, IA; and Mansfield, 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: Congerville, IL (10/24); Taylor, MO (10/31); Oakville, IA (11/7); Detroit, MI (11/14); and Princeville, IL (11/21). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend (11/28). If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 662-2946.

TEXAS
DALLAS/FORT WORTH
Carrie Beyer

Congratulations are in order for Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson on the birth of their grandson, Benjamin Seth Maurer, who was born August 23. Benjamin's parents are Bro. Shawn and Sis. Shelly Maurer of Phoenix. Praise God for this new addition to their family!

Our congregation would like to thank Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris) for his willingness to serve as a minister on August 22. Thanks also to the visitors who helped make the weekend inspirational and memorable. We look forward to hosting a minister from Lamont/Gridley in October, as well as one from Tremont in November.

Anyone living near or traveling through the area is welcome to worship with us. We currently meet in Grapevine, TX, at the Holiday Inn Express just 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 over a year now, our church still heartily welcomes others to our Sunday ser-

vices. 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

Imagine wild grapevines loaded with grapes hanging ripe for the picking! That's been our experience with this summer's perfect weather for the Mustang grapes that grow wild throughout Central Texas. We began picking the grapes for juice and jelly around July 1st from the vines all over our farm, and to our amazement there were still grapes for us to gather two months later. I'd call that "abiding in the vine!"

Another fact is that the grapes are much sweeter than they were two months ago. There is a spiritual application, surely. We can talk about it more when you come to visit us this winter, perhaps while seated around our table having a snack of popcorn and grape juice!

We enjoyed the fellowship with our ministers this month who were Bros. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer, Silvertown), Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata), Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL), and Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott).

We look forward to hosting vis-

iting ministers from the following churches in November: Peoria (7), Roanoke (14), Akron (21), and Latty (28). 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 wish to thank all of the ministers and their families that traveled to South Texas this summer to serve in the Pharr, TX, area. This past month Bro. Greg Stoller (Sis.

Jill, Forrest, IL) was here.

We wish Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick and their family God's richest blessings as they make plans to move to Magdalena, Mexico. They have lived in Rio Bravo, Mexico, for several years. They will be missed in Pharr and Zapata.

Our winter residents have started to return and our small summer time congregation is now growing.

VERMONT, NORWICH

**Debra Crary
Areli Reutter**

"And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: and were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God."

Luke 24:52-53

This was one of the verses we read on Sunday. We likewise were thankful to be in the house of God, praising and blessing the Lord.

This time church services in Norwich, VT, were held on September 12. We were thankful to

have Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan and ministering Bro. Duane Reutter. We appreciate their service to us from the pulpit. We also enjoyed a number of other visiting brothers from Akron, OH; Tremont, IL; Goodfield, IL; Mansfield, OH; and Rockville, CT. We appreciated the brothers from Rockville who helped with setting up and cleaning on Saturday and Sunday.

We rejoice that Morey Weiss seems to be recovering so well from his recent operation.

We are thankful for all who come to be with us and invite any who have travel plans in the northeast to come worship with us on the second Sunday of each month. We begin our services promptly at 10:15 am. For information or directions, please contact Morey Weiss at (802) 295-5981. It is important to note that the address listed in the new "minister's book" is incorrect. The correct address is: 344 Main Street, Norwich, VT

"Grace be with you all. Amen"

Hebrews 13:25



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
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



ALTERNATE HOUSEPARENTS NEEDED

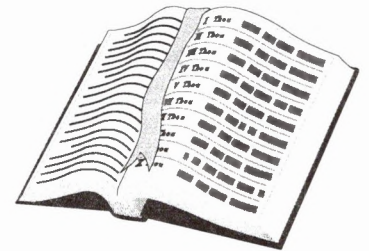
Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessing of being fully staffed with Houseparents. At this time, however, we are experiencing a staff opening. Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany Plattner are planning to leave Gateway Woods in the near future. This offers an opportunity for a couple, directed of the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

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

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

If anyone is serving in our Armed Forces that would appreciate receiving a printed sermon, please send their name and address or email address to:

Printed Sermons
6082 N. 2800 East Rd.
Forrest, IL 61741
or phone (815) 657-8798



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.

U.S.A. BOARD WORK PROJECTS

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

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

Iowa: Martin Zaugg
Phone/Fax: 515-379-1693
Cell: 515-320-2404

Illinois: Marvin Sauder
Phone: 309-925-4171
Fax: 309-925-2409
Cell: 309-241-8171
E-mail: mmksblf@dpc.net

Indiana: Gerry Waibel
Phone/Fax: 219-279-2582
E-mail: glwaibel@hotmail.com

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



Sermon continued from page 2

When we read this account, what do we take from this account, the defense of Stephen? We have the benefit and the privilege to go back into the Old Testament and to read the accounts that were written by men of old. We can read all of this account in even greater detail, that Stephen presented as his defense before the council.

We can read of Abraham, who God called, even as Stephen said here. "...Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee. Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell. And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child." (Acts 7:3-5). When we think of Abraham living in the land of Chaldea in Ur, I don't know if you are like me, but I can't really picture what life must have been for him. I don't really have anything to compare his life to. How he was not a man who had followed God, but God called him out of that land. Called him even to leave his father, who was a worshiper of idols.

This perhaps, speaks to us today. That we should be careful, even as we were told in this morning. When Peter was told not to call any man common or unclean (Acts 10:15). That we should not assume that someone who has not heard of God is con-

demned of God and is not worthy of His love and of His salvation. Because Abraham was even called from his land and from his father. Was called even to come into the land of Canaan, yet he was not able to come into the land of Canaan, but it was promised to him for a possession. For a possession to give to his seed, to his offspring, when he yet had no offspring.

As often as I read of Abraham, even here when Stephen mentions him, I have to marvel at his faith. It is no wonder that we consider him the 'Father of Faith'. We call him sometimes 'Faithful Abraham'. Because he followed God and he believed God's promises. Yes, he had his moments of doubt. But he believed Him and he followed Him. Even though God made him wait long years. The son was promised to him and the son did not come. Children as the sand of the sea and the stars of the sky were promised to him but he waited long and maybe never really saw his offspring to grow to that magnitude. But as sure as God promised it, it did come. The child of His promise came.

It says here before that, "And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs." (Acts 7:8). A covenant of circumcision, a rite of obedience unto God, a rite of cutting off of the flesh.

Today we don't have the same covenant of circumcision that they had at that time, but we have a covenant of circumcising our heart from the worldliness and from the fleshly desires that

are so inherent in our nature. That so easily beset us. We are called also to a covenant of cutting off, and of separation, and of laying aside the things of this life.

And Abraham begat Isaac and circumcised him the eighth day. We have children, and grandchildren and nieces and nephews. We have many young people among us in our congregation. What do we teach them today? Do we teach them the same covenant of circumcision of the heart? Or are we like the people of Japan fifty years ago? Are we different than the people of Japan fifty years ago? Brother Andy spoke this morning, and how it moves our heart with almost feeling guilty for the abundance that we have. Do we have life so abundant in this life and in this world that we have forgotten the promises of God? I hope and trust we haven't. But as he spoke of that, how fifty years ago, they had such a hunger and a thirst because they had nothing. Once they had something, their hunger and their thirst somewhat went away and was abated.

Where does that put you and I today, loved ones? Should we feel guilty for the abundance that we have? That is not what I am saying. I don't think God wants us to feel guilty because we have much. Abraham was a man of means. Jacob was a man of means. They were not men who had nothing. But I believe He speaks to us the same or a very similar message as this covenant of circumcision that He gave to Abraham. To not become so enveloped in this life that we become overcome.

Sermon continued on next page...

... sermon continued

We think even when Abraham and Lot came into the land and the land was before them to choose which area each one would settle in. Their flocks had grown, their families had grown. There wasn't room for all of them in one place. Abraham, I believe, in faith that God would take care of him, regardless of the choice that was made, gave Lot the first choice. Will you take the plain and the cities or will you take the mountains, the stony ground? Lot looked out across everything and he chose the plains. With the fields, it looked like a good place to live. But he also moved a little too close to the cities.

Today we see the same kinds of things in the land around us. We see that there is this land that is fat with the pleasures and with the abundance of this life. Now I am not saying that it is a sin to live in cities, but it seems that we see it closer in the cities. Maybe in the rural areas it is a little easier to get away from it. But it is all over. Because it is in the hearts of men. It is not just in the plain or in the mountain. It is in the hearts of men today.

We look out and I believe each of us are also given that choice. What will we choose? What will we choose? Will we choose the land of fair abundance? The land of pleasure, the land of ease? Or will we choose to go into the mountains where it is a little more difficult to live? Where the land maybe doesn't quite bring forth like it does in the valley. What will we choose, loved ones?

What do we teach our offspring, even as Abraham begat

Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day? Isaac was too young to even know what was happening. Shouldn't we then start to teach our children when they are very young that the pleasures that this life offers, the abundance that we find so inherent to our being in this land, that these are not where our heart should be. Or do we somehow, somewhat encumber them with the fatness of the flesh? And I speak this to all of us, loved ones. I don't know that any of us are truly guilty of anything in this. But I believe that the Lord is cautioning us in our day and time to be careful. I don't think it is a coincidence that Brother Andy spoke what he did this morning. To remind us of people who have nothing who have a desire for the true peace of God. And of people, who once we have something, start to turn our hearts away from that.

"...and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs. And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt:..." (Acts 7:8,9). How wonderful it is that that is not a period at the end of that sentence. But that there is a colon there. "...but God was with him," (Acts 7:9). Sometimes our life takes a turn that we don't understand. Sometimes a loved one is taken from us before we are ready to send them away. Sometimes our possessions may be taken from us. Sometimes crops don't do what we expect them to. Sometimes jobs and education doesn't go the way we think it ought to. But let's remember, even in those times when things don't seem to be going so well and the

flesh maybe isn't as fat, those just might be the times, loved ones when we are the most wealthy. When we are the most privileged. Because it is then that our mind almost, almost of itself, turns to seek help from God. In the fatness of the flesh; we don't always think of it that way. But God was with him. And He is with you. He is with me. He is with us. How thankful we can be that He is with us.

"And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house." (Acts 7:10). It is a little short verse. But if we go back and we read the accounts of Joseph in Egypt; Joseph prior to Egypt, Joseph in Egypt, you read that account. You pay attention to the number of years that passed from the time of the promise, from the time of his dream until the fulfillment of that dream when his brethren actually bowed down to him. Figure up the number of years that passed. (Genesis 37-42)

That speaks to my heart too. Of the patience that we each one are called to have to wait for God. In His time. Not my time, not my will but Thine be done and in Thy time. That is one of the hardest prayers, I believe, for any of us to pray at times. Because we know what we desire and we want it soon rather than late. But God in His time will be with us and will deliver us out of all of our afflictions. But I believe that, just as Joseph was faithful to God through all of those years, through all of those afflictions, through all of those tests and tri-

als, so He expects us to be faithful to Him even today.

And because he was faithful, because he never stopped trusting in God, although he must have doubted. He must have wondered in the prison, when he was forgotten. He must have thought that there was no hope. But he was faithful. He retained his ability to understand mysteries even from God. Through that, he found favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

Stephen spoke then, of how even that came to be a redemption of a type, even for Joseph's family. Joseph, I believe, when he revealed himself to his brethren, he told them, don't feel bad because of what you have done (I am paraphrasing). Don't feel bad what you have done. You intended it for evil but God has used it for good (Genesis 45:5).

Sometimes our vision is short-sighted. We are so near-sighted that all we can see is the trial. All we can see is the bad. All we can see is what we have to give up today. We don't see the good that God will bring from it. I just hope and trust and pray, (time goes on and there are a lot of verses that we didn't even talk about here), but I hope and pray that God will give us some type of correction for our eyesight where we lack. Maybe you don't lack

like I do. But there are days and there are times that my vision, my spiritual vision becomes very near-sighted. Things in the future become very blurry and I become very concerned and worried. We don't need to see into the future. God can see into the future. We can't control what comes in the future, so maybe it is best if we don't see into the future. But we do need to trust. We do need to hold fast to faith.

I appreciated so much the prayer of the brother this morning when he prayed over and over again for God to give us faith. To strengthen our faith. To help us in our faith. Isn't that what we need? That, I believe, is what Stephen was speaking to these who accused him. He was trying to show them of the plan of salvation that God had ordained. How Moses even came along in his time. The miracle of his birth, of his being provided at the right time. Being spared in his life when all others his age were killed. How he grew up, was ordained of God even to lead the children out of Egypt. (Acts 7:20-36).

It is just amazing how God works. Does He work in your life like that? Sometimes I don't think He works in our lives like that. Sometimes I begin to doubt that maybe God doesn't work for us the way He did then. But He does. We see it again and again.

All we have to do is keep our eyes open and watch. He heals where we don't know how He can heal. He helps where sometimes there isn't even the strength to desire help. He calls souls from darkness and gives them a newness of life through their faith. He speaks to your heart and to mine in ways that we don't even come close to comprehending and understanding. He gives us even this Word to read and to consider and to help us. He is still working, loved ones.

God is with us even as God was with Joseph. He delivered him out of all of his afflictions and He will deliver us out of all of our tests and our trials also. But I believe that the message here, for me anyway, is that we need to stay faithful to Him. We need not worry whether the wife of Potiphar or whether some other come or the council brings false witnesses against us. Whether someone accuses us wrongfully, even to the point of feeling persecuted. Because God is with us and He will save us if we can hold fast. If we can love Him. If we can love one another. If we can be patient, He will deliver us and will bring us to a good end. That end that we hold as the vision of our hope. That is what, when we look off into the distance, let's hold that in our sights. Let's walk in the path that He shows us.



- NOTICE -**Repair and Distribution of
Worn Bibles &
Bible Story Books**

Presently we are not taking Hymns of Zion due to our large inventory and not enough requests for hymnals. Please get your books to us or the Goodfield World Relief Center.

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

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

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



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

**Haiti Coordinator
Position**

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

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

For information contact Roger Sauder, Chairman, 954-584-0947 or

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To order, contact,

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1254 S. Main Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
Phone and Fax 260/824-5587
E-mail: bibledist@parlorcity.com

Mexico Work Teams 2005

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Phone & (e-mail)</u>
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
Magdalena	January 1-8, '05	Construction	Jon Elde	765-427-4874 jelde@purdue.edu
Magdalena	February 21-28, '05	Construction	Scott Hills	860-429-3790 lulabelle3@juno.com
Magdalena	March 12-19, '05	Construction	Arlan Miller	309-747-2683 seek_truth@yahoo.com
Magdalena	March 19-26, '05	Construction	Bruce Aschliman	260-824-5160 aschlimanb@yahoo.com
Agua Prieta	March 19-26, '05	Construction	Denis Fry	260-824-3055 fry.d@mchsi.com
Magdalena	Mar. 26 - Apr. 2, '05	Construction	Pete Aberle	309-925-5969 dpabfrms@hotmail.com
Rio Bravo	Mar. 26 - Apr. 2, '05	Construction	Dean Fiechter	260-565-3439 dafiechter@parlorcity.com
Juarez/ Copper Canyon	March '05	Medical/Dental	Cheryl Hermann	309-385-1082 cheryl@mtco.com
Rio Bravo	June 18-25, '05	Construction	Dean Fiechter	260-565-3439 dafiechter@parlorcity.com
Rio Bravo	Dec. 27 - Jan. 3, '05	Construction	Dean Fiechter	260-565-3439 dafiechter@parlorcity.com
Juarez	Dec. 27 - Jan. 3, '05	Medical/Dental	Cheryl Hermann	309-385-1082 cheryl@mtco.com

*If anyone would desire to go to Mexico at a time not listed on the schedule, please contact
Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or e-mail: mfiechter@parlorcity.com*



The following article is one of a series on church practices. It contains excerpts from a writing distributed from Apostolic Christian Publications at Eureka, Illinois.

Proving Candidates for Baptism

In recognizing the seriousness of coming into the community of saints, the church takes great care in attempting to keep the fellowship pure and in alignment with the concepts of obedience which are set forth in the Word.

To achieve this end, a very wise procedure has been maintained over the years. This is the practice of bringing converts — those who have repented of their sins and been converted from their former life — before the church congregation to testify of their faith, of their personal conversion experience, and their ability (using God's grace) to overcome sin and the flesh.

Over the years this has been termed a "proving." The use of the word proving should not imply an adversarial procedure in which the congregation sits in "judgment." Rather, it is a word that stems from the German word, "pruffing." The word appears in the German Scriptures. I Thessalonians 5:21 reads, Prufet alles und das gute

behalte. The word "prufing" originated many years ago before the church adopted the English language.

Actually, the dictionary definitions of the words "prove" and "testimony" indicate these words can generally be used interchangeably. For instance, "prove" is defined: "Ascertain the genuineness of; show or demonstrate accuracy of." Likewise, "testimony" means: "Evidence, proof; solemn declaration; profession." It's apparent these words mean largely the same thing. Essentially, as a testimony is given, it is proved (by the brethren) to be correct.

In Europe

In Ruegger's Apostolic Christian Church History, Volume I, comments are made entitled "Reception of the Congregation." "Before baptism and reception into the congregation, the one desiring baptism, in the presence of brothers and sisters, gives expression of God's grace, i. e., of his rebirth. God's spirit shall bear witness in the congregation if the one desiring baptism is prepared for baptism. When the congregation is satisfied with the testimony of the one desiring baptism, an elder administers baptism by immersion."

Subsequently the Apostolic Christian Church, in keeping with the Biblical directives of keeping Christ's church pure, holy and unspotted from the world, has prudently exercised great care in who is taken into the church body.

Froehlich's Attitude

Entrance into and exit from the church body are serious matters. Bro. Samuel Froehlich, in his Individual Letters and Meditations, commented, "Our alliance is a holy fellowship with the Father, Son and Holy Ghost and the whole body of Christ, with one another as members of His body, each according to his portion. If then, we gather together it must be in the name of the Lord and in the communion of His spirit. Admission into and withdrawal from this fellowship dare not be a light matter and may not take place carelessly."

A Continued Practice

Even before our church was established in the 1830s in Europe, historical data is readily apparent to confirm such a practice of asking questions to baptismal candidates. And it has been continued in our churches as time unfolds.

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REMEMBERING

...continued from page 50

There are several reasons for "proving." Three seem to stand out: (1) So all the brethren can be assured that the convert has experienced a true conversion, (2) To insure that the convert has a good understanding of the Christian faith, and the beliefs of the church, and (3) To insure the convert is willing to support the church, and remain true until the end of his/her life.

When we meet members in other Apostolic Christian churches, we can, on the basis of their testimony before their own individual congregations (and their assemblies being satisfied) have confidence that are truly converted. Consequently, a good, warm feeling of unity then ensues along with rich fellowship.

To date, the Apostolic Christian Church has been preserved as one with its foundation solely and entirely on Jesus Christ, the Apostles, and the prophets. It's a wonderful foundation. The Apostle Paul, however, told the Corinthian church, But let every man take heed how he buildeth upon it. To be sure, a main task of the church is to maintain continuity of faith from one generation to another. Proving is one of perhaps many sound procedures, which constitute a means to this end.

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next issue:

Closed Communion

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

希望の光

"How It Works"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

While in the States last month, I gave a talk on redeeming the time, in which I stated we should use our time for the Lord, for the church, for our family, and for others, but that we are not to use time for ourselves because, according to the Bible, we are dead with Christ and dead people do not need much attention. Later I was asked, "Did you say that we are not to do anything for ourselves?"

I should have answered, "That's exactly what I said," but I was caught off guard and began to fish around for an answer, saying, "I meant we shouldn't be selfish," and "If I didn't do anything for myself, I would be dead."

Here I thought I had a Biblical base for what I was saying in my speech and so soon I must make excuses for what I said. That made me think about what has gone wrong.

I will attempt to explain how redeeming the time works and how it is that my original statement is all right, according to my present understanding, after considering the matter prayerfully.

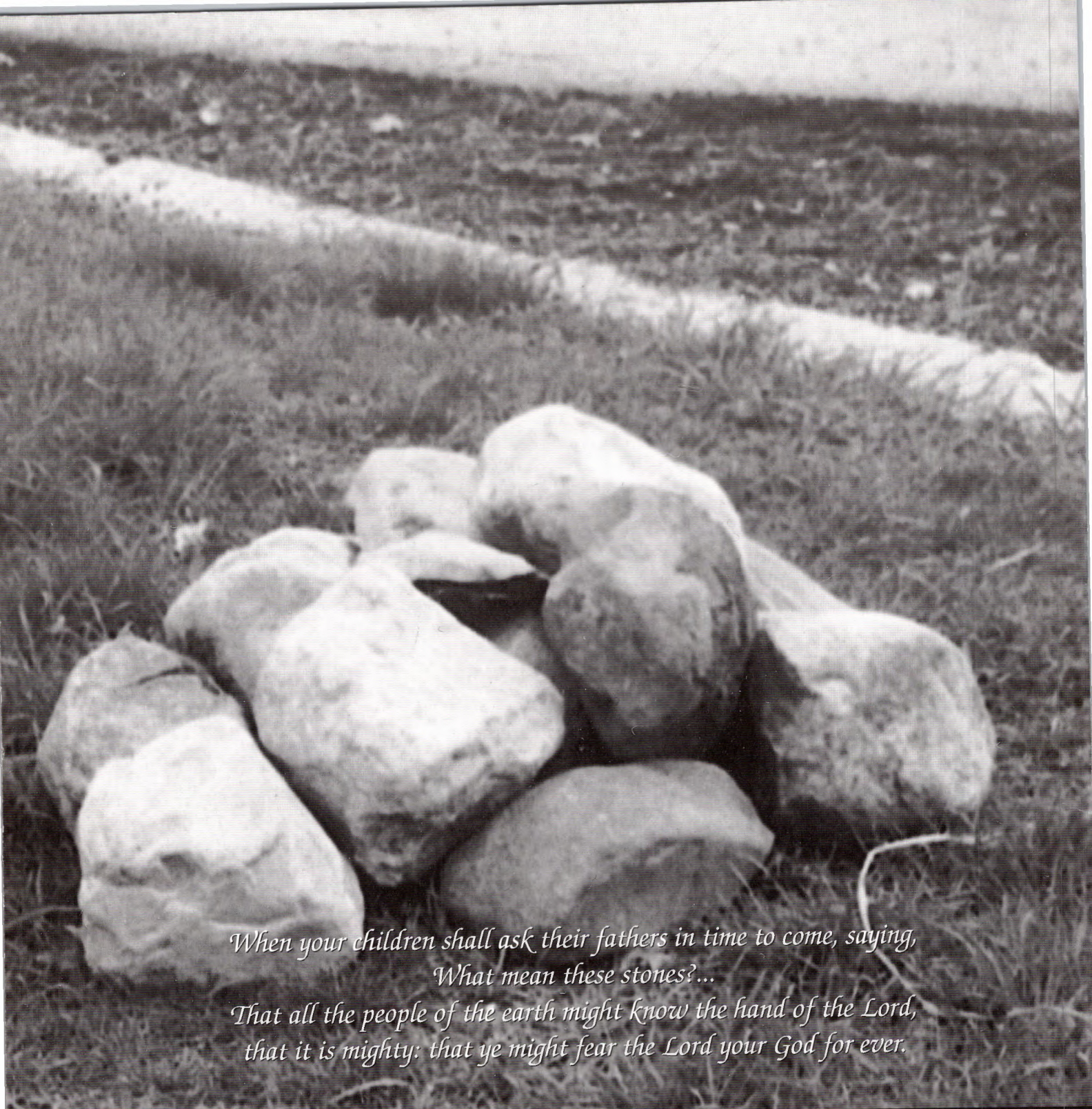
In the act of redeeming time for the Lord, we not only attend church services, spend time in prayer, etc., but since our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit ("Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" I Cor. 3:16) we also are to do everything we know to do, for the health and benefit of our bodies. This includes appropriate diet, exer-

cise, rest time, and vacation time, all carried out in a way which improves the welfare of our bodies. You don't need to think about doing these things for yourself, but you do them for the Lord. (This thing is more involved than we thought.)

So you need a better car but you mustn't do anything for yourself. That's all right. You need transportation to get to church, for the Lord, and you need transportation to buy groceries for your family. Therefore, you get a different car, not to please yourself but so that you can better serve the Lord, your family, etc. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." I Cor. 10:31

What about clothing? Do you buy clothing for yourself? If I understand the Bible correctly, you don't start out buying clothing for yourself. You buy clothing because it is necessary for your body, and to make you acceptable in appearance so you can go out and help others, your family, etc. God doesn't want you to freeze to death if it can be avoided, nor does He want you to die of the heat. Our clothing should be practical and modest, rather than fashionable.

I conclude that we do not need to think about doing anything for ourselves. We only need to think about what God wants us to do, and we will inadvertently, be doing many things which benefit ourselves. That's how it works.



*When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying,
What mean these stones?...
That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the Lord,
that it is mighty: that ye might fear the Lord your God for ever.*

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