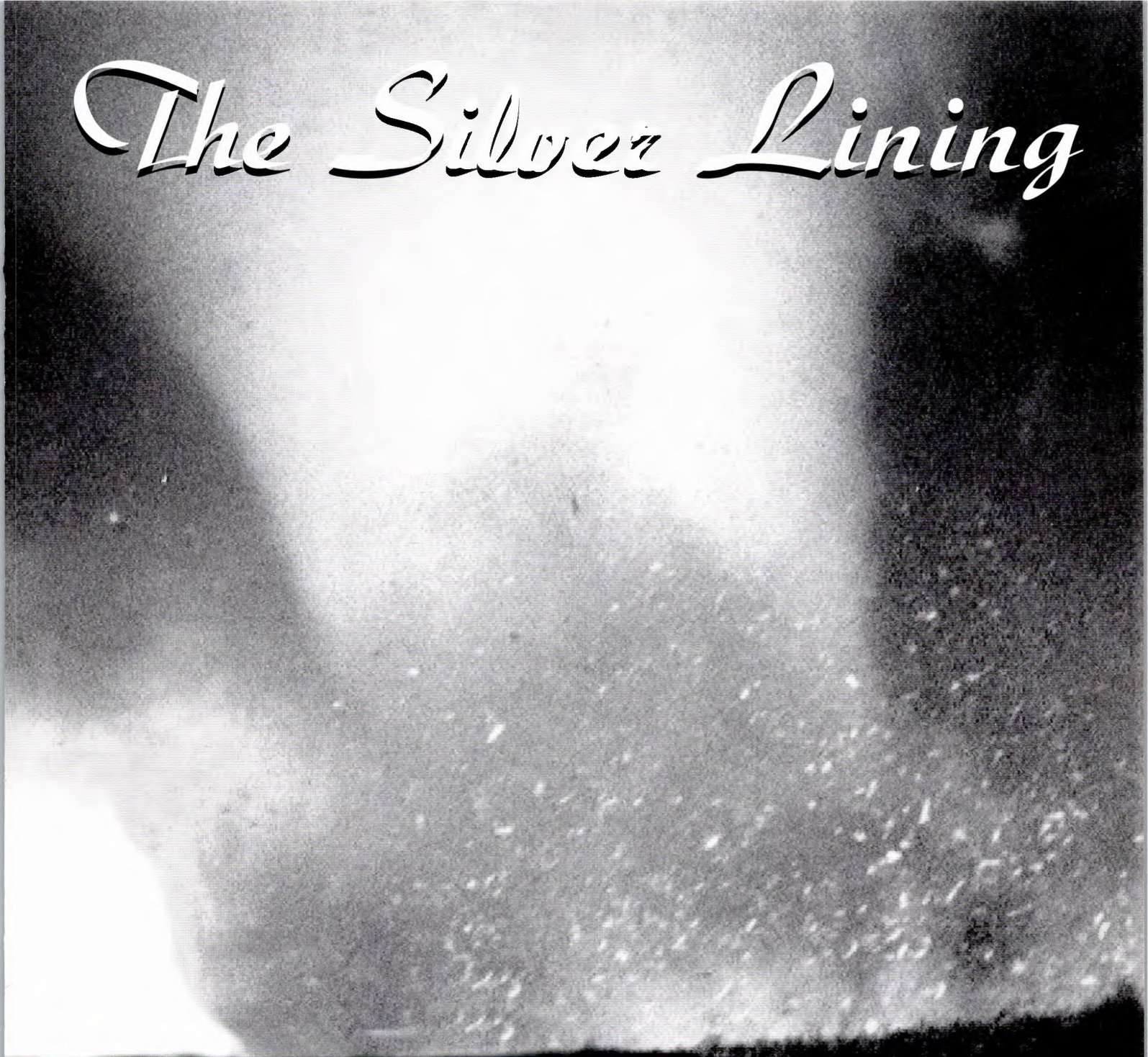


The Silver Lining

A dramatic black and white photograph of a storm. A bright, circular light source, possibly the sun or moon, is partially obscured by dark, swirling clouds. The light creates a strong lens flare effect, illuminating the surrounding clouds and creating a sense of hope and breakthrough. The overall mood is one of intense power and divine presence.

*The LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm,
and the clouds are the dust of his feet.*

Sermon by Bro. Kent Getz, Elgin, IA

Daniel 5 and Galatians 6

As we read the Word, it just seems that history can have a way of repeating itself. We know that Ecclesiastes tells us there is no new thing under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

In the Old Testament we have been reminded again of a king who came after Nebuchadnezzar, his son Belshazzar. Here was a king whose father had experienced the humbling from God. Who experienced even God who had put him out, and as we have been reminded even in this chapter, that Daniel who reminded him that his father was lifted up. His heart was lifted up in pride. It says his mind was hardened in pride. It says, "...he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him: And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses..." (Daniel 5:20,21). Here was this son who was brought up by his father. I guess I just assume that, that he was taught of his father. He surely had known about his father and his upbringing. Yet, here we find that the son, who when put in this position of authority, was again lifted up and soon forgot. Forgot the lesson of his father.

Here he found himself, that here as a king, it says he was drinking wine before the thousands (Daniel 5:1). They were in the temple. They were having a feast. Isn't it kind of similar to the way the world is? Many gather together to have their feasts, or we may say in our day and time terms, we say they are partying. They are having a good time. They are living it up, we often hear. Really it is similar to this. There in that time they fell in that snare likewise. Times were going good. Things were going well for them. They got together and they were living it up and feasting. Some things continue from the very old.

They had that trouble back then.

Here was Belshazzar. They were in there and they became drunk. They said bring in those golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of God, out of the house of God (Daniel 5:2). They drank their wine and they began to praise the gods of gold and silver and of brass and of iron and of wood and of stone (Daniel 5:4).

Often we see the hearts of men who become drunken with wine of this world and with the excess and they begin to praise the gods of their own mind that they make up and the things that they behold with their hands. The things that men would set up before their hearts and they don't turn to the true God in heaven. Our Savior. Our Father.

It says, "In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote." (Daniel 5:5). Nowadays, we often hear the term, the handwriting upon the wall. Here the king was given, the hand came forth. Dear ones, we find that God does warn. He does admonish us. We have His Word, that we know if we go out and do contrary to the Word of God, I believe that God gives His direction, that we will see. Even as here, they saw this hand that would come and wrote. Wrote this message that was foreign to them. They could not understand them. But it tells us here how "...the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another." (Daniel 5:6). He sensed here the judgment. Maybe the condemnation and fear grabbed hold of his heart.

Far different than we think of Daniel whom they called. Who

walked close to God. Who sought Him often in prayer. It's recorded he turned to the Lord in prayer often. We can read of this great faith that he had in God. Even as he was cast into the den of lions. He knew God would preserve him. (Daniel 6).

Yet as here the king, these words were foreign to him. God reveals to us His judgment that is going to

Sermon continued on page 43

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

June 2005

Spiritual Riches I

"Men strive for the wealth of this wide wicked world. They seek after honor and fame. So lavishly sporting their diamonds and pearls, they put the dear Savior to shame." ("I'd Rather Have Jesus"; Luther Presley).

Men become very confused when it comes to riches. Some think they are rich when they are poor and some think they are poor when they are rich. Some think that their riches make them better than others. As they compare themselves with others they think they are better. In the parable of the publican and the Pharisee, the Pharisee thought very highly of himself because of all the good, including tithing, that he did. We are reminded that "...we dare not... compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise" (II Cor. 10:12). He would have been much better off recognizing his weaknesses and seeking spiritual wealth.

Trusting in material riches will lead us into difficulty. "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him." (Ps. 49:6-7). Jesus shocked His disciples when He told them "...How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God" (Mk. 10:23)! Clearly, material riches do not draw us closer to God.

In writing to the seven churches in Asia, John wrote to Smyrna, "I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich)..." (Rev. 2:9). He wrote to the Laodiceans "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich;..." (Rev. 3:17-18).

The church in Smyrna had the promise of a crown of life. Unless the Laodiceans took the counsel of God, He would spue them out of His mouth and

they would have no hope of spiritual wealth. Why was there confusion? What was the difference? Smyrna trusted in spiritual riches and those from Laodicea trusted in material riches. Solomon recognized this difference when he wrote "There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches" (Pr. 13:7).

What are spiritual riches? What examples do we have of spiritual riches? How can we acquire them? How can we retain our spiritual riches?

All riches, spiritual and material, come from God. If we focus our lives on materialism, God may allow us to accumulate significant material assets. Material assets, if used properly and kept in proper perspective, may be a blessing. However, if we allow material riches to become too important in our lives, they could become an idol and cost us our salvation.

A young ruler approached Jesus and asked what he must do to inherit eternal life. After a brief explanation of the commandments, Jesus said "...One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me" (Mk. 10:21). The young man clearly was seeking, and wanted, spiritual blessings. He knew there was something lacking in his life. When he learned what the cost of obtaining spiritual blessings was, he decided the cost was too great. He was not willing to give up his riches to serve God. This concept of not allowing anything to be more important than serving God is so important that the account is recorded at least three times (Mt. 19:16; Mk. 10:17; Lk. 18:18).

Spiritual riches also come from God and are the blessings we receive from serving Him. "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it" (Pr. 10:22). It may be confusing to some who observe God's people as they rejoice in what might appear to be a rather drab life. The blessings of God are not always apparent. At first they may even look like burdens. When we are in the midst of a "disguised" blessing and we read "...that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called

according to his purpose" (Ro. 8:28) it may be hard to believe it could ever be a blessing.

It may even be difficult for us to recognize God's blessings after our affliction has ended and we know "...our light affliction, which is but for a moment,..." (II Cor. 4:17). However, as we travel through this life we do learn that trials can become blessings after we have gained enough trust in God that we believe "...My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness..." (II Cor. 12:9).

We do not earn spiritual blessings. We simply cannot do enough good deeds to earn the rewards God gives us. "That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace, in his kindness toward us, through Christ Jesus" (Ep. 2:7). Although we may not receive everything we want, we have the assurance that God will give us all that we need. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Ph. 4:19).

Since we know that we do not earn the blessings of God by our goodness, we might come to the conclusion that our behavior has no impact on our blessings from God. How sad it would be for us to hold this false belief. Although God does not "keep score" of our behavior to determine whether He will bless us spiritually, it is very important that we understand that we can lose God's blessings if we forsake Him. At a time when the children of Israel forsook God, they were warned "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord:" (Am. 8:11). The prodigal son learned of the high price of sin when he "...wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want" (Lk. 15:13-14). Forsaking spiritual blessings for the sake of material gain is very costly.

This topic will be continued in the next "Light From the Word".



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

New Church in Norwich, Vermont

The newly established church in Norwich, Vermont has been enjoying the blessings of worship and fellowship for the past two years. It is located in an area known as the Upper Valley (of the Connecticut River). This is a thriving region with excellent employment opportunities, many universities, a major teaching hospital and many hi-tech businesses. The Upper Valley is a beautiful area of New England that has often been enjoyed by our brethren traveling in this area.

History

Prior to 2003, it became known that approximately fifty members and friends with Apostolic Christian Church connections were living in the New Hampshire/Vermont area. Brethren began to look into the possibility of initiating worship services in the area. After presenting the request and obtaining support at the Elder Conference in February 2003, letters were mailed to those individuals with church connections living in northern New England to see if they would be interested in worship services.

Approximately half of these letters resulted in positive responses, indicating a desire to hold services and a willingness to assist in organization of a new assembly. A schedule was outlined for conducting services once each month for a four-month period. After that time, consideration would be given to continuing year-round services.

Local members and friends assisted in locating an acceptable meeting place, specifically a Grange Hall in the town of Norwich, VT. The Grange Hall is just off a major

interstate. The building has two stories, with a large upstairs room for worship services, and a downstairs area with kitchen facilities, conducive for Sunday School and a noon meal.

The first services were held in Norwich on May 18, 2003. Two ministering Brothers from the Rockville congregation traveled to the area for that Sunday. Forty-nine souls were present, seventeen of whom were from the northern New England region. Subsequent gatherings were held again in June, July and August with approximately 14-20 area residents attending on each occasion.

Further development

A second letter was sent in July 2003 to those who gathered at Norwich to determine sentiments regarding continuation of monthly services. With positive response, the data was presented to the Elder Body at the August 2003 Elder Conference. Support and encouragement to continue services was given.

There are many things that require attention and effort in order for a church to become established and function smoothly. These include communication with the building owners, coordinating lunch, facility set-up and cleaning, handling donations, teaching Sunday School and contacting souls in the area. Local brethren and friends with the desire, interest and love have taken care of these responsibilities faithfully, which has been a blessing to all. Morey Weiss of White River Junction, VT and Bro. Doug Mangers (Denver, CO), who was living in Lebanon, NH at the time, were called upon for many tasks and responsibilities in the beginning months of the Norwich Church.

As of April 2005, services are being held on a twice-monthly schedule. This increase was based on the sentiment revealed when the attendees were polled at the beginning of 2005. Services are held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. From December to April, services will be held on only the second Sunday, due to often-inclement weather in this region.

Appreciation has been expressed by the local members and friends for the efforts made and support received thus far. Attendance has ranged from 40 to 120 individuals at each of the gatherings, which includes visitors from CT, IL, IN, NY, MO and PA who have traveled to the area and offered their support.

Hopes for the future

Some of the members and friends in the Norwich area have lived there for many years and are encouraged to see an Apostolic Christian Church beginning in the northern New England area. Others have moved recently to the Vermont/New Hampshire region. One family from Rockville found employment nearby and moved to the area in the past year. A second family has plans to move to Vermont in the near future.

Appreciation and invitation

The Norwich, VT Church is very thankful for all of the help received with these services from brethren and friends. May our Heavenly Father's blessing abide on this endeavor, providing the Word of Life and opportunity to worship to souls from near and far. This fledgling church wishes to extend a sincere invitation for visitors to come and join them in fellowship and worship — all to the glory and honor of God.



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

MCCS School for the Deaf at Rio Bravo

Six years ago there was little hope for a person who was deaf and lived across the border from McAllen, Texas, in the area around Rio Bravo, Mexico. Neither the national nor local Mexican government has the resources to educate their deaf. Then ICCD formed MCCS, the Mexican Christian Center for the Sordomudos (“deaf-mutes” in Spanish). Twenty-seven acres were purchased, a dorm for volunteers was constructed, and a temporary kitchen/dining hall built.



MCCS now has twenty-four students ranging in age from six to sixteen with five teachers and two support staff. Six years ago the students were unable to communicate making them frustrated and unruly. But the power of knowing sign language and the love of God, has not only given them the thirst for the ability to communicate and learn, but for structure, order and the desire to love in return.

Their love language is touch. They also have all the other human emotions that are totally normal for children — temper tantrums, anger, jealousy, happiness, sadness, etc. The children are very intelligent, but with no way to express it without knowing sign language. There are great challenges to get them to understand abstract concepts like God or prayer or faith. They can

get it, but it takes longer and only with great skill on the part of the teachers at the school. Six of the older students have come with tears saying they want Christ in their lives. Discipleship is ongoing with them.

Goals for the school

The goals of this deaf school are simple: 1) to find deaf children and bring them to the campus, 2) to give them a working knowledge of Jesus Christ, 3) to give them an education to be a productive citizen, and 4) to teach them a trade that they can excel in. A typical school day starts at 8:30 a.m. The students rotate through classes in Language (or Signing), Math, Reading and Writing in Spanish (as a second language), History and Science. The older students also have vocational training. Finding these deaf children may sound easy but it is not. The parents are poor. They either do not have or cannot read a newspaper. The school may be close by, but they probably do not have any way to learn about it.

The teachers recently learned of a 14-year-old deaf boy named Marcos who only lives fifteen minutes from campus. His parents never knew about the deaf school. His godly mother tried to teach him to read but was frustrated since she didn't know how. Marcos started attending MCCS about two months ago and is learning by leaps and bounds. His Christian parents shed many tears of gratitude. They are now attending a sign language class for parents one night a week and are very thankful that Marcos is learn-



ing to sign. They have hope for their son again.

Home visits required

About two months ago, Mexico required home visits for the deaf children attending the school. It was eye-opening and also a great blessing to understand the parents' sacrifice. The teachers learned that the average income of the parents is only about \$200 US per month. Most homes have one or two rooms. The majority of families do not have indoor plumbing. Some do not have electricity. The furniture consists of a bed — no chairs. The bed is the table at meals, the sofa in the evening, and the bed at night. Even though they have little, MCCS asks them to pay a small amount for their child to attend the deaf school so that they will take ownership in the school. One or more sponsors subsidize most of the children. It costs \$125/month for teacher's salaries, books, food, transportation, etc. No child has ever been refused due to the lack of parental finances.

Construction work teams

After a minor issue with finances was worked out, World Relief is giving full support to the work going on at the school for the deaf in Rio Bravo. Four Apostolic Christian work teams have either gone already or are scheduled to go there this year. Six to seven hundred volunteers do construction work there in a typical summer. There are also many local volunteers — medical doctors, audiologists, and dentists. Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise Maller of the Bluffton congregation are currently on campus at Rio Bravo. For the deaf children and young adults living in northeast Mexico, the future looks bright.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Spending lots more time outside
enjoying God's awesome cre-
ation

Planting new seeds in the ground
and flowers in our flower pots

Riding bikes and going for walks
Ice storms? No way!

New life all around us!

God's unchanging love for all His
creation.

ACTR loves springtime. It's a
time that we can begin to start
spending more time outside and less
time inside. Especially with the sun
staying out longer in the evening.
We have had a beautiful and warm
spring in Illinois.

Our group home residents have
recently enjoyed the Spring Re-
union. This is a time when
Oakwood, Linden and all the CILA's
can get together with the staff and
their families and enjoy an evening.
We have a wonderful dinner of ham-
burgers, baked beans, chips, salads
of all sorts and lots of fruit. There
were also many yummy desserts. Af-
ter dinner we went outside to play
several different games and have
snow cones! It was such a blessing
and we made some fond memories!
Praise God!

As summer time quickly ap-
proaches, we look forward to Memo-
rial Day picnics, Fourth of July
fireworks and all the fun activities of
the summer. But as we go about all
these activities, it is so important to
remember Who gave us this special
time. God is so faithful and amazing!
We give Him all the praise and glory
for the beautiful spring and upcom-
ing summer!

JULY birthdays at Timber
Ridge, 2125 Veterans Road, Morton,

IL 61550: Randal Siebenthal (7/3),
Walter McKeever (7/16), Daniel
Zimmerman (7/18), Clark Lewis
(7/24), Kristie Ramp (7/31), Joshua
Peelman (7/31).

At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veter-
ans Rd., Morton, IL 61550:
Kimberle Riggerbach (7/1), Todd
Schneider (7/29).

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

At 652 Detroit, Morton, IL
61550: Edward Getz (7/31).

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

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Ed Graf

Mother's Day in May! As a na-
tion, we even set aside a day to honor
and esteem them. How we fondly re-
membered our mothers and all they
have done for us last month. Where
would each of us be if we didn't have
godly mothers who loved us, taught
us, and nurtured us? Where would
society be without good mothers?

Where did our mothers learn to
be good mothers? In a large part,
they learned from their own moth-
ers — godly wisdom and the Word
passed from generation to genera-
tion. The duty of the older women is
"That they may teach the young
women to be sober, to love their hus-
bands, to love their children." (Titus
2:4). But what about children who
have no mother? Or worse yet, what
about young ladies who are, or about
to be mothers themselves and have
no mother? Who will teach them
godly character? Who will teach
them to be a mother?

God has blessed Gateway Woods
with a wonderful opportunity to
stand in the gap for some of these
young women. Last month we
opened our residential services to
teen women who are pregnant or al-
ready mothers. Out of wedlock preg-
nancy and parenting were never
God's plan, but we live in a fallen
world. Perhaps the silver lining in
this cloud is that we now have an op-
portunity to affect not just one, but
two generations for the Kingdom of
Christ!

How did this all happen? How did
Gateway Woods find itself in a posi-
tion to serve teen mothers who also
have behavioral issues? Very sim-
ply, Gateway Woods became aware
of a great need to serve this popula-
tion from those who use our other
services. We were often approached
because of a need for someone to
work with a troubled girl who was
also pregnant. Very few agencies
provide such a service. Those who
work with Gateway Woods knew
that the family model used would be
of great benefit to these girls and
their babies.

Through much prayer, research,
and with the support of our Elder
Body, we have felt directed to move
forward to serve these young ladies.
We received the necessary licensing
in April and immediately received
referrals to the program. The har-
vest is great, but the workers are
few.

The West House has now become
an all-girls house, and Bro. Bruce
and Sis. Heather Drayer will be the
first houseparents to work with
pregnant teens and teen mothers.
God has opened many doors to make
this opportunity a reality in a very
short time.

Thanks to all of you who pray for
and support Gateway Woods. Your

prayers and support have brought us another ministry avenue for our church. Please continue to pray for us as we are piloting into uncharted waters. Thankfully, we can trust in the Ultimate Helmsman who will guide our ship of faith.

News

We would like to welcome Ashley W and Shannon F to our campus. We pray that God will use our program to bring help and healing to their lives.

Our Foster Care program, which places troubled children into Christian homes in Northeast Indiana, currently has 28 foster children. If you live in Indiana and are interested in foster parenting, please contact Bro. Bill Baumgartner at 260-627-2159.

Our annual benefit Auction will be held on August 20, 2005. Please see our bulletins in the June and July issues of the Silver Lining.

Bro. Marc and Sis. Diann Grim (Bloomington, IL) have joined our houseparent staff. We look forward to working with them as they seek to reflect Christ to our residents. Please pray for them and their two sons, Isaac and Micah.

We will soon be kicking off our Top Quality landscaping program. This is a summer business staffed by Gateway Woods residents and supervised by one of our teachers, Bro. Ryan Donaghy (Bluffton, IN), designed to instruct our young people about important work and life skills.

Finally, we would like to say farewell to Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy Herrmann and their children, Adam and Haley. Sis. Tammy has been battling cancer over the past several months. Their faith and perseverance in the face of adversity has been inspiring. Please pray for them as they move back to Illinois.

May God bless and keep you in

the months ahead. Be looking for opportunities to help support the construction of another house on our campus to accommodate the changes that have resulted from the development of our pregnant teens home.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Melissa Slagel

"I know letters, I know shapes,
I know purple stands for grapes
I know red and white and blue,
I know green and yellow too.
I have rhythm I know sounds,
I've had ups and I've had downs.
I've been quiet and have wiggled,
sometimes cried and sometimes
giggled.

I'm an artist, I can paint,
I try hard not to say ain't.
I know what policemen do,
firemen and nurses too.
I know God made me to fit in His
plan
and to always do the best I can.
Our class has had a lot of fun,
watch out kindergarten here we
come!"

The school year has come to close already! It was a busy month preparing for graduation and all the end of the year things. We had our graduation and had to say some goodbyes on May 19. After spending so much time practicing it was such a delight to see those kids up there in their smiles and caps and gowns. It makes the entire year worth it to see the smiles on parents' faces and tears in their eyes because they were reminded what precious individuals God has given us. One little girl who graduated but will remain with us through the summer told me one day "I just want to un-graduate." It

really is a big change for them but I assure them that big school will be just as great. God will hold their hand all the way through too because (in their terms) He loves them tons!

ALABAMA, ATHENS Louise Hall

We were blessed this month to have ministering Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL) and Elder Bro. David Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron, OH). We always appreciate you coming the distance and bringing us God's Word. We thank those who traveled along as well. If you are traveling through this area this summer, we welcome you to stop and worship with us.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 14:6

We welcome our new residents: Sis. Rosalie and Sis. Ellamarie Edelman, Bro. Keith and Sis. Tammy Hinrichsen, their daughter Sis. Kelly and son Bro. Joe, Bro. Todd and Sis. Nichole Steffen with their daughters, Adelayae and Amelia.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton), and Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman). The Lord is truly gracious as His servants lend themselves.

We have an opportunity to remember Sis. Alice Baumgartner with our prayers and a card:

Alice Baumgartner
Huger Mercy Living Center
 2345 W. Orangewood
 Phoenix, AZ 85051

We pray for Laura Wiegand who has a broken arm, Bro. Jim Beres and Sis. Julie Hoerr who had tests, and Bro. Ron Hoerr who underwent surgery.

Congratulations to Roger Banks and Jen Yunker who were married in April. Roger's mother is Marcia Banks and grandparents are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Clara Banwart.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Heather Hinrichsen have a new address: 3523 W. Saguaro Ln., Glendale, AZ 85310.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

We are happy and thankful to announce the safe arrival of Sienna Noel Furrer on May 11, weighing in at 5lb. 4oz. Welcoming Sienna are big sister, Alexa, parents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Janon Furrer, and grandparents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena Furrer (Prescott) and Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie Fiechter (Bluffton, IN). Sienna is Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena's fourth grandchild (all girls) and they are expecting two more before the end of September. We love having these little children in our congregation and thank the Lord for His blessings.

A reminder once again of our corn-on-the-picnic scheduled for Saturday, August 6, at 4 p.m. at the A.C. Williams Granite Creek Park in Prescott. Everyone is welcome and can call Sis. Jane Hodges for more details.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We were once again pleased to

see ministering Bro. Jim Meiss (Phoenix) and his family who came to see their daughter, Richelle. Richelle attends the University of Arizona and they were getting her prepared to go back to Phoenix for the summer break. We will miss you, Richelle, but look forward to seeing you again in August.

Carl Kaufman (Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline) has graduated from the University of Northern Arizona. Carl is working in Tucson (for which we are very thankful) and we congratulate him on his graduation and wish him God's richest blessings as he heads out into the world to see what God has planned for him.

As another school year draws to a close, C.J. Kaufman (Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline) is preparing to graduate from high school and will be going to Ohio for college in August. Congratulations on your graduation, C.J.; may God direct your path as you prepare to leave home and our little church.

Bro. Paul Knoblock will be returning to Iowa after spending the winter and part of spring here with us in Tucson. We know his family enjoyed his visit as much as we did. We pray God will watch over Bro. Paul as he travels back to Iowa and gets settled there once again.

We have enjoyed a very cool spring with beautiful days in the 80's just recently creeping into the low 90's and cool (sometimes cool enough for a jacket) evenings and mornings. We are told we might hit the 100 degree mark for the first time this year on Friday, May 20. I, however, remain optimistic until I see it on the thermometer!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Robin Moser

"For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread."

I Corinthians 10:17

We appreciate Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ) coming to assist with serving Communion this month. It was a blessed time to share bread and wine with our brothers and sisters after taking time to consider all Jesus has done for us.

Later this month, we celebrated a new home with Bro. Bob Crockett at an all-church housewarming. May God bless Bro. Bob as he presses on without his helpmate of many years, Sis. Judy.

Our congregation mourns with Sis. Sandy (Bro. Doug) Aberle in the loss of her dear mother, Sis. Loree Plattner (Bro. Henry), of Sabetha, KS. We have all been encouraged by her family's faith in this time of trial. It is a good reminder that heaven is the goal and death is not to be feared.

Sis. Kay (Bro. Glenn) Hackenjos continues to undergo treatment for cancer and we intercede for her healing and strength. We also pray for Bro. Daryle (Sis. Edie) Wieland with his recent health concerns. We will miss the Wielands as they return to the Midwest for the summer months.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Peggy Jevremov

This past month we were blessed to listen to the Memorandum letter and also partake of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) assisted Elder Bro. Peter in these services.

We pray the Lord will richly bless him for his willingness to come and be used on our behalf. It was a special time of blessing to us.

Among our other visitors this month was Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester). We also appreciate his labors of love among us.

We miss Bro. Tibor Bozzay as he has not been able to attend services for some time. We pray he will feel the Lord's nearness and our prayers each day.

Though we always appreciate our fathers, we often don't verbalize it to them. May we put forth a special effort to tell them how much we appreciate them and love them as we observe Father's Day once more. And may we continue to do so throughout the year.

ONTARIO, KITCHENER CANADA

Johanna Fortenbacher

Dearest Saviour, let me ever
In Thy service here abide;
Ne'er would I from Thee be severed,

Walking daily by Thy side.
By Thee is my life inspired,
Thou art strength and light to me,
As a branch that has acquired
From the vine it's energy.

One of our recent visiting ministers relayed to us that he counted it a joy to come and serve us rather than seeing it as a chore. We are blessed to have a minister come the first, third and fifth Sunday of each month. This is a great help to our only beloved home minister, Bro. Mike Ursu.

Serving us this month were Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman), Bro. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North), and Bro. Jim

Ramseyer (Sis. Marlene, Bay City). Two ministers, who have children living here, came also. They are Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury) and Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville).

Please don't hesitate to call one of these sisters for directions and overnight accommodations if you feel led to visit Kitchener.

Sis. Melanie Tomic, 634-1185; Sis. Kim Leman, 895-8813; Sis. Maria Toth, 880-8587 (area code 519).

COLORADO, DENVER Ann Gonglach

On Independence Day we celebrate our "freedom". God has blessed us in this country to be able to worship Him in peace without fear of persecution. But let us not get too caught up in the physical freedoms we enjoy that were obtained by the blood of many men. True freedom has been bought by the blood of Christ and no man can take it away. Much was accomplished at our spring cleaning. We appreciate all who attended and/or helped out in some way.

Three of our young people have graduated from high school this year. They are Bro. Joel Leman (Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb), Benjamin Martin (Bro. Mike and Sis. Beth Ann) and Whitney Steffen (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sue). We wish them God's blessings as they begin their future and remind them to rely on His leading.

CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE Amber Reutter Laura Virkler

"Thus united and in concord, let us walk the path of life" (ZH #237).

We were witnesses this month to the joining in marriage of Bro. Eric Virkler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy) and Sis. Heidi Ballasy (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jane). We wish them peace and happiness in their new life together and God's guiding hand upon them.

It was a special privilege in the past weeks to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Bro. Sam Moser (Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna). With us for this joyous occasion were Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Sis. Suzanne, Fairbury IL) and Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver CO). We wish Bro. Sam much grace as he is joined to the church body as a brother in faith.

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Matt. 26:26

In solemnity and with thanks for the price that was paid for our sins, we partook of the Lord's supper later in the evening following the baptism. With us to serve us this feast were Elder Bros. Art Bahler and Mike Leman. May we all be mindful all year round what great sacrifice was made on our behalf.

Announced to us recently was the engagement of Bro. Josh Virkler (Bro. John and Sis. Maureen) and Sis. Kate Craig of Congerville, IL (Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol). Though Bro. Josh now lives away from us in Congerville, IL, we extend our warm wishes to them and pray God will bless their life together.

Several new babies were born

this past month. Chris and Kristen Alexander welcome a baby boy, Blake Evan, into their family. Joshua and Nolan are happy to have Blake join their family. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Harriet Zahner and Bill and Cathy Alexander.

Owen Mark was born to Bro. John and Sis. Erin Hoffman and joins his three older sisters, Samantha, Elsa and Lois. Grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella Hoffman and Jon and Gail Doyle.

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Mary Hoffman had a baby girl, Caitlin Dora, who joins Levi, her big brother. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Luann Hoffman and Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail Steiner. We are thankful for the safe arrival of these little ones and wish each parent grace and strength to raise them by His will.

This month Sis. Barb Schneider underwent surgery and is now recovering. We are thankful that all went well and pray that God will grant healing and recovery to all that have need.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

With the coming of summer, we are looking forward to the coming of many visitors to our nation's capital. We encourage you to include a visit to our congregation in your plans. We are only a few miles from the West Falls Church Metro station and any of us would be happy to provide a ride for you.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL), Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St.

Louis, MO) and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA). Other visitors were from Chicago and Elgin, IL, LaCrosse, IN, and Smithville and Sardis, OH.

Bro. Adam and Sis. Jill Merkle have shared with us that they will be relocating to the Indianapolis area. We will miss them and little Madelyn when they move.

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. Liz Hermann (703) 212-7339 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 NORTH FORT MYERS Mary Masters

Visiting ministers this month have been Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL). We thank these brothers for serving us the Word of Life.

This time of the year, we are particularly appreciative of visitors who come to worship with us as part of their vacation. We feel the loss of our snowbirds as the summer approaches. We pray that God would bless us with more full time residents that our brotherhood may increase. There are many job

opportunities in our area since Lee County is one of the fastest growing counties in the nation.

Notes of Thanks:

The Rolland Keller family wishes to express their appreciation for the thoughtfulness and kindness shown to them at the passing of their dear father. Thank you for the many cards, phone calls, and prayers that we received during this time.

Sis. Beverly Gerber would like to thank everyone who remembered her with phone calls, cards, and prayers during her surgery and after.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Obedience to God still spares our households from grief as it did during the time of the first Passover. We appreciated the teachings from our visiting minister, Bro. Victor Beer (North Ft. Myers, FL), on the Passover and the significance of this event in Jewish and Christian history. The blood of Christ applied to the posts of our heart today has great redemptive value.

A few short years ago with joy we witnessed Bro. John Calame (Rittman, OH) apply this precious blood to the door of his heart. His decision to turn to the Lord has spared his family from the deep grief and has given his wife and family great hope of being reunited in the eternal promised land. Nevertheless, a great loss is felt as his family is much loved by the Sarasota Church. Bro. John Calame is the father of Sis. Paulette Cochran and the grandfather of Bobby Cochran and Bro. Jeremy Calame.

A church potluck was held in May at Lakewood Ranch. It was hosted by converts, Larry and DiAnne Brown, formerly of the Goodfield congregation. As we plant, water, and toil about in God's vineyard, we rejoice in the fact that the increase comes from God.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Kevin Kipfer
Benjamin Stoller

We hope this finds y'all having a blessed spring as we certainly are in Atlanta. On the weekend of April 24, we were grateful to have Elder Bros. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) and Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) share Communion with us. Other visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO), Bro. Sidney Kaufmann (Sis. Sandra, Cissna Park, IL), and Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN).

We had many wonderful church events this past month including potluck and Bible studies. The graduates we have are Sis. Erica Stoller earning her masters degree and Jonathan Stoller and Brian Camp graduating from high school. Bro. Matthew Lindberg is continuing to seek guidance on future employment and a possible move closer to our church in Atlanta. We would like to wish all the fathers a splendid Father's Day and thank them for everything they do!

In the upcoming month we look forward to visiting ministers from Roanoke, IL (July 5), Alto, MI (July 17), and Champaign, IL (July 31).

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Doreen Moser
Sheila McCoy

Blest are they who thirst and hunger,
After truth and righteousness
For, such real, essential virtues,
God will give them to possess
All whose soul doth long for grace,
shall these precious gifts embrace.

Thirst and hungering to know more about the Bible we gathered together this month in Madison. Bro. Art Mueller shared many thoughts and verses from the Bible on forgiveness. We continually need to strive and ask for God's grace in forgiving and loving others as the Lord forgave us. We are continuing to study the Old Testament chapters of Numbers and Deuteronomy in our monthly gatherings in church. The prophets of old certainly hungered after truth and righteousness.

Blest are they, who, showing mercy,
Without favor, without fear
All mankind in love embracing,
To the needy ones draw near
They who merciful remain,
Mercy also shall obtain.

As we honored our mothers this month, they truly show mercy to their children and to all the needy and embrace all in love.

Blest are the pure and spotless,
Who in chastity abide
In whose heart the Saviour's likeness,
Shall be truly glorified.
They shall in yon heav'nly light,

See God's countenance so bright.

The Saviour's likeness now abides in the hearts of two new sisters in faith. Sis. Naomi Schock (Bro. Ted and Sis. Heidi Schock) and Sis. Melissa Waibel (Jeff Waibel) were baptized the first weekend in May. We were truly blessed with many visitors from far and near. God's countenance so bright can be seen in our ministers and their precious wives who are so much a part of our little congregation as they are always lending a helping hand. Thanks to Elder Bro. Ron Schambach, Bro. Gary Anliker, Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL), Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL) for being our heavenly lights here on earth.

Blessed are the peaceful children,
Who in peace live day by day
And unlike the godless sinner,
Evil works with good repay
He who peace and love has taught,
Shall be called a child of God.

Many of our children are graduating from high school: Sis. Naomi Schock (Bro. Ted and Sis. Heidi), Christina Mueller (Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene), Trent Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol), Samantha Robertson (Sis. Peggy Bartz), and Eric Jepson (Bro. Jim and Sis. Carlene). Shayna Mueller (Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene) is graduating from college. Bro. Joshua Steffen will be starting at U of I and Sis. Rachel Wenger has completed her first year of medical school. Our prayer for all of them is that they may seek the Lord's will in all of their continued studies or work. All of the degrees, studying

and learning will never mean anything if they are not a child of God.

Blest are they who truly sorrow,
For the debt of sin they owe.
They shall not become discouraged,
aged,

Grace and help He will bestow.

We have truly sorrowed in our small congregation as we have had to bid farewell to Bro. Thad and Sis. Elizabeth Heinold and their precious children as they have moved to Morton, IL. We can easily become discouraged but we know that God will give us grace and help to overcome the loss of the fellowship of loved ones.

Praying the Lord will bless you all in the coming month.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Kara Martin
Ann Nussbaum

On April 16, our congregation had a special evening of Communion together. Our Retired Elder Bro. Everett Hari assisted Elder Bro. Mark.

Bro. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) was with us on April 24. We want to thank him for lending himself on our behalf.

May 1 was the wedding day for Sis. Kim Young and Bro. Rob Schlipf (Milford, IN). We wish them God's blessings as they begin life together and make their home in Milford. Parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Young (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy Schlipf (Milford, IN). We are grateful to visiting ministers, Bro. Dan Beer (Milford, IN) and Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) for spending the wedding day with us.

Bro. Court and Sis. Joyce Sauder

have a new addition in their family. Braelyn Joy was born on May 5, and her siblings are Brianna and Brock. Grandparents are Gary and Sis. Phyllis Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth Rocke (Eureka, IL).

May 8 was the last Sunday in our congregation for Bro. Marc and Sis. Diann Grim, Isaac and Micah. Our prayers are with them as they join the staff at Gateway Woods.

We are rejoicing with Sis. Bethany Wiegand (Bro. John and Sis. Mary, Roanoke, IL) as she gave her testimony and was baptized on May 14-15. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) was with us for the testimony, and Bro. Dave Marquart (Taylor, MO) was with us on Sunday. Thanks to them for sharing with us!

We have several high school and college graduates this year. We pray God will continue to lead each of them as they begin new seasons in their lives. High school graduates are: Brant Kaufmann (Bro. Jim and Sis. Nancy), Shannon Koehl (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Tami), Sam Kupferschmid (Larry and Sis. Sandy), Bro. Brian Mariani (Bro. Larry and Sis. Jeannine), Bro. Michael Rebbec (Bro. Marty and Sis. Patti, Roanoke, IL), and Joshua Sauder (Bro. Steve and Sis. Margie). College graduates are: Aaron Maurer (Bro. John and Sis. Emily), Summer Daily (Bro. Ben and Sis. Mary), and Jackie and Jason Knapp (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay).

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Steve Endress

We enjoyed having ministering Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL). May God reward them for their labors.

We are thankful that Bro. Philip

Nenadov (Sis. Donna) is recovering from illness and is home from the hospital.

We commit Bro. Ben and Sis. Audrey Ehnle to God as they leave our midst and move to Eureka, IL. Throughout our community, Bro. Ben was known to be able to fix almost anything. We trust that God will help them to quickly adjust to their new surroundings and have the confidence that they will be a blessing to many in the Eureka community.

They will be missed by our church, and our community.

We have three young people who are graduating from high school this year. They are Sis. Kendra Baer (Sis. Janna Lou), Melissa Ehnle (Bro. Donn and Sis. Tracy), and Andrew Klumpp (Bro. David and Sis. Barb). Graduation is a time when people reflect upon the past. Doesn't it seem that God gives us stages in life so that we stop and think, where am I, and which direction am I heading? As we pass from one stage to another, may God kindle in our hearts a desire to meet the next stage with more devotion than what we left the last one with.

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Karla Kieser

The annual business meeting was held on April 28 this year. Bro. John Walder was re-elected as Secretary, Bro. Keith Hanson was also re-elected as Treasurer, Bro. Dennie Mangers was re-elected to the Trustee position and Bro. Neil Knoblock was re-elected to the Sunday School. Sis. Sarah Laubscher was voted in as a new Sunday School teacher and Bro. Alan Miller was voted in as an usher. The meeting was then followed by

Communion exhortation.

“And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come.”

I Corinthians 11: 24-26

We had our Communion service on May 11 and we are very grateful to Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) for assisting our own Elder Bro. Wayne at this time.

May is always a flurry of activity with students graduating and moving away. Our University graduates include: Sis. Katrina Stoller from Gridley (Landscape Architecture) who has taken a job with a local nursery and will remain in Champaign. Bro. Travis Blunier from Goodfield (Molecular and Cellular Biology) plans to start the local Cyto-te chnology program at Carle Hospital in the fall. Bro. Eric Zimmerman from Morton (Computer Science) has taken a job in the Chicago area. Convert Lanae Knapp from Fairbury (Molecular and Cellular Biology) will begin Optometry School in Chicago this fall. Lucas Knapp from Bloomington (Mechanical Engineering) has taken a job with Caterpillar in the Chicago area. Bro. Nathan Rassi from Chicago (Physics and Secondary Education) has taken a chemistry and physics teaching job in the St. Louis area. Convert Will Moser from Champaign (Civil Engineering) plans to stay in the area. Chad

Kellenberger from Elgin (Graphic Design). Ann Steffen from Washington (Human Development and Family Studies) plans to go into social work. Jason Knapp from Cissna Park (Speech Communication) has plans that involve mission work. Adam Sauder from Roanoke graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Aaron Maurer from Bloomington (Technical Systems Management) has taken an electronic sales job in Ft Worth, TX. There were several graduates from Parkland Community College. Brett Steffen from Cissna Park plans to transfer to UIUC in the fall to study elementary education. Trisha Young is transferring to Illinois State in Bloomington to study social work. We wish each of these graduates well in all their future endeavors.

Special thanks to our visiting ministers for this past month: ministering Bros. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO).

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Rachel Meyer

Greetings of love from Chicago. Usually by this time of year the heat is off and the windows are open in most Midwest homes – but our unseasonably cool weather is changing that tradition for many of us. We thank God, however, for His care and keeping of each one, independent of surroundings, locale, and in what circumstances we may find ourselves.

On May 15 we had the privilege to witness the joining together of two hearts and lives in Holy Matrimony. Sis. Bethany Rassi (Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla) became the bride of Bro.

Lucas Young (Bro. Morris and Sis. Pat, Elgin, IL). Friends and family alike filled our Chicago church to support this dear couple as they began their life together. We thank Elder Bro. Tom Stock and his family (Cissna Park, IL) for being with us, and many hearts were touched as he conducted the wedding service for his nephew. Also visiting and ministering to us were Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL). We thank all of these brothers for being willing to be used by the Lord.

We also wish to thank Bro. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL) for presenting a topical Bible Study on “Our Walk with the Lord.” We thank Bro. Tim for being willing to spend time and effort on our behalf. May God richly bless you.

A group from our congregation had the opportunity to travel recently to Minneapolis, MN, on our Annual Bus Trip. The bus trip has been a long-standing and much-loved Chicago tradition for many years, and each year a different church is visited. We thank the Minneapolis brethren for their love, warm welcome, and kind hospitality. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Our prayers are with Bro. John Schrenk (Sis. Pauline), as he is recovering from surgery. We pray for a comfortable and speedy recovery for Bro. John and may he feel God’s presence by his side.

Finally, some of you may have recently finished the high school/college semester, or may be anticipating it. However, before it can be completed there is what I call, “the bane of college students’ existence” – final exams. (No offense meant to any teachers or professors who may be reading this!) Often,

the final exam accounts for almost half of one's final grade in the class and the pressure is pretty intense. On the last day of my Neurology class, the professor opened the floor to questions from students regarding the final. Admittedly, most of us were quite anxious. A question was raised regarding whether questions about specific chemicals were going to be on the exam – and the answer was “no.” Remembering this as I studied, I passed over that information knowing I would not be tested on it. Imagine my astonishment on the day of the final, as I turned a page of the exam to see 5 or 6 questions about the specific chemicals – that were not supposed to be on the exam! Needless to say I was not prepared, but did my best to summon what memories I had from that unit. Most of my answers were guesses, unfortunately. How could we, as students, have known the professor changed his mind and decided it was important to put those questions on the exam?

Not so with God. He never leaves us guessing. When it comes time for our eternal “final exam,” we know exactly what will be expected of us. How? He left His Word, the Bible, as our study guide to tell us explicitly how to live our lives here on Earth. Praise God we don't have to guess or wonder! Are you studying? Am I?

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Pam Walder
Andrea Walder**

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord...”

Psalm 127:3

Bro. Matt, Sis. Jerilyn and Braden Waldbeser are thankful for the safe arrival of their son, Derek

Lee, born May 5. His grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser and Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl Knobloch (Lester, IA). We wish them God's blessings and grace as they raise their family.

Our hospital patients this month include Steve Miller and Sis. Evelyn Rudin. We're grateful they are once again assembling with us.

We always appreciate the visiting ministers who lend of themselves so willingly to bring forth God's Word to us. Our thanks to Bros. Gene Lehman and John Leman (Wolcott, IN), Dan Moser (Elgin, IL), Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO), Brad Gudeman and Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL).

Bro. Greg Maul and Sis. Heidi Rudin announced their engagement. Their parents are Mike and Sis. Kathy Maul and Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin (Forrest, IL). We wish them God's continued guidance and direction in the future.

Sis. Kim Young and Bro. Rob Schlipf were united together in marriage this month in Bloomington. Their parents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy (Milford, IN) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Young. We wish them God's blessings in their marriage.

Our sympathy goes out to the families of those who have lost loved ones recently. Dorothy Ifft of Fairbury passed away. She was the stepmother of Sis. Mary Anne Young (Bro. Roland). Also, Bro. Larry Knapp of Gridley passed away. His sister is Sis. Eileen Greiner (Bro. Robert). May God comfort those who grieve.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Rachel Schrock

“Full redemption is the promise made to him who heeds the Word...” (Zion's Harp #176, vs. 5). What an

assurance is ours if we simply heed the Word! We appreciate those who are willing to expound upon God's Holy Word for us. Our thankfulness is extended to all who minister in the Lord's vineyard, especially to those who visited us recently, including Elder Bros. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL) and Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park), and Bros. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI), Walter Herrmann (Sis. Betty Lou, Princeville, IL), Nate Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield, IL), Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL).

Hearts are overflowing with thankfulness within our congregation as souls have not only heeded God's Word, but also our practice of marriage by faith. We are blessed to share three engagement announcements this month. Bro. Josh Virkler (John and Sis. Maureen, Rockville, CT) and Sis. Kate Craig (Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol) are planning a July 10 wedding. The date of July 17 has been selected for the wedding of Bro. Philip Wyss (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna, Goodfield) and Sis. Kristin Roth (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy). Bro. Brian Zobrist (Bro. Clarence and Sis. Luann) and Sis. Holly Stickling (Bro. Scott and Sis. Jan, Peoria) anticipate uniting their lives as one on July 24. May God be with each of these couples and their families as they begin to blend their lives together in the Lord.

God's nearness has been felt by our hospital patients and their families this past month, including our Bro. Glenn Ott (Sis. Mardell). Our congregation is thankful that all are doing well once again.

Two more hearts that are overflowing with thankfulness for their redemption are our Bro. Chris and

Sis. Michelle Miller as they were baptized on May 15. We welcome them into the fold!

Last, but certainly not least, we are grateful for our mothers as we remembered them this past month. Our thanks does not stop there but is extended to our fathers as well as Father's Day draws nigh. We are thankful for Godly mothers and fathers who bring us up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4)

Note of Thanks:

Greetings! I want to thank everyone that has helped us out the many different ways that you have since my accident. Most of all, thank you for your prayers. We appreciate it all very much. God bless you.

Bro. Duane and Sis. Jill Gudeman and family

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser**

Our visiting ministers for the past month were Bros. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and Dan Koch (Tremont, IL). Thank you, brothers, for your willing service.

Those of our congregation who spent time in the hospital recently are Bro. John (Sis. Pauline) Schrenk, Sis. Cora (Bro. Bill) Schambach, and Sis. Marge (Bro. Bill) Wewetzer. May God grant all a full recovery.

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

We congratulate our high school

graduates: Natalie Dietz (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sara), Garrison Gudeman (Bro. Tom and Elaine), Sis. Amanda Kellenberger (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Julie), Brienne Kellenberger (Bro. Tim and Sis. Marcia), Diana Kellenberger (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Debbie), Stephanie Kellenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Vicki), Kirk Schambach (Bro. Les and Sis. Alison), Andrew Schmidgall (Rick and Sis. Cindy), and Daniel Steffen (Bro. Dave and Sis. Linda).

We are very thankful for Diana Kellenberger (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Debbie), who has found peace and is awaiting baptism.

On May 9, Scott Krueger (Jim and Mary) exchanged wedding vows with Darline Panyasiri of Elgin. Her mother is Amy. Scott is serving in the Navy and is currently stationed in Virginia. The couple's address is 364 Reflections Way, Apt. #4, Virginia Beach, VA 23452.

Bro. Lucas Young of our congregation, and Sis. Bethany Rassi (Chicago, IL) were united in marriage on May 15 in our Chicago church. Their parents are Bro. Morris and Sis. Pat Young and Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi. We wish them God's blessings in their new life together.

Bro. Larry Knapp (Sis. Stephanie) passed away May 12, after a recent illness. May the Comforter be near to all who grieve his loss.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Cindy Stoller
Lisa Metzger**

The graduating class this year includes the following: Brian Banwart (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lisa), Amy Blunier (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Livy), Lainey Frank (Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine), Kayla Hartter (Bro. Ron

and Sis. Janet), Michael Carr (Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna), Bro. Landon Knecht (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lisa), Kevin Martin (Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki), Keith Wettstein (Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna), Quentin Wuethrich (Bro. Rick and Sis. Brenda), Sis. Kalsey Leman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Chris) and Sis. Jennifer Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn). "...In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:6). May they all truly look to the Lord to direct their paths as they go forward in life.

We welcome Bro. Rustin Metzger (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley) who has relocated from West Bend, IA, for employment in the Eureka area. May this quickly begin to feel like home for him. Also, we are glad to welcome Vernon and Sara (Sinn) VanWaters (Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Sinn) and their little baby, Benjamin.

We extend our prayers to Bro. Wayne Getz (Sis. Mary) who has suffered injuries from a vehicle accident. May the Lord provide in this time of trial and grant healing in His time.

We appreciate the ministrations of Bros. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Greg Braker (Lamar, MO). May the blessings of God rest on these brothers who willingly labor in His vineyard.

We were saddened at the recent passing of Bro. Bill Belsley (Sis. Helen). We are thankful he could be released from his earthly distress, but we will miss his gentle and faithful example in our church. We pray for Sis. Helen that she and her family may feel the comfort of the Lord in this sorrow.

Bro. Darin and Sis. Tami Kupferschmid have welcomed home

their new little girl, Nora Alyse. This healthy little bundle is loved by her brothers, Caleb and Garrett, and her grandparents, Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid and Glen and Sis. Becky Bauman.

We are thankful when precious souls leave the world to begin their walk with Christ. Kelly Blunier (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Livy) has recently begun her repentance. We wish her much grace and humility so the Lord can complete the wonderful work of peace in her heart.

Bro. Matthew Schmidgall and Sis. Lisa Kupferschmid were united in holy matrimony on May 15. Their parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Kary Schmidgall and Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid. We wish this happy couple God's continued guidance in their walk together.

We had two additional engagements announced this month. Bro. Adam Garber (Ray and Sue) and Sis. Bethany Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn) are planning a July 3 wedding. Bro. Randy Blunier (Bro. Roger and Sis. Wendy) and Sis. Roxy Wiegand of Goodfield (Bro. Art and Sis. Pam) were engaged on May 22. We hope these couples will feel the Lord's continued leading as they plan to walk through life together.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY **Anna Schmidgall**

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

Luke 22:19-20

Our congregation was thankful

to share in Holy Communion and remember our dear Saviour's death and blood shed for us. Elder Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Art Bahler in serving us.

Bro. Rodney and Sis. Denise Steidinger welcome a second daughter into their family. Kiley Denise was born on May 4. She has an older sister, Trinity. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna Banwart and Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Steidinger.

We appreciated having Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) visit us and share God's Word. May God's Spirit continue to be with him in his labors.

May 8 was a day set aside to honor our mothers. Whether they are still here on earth with us or have gone on to their reward, we appreciate their example and love. "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother." (Proverbs 1:8)

Several from our congregation have had surgery in the past month. Bro. Dick Wiegand (Sis. Betty), Sis. Marge Kaisner (Bro. Merle) and Helen Rapp have spent time in the hospital. We pray for God's healing to strengthen each one.

We continue to lift up our dear Bro. Don Schneider in prayer to God as he is still in the hospital from injuries sustained in a car accident. May he and his wife, Sis. Sandy, and their family feel our love and concern. Most of all, may they feel God's nearness during this difficult time.

ILLINOIS, FORREST **Jill Wenger** **Lori Leman**

We thank our visiting ministers, Bros. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL),

Nate Wieland (Goodfield, IL), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL), and Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) for their willing service of preaching God's Holy Word to us.

The wedding engagement of Sis. Heidi Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy) to Bro. Greg Maul (Mike and Sis. Kathy) of the Cissna Park congregation was recently made known to us. May the Lord ever be a central part of their lives.

Our hospital patients for the month were Bro. Leland Kuntz (Sis. Marge) and Sis. Carrie Edelman (Bro. Kraig). May God's healing hand be upon them as they recuperate.

At this time of year we think of our seniors graduating from high school. We would like to have them read these words of wisdom taken from Proverbs 3:1-6 and apply them to their lives:

"My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee; bind them about thy neck; Write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Our graduating seniors are: Marcus Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. LaVerne), Bro. Corbin Anliker (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda), Jimmy Bradley (Dan and Mary), Alex Dotterer (the late Bro. Wendell and Sis. Kathy), TeAnna Johnson (Bro. Harry and Sis. Til), Wendi Kelson (Bro. Paul

and Sis. Sherri), Sis. Leah Knapp (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean), Ashley Koehl (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane), Jolyn Koehl (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marie), Sis. Stephanie Kuntz (Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda), Kirk Leman (Bro. Phil and Charlotte), Bro. Josh Schmidgall (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary), Bro. Trent Schmidgall (Bro. John and Sis. Janet), Ben Stork (Bro. Paul and Sis. Dawn), Sis. Janae Stork (Bro. Reuben and Sis. Devra), Sis. Rebekah Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee) and Sean Zimmerman (Bro. Rod and Sis. Micki).

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Amber Grimm
Rita Bauman

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die;...”

Ecclesiastes 3:1,2

Our prayers go out to those in our congregation this month who have lost loved ones. Sis. Becky Knapp lost her mother, Mary Saur (Phoenix, AZ), and Sis. Shirley Wyss (Bro. Roy) lost her brother, Bro. Larry Knapp (Gridley, IL). We also grieve the passing of Sis. Lucy Grusy, mother of Sis. Cindy Hohulin (Bro. Sam, Phoenix, AZ). May God comfort these families in their time of loss.

“... and a time to heal...”

Ecclesiastes 3:3

Bro. Doug Wiegand is deserving of our prayers as he spent some time in the hospital. We pray that he has a quick recovery.

“... a time to keep silence, and a

time to speak;”

Ecclesiastes 3:7

We are so thankful for our visiting ministers who so willingly bring forth the Word of God. This month we give special thanks to Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL), Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO), and Bro. Steph Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL). May God bless them richly for their servant hearts.

“A time to love...”

Ecclesiastes 3:8

We rejoice in the engagements of Ryan Davis (Bro. Noel and Sis. Molly) and Nicole Samford (Don and Cindy, Eureka, IL); Bro. Phillip Wyss (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Kristen Roth (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL); and Bro. Randy Blunier (Bro. Roger and Sis. Wendy, Eureka, IL) and Sis. Roxy Wiegand (Bro. Art and Sis. Pam).

“... and a time of peace.”

Ecclesiastes 3:8

God is so good to continue calling souls to repentance and granting them peace. Our prayers are with Brent Schmidgall (Bro. Randy and Sis. Cindy) as God continues to work in his heart and prepare him for baptism.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank everyone who remembered me on my 90th birthday. I was surprised to receive so many cards. God has truly blessed me with many friends and my wonderful church family. May He bless each one of you for your kindness.

Sis. Cora Rogers

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

The passing of Bro. E. Larry Knapp, 61, was a time of sadness for our congregation. He passed away on May 12, after a short illness. He is survived by two sons, Bro. Mike Knapp of Tremont, and Bro. Mark Knapp, Gridley; and two grandchildren. Also, four sisters survive: Sis. Edith Stahl, Princeville; Sis. Eileen Greiner, Cissna Park; Sis. Betty Wagenbach, Princeville; and Sis. Shirley Wyss, Goodfield. His wife of 34 years, Sis. Rosella Kuntz Knapp, preceded him in death on October 21, 2000.

He is remembered as a reserved man with a gentle, willing smile. Someone commented that he “was a meek soul.” There is hardly a higher compliment that can be paid someone. Bro. Larry will be missed in our church. The passing of Bro. Larry and Sis. Rosella Knapp within a five year time span indicates the uncertainty of life. May God be with Brothers Mike and Mark, as they are now without parents at a relatively young age.

The weekend of May 22 was a special one. Two souls were taken into the fold after testimony/proving and baptism. They are Bro. Josh Schrenk (son of Sis. Carol) and Bro. Trent Witzig (Bro. Curt and Sis. Norma). These are two high school-age boys who are willing to turn their back on the ways of the world. We thank the Lord for their resolve to follow God. From the Hymns of Zion, we sing the following verse:

In days of youth, seek ye the Lord,
 His love and truth with one accord.
 Go offer Him thy youthful days
 And walk within the Saviour's

ways.

The Sunday School picnic was held on Sunday afternoon, May 22, at the Gridley Community Building. A nice gathering was present for this annual event which culminates the end of the Sunday School year.

Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) was a visiting minister on May 22.

Tyler Gramm, son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Darleta, graduated from the Special Education Program at Bloomington High School.

We offer our sympathies to Sis. Marge Kuntz on the loss of her brother-in-law.

This is to offer a special sense of best wishes to all the graduates of eighth grade, high school and college. Learning and development of our minds can serve us well in the future, but the most important thing in life is that the mind can comprehend the necessity of repentance and living a God-empowered life that, if a soul remains true and faithful, can result in a heavenly eternity.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Julie Bahr
Christie Zeller**

We are happy to announce the engagement of our Sis. Mary Ann Klaus to Bro. Don Stoller (Gridley, IL). May God continue to bless them throughout their engagement and forthcoming marriage.

May God's blessings also be upon our Bro. J. R. Sauder (Bro. John and Sis. Peg) and Sis. Tiffany Schwaab (Bro. John and Sis. Wendy, Indianapolis, IN) who were united in marriage on April 24 in Remington, IN.

Our Communion service was held at Restmor on May 1 for our loved ones there.

The dinner for our graduating seniors and their parents was held at the Fellowship Hall on May 4. Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL) was here for our Family Worship and talked to our graduates as they look towards the future. May God bless him for his labors of love.

Our High School graduates this year are:

Stephanie Barth (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Barth)

Sis. Heather Rassi (Bro. Gary and Sis. Debbie Rassi)

Josh Alexander (Jody and the late Lisa (Grimm) Alexander)

Casey Daniel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sheri Daniel)

Shane Getz (Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol Getz)

Bro. Daniel Knobloch (Sis. Jennifer and the late Bro. Don Knobloch)

Matthew Michel (Scott and Carrie Michel)

Craig Miller (Bob and Linda Miller)

Kenneth Sinn (Bro. Scott and Sis. Kay Sinn)

Bro. Dane Zeller (Bro. Will and Sis. Dannelle Zeller)

We wish them all the Lord's blessings as they continue their education and work.

Bro. Dave Ploussard (Sis. Krista) will be our new superintendent of Sunday School. Bro. Allan Kaiser (Sis. Brenda) will be our new assistant superintendent. Bro. Joe Zimmerman, III (Sis. Barb) finished his two year term. May God bless Bro. Joe and Sis. Barb for all their labors of love and also special blessings to Bro. Dave and Bro. Allen, along with their wives, as they take on these new responsibilities.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Lou and Marjean Lonteen

I have a Father; to me He has given
a hope for eternity, blessed and true.

And soon will He call me to meet
Him in heaven,
but O that He'd let me bring you
with me too!

For you I am praying,
for you I am praying,
for you I am praying,
I'm praying for you.

—*Melodies of Praise*

Guest ministers: Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington), Elder Bro. Chuck Sauder (Tremont), and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) recently served in the ministry here. May God's blessings be upon you and your dear families as you serve the Lord in serving us.

The Choir Benefit Dinner was held on April 23 at the fellowship hall. The hymns of praise and the lovely dinner were a blessing to all. Our special thanks to all who made this evening so special. We're thankful local missions could be the recipients of this loving benefit dinner and evening.

Special thanks again to the Goodfield Choir who brought hymns of praise to our monthly hymn sing on Sunday evening, May 1. We appreciate the beautiful music of the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade Sunday School classes. Thanks to the teachers and parents for your support.

On May 4, Bro. Bob Pfloderer (Morton) spoke at our Family Night. His topic was "Heaven". Many Holy Spirit filled thoughts were shared with us and we were reminded to ask for the wisdom we need from God.

He loves to give good gifts to His children when we seek Him with humility.

On May 5, the National Day of Prayer, many of our congregation gathered in the Sunday School room to turn our hearts to God in prayer over the noon hour. "Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care, and bids me at my Father's throne, make all my wants and wishes known." Each heartfelt prayer by our ministers and other brothers moved us all and we know God's heart was touched. We praise the Lord, that we live in a land where we can freely join together in prayer in church without restrictions. May our hearts be humbled with thanksgiving toward God for this along with His listening ear as we turn our hearts toward Him.

Special thanks to each and every one who helped serve "Mother's Day" lunch at church on May 8. Your kindness, love, and thoughtfulness were much appreciated and will be remembered. God bless you.

On May 15, a Senior Breakfast was held for our high school graduates. We extend our congratulations to them. They are: Sis. Monica Fritzenmeier, Sis. Brittany Getz, Sis. Cori Hoerr, Kurt Hoerr, Bro. Mike Jones, Tyler Kempf, Sis. Amanda Kieser, Sis. Megan Kieser, Martney Stickling, Jesse Unsicker, Sis. Angela Weber, and Kyle Weyeneth. Seek the Lord for His will in each of your lives and you will be blessed and you will be a blessing! Those thankful for prayers are: Sis. Bernetta Binkele, Bro. Jim Hoerr, Bro. Bob Joos, Sis. Verna Pueschel and Bro. Ivan Thomas. Many others have had tests, procedures, or are working through various medical challenges. Though you are not

listed by name, we remember you in prayer and trust for God's nearness in your life day by day.

Sis. Catherine Knapp has gone home to be with her Lord. She was a resident at the Skylines. Sis. Catherine was a sweet 102 year old and will be missed by all who knew her and loved her.

Sis. Aimee and Bro. Matt Moser would like to thank all who have remembered Sis. Aimee during her hospital stay. Each of your prayers, calls, cards, and every kind act is deeply appreciated. May God bless each and every one of you.

We wish to welcome Sis. Glenna Pflederer to our congregation. Sis. Glenna is a sister to Sis. Leona Ivie. We always pray for God's blessings upon each and every one in our congregation as we enjoy much joy worshipping together.

I have a peace: it is calm as a river
—a peace that the friends of this
world never knew.

My Savior alone is it's Author and
Giver.

And O could I know it was given to
you!

For you I am praying,
for you I am praying,
for you I am praying,
I'm praying for you.

—*Melodies of Praise*

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Vera Baer
Kara Blunier**

We are rejoicing with the news of two new converts in our congregation! Rebekah Herrmann (Bro. Roger and Sis. Darlene) and Seth Kieser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Denise) have recently begun new lives in repentance. We pray they will feel God's grace and presence.

Our thoughts have been with

Mary Beth Wagenbach (Curt) as she was in the hospital this past month. Bro. Ed and Sis. Francis Knobloch's son-in-law, Brad Foffel (Jane, Mackinaw, IL) has been severely ill and we likewise pray for him and their family.

"The memory of the just is blessed."

Proverbs 10:7

We are praying for Sisters Edith Stahl and Betty (Bro. Ray) Wagenbach in the passing of their brother, Bro. Larry Knapp, of Gridley.

Leah Caroline came to join the happy family of Bro. Brian and Sis. Renee Wieland. Her siblings are Ethan, Mikaela, Grace, Eli, and Claire. May they be blessed with much wisdom from above as they raise their family to know the Lord.

On May 8, we were witness to the wedding of Sis. Rachael Stoller (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary) and Bro. Matt Ringger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN). We were thankful for Bro. Steve's part in the wedding. Other visiting ministers that served us that day included Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN). We also extend a special thank you to Bro. Wally Ramseyer (Mansfield, OH) who served us on May 15.

We are praying for Sis. Taunya Rumbold and Bro. Ben Sceggel, both college students in Bloomington, IL, as they prepare for their upcoming marriage. Sis. Taunya's parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Jackie Rumbold, and Bro. Ben's parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy of Peoria, IL.

NOTE: A green leather bound Bible was left in our Princeville

Church/Fellowship Hall. The Bible contained the message, "to Joshua Mark Garber, from Grandma." If anyone knows who this Bible might belong to, please call 309-385-2618.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Dee Fehr
Doris Fischer**

In I Samuel 1, Hannah is quoted "For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him." Our congregation has seen similar prayers answered recently, as precious bundles of healthy babies have been brought home to several families.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Marilyn Ott became first-time grandparents when Annika Danielle was born on February 28. She is the daughter of their son, David, and daughter-in-law, Joelle Ott (Washington). Annika's maternal grandparents are Doug and Karen Conrad of Port Washington, Wisconsin.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Sarah Stoller welcomed their first child, a daughter, to this world on May 5. Hayden Olivia Stoller is the granddaughter of Bro. Tim and Sis. Peg Stoller and Bro. Keith and Sis. Dort Leman (Goodfield).

A son, Micah Andrew, has blessed the hearts and lives of Bro. Byron and Sis. Lisa Gerber with his arrival on May 11. Micah has two sets of first-time grandparents, Bro. Rick and Sis. Shirley Gerber and Bro. Don and Sis. Colleen Leman. Needless to say, they're overjoyed with little Micah.

Bro. Jason and Sis. Ali Knepp are thankful for the May 16 arrival of Emmi Jo. She is loved already by her two big sisters, Gracie and Josie, and grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann Knepp and Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish Gerber (Goodfield).

May God grant each of these couples grace to raise their children to desire the likeness of Christ, and, as Hannah, to lend them to the Lord.

April 23 was the wedding day for Ben Martin (Bro. Glen and Sis. Carol) and Sarah Deihl (Alan and Kathy, Washington). We rejoice with this happy couple, and wish them many years of happiness!

We've been blessed to have ministering Bros. Rustin Meister (West Lafayette, IN) and Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) in Roanoke recently. A special thanks to these brothers and their families for making the trip and for their willingness to serve us from the pulpit.

Several from our congregation have been hospitalized recently: Bro. Gaylord Blunier, Mark Blunier, and retired Elder Bro. Don Sauder. Our prayers have been with these loved ones, and we're thankful to see them home and recuperating.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Heather Rassi
Teresa Rowell**

We were thankful this month to welcome the following visiting ministers: Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL), Bro. Vern Wettstein (Congerville, IL) and Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA). May God bless each one for his part in ministering the gospel.

The announcement was made known of the engagement and forthcoming marriage of Sis. Carrie Sauder (Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam) to Bro. Akihiro Ito, both from Tremont. His parents are Nobuyuki and Kazuyo Ito of Tokyo, Japan. We pray a special blessing on this couple.

Our congregation rejoiced with Bro. Gary Wagenbach (Bro. Ron and

Sis. Liz) and Sis. Kathy Koch (Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane) as we witnessed their marriage vows and union in the Lord. As they strive to walk together as one, may God continue to be the center of their lives.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Janet Knapp were blessed with their second child on April 15. Kinsey Brooke was welcomed home by her big brother, Samuel. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Mel and Sis. Marlene Kaiser as well as Bro. Larry Knapp (Gridley, IL). Larry only knew his granddaughter, Kinsey, for a month before he passed on to his Heavenly reward. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Bro. Mike Knapp (Sis. Janet) on the recent passing of his father.

Sis. Eunice Beutel (Bro. Dave) and Sis. Carol Beutel (Bro. Alvin) are also sorrowing over the death of their brother-in-law, Bro. William Belsley (Sis. Helen, Eureka, IL). May God comfort each one who feels the grief and loss of a loved one.

Both Fred Endress (Ruth) and Bro. Jerry Hangartner (Sis. Melba) were hospitalized this month for knee replacement surgery. May God grant them a successful recovery.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to extend sincere thanks for all the many prayers, visits, cards, and so forth during the illness and passing of our loved one.

The Merle Getz family

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Nancy Knepp
Barb Banwart**

How refreshing is a spring shower after many dry days! We are thankful to the Creator who provided it out of His storehouse.

Our high school graduates this year are: Bro. Trent Barth, Bro. Joel

Cox, Sis. Katelyn Fehr, Katie Fritz, Alex Gerber, Kyle Hangartner, Michael Hangartner, Bradley Ricketts, Sis. Ebony Ledford, Sis. Elise Pfaffmann, Sis. Heidi Pfaffmann, and Sis. Katelyn Thames. May the Lord direct their paths as they acknowledge Him and seek His ways.

We are appreciative of the service of each one in our congregation. Some have been ushers or teachers, on cooking committees or trustees; many have done things which go unnoticed. Thanks to each of you.

The testimonies and baptisms of Sis. Jenny Wyss (Bro. Ed and Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Jason and Sis. Angie Schrock (son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerry Schrock and daughter of Bruce and Sis. Mary Knapp) were the weekend of May 14-15. We rejoice with them! What beautiful words we read in Isaiah 32:17, "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever." We sincerely thank Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA) for making the long trip to be with us. He brought to our minds the sobering words, "Surely, I come quickly," (Rev. 22:20). Also with us during the weekend were ministering Bros. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield), Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield) and Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO).

Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) was with us on Wednesday evening, May 18. He encouraged us to aspire to "higher ground", reminding us of the foundation of faith, of being rooted and grounded in love and of the gift of grace to enable the upward climb.

It was good to see Bro. Ron Kellenberger (Sis. Carole) in church

again after a long absence. We continue to miss Sis. Sally Fritz (Bro. Ed), but hope she will be with us again soon.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Amber Steffen
Elizabeth Frauhiger

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

Hebrews 11:6

We rejoice this month with three dear souls who have realized their need for a Saviour. Amber Price (Bro. Steve and Sis. Tonia), Audrey Stucky (Bro. Cris and Sis. Becky) and James Agler (Bro. Jim and Sis. Pam) have begun repenting. Our prayers are with these young people as they start their walk with the Lord.

April 30 and May 1 was a blessed weekend for our congregation as we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of five dear converts. Our new brothers and sisters in Christ are: Sisters Amber Dehoff (Scott and Sis. Rita), Bethany Gerber (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jacki) and Cassi Bertsch (Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon) and Bros. Danny Bertsch (Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon) and Jordan Stroup (Bro. Joe and Sis. Julie).

We prayerfully look forward to May 21-22 as it is the weekend scheduled for the testimonies and baptisms of Wendy Neuenchwander (Bro. Dee and Sis. Laura), Leah Gerber (Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb), Amber Byerly (Sis. Susan) and Katy Longenberger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Joni).

We are thankful for Sis. Jolan Vidakovics as she is visiting her

daughters, Sis. Viola Wolf (Bro. Kent) and Sis. Joli Gerber (Bro. Alan) in Bluffton. We hope she feels at home here for the few months she is away from her home in Ershekchinad, Hungary.

Carole and Alan Isch have requested our prayers as Carole is facing serious health issues. Bro. Harry and Sis. Robin Anderson are also in need of prayers as they prepare to go to China in order to adopt a little girl. Our prayers are also with our upcoming Bible School. We pray that seeds can be planted in the hearts of our children.

We are thankful for Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN) for assisting our Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz with testimonies and baptisms this month. We were blessed to have Bro. Alfred share the Word with us as well.

May 15 was the wedding day for Bro. Andy Stoller (Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan) and Sis. Jenna Francesi (Bro. Len and Sis. Mary, Bluffton North). We wish this couple the Lord's blessings as they begin their life together.

INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Darren Drayer
Tiffani Schladenhauffen

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come."

I Corinthians 11:26

We were reminded of our Savior's sacrifice as we partook of Holy Communion. Helping in this time of remembrance were Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH), and Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton,

IN). We were thankful that each one of them could share in this special time with us.

Kyle Mueller, son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Terri, and Eric Bucher, son of Bro. Trent and Sis. Kelli, recognized they needed the Savior in their lives as they began their repentance this month. We pray for them as they allow God to make the changes they need in their lives.

We are prayerful for Sis. Goldie Stettner (Bro. Howard) as she said farewell to her brother, Sylvan Bertsch.

We were blessed to be involved with two weddings this month. On May 8 in Princeville, IL, Bro. Matthew Ringger, son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra, was united in marriage to Sis. Rachael Stoller (Indianapolis, IN), daughter of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary (Princeville, IL). We wish them God's blessings as they make their home together in Indianapolis, IN. On May 15, we witnessed the wedding of Sis. Jenna Francesi, daughter of Bro. Len and Sis. Mary, and Bro. Andy Stoller (Bluffton, IN), son of Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan (Bluffton, IN). Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN) shared in the wedding service. We are looking forward to having this new couple worship with us.

Another joyful occurrence was the birth of Ali Rae, the first daughter of Bro. Jason and Sis. Anna Lantz. Ali Rae's thankful grandparents are Bro. Daniel Jr. and Sis. Charlene Lantz and Elder Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene Hohulin (Goodfield, IL).

Lydia Fischer, daughter of Bro. Steve and Sis. Joyce, is our only graduating high school senior. We pray that she will seek God's will in her next phase of life and will put Him first in her heart.

We had our annual church spring cleaning this month. It is a time when we realize how much Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg Yergler do for us, and we want to thank them and their family for keeping up our church year round.

Our singles honored their mothers by serving lunch on Mother's Day Sunday. It is such an encouragement to see their smiling faces in the kitchen and waiting on tables. We have been so blessed.

We are prayerful for Marcia Brewster (Bro. Brian), Sis. Rochelle Gerber (Bro. Rod), and Sis. Lucille Steffen as they each spent some time in the hospital this month. We are also prayerful for Sis. Lisa Aschliman (Bro. Kelly) as she faces some health uncertainties. We pray they would not become discouraged but would stand fast on the promises of God.

"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

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Barbara Huber

We at Francesville wish you Greetings in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! God has again provided a season of planting and watering and it is with anticipation that we await the fulfillment of the growing and nurturing of yet another harvest. How safe we are to always feel His loving hand and provision before us.

Our Young Group hosted a gathering of high-school age converted students on the weekend of April 16-17. It is so affirming to those of us

older in the faith to witness the enthusiasm and zeal among our youth. Guests were present from Phoenix, AZ; Bluffton and Bluffton North, Wolcott, Remington and LaCrosse. The theme for the weekend was "God's Wisdom" and we pray that those present gathered precious truths on this subject which will positively affect them in their lives with Christ.

We are thankful to give a "Praise Report" for the safety of our Sis. Lynne (Bro. Mark) Wuethrich who was involved in a serious auto accident on April 18. She was injured and is recuperating at this time. We thank God for His protection of her and give Him all the glory.

Our congregation suffered a loss in the death of our beloved friend, James (Jim) Tucker. He was diagnosed with cancer approximately five weeks before his death. He was the husband of Nadine (Bro. Irvin and Sis. Lois Yaggie) and will be greatly missed by all of us. Jim had for many years crafted the wood projects for our Vacation Bible School and many of our young people have special remembrances of his handiwork. At his funeral service on April 30, Bro. Brian Huber comforted us all from the scriptures and relayed Jim's hope of eternal life in Christ. We implore our gracious God to grant comfort to our dear Nadine and family and all of the Tucker family. We were blessed to meet many of his family circle at the visitation and funeral. "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." (II Corinthians 5:1).

Sis. Evelyn Pelsy (Bro. Vernon) has suffered a light stroke and is hospitalized at this time. There is

hope that she will recover and soon be back at home. Sis. Evelyn has borne many health issues and we offer our loving prayers in her behalf. We value her cheerful countenance at church and around the community and pray that God grants complete healing. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." (Psalm 34:19)

We were blessed with a topical Bible Study given by our Bro. Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois) from the Valparaiso congregation. The topic was "Self-Esteem" and Bro. Garry sought the Spirit's inspiration into the topic and thereby gave us all insight to look at ourselves realistically and always evaluate our lives, actions and reactions in the light of God's Word. We thank you, Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois, and all who accompanied you for your willing and loving service for the kingdom. May God be your reward!

With joy we announce the arrival of Marlee Grace to first-time parents, Bro. Jarod and Sis. Molly Steffen. Baby Marlee arrived on May 16. Congratulations to Jarod and Molly as well as grandparents, Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda Gutwein of Francesville and Bro. Roger and Sis. Vicky Steffen of Remington. It has been said that "Babies are God's opinion that life should go on" and it is a joy and blessing to see a precious child born into a Christian home. May God bless the entire family circle.

Once again our reporting for the month includes joy, blessings, praise, concerns and sorrows. Let us all take God at His word and live contented and peaceful lives of service to Him and our loved ones. May we gladly bear whatever He deems good for our soul's welfare and al-

ways remember that He is the Alpha and the Omega and knows the plans He has for us! "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." (Jeremiah 29:11)

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Debbie Anliker
Sandy Lichtle**

We rejoice with Bro. Bert and Sis. Karen Aeschliman on the birth of their new granddaughter, Heidi Eileen, born on April 13. Welcoming Heidi home are her parents, Michael and Shannon Farrar, and her big sister, Olivia, of Midland, TX.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Acts 20:35

On April 16-17, we had "Outreach Weekend." Many young people joyfully gave of their time and efforts to help those in need in our community.

"And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh."

Mark 10:8

On April 24, Bro. J.R. Sauder (Bro. John and Sis. Peg, Morton, IL) and Sis. Tiffany Schwab (Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy, Wolcott, IN) were united in Holy Matrimony in Remington, IN. On May 8, Bro. Matt Ringger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN) and Sis. Rachael Stoller (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary, Princeville, IL) were married in Princeville, IL. We rejoice with both couples as they make their homes here in Indy, and we pray for God's blessings upon their new lives

together as one in the Lord.

We warmly welcome Sis. Betsy Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Kent Bahler (Wolcott, IN) to our congregation. Also, we welcome home for several months Bro. Stan and Sis. Andrea Gutwein and their three children who have recently returned from the mission field. We sadly bid farewell to Bro. Stu, Sis. Alivia, and Ava Gutwein this month as they have moved to Lafayette, IN.

Congratulations to our graduates this year. Our high school graduate is Bro. Michael Zeller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny). Our college graduates are Sis. Jenny Gutwein (Bro. Luke), Bro. Joel Zeller (Sis. Tricia), and Joshua Freed (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy). We pray for God's continued guidance and wisdom for their lives.

We appreciate the labors of love of our visiting minister this month, Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL). Thank you for sharing God's Word with us.

**INDIANA, LACROSSE
Shirley Frank
Cathy Nuest**

We are thankful that Philip Nuest (Dan and Sis. Cathy) has been announced as having found peace with God and man. We want to remember Philip in our prayers as he awaits the opportunity to tell the church how God has worked in his heart. There are yet more converts here who are continuing to strive against this world. We pray that this will encourage and refresh them in their spiritual battle, as well as provoke more hearts to repentance. Lord willing, a date for testimony and baptism is tentatively set for the weekend of July 10.

Kindly heaven smiles above,
When there's love at home;
All the earth is filled with love,
When there's love at home.
Sweeter sings the brooklet by,
Brighter beams the azure sky;
O there's One who smiles on high,
When there's love at home.

Hymns of Zion #64

We rejoice with Bro. John Sawyer and Sis. Melinda Heinold on the announcement of their engagement. Their parents are John and Thelma Sawyer (Kouts, IN) and Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy Heinold. May the Lord be near them in the coming days as they make preparations for their wedding day.

There are several in our congregation who continue to need our prayers because of health concerns. Sis. Erma Moser's health has declined within the past months. Sis. Connie Knobloch has undergone surgery and Lucille Nuest has not been able to assemble with us.

We would like to congratulate our graduates this year. High school graduates are Jimmy Barber, Bro. Ross Feller, Bro. Brad Frank, Sis. Heidi Nuest and Bro. Ned Troxel. Bro. Josh Johnson has finished his college education. May the Lord bless and guide them as they prepare for the future.

This past school year, Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel have hosted an exchange student from Germany. Tomas Hoenicke will be returning to his home at the end of June. We pray that he will take back precious memories of our faith and may it have an impact on his future. We will miss him.

Our young group enjoyed a weekend of fellowship with brothers and sisters from various congregations. Then on Sunday evening, we had an all church singing. It was a blessing

to all.

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Tonya Stoller welcomed their second son, Isaiah Robert, on April 30. Isaiah's brother is Elijah; his grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Patsy Stoller and Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy Wieland (Princeville, IL).

Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) assisted Elder Bro. Lynn at Natalie Stieglitz's testimony service April 30. Natalie was baptized on Sunday, May 1. It was the same day her great - grandmother, Mildred Stavenik Schlatter, was baptized 83 years earlier.

A large group of ladies from near and far enjoyed the spring luncheon on May 14. The theme was "New Life" - II Cor. 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away: behold, all things are become new."

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Lynn (Sis. Chris) Klopfenstein and family on the death of his cousin, Gaylord Widner, who attended Leo Sunday School in his youth.

We welcome Bro. Marc and Sis. Diann Grim, their two sons, Isaac and Micah, who have come from Bloomington, IL, to serve at Gateway Woods. May you feel the Lord's strength and blessing.

The world, I thought, belonged to
me

Goods, gold and people, land and
sea

Where'er I walked beneath God's
sky

In those old days my word was "I".

Years passed; there flashed my
pathway near

The fragment of a vision dear;
My former word no more sufficed,
And what I said was "I and
Christ."

But, O, the more I looked on Him
His glory grew, while mine grew
dim,
I shrank so small, He towered so
high,
All I dared say was "Christ and I."

Years more the vision held its
place
And looked me steadily in the face;
I speak now in humbler tone,
And what I say is "Christ alone."

—unknown

INDIANA, MILFORD Carlton Beer Carol Haab

May 1 was the wedding day for Bro. Rob Schlipf and Sis. Kim Young. Parents of the happy couple are Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy Schlipf and Bro. David and Sis. Barbara Young (Bloomington, IL). We welcome Sis. Kim to our congregation and wish them God's blessings as they begin their life together as man and wife.

Bro. Jesse Beer and Bro. Bill Longcor experienced surgery this month. We are thankful they are once again able to assemble with us. May they feel God's healing power as they continue to recuperate.

We were blessed to have Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL) and Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH) minister to us this month. It is so refreshing to see the love of God shine through our ministering brothers. We thank them for their labors on our behalf.

We want to extend our congratulations to our graduates this spring. Laura Bowerman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue) graduated from high school

and Sis. Julie Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) is our college graduate. May they feel God's guidance as they look to the future.

Once again it is time to honor our fathers on Father's day. We love and appreciate all the faithful fathers in our congregation and pray the Lord will bless each one. We are also thankful for our Heavenly Father who watches over us, listens to all our concerns, and is ever by our side.

Recently the devastation of the wars that rage in Iraq and Afghanistan was brought home to our small community. A teacher at our local middle school lost her husband when the jeep in which he was a passenger hit a land mine and exploded. He was committed to helping the Afghan people reconstruct their country and lives. When asked why he reenlisted to go back to Afghanistan, his reply was, "If not me, who will?" After hearing this, I had to thank, what are we as Christians doing with our lives? Are we reaching out to others, allowing God to direct us to help those less fortunate than ourselves? Or are we content to stand back and remain in our own comfort zone and do nothing? We don't need to go to a foreign land to help others. There are many within our communities that are in need both physically and spiritually. Jesus said, "...verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 25:40). May we always be willing to reach out to those in need as Jesus instructed us to do.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler
Tammy Waibel**

Greetings from Remington. School will be out by the time this

gets out and we would like to announce our graduates in both the High School and College levels. This year from High School the graduates are: Jennifer Pierce (Randy and Sonia Pierce) and Luke Wahl (Bro. Fred and Sis. Libby). College Graduates are: Sis. Abby Clauss (Bro. Rex and Sis. Tammy), Bro. Eric Frantz (Joe and Sis. Cheri), Bros. Joel and Nathan Virkler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth). We would like to send a special thank you to all of those who helped our youth work and achieve their goals in school.

Marlee Grace was born to first-time parents, Bro. Jerod and Sis. Molly Steffen, on May 16. Grandparents are: Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Roger and Sis. Vicki Steffen. May the Lord watch over this little family.

Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL) was our visiting minister this month. Thank you and your family for giving of yourselves and coming to worship with us.

In closing we want to say "Thank You" to all of the fathers out there. Thank you for being the spiritual leader in the home. And "Thank Thee", Heavenly Father, for sending Thy Son here on earth so that one day we would have a way to Thee again.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Melissa Gerst
Stacey Feller**

We have recently been blessed by several visiting ministers. Elder Bros. Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN) and Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) shared the holy sacrament of Communion with our congregation in April. Bros. Tom Troxel (Lacrosse, IN), Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), and Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) had occasions to

visit family in our congregation, and we appreciated their willingness to minister to us.

As we remember and honor our mothers and fathers, may we be inspired to pass the spiritual torch on to our children:

"Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;"

Deut. 4:9

INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE Diana Houston Nettie Haab

We appreciate the visiting ministers and thank them for their continued service in presenting the gospel. They were Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN), Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN), and Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO).

Once again it's graduation time. High school graduates are Cameron Walder, Nick Carson, Blaine Furrer, Sis. Ashton Bahler. Praying for God's clear direction for them as they enter into a new area of life.

College graduates are Bro. Mark Reinhard, Bro. Seth Beer, Bro. Brad Widmer, Sis. Nicole Knobloch, Bro. Kellan Kershner, Jeremy Littell, Bro. Jon Eide, Sis. Marti Hinrichsen, Bro. Dustin Gutwein, Bro. Ben

Bucher, Bro. Eric Frantz, Josh Cook, Josh Freed, Bro. Joel Virkler, Bro. Nathan Virkler, Mindy Ames,

Sis. Joy Gutwein, Bro. Phil Huber, Bro. Austin Harris, Sis. Brandy Schwab, Sis. Beth Tonner. We will miss those students who made their home here for what seems a short time and will be leaving. May God pour out blessings, protection and guidance as they all move to new and different phases of their life. Also we look forward to new high school graduates starting college in the fall.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Elaine Bahler
Lisa Furrer

Having first committed their lives to the Lord, Sis. Tiffany Schwab and Bro. J.R. Sauder committed their lives to one another in holy matrimony on April 24. Parents of the couple are Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy Schwab and Bro. John and Sis. Peg Sauder (Morton, IL). Their wedding day was even more special as Sis. Tiffany's grandfather, retired Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), conducted the marriage ceremony assisted by Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN). We wish Sis. Tiffany and Bro. J.R. God's richest blessings as they establish their new home near Indianapolis and assemble with the congregation there.

Bro. Derek and Sis. Theresa Blume were blessed with the birth of Levi Lynn on April 29. Big sister, Emma Rose, eagerly welcomed her new baby brother as well as grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell Blume and Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel Schwab. Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann Gerber and Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy Heinold (Lacrosse, IN) are also excited with the birth of their grandson, David Jon, born to Bro. Eric and Sis. Bobbi Ann Heinold (Lacrosse, IN) on May 20. David will be a good

playmate for his older brother, Daniel.

"I was glad when they said to me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord."

Psalm 122:1

After many months of constructing a new addition and remodeling, how glad and thankful we are to once again assemble in our church house. Mere words cannot express the appreciation for all those who gave of themselves for this project, but we have faith to believe that God will shower His blessings upon them and reward their efforts of love.

We were thankful to have Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), and Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) assemble with us. Their ministry and counsel was a tremendous blessing and we thank them for sharing God's Word with us.

Prayers for God's healing power are offered for Brett Schwab (Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy) who suffered a broken leg.

Congratulations are extended to our college graduates: Sis. Brandy Schwab (Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy) and Bro. Austin Harris (Mike and Sis. Nancy Scott). May God grant them the wisdom to use wisely the knowledge they have gained.

Graduating from high school are Eric Bahler (Chris and Sis. Teresa), Clint Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell), and Garrison Gudeman (Tom Gudeman and Elaine Gudeman). Congratulations to them on their achievements and may God direct their paths as they begin a new phase of life.

We say "Welcome Home" to Bro. Glenn and Sis. Norma Blume who have moved back from Sarasota, FL.

We have missed their presence and are thankful to have them back among their family.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Brenda Schulz
Laurie Schulz

We were blessed to partake of Holy Communion this past month. Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) came to assist our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall.

Our prayers are with Bro. Dave and Sis. Sandy, Sis. Jaclyn and Jessica Schaer, as Sis. Sandy's mother, Sis. Wilma Stoller (Oakville, IA), has passed away.

We pray also for God's comfort for Bro. Dallas and Sis. Christy Massner, as her grandmother, Sis. Bernice Frank (Oakville, IA), has gone to her reward.

Sis. Evelyn (Bro. Dale) Massner's sister, Marie Fisher (West Bend, IA), reached the end of her earthly pathway. May God be their Comforter.

Bro. Bill (Sis. Rosie) Oberman's sister, Ruth Schnupper, has also passed away. We pray they too can feel God's comfort.

This month was also the wedding of Bro. Philip Schulz and Sis. Kelli Frank (Oakville, IA). We rejoice with them and their parents, Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody Schulz, and Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina Frank (Oakville, IA). We are pleased to have Sis. Kelli with us here.

We were happy to hear of the engagement of Bro. Jordan Knapp and Sis. Heidi Fehr, both of West Bend. Their parents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna Knapp of Burlington and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr of West Bend.

Our prayers are with Bro. Earl Massner (Sis. Ada), who has been in the hospital.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

As June has a date set aside to remember our fathers, my thoughts turn to some of their scriptural duties.

Teach – their children the statutes and commandments of God. (Deut. 6)

Train – their children in the way they should go. (Proverbs 22:6)

Nurture – “Provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” (Eph. 6:4)

Provide – for those of his own house. (I Timothy 5:8)

Chastise and correct – “Chastise thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.” (Proverbs 19:18). “Withhold not correction from the child...” (Proverbs 23:13)

We were recently blessed with a surprise visit from ministering Bro. Nathan Wieland and his wife, Sis. Suzanne (Goodfield, IL). May God be with them and continue to provide as they serve the Lord, together. We trust they will feel welcome to return often.

Kathryn Schneider plans to move back to Pennsylvania to be closer to her family. We wish her God’s nearness and may she feel our love and prayers.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer

Congratulations to our college graduates, Heidi Landherr and Rachel Reker. We wish them God’s blessings and guidance as they begin their careers.

As Memorial Day and Independence Day approach, we are re-

mindful of the sacrifice of so many to obtain or preserve our freedoms. Our greatest gratitude goes to the One who gave His life to free us from sin’s slavery.

IOWA, LESTER
Dawn Knobloch
Dawn Metzger

Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) so kindly shared God’s Word with us this past month. We appreciate our ministering brethren who willingly labor on our behalf. May they always seek God’s direction and spirit as they share the Living Word.

We rejoice with Andrea Knobloch as she professes she has found her peace. May she treasure this above all else in this life. Andrea’s parents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn Knobloch.

Our hearts ache for those that are suffering, some grievously ill. Those that have been in need of hospitalization this past month were Alex Moser (Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther), Laban Metzger (Bro. Jared and Sis. Karla), Bro. Elmer Metzger (Sis. Mariann), Bro. Ron Kellenberger, Bro. Lawrence Wulf, Bro. Al Knobloch (Sis. Lucy), Sis. Emma Meyer, and Sis. Freida Mogler (Bro. Andy). We trust God’s healing touch is shared according to His will.

We extend our best wishes to these couples who have shared their engagements. Darin Knobloch and Stacy Kroon are making plans for an upcoming marriage. Bro. Larry and Sis. Sheryl Knobloch are Darin’s parents. On May 1, the betrothal of Bro. Dana Metzger and Sis. Kary Hartter was announced to our congregation. Parents of this couple are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joleen Metzger and Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gail Hartter.

We welcome back Katie Metzger to our area. Katie is the daughter of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Harriet Metzger and has lived away from our area for a time. We’re glad to have her back.

Our congratulations are extended to all our graduates. Those graduating from high school this year are Jonathan Feuchtenberger (Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth), Sara Leuthold (Bro. Doug and Charlene), Elyse Meyer (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill), Tim Molitor (Bob and Carol), Julie Popkes (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori), Austin Knobloch (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jackie), Daniel Messner (Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene), Rosalee Mogler (Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev) and Tessa Moser (Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther). College graduates this spring are Chad DeSmet and Stacey DeSmet (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley), Kristy Popkes (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori), Colin Moser (Bro. Rick and Sis. Lori), Kent Moser (Bro. Donn and Sis. Joyce) and Chris Metzger (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Harriet).

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Rosalie Wiegand
Sharla Wiegand

Our church family has bid farewell to several brethren as they passed from this life into eternity. On April 20, Sis. Bernice Frank (late Bro. Ernie) passed away. She leaves behind her children, Sis. Marian Pflum (Bro. Lyle) of Taylor, MO, and Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Kathy) and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Sis. Wilma Stoller (Bro. Vernon) was relieved from her suffering and illness on April 24. Her daughter, Sis. Sandy Schaer (Bro. Dave), and two granddaughters mourn her passing. Ministering Bros. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL) and Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL) had a part in the

service.

We were greatly saddened at the sudden passing of Bro. Ervin Marti (Sis. Teresa) on April 25, even though he had been taking treatments for an illness. Our sympathy goes out to his beloved wife and daughters, Sis. Stefanie Stoller (Bro. Dave), Sis. Stacia Tapp (Bro. Brian) and Sis. Shayla Steiner (Bro. Randy) and to his granddaughters whom he loved dearly. Ministering Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) had a prayer at the funeral.

On May 1, Bro. Philip Schulz (Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody, Burlington, IA) and Sis. Kelli Frank (Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina) exchanged marriage vows. We appreciated the help of Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA).

It was announced on May 15 that Sis. Denise Lanz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet) is betrothed to Bro. Greg Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice, West Bend). Our sincerest congratulations are extended to them as they make plans for their new life together.

IOWA

BLOOMFIELD/PULASKI

Barbara Schock

On April 23, Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City) helped our Elder Bro. Doug Schock serve Communion. Bro. Don had done some studying on Roman crucifixion, and he was able to walk us through a regular one. I cringed at times, and talking to other brothers and sisters, I wasn't the only one. The pain that Christ went through! And all because of us. We thank Bro. Don for his time and efforts.

We also have had two other visiting ministers. On May 8, Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove)

was here. On May 15, Bro. Glenn Dill (Sis. Marilyn, Tremont) was here for the weekend. We thank these brothers for taking the time to come and preach the Word to us.

Also on May 15, we had a farewell for Sis. Sheila Beutel as she is moving back to Tremont. She has lived out here for the past two years while attending college. We will miss her, but wish her God's blessings and guidance now and in the future.

While we lost one, we gained six. We joyfully welcome Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary Maibach, and their family, Sis. Rachel, Bro. Samuel, Daniel, and Phillip, to our congregation from Smithville. May God bless them in their continuance of their earthly pilgrimage, as others in the past. To the end and purpose, that, as many as are called and obey, they might receive the promises. (Heb.11:8-10).

As Father's Day approaches, may we each take the time to thank our earthly fathers for everything they have done for us through out the years. And while we remember our fathers here on a special day, let's remember to thank our Heavenly Father every day.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Lori Skoglund

Sue Schneider

Our congregation sympathizes with the family of Marie Fisher who passed away after many months of serious health problems. Marie is survived by two daughters, Anita Fisher of West Bend and Carrie Fisher of Trenton, MO, and a sister, Evelyn Massner (Bro. Dale), of Oakville, IA.

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

Matthew 5:4

Julia Fehr, the young daughter of Bro. Cory and Sis. Jennifer, and Sis. Pearl Anliker were surgical patients this past month. We pray God's healing power will continue to bless them both.

Joel Kellenberger (Teresa) is undergoing treatment for medical problems. May God be with and bless him and his family. Several families in our congregation are dealing with serious illnesses in their families. We think especially of Joan Traub with her son, Jerry, and Bro. Cameron Knobloch (Sis. Tammy) and his father, Bro. Alfred, from the Lester congregation. We keep them all in our thoughts and prayers.

Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO) blessed our assembly with a visit in late April. Bro. Bill stressed the meaning of love. There is a Godly love which is shown in our obedience to God, and a love that we have for each other. This love is expressed in our efforts to help one another get to heaven.

"Along the river of time we glide ... the swiftly flowing resistless tide ..." The swift passage of time is most notable at the milestones in life. Reaching their goal of high school graduation are Trent Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene), Becky Bormann (Ralph and Melanie), Clark Bruellman (Bro. Dave and Sis. Yvonne), Lena Bruellman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Deb), Jessie Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee), Logan Metzger (Jerry and Joy), Betsy Mogler (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Beth), and Krisa Schmidt (Jamie and Linda). Many others have reached educational goals at this time also. As they strike out on the new paths created by the groundwork of this schooling, may their futures be un-

dergirded by God's will.

"My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee."

Proverbs 3:1-2

Two couples have been led in faith to become engaged. Bro. Jordan Knapp (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna, Burlington, IA) and Sis. Heidi Fehr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon) plan to marry in June. And Bro. Greg Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice) and Sis. Denise Lanz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet, Oakville, IA) are anticipating a July wedding. May God bless this special time in their lives.

Kiersten Ann was born on May 16 to thankful parents, Bro. Jeff and Sis. LaRae Montag, and happy sisters, Karissa and Jenna. Grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene Banwart and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Montag, enjoy the benefits of living close by.

The following day, Bro. Jason and Sis. Angie Fehr welcomed Drew Douglas into the world. Caleb and Kara will enjoy their little brother along with grandparents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr and Elder Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther Warner (Lester, IA).

This correspondent would like to share the message in the card purchased for her father this year in hopes it will encourage all fathers in this most worthy role.

Thinking of You, Dad

It takes someone strong to stop and listen to one along life's way.

It takes someone wise to lead one back when the heart's gone astray.

It takes someone special to be a dad who's thoughtful, kind and dear.

It takes a man to be a father ... each day throughout the year.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Eiko Nozawa

On April 24, Bro. Willis Ehnle announced the engagement of our dear Bro. Akihiro Ito to Sis. Carrie Sauder (Tremont, IL). We are rejoicing with them, and are looking forward to seeing them. Bro. Akihiro is from our Shioda Church but is presently attending our church in Tremont. May God bless and guide them when they prepare for their wedding and their life together.

On Mother's Day a group of us visited Ichinomiya Hot-Spring Hospital and handed a small gift and a card to each lady patient. We wish them quick recovery so that they can go home soon to be with a family again. May God touch their hearts with His love.

Sis. Haruko Saegusa still resides at the Ichinomiya Care Center. She doesn't speak very much but she can follow along in the Bible when it is read to her. She also folds her hands for prayer.

Four sisters in faith, from the States, visited at the Shioda Church for one day, Friday, May 13. They were Sis. Krista Banwart, St. Louis; Sis. Tina Fehr, Kansas City; Sis. Crystal Klopfenstein, Peoria; and Sis. Melissa Mangers, Morton.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Kay Kellenberger

We are thankful that Bro. Yoshiyo Yamazaki is healing and feeling better day by day. We continue to lift him in prayer and look

forward to the day he will be able to fellowship with us again at church. We rejoice with Bro. Akihiro Ito and Sis. Carrie Sauder in their recent engagement. We pray God's richest blessings as they grow together in God's love. We anticipate their visit to Japan.

We are thankful for Elder Bro. Akito Inoue's safe journey as he visited Chicago, IL, for the Missions Committee meeting and then traveled to Croghan, NY.

We held our annual business meeting. May each one receive a blessing for the efforts they put forth.

We were so thankful for the visit of Sis. Tina Fehr, Sis. Krista Banwart, Sis. Melissa Mangers, and Sis. Crystal Klopfenstein as they stopped by Japan on their way home from visiting Sis. Stephanie Moser in China. The brethren really enjoyed their company and fellowship as they traveled with them to many different places in Japan.

Heart with heart in love united,
Seek upon God's heart repose.
Let your love, to flames ignited, To
the Savior upward flow.
He the Head and we His members;
He the light and we the glow;
He the Master we His brethren, In
true fellowship we grow.

Each should stimulate the other,
Childlike, tractable and meek,
In the steps of Christ to follow,
who in death our life did seek.
Let us ever be awakened, All our
powers day by day,
Willingly to give in service And His
kindness to repay.

Let us then be so united As Thou
with the Father art,
That not one of Thy weak mem-
bers Here on earth shall stand
apart.

From the flames of Thy own burning
 ing May our light partake its
 glow;
 And that we are Thy disciples All
 the world may surely know.
Zion's Harp #33, vs. 1,4,5

KANSAS, BERN
Sheri Edelman
Rita Menold

Emily Strahm (Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen), has given her life to God in repentance, and has found the wonderful peace that passeth all understanding. We look forward to witnessing her proving and, Lord willing, baptism in the near future.

Bro. Terry and Sis. Dayra Menold welcomed little Lucas Allen into their home on April 27! Big sisters are Norea and Madison. Happy grandparents are Bro. James and Sis. Lou Menold and Bro. Jim and the late Sis. Jeanne Meyer.

On May 9, Amber Jo Strahm was welcomed into the hearts and home of Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sally Strahm! Big sister Tessa is excited to have a new playmate! Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Shelby Strahm and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth Hartter, of the Sabetha congregation.

Benji Strahm and Kim Sander have announced their engagement and are planning a December wedding. Parents of the couple are Bro. Elwin and Sis. Mary Strahm, and Glenn and Mary Sander. We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they plan their life together.

The weekend of April 15-17 our congregation was so very blessed to have ministering Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. and his wife, Sis. Donna, from Morton, IL, with us. Bro. Ted held a Bible Study at Kansas State University on Friday evening, then on Saturday spoke to the church on

different topics in the morning and evening. Sunday we were privileged to hear him preach the Word of God once again! We thank you, Bro. Ted, for lending of yourself!

Those requiring medical treatment this month were Bro. Dan Edelman, Sis. Stella Moser (Bro. Reuben), and Sis. Nancy Rokey (Bro. Galen). We wish each of them God's healing powers!

Bro. Alpha Strahm has recently been moved into the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home. We pray that God will be with Bro. Alpha in his new environment.

Sis. Anna Esslinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty) has completed her schooling and graduated from Washburn University. We wish Sis. Anna the best as she begins her employment in the Topeka, KS area.

As we thank our earthly fathers for all they do as Father's Day approaches, may we always be thankful to our Heavenly Father for sending His only begotten Son to die and shed His blood on the Cross for our sins! What a sacrifice He made!

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Ethel Smith

God's grace and peace to all from our Lord and Redeemer. As we approach this Memorial Day season, we especially want to remember our troops who are fighting for peace and freedom. We are thankful that through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we can have peace in our hearts, even when there is turmoil throughout the world.

April 23-24, our church hosted the 5th and 6th grade Sunday school classes from Colorado, KC and Lamar, MO, and the Kansas Churches. Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) was the guest speaker. His topics included

dangers of Internet, cheating-honesty, lust-fornication, drugs-alcohol, choosing friends and careers. He challenged them to use the Bible as a guide the same way one would use a road map to reach their destination. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33). The young people were very attentive.

Our Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie) came for Wednesday evening services, May 11, and to visit with our converts. He lovingly reminded us that if we stay in the shadow of the cross, we will be protected from the evils of this world...stay close to God and He will stay close to you. Other visiting ministers this past month were Bro. David Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO), and Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO). We are so very thankful for their messages from God's Word and the encouragement brought to us, as well as the fellowship. May God bless each of you and your families.

Earthly security is uncertain but God is always faithful.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Jenny Stewart
Laura Wagenbach

Another school year has come to an end, and with it also comes graduation. A close to one part of life, and an exciting beginning to the future. We wish to congratulate our high school graduate, Sis. Chelsie Bahr (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice). Graduating from middle school are LaNae Wagenbach (Bro. Ken and Sis. Laura) and John Reimer (Diedrich and Helen). We pray for these young people as they journey on with their education.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Philippians 4:13

The junior Bible class and sponsors enjoyed a fun-filled weekend fellowship held at Fort Scott for all the area churches. Everyone had a wonderful weekend and we would like to thank Fort Scott for their time and efforts.

As the summer months pass, may we all seek His grace for guidance and safety in all that we do.

**KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Eileen Bahr**

May God be with our graduates and may His blessings light their lives. Sis. Ester Knobloch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri) received a B.A. in Medical Technology from Wichita University; and high school graduates are Sis. Marie Luthi (Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane), Kara Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy) and Nathan Knobloch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri).

There seems to be a special blessing granted farmer grandfathers and sons when they are blessed with a baby boy. Gavin Lee Isch was born May 17 to Justin and Liz Isch. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch.

Bro. Eldon Metzger has been hospitalized and scheduled to have surgery today as I write this (5/18).

**KANSAS, SABETHA
Dawn Strahm
Rebekah Beyer**

Our congregation was thankful to welcome Jacob Hartter (Bro. Dave and Sis. Beth) into the body of believers on the weekend of April 30 - May 1. Jacob's grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter

and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta Plattner (Bern). Sharing in the proving of this dear soul was Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS).

On May 14 we were blessed to spend the evening in remembrance of our Lord's suffering and death on the cross as we partook of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) assisted our Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell in this work. Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) shared God's Word with us on Sunday, May 15. His ministry was appreciated as he opened up to scriptures of the Passover and then Jesus' crucifixion.

With mixed emotions we said farewell to two dear couples this past month. A potluck supper and singing was held on Sunday, April 24, for Bro. Willard and Sis. Eloise Bahr who are relocating to Detroit, MI, to be near their children. On Saturday, May 7, there was a farewell singing for our ministering Bro. Brandon Plattner, his wife Sis. Rhoda, and their son, Mason. They will soon be moving close to Ames, IA where Bro. Brandon plans to further his schooling. There they hope to gather with the Garden Grove church when services are not held in Ames. While we are happy for these couples and pray for them God's richest blessings, they will truly be missed in our church! A special thank you to Bro. Brandon for ministering God's Word to us the past few years.

There was a singing shower for Sis. Karla Kaisner and Bro. Zachary Anderson (Congerville, IL) on April 24. Sis. Karla will also be missed in our congregation as she moves back to Illinois.

Happy parents of a new little girl,

Kate Mariah, are Bro. Klint and Sis. Kara Beyer. Welcoming Kate home are brothers, Wyatt, Kody, and Jake. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen Beyer and Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene Grimm. We wish God's blessings upon this couple as they raise their family in God's fear.

Graduation time is once again here. From Kansas State University, Sis. Dixie Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN) graduated on May 13 with her master's degree in school counseling. May she feel God's nearness as she now looks for new employment. High school graduates this year are Lyle Grimm (Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene), Renee Grimm (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita), Darin Hartter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth), and Kenna Kellenberger (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa). We pray for God's nearness in all of these young lives also as they look forward to their futures.

**KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller**

Derek and Emily Funk were blessed when little Dillon Bradley was born April 18. His arrival made it possible for Derek to take a two-week leave from his duties in Iraq. May they be reunited as a family in the very near future.

April 30 was the date for the Mother-Daughter Banquet. We look forward to this event as it brings together women who had a common bond at one time. The Glen Funk family was able to have Glen's mother, his aunt, and some of his sisters present. Since the theme for the evening was music, Sis. Violet Funk and her daughters shared their vocal talent with us.

Also on the same weekend, a group of young people from K State,

Kiowa, and Ft. Scott spent Saturday on some work projects such as building a deck for a handicapped couple who needed a convenient way to get their wheel chairs in and out of their home. They also worked at the church doing some landscaping and general maintenance. Bro. Cory Metzger coordinated their activities and realized they had the time and energy to work in the yard of an older Sister. After church services on Sunday they went to sing for Sis. Nellie Lambert. Young people, you are welcome to come "brighten our corner" again.

Eighty years ago in the Gridley, Kansas, congregation six families were blessed with the birth of daughters. Now, three of those six worship together in the Wichita congregation. Sis. Judy Langhofer, Sis. Ann Warner and I share in that bond of fellowship that survived throughout the years. The three of us are able to manage our responsibilities in our homes though we admit that a nap or two during the day is a welcome relief. We have reasons to "Praise the Lord."

MEXICO, IXTLAN
Claudia Gonzalez

"Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied."

Jude 2

Greetings and love dear ones. It's really our wish that the peace and love of God be multiplied in your lives each day.

This past month there have been some afflicted and in need of our prayers. Bro. Javier Gonzalez (Sis. Bertha) has been ill as he has liver disease. May we continue to keep him and his family in our prayers. We have to remember that even

when things are not going in the way we want to, we need to trust in the protection of our Lord and Savior and stay close to Him.

We would like to thank Norberto Chavez from Tecate who visited us and was willing to help in God's work in the past three months. He made several trips to take the Gonzalez family to the hospital in Guadalajara.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Rose Watson
Terri Huber

We are always thankful for the visiting ministers that allow God to use them in preaching the Word. Sharing time with us over the last month were Bros. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) and Matt Rassi (Chicago, IL) and their wives. Also visiting and assisting with Communion was Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL). It was a precious opportunity for us to break bread and drink of the cup as our Lord and Saviour commands.

At home and experiencing slow but sure recovery are Bro. Wes Daniels (surgery) and Sis. Myrna Steffen (car accident). We want to praise God for the encouragement He has provided for all those who are suffering.

The Mother-Daughter Banquet was attended by 120, from babies to great - grandmothers. It is an event that we look forward to every year, and was held at our own Fellowship Hall for the very first time! The fellowship center has been completed and usable for about six months. We are truly enjoying the convenience and opportunity this affords. A work day was held to put in some landscaping, and this seems to mark the read end of the building project.

We would like to express our

gratitude for the Detroit congregation initiating and hosting the first ever All-Michigan Hymn Sing. Those of us who made the trip over were blessed to be able to joyfully sing songs of praise and visit with old friends.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

We were uplifted and encouraged on Saturday, April 23, as we gathered for the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) and Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) were with us for a blessed weekend. We also are thankful that Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) was able to be with us for Mother's Day.

As a congregation, we lift up in prayer those who have been hospitalized. We pray for healing for Bro. Fred Munsel (Sis. Delores), Sis. Marlene Mosher and little Matisin Wieland (Matt and Terri). May God provide for each one.

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

This year, we have three high school graduates: Amanda Knochel (Bro. Bob and Sis. Rhonda), Caitlin Long (Rick and Joan), and Carissa Munsel (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lynette). We entreat the Lord's blessings on each of these students that the Lord's will could be done in their lives.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT**Tiffany Wieland****Mary Weigele**

In Psalm 92:1 we read: "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High." This was our experience as we enjoyed hosting the first Michigan-Toledo, OH, singing on Sunday evening, May 15. It was truly a blessing to see the dining room at Woodpointe filled with those of all ages and from all four churches. Hopefully this can become an annual event and we thank those who participated. Also this month was our Mother-Daughter Tea held in the Woodpointe Dining Room. It was a special time of honoring our mothers and those women in our lives who had an impact in our up-bringing. Thanks to all who helped with the organization and food preparation for this delightful event.

We were privileged to have two visiting ministers recently and want to express our gratitude for their service. We thank Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI) and Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) for bringing us the gospel message.

We are thankful to have Bro. Willard and Sis. Eloise Bahr as a part of our Detroit fellowship. They recently moved here from Sabetha, KS, and we wish to extend a heart-felt welcome to them. We have come to know them well as they have made many visits here over the years to see their sons and their families, Elder Bro. Mark Bahr and Bro. Phil Bahr.

We wish to extend our congratulations to Bro. Marc Knepp and Sis. Stacie Rumbold as they were recently married in Peoria, IL. Bro. Marc is at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor

where they are making their home. We pray for God's blessings upon them as they begin their married life together.

We would like to extend an invitation to all who can join us to come to Detroit for the 17th annual Choir Benefit day of worship and fellowship. It will be held at the Church on July 17, 2005, and we look forward to a special day of singing and praising God.

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
LaRae Dill**

"...and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing."

Ezekiel 34:26

Rain showers have certainly been abundant in our area. While it is tempting to complain about the cloudy, gloomy days, the lush, green vegetation certainly is beautiful. My son was telling me about the morning message in his Kindergarten class - "Do you like rain - yes or no?" He had the feeling that he was one of the few students who wrote "yes", as most of the children were hoping the rain would stop so that outdoor playtime could resume! Sunshine and showers - we do need both, both in a physical and spiritual sense.

Blessings are wished upon Bro. Adam and Sis. Rachel Bjerkevedt as they have completed their studies here and are moving back to their home area of Morris, MN. A number from our congregation were able to be in Morris April 23 and 24 for Adam and Rachel's testimony and baptism. We have enjoyed the blessing of seeing God's work in their lives, and pray He will continue to

shower His love and grace upon them.

The weekend of April 30—May 1 was a blessing to us as the Chicago congregation's annual bus trip traveled to Minneapolis to share love and fellowship with us. A short visit to nearby Fort Snelling was made before assembling at church for dinner and singing. We appreciated Bro. Brad Eisenmann's spiritual analogies of being a soldier ready for battle, and the necessary attributes of a strong fort. Bro. Brad as well as Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) ministered to us on Sunday.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Heidi Nohl
Katie Koehl**

We were thankful to have many visiting ministers with us this month. They were Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Bros. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO). May God richly bless them for their many labors.

Now I have vowed to fear and love
Thee

And to obey Thee, Lord, alone;
I feel Thy Holy Spirit move me
And freely pledge myself Thine
own,

Renouncing sin to keep the faith
And war with evil unto death.

Zion's Harp #41, vs. 3

We were blessed to have the provings and witness the baptisms of eight dear souls. They were Josh and Marcy Sundheim, Adam and

Rachel Bjerketvedt, Byron and Amy Wulf, Myra Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl) and Stephanie Schaefer (Bro. Rod and Sis. Denise).

We rejoice that Corey Wulf (Mike) has begun her repentance.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Esther Koehl, Bro. Doug Koehl (Sis. Maxine), Bro. Chris Moser (Sis. Marion), Sis. Mary Koehl (Bro. Jake), and Emil Greiner (Arlene). We trust God will heal where it is His will.

Graduating from high school this year are: Tyler Fehr (Bro. Randy and Sis. Lori), Austin Gramm (Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen), Bethany Jones (Bro. Shane and Sis. Ruth), Harlan Koehl (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon), Michael Koehl (Bro. Guy and Sis. Lynette), Corey Schaefer (Bro. Stan and Sis. Bev), Jesse Schmidgall (Bro. Tom and Sis. Ruth), Scott Wulf (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy), Chris Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen), Bro. Kevin Nohl (Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice) and Sis. Stephanie Schaefer (Bro. Rod and Sis. Denise). Graduating from higher schools of learning are: Sis. Myra Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl), Sis. Stephanie Schaefer (Bro. Rod and Sis. Denise), Bro. Byron and Sis. Amy Wulf, Robyn Wulf (Bro. Jeral and Sis. Linda), Crystal Rinkenberger (Robert and Mary), Brad Feuchtenberger (Bro. Robert and Sis. Gwen) and Sis. Dixie Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel). We trust that all goes well for them in the future.

Note of Thanks:

My family and I want to thank each one, far and near, for the support, love and prayers during my treatments. It is comforting to know that we do not walk alone. God's blessings to each one.

Bro. Dick, Sis. Gail, Mason, Connor and Chase Metzger

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
GINNY STOLL
RACHEL STEINER

We had the blessed privilege to partake in Communion exhortation and Holy Communion this past month. We would like to extend our thanks to Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner

Our annual voting took place this past month. Sunday School substitutes elected are Bro. Nick Schmidt (Sis. Julie) and Sis. Rachel Steiner (Bro. Glen).

As we remember Mother's Day, let us reflect on all the love they have shown us throughout the years and may God bless them for the examples and precious memories they have given us.

The single group invited company from Lamar, MO, and Lester, IA, for a weekend. We would like to thank the young brothers and sisters and converts for coming and spending time here in Winthrop.

The angels rejoice over each and every sinner who answers His call. Victoria Stoll (Bro. Ed and Sis. Ginny) has answered the call and has found peace. We are so thankful that God is still calling souls and that dear loved ones are willing to answer.

Our hospital patients this month were Darlene Schmidt (Bro. Darrell) and Malakai Ebling (Adrian and Beckie). We pray for God's healing in their lives.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
MINDY BRAKER
WENDY BRAKER

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

I Cor. 11:26

We were reminded of our Lord's death and suffering when we partook of Holy Communion. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) here to assist our Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi in this solemn work.

Congratulations to Sis. Andrea Banwart (Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda) and Darin Braker (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol) as they graduate from high school. We wish them God's blessings.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Dale Marti (Sis. Corrine) and Bro. Joe Marti (Sis. Evelyn) on the death of their brother, Bro. Ervin Marti (Sis. Teresa), of Oakville, IA. May the Lord comfort the families as only He can.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
BETSY SCHRENK

Three families in our little church experienced the pain of separation by the death of family members within a few days in May. On May 13, Sis. Cindy Baker said goodbye to her father, Ray Sherrod, of Clayton, MO. Bro. Bill Belsley (Eureka, IL), father of Sis. Betsy Schrenk, went to be with the Lord on May 15. And Sis. Loree Plattner (Sabetha, KS), grandmother of Sis. Shayna Mangers, was gathered home on May 17. So quickly a funeral is over and life goes on, with a gaping hole left for the family to adjust to. Our brothers and sisters in

the Lord are such comforts at these difficult times.

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bros. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and Bro. James Knapp (Congerville, IL). We had our annual business meeting, shared Holy Communion, and heard the Memorandum on the weekend of April 23 and 24.

We are thankful for traveling mercies for Sis. Krista Banwart on her recent trip to China and Japan. Observing Christ's Name being held forth in these difficult situations was an encouragement to her and her traveling companions.

Christ challenged His hearers to observe His deeds if they were not willing to listen to His words (John 5:36). Recently we read in both Job and Luke. The minister pointed out that in Job 38:8, God rhetorically asked Job, "Or who shut up the sea with doors when it brake forth...?" When Christ calmed the sea as recorded in Luke 8:24, He demonstrated that He is God. "Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm." We were blessed again to see the continuity of the Old and New Testaments, written so many years apart. Deuteronomy 6:4 states: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord."

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Sally Haerr

We are approaching vacation time, school will soon be out for the summer. We may have an exciting trip/journey planned, we can hardly wait! ... Are we that excited about our journey to Heaven? Let's all pick up God's road map, the Holy Bible,

and find joy, that never ends, in His plans/journey for us.

We feel so blessed here in Taylor. We are witnessing miracles all around us and what could be more miraculous than the rebirth of precious souls? Bethany Wiegand (Bro. John and Sis. Mary, Roanoke, IL) has been assembling with us for many months, and on May 14 she went home to Bloomington, IL, to give her testimony and receive baptism and now we welcome her as our Sister in Christ. Also, this next weekend (May 21-22), we are looking forward to hearing the testimonies and witnessing the baptisms of Alexandra and Aubrey Hoerr. They are the daughters of Bro. Scott and Sis. Anna Hoerr.

Our high school graduates this year are Sis. Ashley Hoerr (Bro. Scott and Sis. Anna), Rita Yackley (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jerilyn), Danielle Graupman (Dennis and Donna), Elizabeth Bryan (Joe and Cinda), Rebecca Goellner (Bill and Nancy). They were recognized and honored with a Bible Study message and reception on May 18. We thank Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) for coming to deliver this message. Also that same evening our Elder Bro. Kent Heimer gave a spiritual send off, Luke 10:1-5, to Sis. Heidi Heimer (Bro. Rod and Sis. Barb) and Sis. Lindsey Yackley (Bro. Elwood and Sis. Trudie) as they plan to leave for a 3 month mission in Knockpatrick campus in Jamaica.

Another visiting minister that we enjoyed this month was Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL). He gave a tremendous topical Bible Study on "Integrity". God's Word has a lot to say about integrity. Study it sometime. Thank you, Bro. Clark and Sis. Cindy, for sharing

your time and love with us.

Those sick or hospitalized this month were: Sis. Charlene Sutter, Jody Meyers (Danny), Cooper Sutter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Dianne), Nikki Haerr Miller (Adam), Evan Wiegand (Phil and Lori), Sis. Nerys Lightner (Peter). Our prayer for each one is a swift and complete recovery.

We want to express our sincere sympathy to Sis. Marian Pflum (Lyle) and family in the death of their dear mother and grandmother, Sis. Bernice Frank, of Oakville, IA. Psalm 116:15 says, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We had our annual church cleaning on May 2 and were thankful for each one that was able to lend a helping hand.

Our church was blessed to have Elder Bro. Akito Inoue with us for a week from Tokyo, Japan. We held a potluck and singing together on Saturday, May 7, and then enjoyed a picnic after church the next day at Whetstone Gulf State Park. Words cannot express our thanks to him for remembering us here and for having such a strong wish to visit our congregation. We each received a blessing from having Bro. Akito in our midst and certainly hold fond memories of our time together.

Our prayers went out to several in our congregation who met with surgery or hospitalization over the past month. They are Sis. Linda Graves, Bruce Hirschey, Kermit Virkler, Bruce Richie, Sis. Bernice Hirschey and Sis. Mae Virkler. May they each feel God's healing hand upon them in the days ahead.

We are happy to have two birth announcements to include this month. Anthony and Erin Aubel welcomed home a son, Isaac Bradley, on April 24. Scott and Melissa Greenwood added little Brennan Scott to their family on May 3. Each new little boy is being welcomed home by an excited big sister! May each family seek the Lord's guidance in raising up these new little blessings unto Him.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

We have two that will be having a 90th birthday this summer: Sis. Esther Fritz and Kathryn Nagy were both born in July 1915. Sis. Esther will be 90 on July 17 and Kathryn will be 90 on July 27.

Mothers were given a treat for the Mother's Day Sunday noon meal at church. The Sunday School young people got together and did some baking, and did some ordering, and prepared and served a very nice noon meal for all at church. We appreciate their efforts, as well as the teachers that supervised them.

Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO) and Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville) both gave us inspiring messages.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

Our church family was blessed with the opportunity to take Holy Communion. Sharing the loaf and the cup, representing our Lord's body and blood, Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) and Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) were present and we appreciate their kind exhortation.

Our annual spring cleaning was

held and we were so thankful for the many helping hands from the Fairbury, IL, church who came to help get the many tasks done. Our love and thanks to all who traveled the miles to work, especially the small children of all ages. Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra) shared the Word with us that weekend also. Also sharing with us this month was Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH).

Several families from Columbus were present May 15 to witness the marriage vows of Travis and Summer Banks in Latty. We wish them God's richest blessings as Travis, Summer and Autumn travel life's pathway as a family.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder are thankful for the safe arrival of their newest granddaughter, Sicilia. Our best wishes are extended to Bro. Henry and Sis. Diane Pfeiffer (Mansfield, OH) on their precious addition to their family.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

"Two ways O man are there for thee; There are two destinations..." (Zion's Harp #106). We are thankful that two more souls have found the grace to choose the straight and narrow way. Tara Schlatter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Laurie) and Renae Schlatter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila) brightened our day when we heard that they started repenting this past month.

Blake Russell Koehl made Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera Manz first-time grandparents. Blake's parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Trish of Morris, MN. Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Manz were blessed with a new grandson, Jacob Daniel, who was born to Daniel and Angela Manz. We pray for guidance and direction for these couples as they

raise their precious baby boys.

"Baptized into Thy name most holy, O Father Son and Holy Ghost..." (Zion's Harp #41). What a blessed weekend we had when we were able to hear the testimony and view the baptism of our new Bro. Fred Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie). We would like to thank Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) for being with us during this weekend. We also appreciated the labors of ministering Bros. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) during this weekend. May God richly bless you each one.

Barb Brink (Rob) and Sis. Laurie Schlatter (Bro. Dennis) spent time in the hospital this past month. We are thankful to our Heavenly Father for being near them each one.

OHIO, LATTY

Amanda Steffen

Bonny Wenninger

It is always good to start out an article like this with good news! Our congregation was able to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three souls on April 23-24. They are new Sisters Crystal Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol), Janna Sinn (Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn) and Joni Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim). We rejoice with them all! Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) was here to help Bro. John with the weekend along with visiting ministering Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN).

Other ministers that visited Latty this past month were Bros. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Justin Koch (Sis. Marsha, Washington, IL) and Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN).

We rejoice with Summer Stoller and Travis Banks (Columbus, OH)

as they were united in marriage on May 15. Their parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Shirley Stoller and Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy Banks (Columbus, OH). May God be with them as they make a home together and for little Autumn.

Also thanking God are Cris and Sis. Amy Hopkins as they welcome a son into their family. Little Silas Frederick was born on Mother's Day (May 8) and is welcomed home by sisters, Carli, Josi and Darci. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria Grant and paternal grandparents are Kirk and Laurel Hopkins of Antwerp, OH.

Two hospitalizations were reported this month. Little Carson Laukhuf (Bro. Chris and Sis. Rachel) was hospitalized along with surgery patient, Sis. Josephine Wenninger (Bro. Don). May God be with them as they heal.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Sis. Frances Laidig of Toledo, OH. Surviving siblings are Bros. Alvin, Raymond, and Marvin Klopfenstein and her sister, Aldine Price, all from Latty.

This writer needs to make a correction concerning a hospitalization. It was stated that Sis. Marge Laukhuf was hospitalized recently, but it was actually Sis. Marge Gerber (Bro. Jim) that was hospitalized. This writer apologizes for any confusion on this matter.

Congratulations to the 2005 high school graduates: Sis. Laura Gerber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Patty), Philip Klopfenstein (Bro. Leon and Sis. Deb), Kurt Plummer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Denise), Blake Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim), Morgan Stoller (Bro. Kirk and Sis. Eileen) and Sarah Wenninger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Debbie).

The outside structure of the new

addition is near completion. Work is going on inside the new addition, and demolition of the old women's foyer is under way. Accessible entrances now are only the north and east entrances. The elevator is still accessible.

Note of Thanks:

These few words of thanks hardly express our appreciation for all the cards, gifts and especially the prayers that we have received since Jacob's lawnmower accident. We have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and concern shown to us from our church family across the nation. May God bless each of you abundantly as only He can.

In Christian Love,

Jerry and Cherry and Jacob Klopfenstein and family

**OHIO, MANSFIELD
Esther Baumann**

"If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. If ye love me, keep my commandments."

John 14:14-15

Praying our high school graduates will keep God's commandments and ask for direction according to His will as they continue life's journey. The graduates are: Andrea Baumann (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lilly), Rebecca Baumann (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lilly), Eric Boliantz (Bro. Don and Sis. Joyce), Christine Eriksson (Randy and Pam Sauder), Sis. Kristan Keever (Clair and Sis. Bev), Corbin Masters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine), Sis. Elizabeth Ramsey (Bro. John and Sis. Dawn), Sis. Betsy Rufener (Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay), and Calvin Sauder (Gary and Vicki).

On May 8, we were thankful to

learn Edward Ramsey Jr. (Bro. Ed and Sis. Laura) has found peace. We pray he will continue to grow in God's perfect way.

We welcomed two new precious babies this past month. Chloe Elizabeth was born to Sam and Angel Sauder on April 21. Excited siblings are LaCrisha and Christian; grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue Sauder and Rick and Debbie Prince.

On May 16, Sicilia Ann was born to Bro. Henry and Sis. Diane Pfeiffer. Also welcoming her home are Austin, Ezekiel, Autumn and Naomi; grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Suzanna Pfeiffer and Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder (Columbus, OH).

We were blessed to learn of two engagements on May 1. Bro. Joshua Boliantz (Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie) is engaged to Sis. Jenna Older (Bill and Joyce) of Smithville, OH. Bro. Nathaniel Ramsey (Bro. Ed and Sis. Laura) is engaged to Sis. April Dotterer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mardel) of Rittman, OH. Please pray for both couples as they continue to seek God's direction.

Also pray for our recently hospitalized patients, Roma Them and Sis. Emily Went.

**OHIO, RITTMAN
Anne Widmer
Hannah Beery**

As the last few days of the school year are ended, it's time to rejoice with our many high school graduates. This year's class included: Katherine Arnold (Bob Arnold and Deanna Brown), Steven Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty, Indianapolis, IN), Jared Bauman (Sis. Nancy), Jeffrey Gerber (Bro. Tom and Sis. Laura), Leslie Miller (Mervin and Dawn), Andrew Raifsnider (Douglas and Sis. Diana), Sis.

Kyann Rufener (Bro. James and Sis. Patricia), Esther Rupp (Bro. James and Sis. Sharon), Isaac Steiner (Bro. David J. and Sis. Lynn), Bradley Stoller (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Lori), Sis. Brenda Stoller (Bro. Joseph and Sis. Marian), Jordan Stoller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie) and Ruth Tieche (Greg and Sis. Peggy). Congratulations to each one! May all seek the direction of the Lord as they journey forth.

In May, the Rittman congregation hosted the National World Relief meeting. A sincere thank you is extended to all who put forth efforts to attend and to those who participated in any way. We were thankful to have ministering Bro. Charles Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) visiting us that weekend and Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) sharing in the ministry later in the month. May these servants feel the blessings of God as they are spent for our souls' welfare.

Bro. Ethan Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy) and Bro. Troy Stoller (Bro. Robin and Sis. Joanne) were added into the fold on May 15. Our congregation also reports that Kelly Ramsier (Bro. Timothy and Sis. Jonell) and Bradley Stoller (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Lori) have begun to walk with our Lord. We rejoice with each one who experiences this true repentance and conversion.

On May 8, Bro. Scott Steiner (Bro. Richard and Sis. Patricia) and Sis. Cindy Hartzler (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Jane, Smithville) were united in Holy Matrimony. Also, the engagement of Sis. April Dotterer to

Bro. Nathaniel Ramsey (Mansfield, OH) was recently made known. Parents of the engaged couple are Bro. Robert and Sis. Mardell Dotterer and Bro. Edward and Sis. Laura Ramsey. May the blessings of the Lord be upon these couples as they seek to create Christian homes.

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Sue Hartzler welcomed Ariel Jane into their family, now joining Mason, Baylor, Tory, Kya, Bennett and Rustin. Grandparents are Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane Hartzler and Sis. Irma and the late Bro. Millard Stoller (Latty, OH).

Kaitlyn Dora joined the Bro. Nathan and Sis. Mary Hoffman (Rockville, CT) family and sibling Levi welcomed her home. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Luann Hoffman (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail Steiner.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Gretchen Stoller have a new addition to the family with the birth of Amariah Ruth. Older siblings are Esther and Reuben. Grandparents of Amariah are Sis. Luella Stoller and the late Bro. Harold (Smithville) and Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar.

Glenn (Mary Jane) Winkler and Bro. Milan (Sis. Amy) Baltic spent some time in the hospital recently. May all those in need find health and healing in our Saviour!

Bro. John Calame Sr. (Sis. Margaret) went to his eternal home of rest this month. Surviving him are three children, Sis. Paulette Cochran (Bobby, Sarasota, FL), Bro. John II (Sis. Jody) and Jim. We pray that each one who has lost a loved one might feel the comfort of our Lord during these difficult times.

OHIO, SARDIS Jami Hartzler Terry Zollinger

"But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixty fold, some thirty fold. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

Matthew 13:8-9

Using Spring as a theme, Sardis hosted All Ohio Weekend on April 16-17. We would like to thank all that came to visit and the fellowship of like mind and faith.

"Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray:..."

Matthew 19:13

Grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake, are happy to report a new grandson, Miles Douglas, to Bro. Clifford and Sis. Gina Brake (Smithville, OH). Sisters, Jayde and Lorelle, and brother, Collin, are the big helpers. The maternal grandparents are Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta Stoller, also of Smithville. May this couple continue to raise their children in the ways of the Lord and may they be richly blessed for their efforts.

And ye, the Church's members,
truly
Are folded in my heart's embrace!
In Christ ye are my brethren duly;
We share salvation through His
grace.
We drink one cup; we break one
bread;
One Saviour suffered in our stead.
Zion's Harp #25

What a blessing to be served
Communion and be reminded of

Christ's cruel death and wondrous resurrection. Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH) was willing to humbly help Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle. May we continue to pray for the Lord's mercy and keep Him in our lives faithfully.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Ruth Gasser
Edith Miller**

Peace, perfect peace,
In this dark world of sin?
The blood of Jesus whispers peace
within.

Hymns of Zion #26

We are thankful to report our convert, Lydia Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim), has found this precious peace. May her faith continue to grow as she awaits baptism.

We thank the ministers who have visited recently to share the Word of God with us. May God bless the efforts of Bros. Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Art Ingold (Rittman, OH).

We have two new babies to report this month. On April 25, Miles Douglas was born to Bro. Cliff and Sis. Gina Brake. At home to welcome Miles are Jayde, Lorelle and Collin. Grandparents, Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta Stoller and Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake (Sardis, OH), are also thankful for his safe arrival.

On May 13, Bro. Tom and Sis. Gretchen Stoller became parents to Amariah Ruth. Esther and Reuben will be happy for another playmate. Grandparents of Amariah are Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar (Rittman, OH) and Sis. Luella Stoller. We trust God will bless both homes and grant wisdom to the par-

ents to train up their children in the fear of the Lord.

On May 8, Bro. Scott Steiner and Sis. Cindy Hartzler were united in holy matrimony. Parents of this couple are Bro. Richard and Sis. Pat Steiner (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their marriage.

The engagement of Bro. Josh Boliantz (Bro. Douglas and Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH) and Sis. Jenna Older was recently made known to us. May they feel the direction of God as they plan their August wedding.

Several from our congregation have been hospitalized during the past month. Sis. Luanna Dotterer (Bro. Dave), Michelle Zollinger (Mark) and Logan (Doug and Melaney Nieman) have all submitted to surgery, while Sis. Shelly Beery (Bro. Dwaine) was in for some medical treatment.

Sis. Mildred Hartzler was relieved of her earthly burdens at the age of 97. Her funeral was conducted on April 24. We extend our sympathy to her children who so lovingly looked after her for many years, as Sis. Mildred became a widow nearly 50 years ago when her husband, Bro. William, passed away. May her sons, Glenn (Sandra) and Earl, and her daughter, Lois, feel God's comfort and may they be rewarded for their kind deeds to their mother.

We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Dave and Shelly Colvin and family on the death of Bro. Dave's father, Dick Colvin, whose home was in Iowa. May they likewise feel God's nearness during this time of loss.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

We hope this is the goal of each of our high school graduates as they continue on through this journey of life. Those who have reached this milestone are Janelle Bauman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie), Sis. Shannon Bauman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Jennifer), Juliet Dotterer (Bro. Dave and Sis. Luanna), Sis. Katie Fetzer (Bro. Andy and Sis. Elizabeth), Laura Gasser (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue-Ellen Maibach), Angela Hofacre (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jolene), Brienna Indermuhle (Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev), Greg Landis (Bro. Harvey and Stephanie), Daniel Maibach (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary), Rhonda Marty (Bro. Ron and Tammy), Sis. Holly Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla), and Julie Widmer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Karen).

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard**

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

Rev. 21:4

Sis. Frances Laidig passed from this life and has left her earthly cares. She served many years as a Sunday School teacher and many of her former students remembered all the love she gave them. Our prayers are with her children, Sis. Connie Sancraint (Dave), David Laidig (Vanessa), and Sharon Harris, her grandchildren, and great

grandchildren.

Ryan and Kristie Sancraint had a baby girl on May 10 named Kilei Elizabeth. Ethan welcomes his baby sister home. Happy grandparents are Dave and Sis. Connie Sancraint. It has been over six years since our last baptism. What a joy it was to have a full and overflowing church on the weekend of April 30 and May 1. It was a blessed time as we gathered together to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Ben Harmon (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Dorothy Stevens. Among the many visitors were: Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction), Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield), Retired Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Sis. Lorene, Detroit, MI), Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman), Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis), Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville), Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction), Bro. Ben Manz (Junction), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty), and retired minister, Bro. Gene Fetter (Sis. Marilyn, Bern, KS).

We are thankful for the many visitors who join us each Sunday to help with our song leading.

May God grant his blessings to Summer Stoller and Travis Banks as they were married on May 15. They are living in Bellveue Ohio.

We extend our prayers to Bro. Dave Beard (Sis. Geri) and their family on the death of his father, George Beard.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank everyone who remembered our mother, Sis. Frances Laidig, during her illness and in her passing with cards, flowers, and many prayers offered in her and the

family's behalf.

*Sis. Connie and Dave Sancraint
Sharon Harris, and family*

OREGON, PORTLAND **Louisa Gallup**

...Immersed with Christ, I'm dead to sin:

Thy Spirit now shall live within.

Zion's Harp #41

We were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptism of Bro. Allen and Sis. Jennifer Knecht. Sis. Jennifer's parents are Jim and Janet Loomis of Oregon City, OR; Bro. Allen's parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie Knecht of Silverton, OR. We rejoice with them and also with two other dear souls who gave their testimonies and were brought into the Brotherhood that same weekend: Bro. Ilijah and Sis. Nada (Vujicic) Gavrilovic. Bro. Ilijah and Sis. Nada had been attending the Portland and Silverton congregations for a number of years and we certainly appreciate their support and are thankful to be able to count them amongst our brethren.

We do wish to thank the following Elder brethren for their labors during that special weekend of April 30 - May 1: visiting Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka, IL) and Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton). We appreciate their willingness to serve and share God's Word with us.

Since the number of people present that weekend more than tripled our usual attendance, we needed, and did receive, extra help in order to have things run smoothly. We thank all those involved, for the loving support you have shown.

...When all those whom Thou hast chosen

In His love He would enfold.
As Thou art with them united
They also as one should be
In true love should serve each other,

Finding joy in unity.

Zion's Harp #33

OREGON, SILVERTON **Cindy Metzger** **Melissa Kuenzi**

We welcome Kristen Brockamp (Matt), Travis and Tammy Dettwyler, and Evan Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie) as our new Brothers and Sisters in Christ. We appreciate Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) traveling here to help Elder Bro. Art with testimonies.

We are happy for our convert, Kenton Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith) who has found peace and is waiting for baptism.

There are two new babies to welcome. Ashley Heidi was born to Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi Sinn on April 27. Her siblings are Jonathan, Jordan, Erika, Savannah, and Samantha. Her grandparents are Sis. Marion Sinn, and Bro. Ernie and Sis. Frieda Aberle (Tremont, IL).

Robert Jeffery was born to Bro. Rick and Sis. Miriam Hoach on May 11. His siblings are Victoria and Rebekah. His grandparents are Jeff and Joyce Jensen (Portland) and Raymond and Eileen Kuenzi (Silverton).

We are thankful to have Sis. Elizabeth Peasley and Kathryn Walter (Bro. Chad and Sis. Megan) home after being in the hospital.

The engagement of Bro. Shawn Schurter (Leonard and Cheryl) and

Sis. Kimberly Kuenzi (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marilyn) was announced.

Congratulations to the following high school graduates: Justin Kuenzi (Bro. Jack and Sis. Janet), Jordan Kuenzi (Bro. Art and Sis. MaryBeth), Emily Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie), Juanita Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda), and Darwin Sinn (Bro. Tom and Edith).

Thanks to Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) of Portland and to Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA) for ministering the Word to us in the past month.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Nathan and MaryElizabeth Gasser

Despite being rained out on our first two attempts, we were eventually blessed with a beautiful weekend for church cleaning this month. We appreciate each one who came and labored in the upkeep of our precious church building.

We were grateful to have Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) share the Word with us recently. We encourage all those who might be visiting the east coast this summer to join us in worship on Sunday or Wednesday evenings.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

We have been strengthened and encouraged in our faith by God's Living Word. We are so thankful for our visiting ministering brothers: Bros. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO), Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL), and Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapo-

lis, IN). We have also been greatly blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Atlanta, GA; Bloomington-Normal, Elgin, Eureka, Forrest, and Gridley, IL; Francesville and Indianapolis, IN; Kansas City, MO; and Junction, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Roanoke, IL (6/26); Burlington, IA (7/3); Junction, OH (7/10); Bluffton, IN (7/17); Princeville, IL (7/24); and Eureka, IL (7/31). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for Father's Day (6/19). 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) 356-5755.

TEXAS DALLAS/FORT WORTH

Carrie Beyer

Many thanks to the ministers and visitors who blessed us by being here over the past couple months. Visiting ministers included Bros. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara, Lamont-Gridley), Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton), and Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend).

We'd like to invite anyone living near or traveling through the area to worship with us. We currently meet in Grapevine, TX, at the Holiday Inn Express just northwest of the DFW airport, near the intersection of Highways 114 and 121. To reach the hotel while traveling ei-

ther 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) or Bro. Kyle and Sis. Carrie Beyer (817.750.1028).

TEXAS, SAN MARCOS

Amy Ringger Serenity Ringger

Work in the garden has occupied much of our time the last month or so, and now we're entering the season of fruit-bearing. Luscious tomatoes, crisp green beans, and succulent squash are all coming on, and even the wild grapes at the farm are getting full-sized, though they are still green yet. I happened on this verse recently; "For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations." (Isaiah 61:11) We know that the Lord's will for us is "being fruitful in every good work." (Col. 1:10), and to bear the fruits of the Spirit.

We've been learning a hymn at home about a garden—Gethsemane (Hymns of Zion #63) and while we enjoy the music, the words are thought-provoking, ending with verse four:

"If we would Christ's disciples be
Our will with his must blended be;
Our very self must overcome
That we may say, "Thy will be done."

As Jesus in Gethsemane
By pray'r attained the victory;
So shall we, when we seek His face
Still find in Him abundant grace."

While you are working in your garden this summer, maybe you'll

also enjoy the analogies that God has given for us to consider. "If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments and do them; then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit." (Lev. 26:3-4)

Many of us enjoyed a farewell dinner for Sis. Tricia Hodel who finished up her student teaching in San Antonio. Sis. Tricia has returned to her home church in Gridley, IL. May God bless her in her future pathway.

Our ministers this month were Elder Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo), Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield), Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia), Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton). We enjoyed the visitors from Francesville, Bluffton, Taylor, and South Bend.

The following churches are on the minister rotation for June: (3) Rittman, (10) Taylor, (17) Oakville, (24) Latty, and (31) Chicago.

We extend a warm 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 local 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.

VERMONT, NORWICH Areli Reutter

"Consider the lilies ... Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Luke 12:27

Greetings beloved in Christ! This month four different visiting ministers labored to serve us in the Lord: Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Bros. Dan Goric, Warren Zahner, and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT). We praise the Lord for their willingness to share the gospel. We are also thankful for their traveling companions and the many other visitors whose very presence helps to nurture the small flock in Vermont.

From April until August, we will be holding services bimonthly (on the second and fourth Sundays of each month). The following churches will be participating in the minister rotation: Rockville, CT;

Akron, OH; Mansfield, OH; Rittman, OH; Smithville, OH; and Tremont, IL. We thank these beloved congregations for being willing to share their servants.

If you have plans to visit beautiful New England this spring, please worship with us! Give us a call in advance to help us plan for your attendance. Services start promptly at 10:15 in the morning and 12:15 in the afternoon. Sunday school is taught during the morning service. Take exit 13 off Interstate 91 and proceed to 344 Main Street, Norwich, VT 05055. For more information or directions, please contact Morey Weiss at (802) 295-5981 or Bro. Kirby Reutter at (802) 779-7533. If you are a song leader, please do not forget your pitch pipe.

In Vermont, the God of creation has finally planted His springtime flowers. The Bible tells us that they are very beautiful, but they won't last very long. What a symbol of human life!

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

I Peter 1:24



Sermon continued from page 2

come. How He even revealed here the judgment that was going to come. Daniel was brought in before them. How right away the king sought to give these gifts to Daniel if he could interpret them. But Daniel said, "...Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation." (Daniel 5:17). Daniel's heart was not upon the substance of this world. Daniel's heart was, even though he carried the flesh and walked upon earth, his heart was in heaven, communicating with his God. He recognized that these gifts were nothing. They had nothing to help in the soul salvation. Rather he saw how to be careful, to be lured away by the desire of the gifts of men. But rather how he desired that he could walk close to the Word of God.

God gave him the Word. He brought forth the meaning of that writing upon the wall. He told Belshazzar, "But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee..." (Daniel 5:23). And they fell and they worshipped them and had these idols that they made. Idols that they set before them. They became their idols.

How many things in this world become idols to men? Who put above God? Who praise and their whole life is evolved around, whatever it may be. Here it became these cups of gold, they praised and worshipped them. (Daniel 5:23)

Then it says, "...and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified?" (Daniel 5:23). God desires that we glorify Him. In our walk of life, in our conduct, by our attitude. God brings forth the judgment. He told, here in the sad case of Belshazzar, it said, "...God hath

numbered thy kingdom, and finished it." (Daniel 5:26). God had drawn the line and his kingdom was brought to a close because he was lifted up. He continued and fell away from God rather than seeking and turning to Him.

It says, "...Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." (Daniel 5:27). How will it be, dear ones, when we stand before our God in judgment? We are going to be weighed in the balances. We are going to be weighed according to this Word. Will we be found wanting? Will we come short from the Word that would grant us entrance into eternal life?

Yet we have the opportunity to take of the precious substance of this Word. That we would not be as the chaff that is blown about. That we would not be like the wind and the clouds that are blown here and there and to and fro. But we would be grounded upon the rock of Christ.

It says, "...Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians." (Daniel 5:28). Belshazzar's kingdom was of the world. And it was given away. If we have our hearts upon this world, it will be taken from us and it will be given away. But if we have our kingdom in heaven, if we put our treasures in heaven, we will have an inheritance that shall not be taken away. But we shall inherit eternal life.

Then we have to think of the other lesson. As we think, here was a ruler who was not following God. Yet God allowed him to rule. Here this Belshazzar had forgotten about Daniel. It was his wife who reminded him of Daniel and his days and how he brought direction to his father and how he had forgotten. (Daniel 5:10-12).

Dear ones, I have to think, that God knows and we know not what rulers will be over us. We do not know if we will come to a point and time where we would maybe have a

ruler such as this, who would turn away and not be following God our Father. Yet we need to seek the example of Daniel. As he didn't seek to be promoted of himself. He didn't continue to come and proclaim his greatness and what he knew. But when he was petitioned and called forth, he looked to God and waited upon God by His Spirit to direct him what to speak. He had his faith in God. So likewise, dear ones, may we be encouraged to be faithful to God. And know that all things are in His power, Who gives the glory to each kingdom as He should give. And gives the power that men do have.

Dear ones, we each have a power given to us. By our conduct, what will we do with it? Will we give our hearts to Christ our Lord? Will we give it to the Word of God? Again, or are we filled upon the things of this world and seek its treasures?

Then we find, when we, as we often carry the flesh, we find here a warning in the New Testament. It says, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." (Galatians 6:1). We find in the Word of God such beautiful instruction. We find the love of Christ our Lord. Who does not desire that we would stray from the fold. We know that Jesus is the Shepherd true and we are His sheep. A good shepherd watches over his sheep. If the sheep would stray into the thorns and the thicket or away from the flock, the good shepherd goes after his sheep.

Dear ones, we are seeing here the direction given to us. That we sometimes are caught up in a fault. Not one of us are exempt. But here it says, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual ...then we see the need to gather around the Word of God. That by God's grace that we can be spiritually

Sermon continued on page 44

Sermon continued from page 43

mindful and be seeing the way. It says restore such an one. If we see that brother that is falling, that is straying, let us think of it as an opportunity. Not an easy one. But as an opportunity.

First of all, we find here, by the Word of God, it says in the spirit of meekness. There is not one of us can be lifted up and think well now we are spiritual and that gives us to be above our brother. That is not so, dear ones. It is by God's grace He gives us understanding and if He gives us insight. Or perhaps maybe we are the ones that we are found in that fault. We all find ourselves with a fault. We cannot see our own selves. So we see a two fold working that God is working to see how we fulfill our love for one another. If we follow the direction of God's Word, it can be a blessing. That when we can be in the spirit of meekness, that is not going to come with harsh accusations or anger. But it is going to be in meekness.

It says, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. There we find the beauty. Because it brings a self inspection. We consider ourselves, our walk of life. We recognize that we cannot say that we are faultless in all that we do. But we have our shortcomings.

But it is still that we have to go when there is that which needs to be encouraged then and to be brought back and to be warned. We have that opportunity that we are watchful. And we are on guard. That we are then even awakened that we be not led astray. That we remain with the precious fold that we have been brought into.

He says, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2). We know that the household of faith is filled with many members. We think of God who has created and knows each and every one. Yet He has given each one our own attitude, our own style, we may say. We find

here and often in life, it says, bear ye one another's burdens. Sometimes there are things that we need to bear one another's burdens. We think of it as patience. Or when we think of the fruit of the Spirit, if we read the chapter before, we read of forbearance. There is times we need to forbear them. It doesn't say here it will be easy. It doesn't say it will be without a struggle. But it says, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Jesus was forbearing to each one of us. Jesus was patient when we were going astray. When maybe we are upon the way, and maybe that we often maybe become blinded. We refuse to receive the correction of the Word of God. The Lord bears us along. He doesn't cast us off. But He continually admonishes and brings forth the Word that we could be awakened. We need to all realize the need to gather around the precious Word, that we could be awakened to ourselves. Not one of us are exempt.

We find that, I believe, that God places us as ministers first, because we are the weakest. The Word comes forth and speaks to our hearts first. We all need to be awakened and to be reminded of the precious Word and teaching and to be willing to bear the burdens. I think of Jesus. He says, come after me and take up the cross (St. Mark 8:34). There are things that we take willingly. It may bring a hardship or suffering. But when it brings a patience, when it brings us upon our knees in sincerity, when it brings us where we are broken perhaps and that we realize the world is empty and nothing and all we want is a closer walk with our Father in heaven, then we find the blessing of it. So let us be willing to bear one another's burdens. Let us be patient. Let us be willing to go speak in meekness. Let us be willing to consider ourselves. There we find that the household of God will flourish.

It may be that it's, if we are on

the side where we are the ones that have a fault, again it is not easy. It's maybe not something we will quickly and readily receive. But if we wait upon the Spirit and we look to the Word of God and turn to the Lord in prayer, praying for grace to open our eyes and receive that correction, we find the blessing, we find a growth in our Lord and Savior. Again, it is an opportunity. Maybe it is not given to all of us. But if it is given, may we take it willingly that we may grow.

"For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself." (Galatians 6:3). As we read of Belshazzar, is not that what we saw and read about? He thought himself to be something. That is a terrible snare to fall in, dear ones, when we think that we are something. We know in the time we live in, there are so many proclaiming self esteem. Let it be rather that we glorify our God. That we realize it is God who gives us the grace to go on. He gives us the breath of life. He gives us the means that we can continue on.

Here it says, when he is nothing. That is the danger of it. When we are lifted up in self. We are nothing. We cannot even change the hair of our head. We cannot change naught on this earth. We cannot make the sun to stand still. We cannot make the things that God knows and has control over. It is not in our power. But when we yield to the Word of God, and we flee from the things of the world and we humble ourselves, then God can grant the grace. And by faith we press onward. Then we find the closeness and a walk with Christ our Lord a blessing.

It says, "But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another." (Galatians 6:4). We have to prove our own work. Fine if we can willingly, take maybe these things that we've read about and turn to the Lord, seek Him through prayer. Praying for

patience. Praying for forbearance. Praying for the right attitude. That as God works, that we can show forth that beautiful attitude that we see in Christ our Lord.

It says, "For every man shall bear his own burden." (Galatians 6:5). How we bear our own burden, each one of us, we have our struggles maybe, but we take it to Christ our Lord. Or turn to the Word of God to find direction. Yet as we gather together as members in the precious church, we can help one another. We can be encouraged. We can be edified.

It goes on to say, "Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things." (Galatians 6:6). How needful to be teaching. To communicate. Those who are taught in the Word, that they would show forth an example in their walk of life. Sometimes it is by observing a faithful example that maybe impresses the heart and then would encourage us to follow the same. May that be our desire within the church to do our part to exemplify that example in our conduct. In our walk of life. In our attitude.

He goes on to say, "Be not deceived..." (Galatians 6:7). Again, we've read much of that word of deceived. We read of Belshazzar who fell into deception and following the worshipping the gods of the vessels of this world. Again, be not deceived. As long as we carry the flesh, we need to recognize we can be deceived. Such is the need to gather around the Word of God. To fellowship among the believers and in the household of faith.

It says, "...God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Galatians 6:7). It seems that it is often the nature of the man we do not want to be reminded of that. But here it is simple. It is straightforward. That whatever we sow, that shall he also reap. It brings really a, maybe an awakening to us and a fear that we be careful what we are sowing.

What we are sowing forth, that shall we reap.

What are we speaking? Are we sowing words of kindness? What is our action? Are we sowing forth words and actions of humbleness and meekness, temperance? Are we showing forth actions of forbearance? Are we showing forth and taking the burdens and bearing them patiently and enduring them? May it be that we would endure some suffering, that we would take it patiently. We bear that burden within our selves. And we take it willingly. We know that when we do such, then we shall reap the blessings of God.

But if we follow the way of self that puts self first, that's lifted in pride, that is sowing the way of self gratification, then we find that we will reap the treasures of this world, which is only sorrow. Which will come to naught. Which will be taken away. Which is only for a moment and will bring sorrow.

"For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." (Galatians 6:8). The Word of God puts it so simply. If we sow to the flesh, we are going to reap corruption. Corruption is to me, it seems parallel, it is death. Our natural man is going to die off. If we sow to that, we are going to reap that corruption. We are going to reap death. But he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. When we turn and hearken to the call of the Lord, to the gospel message that comes forth of repentance, we allow as the Spirit would come forth, to repent and be converted, it says he that soweth to the Spirit, we begin to be sowers of the spiritual things. The fruit of the Spirit we can read of in the previous chapter. The meekness, the temperance, the gentleness and goodness, those things we are sowing forth. It says of the Spirit shall reap life everlasting. What a precious promise that we

have. That we will receive life everlasting when we sow those things.

But it is contrary to the nature of our flesh, isn't it? There is a battle that we have to go against our flesh. There is a battle each day. We know that Satan is going out to try to lead us and pull us astray. We're amongst people and society that we recognize is so contrary. That is following self and lifted in pride. We need to be on guard, the things we see out there. We need to be careful that we not allow ourselves to become wrapped up in those things that pull us away from the precious faith.

It goes on to say, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Galatians 6:9). Again, precious, encouraging words. Let us not be weary in well doing. It just may be, we may feel ourselves as if we are the only ones who are striving to do good. It may be that we come to a time where we do not see the way of faith. Where men seek their own way. We become weary in striving to do well. Maybe we come of the attitude where we want to throw up the hands and maybe give up. But dear ones, in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

We read of Daniel. I had to think of all that he had been through. I had to think of the kings that were ruled over him. They did not believe. They followed after idols time and time again. Yet his faith carried him through. He often refreshed himself through the Word of God and followed well doing. And we know that in due season the Lord shall return and there we will reap.

It says, "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). We find the privilege to be willing to help those, where we have that opportunity, again the opportunity that would

Sermon continued from page 45

come forth. May it be in ways, at the time at first don't recognize, but then maybe our eyes are open to it. Let us give ourselves to that opportunity of doing good. It says to all men, but especially the household of faith because they are brethren purchased by Christ and our Lord and Savior and they are of the household of faith.

It says here, "Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand." (Galatians 6:11). As the Apostle Paul went forth writing the letters and encouraging the church, they had opportunity there to read that letter, dear ones. Likewise, we know that as our Elders meet and gather together, that we will be reading a letter. It is needful to be reminded and be encouraged and to follow that. As the letter would come forth, that we too could be encouraged in the way of faith.

Satan wants to bring men to a love of self. To the love of the possessions of this world, rather than a love of God and love of the brethren. That we can be encouraged to be cross bearers. To bear one another's burdens. To take patiently those things that we suffer. That we look to Christ quickly. Turn to Him often in prayer. That we

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Gateway Woods Auction
August 20, 2005

would be willing to be admonished and to admonish one another. There we find the blessing. And to be sowers of that which is good and of the Spirit.

It says, "As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh..." (Galatians 6:12). How we see many times, many who want to make that show in the flesh. Who want to show of the outward nature.

It says, "...they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ." (Galatians 6:12). How we find that here that again, men who desired to make that show of their ability. Rather it says to suffer the persecution for the cross of Christ. That is the joy that we receive, when we can suffer, perhaps for the cross of Christ, that our spiritual eyes can be open to the heavenly calling, to the heav-

only walk. To the straight and narrow way that will lead us to the heavenly gates, where if we are faithful, we can be entered in.

It says, "For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh." (Galatians 6:13). Here they had the desire that they would be circumcised, only that they could glory in the flesh.

But the Apostle Paul said, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..." (Galatians 6:14). May it be dear ones, that we would glory only in the cross of Christ. That brings us closer to our Lord and Savior and puts away this nature of the flesh and helps us that we be spiritual sowers of God's Word.

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

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 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
JAMAICA					
CCCD	July 2-9, 2005	Deaf Village	Dean Ramsier	Work Place	40

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
Troy Stuber	309-925-2603		tstuber@highstream.net
Rick Wuethrich	219-567-9488	219-567-2542	topnotch@home.ffni.com
Greg (Beth) Herman	309-243-5610		gbherman@juno.com
Warren Kloter	309-208-2785		wkloter@myexcel.com
Roger Stoller	309-747-3228	309-747-2566	rstoller@dtnspeed.net
Dean Ramsier	330-334-2561		ramsier@neo.rr.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

Mexico Work Teams 2005

Location	Date	Project	Coordinator	Phone	E-mail
Magdalena	June 25-July 2, 2005	Construction	Tim Lehman	765-474-1168	TLehman@ICONTrans.com
Rio Bravo	June 18-25, 2005	Construction	Dean Fiechter	260-565-3439	dafiechter@parlorcity.com
Magdalena	July 16-23, 2005	Construction	Kent Mogler	651-452-8586	kent.mogler@genmills.com
Magdalena	July 23-30, 2005	Construction	Brian Ricketts	815-657-8308	brickett24@hotmail.com
Juarez	September 14-21, 2005	Medical/Dental	Cheryl Herrmann	309-385-1082	cherylh@mtco.com
Magdalena	November 19-26, 2005	Construction	Loren Dettwyler	503-873-5784	lmdettwyler@peoplepc.com

If anyone is interested in teaching health/first aid/medical/fire/EMT/dental skills in Magdalena, Imuris, or Ixtlan, contact Sis. Cheryl Herrmann.

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New Haven, IN 46774
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Gateway Woods Benefit Auction
August 20, 2005

Faith & Fellowship, Caring & Sharing – for the Whole Family!

Faith & Fellowship: Join over 2,300 fellow Apostolic Christians on Auction day. It's a time of fellowship for our brotherhood.

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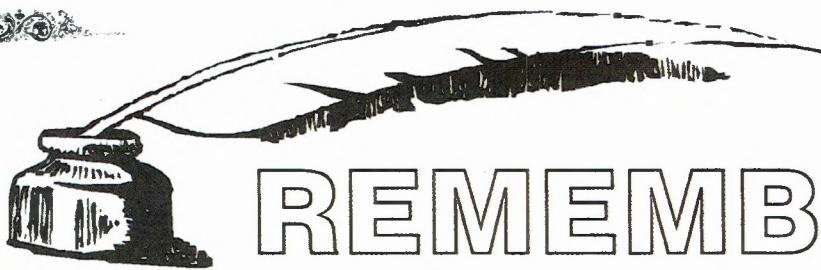
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REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

This is the beginning of a series of articles entitled, "The Ties That Bind." It is a history-related look at the events, patterns and practices that have made our Apostolic Christian fellowship a warm and closely-related brotherhood.

The Ties That Bind

Consistent, mutually-submissive patterns of following God and His Word will result in holiness among the brethren; and will give life and strength to the ties that bind us in our precious faith.

"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

Ours is a precious faith and fellowship! Such an attitude has been expressed over and over from our pulpits, and it resounds daily in the hearts of truly converted believers. Appreciation for the beloved church and the Biblical values it upholds runs deep among the brethren.

In light of this, several questions arise: Can we retain the faith (for future generations, if the Lord tarries)? What special characteristics have made our church so special? Is it automatic that our brotherhood will always exist (so long as God tarries)? If our tradition lessens, will our warm fellowship wane? These are indeed relevant questions. The deep bond that exists across the congregations is unique and seemingly matchless.

In view of our special closeness — and in being aware that Satan wants to tear and demolish all that is good and pleasing to God — it is beneficial to review and thence define characteristics that seemingly have made our church what it is. There is no guarantee it will stand forever

as it is. If we are casual in our understanding and practice, there is potential that the ties of close Christian warmth will cool as the years wear on. That is Satan's wish.

The special ties that bind us in love and harmony through Christ Jesus are many. A listing of some are given:

Recognizing The Bible As God's Word

The Bible is seen as God's pure and uncorrupted message to man. It is divinely inspired. It is infallible (unfailing) and inerrant (without error). By God's grace, a converted believer is to follow its teachings. It is the only rule of faith and life.

The King James Version is highly reliable today because of the authenticity of ancient texts used in the translation from Greek and Hebrew into the English language (in 1611). Applying the New Testament texts as literally as possible, and observing the wise principles of the Old Testament, will help to preserve the faith.

The proliferation of so many different versions of the Bible poses a threat to the truth. By remaining with the long-established reliability of the Authorized King James Bible, a common thread of perceptual and applicational unity has been retained in the church.

Seeing the Church in A Historical Context

Our spiritual outlook has its roots — like many other denominations — in the Reformation of 1517, although we trace our foundational beliefs to the Scriptures.

Our doctrinal essence found a deep influence in what is known as the radical (or Bible-reaffirming) reformation of

1525 when believers sought to flee falsehoods and re-establish a church using only the Word as their guide for faith and life. This resulted in a Bible-rooted doctrine and church structure. Historically, we as a church connect, in part, to the God-inspired movement called Anabaptism.

Anabaptism was a renewal movement to follow Christ in everyday life. Discipleship was intertwined with faith. Faith and faithfulness were considered inseparable. We have a similar doctrine and church structure, but we are not tied directly to that movement.

Our immediate historical root stems from the Froehlich movement that began in the 1820's in Switzerland. Again, a concerted attempt was made to re-establish a church based on a New Testament model. The doctrine of repentance and conversion (in a true sense) was invigorated by Brother Samuel Froehlich. The fervency and applicational sincerity (to follow the Word) of those believers resulted in the close brotherhood we have today.

It is well that this be understood and deeply appreciated to maintain the ties that bind us. If we become cut off, or partially disconnected, from an understanding of our heritage, and the special insights and order it provided us (and this is happening as the generations unfold), we can become more and more influenced by less-meaningful and false Christian ways.

We should be conscious that a historian once said that the Froehlich movement "was like the time of the Apostles." (Dr. Delbert Gratz, Bluffton College, Ohio).

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:
More on "The Ties That Bind."

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

希望の光

“You Are An Heir”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

We like to think about going to heaven. There is every indication that it is a very peaceful experience. We also hear of receiving a reward if we have used our time and talent for the Lord. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” However, the teaching that we are heirs of God takes us into a new dimension. This implies at least partial ownership of heaven.

Romans 8:16, 17 reads, “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”

Usually, children are the heirs to their parents’ assets, providing the parents have something for the children to inherit. Now if we are truly converted to Christ, we are the

children of God. The Bible says so in the verses quoted above. It follows that we should inherit God’s assets, which is everything, but especially, it is heaven and heaven’s treasures, whatever they are. I should think those treasures include fellowship with God, with Christ, with the Holy Spirit, with angels, and with the saints. That’s what makes things so peaceful and so pleasant. I assume that the treasures are non-material treasures, although Revelation speaks of streets made of pure gold. Here on earth, gold can be used for money but I don’t think we will be shopping for anything in heaven.

It is customary that the heirs only receive their inheritance upon the death of the authors of their last will and testament. In the case of being heirs of God, we think that surely He will not need to die, for us to become His heirs. However, there is a sense in which God did die in the person of Christ, when Christ died for our sins on the cross. We

read in II Corinthians 5:19, “To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself.”

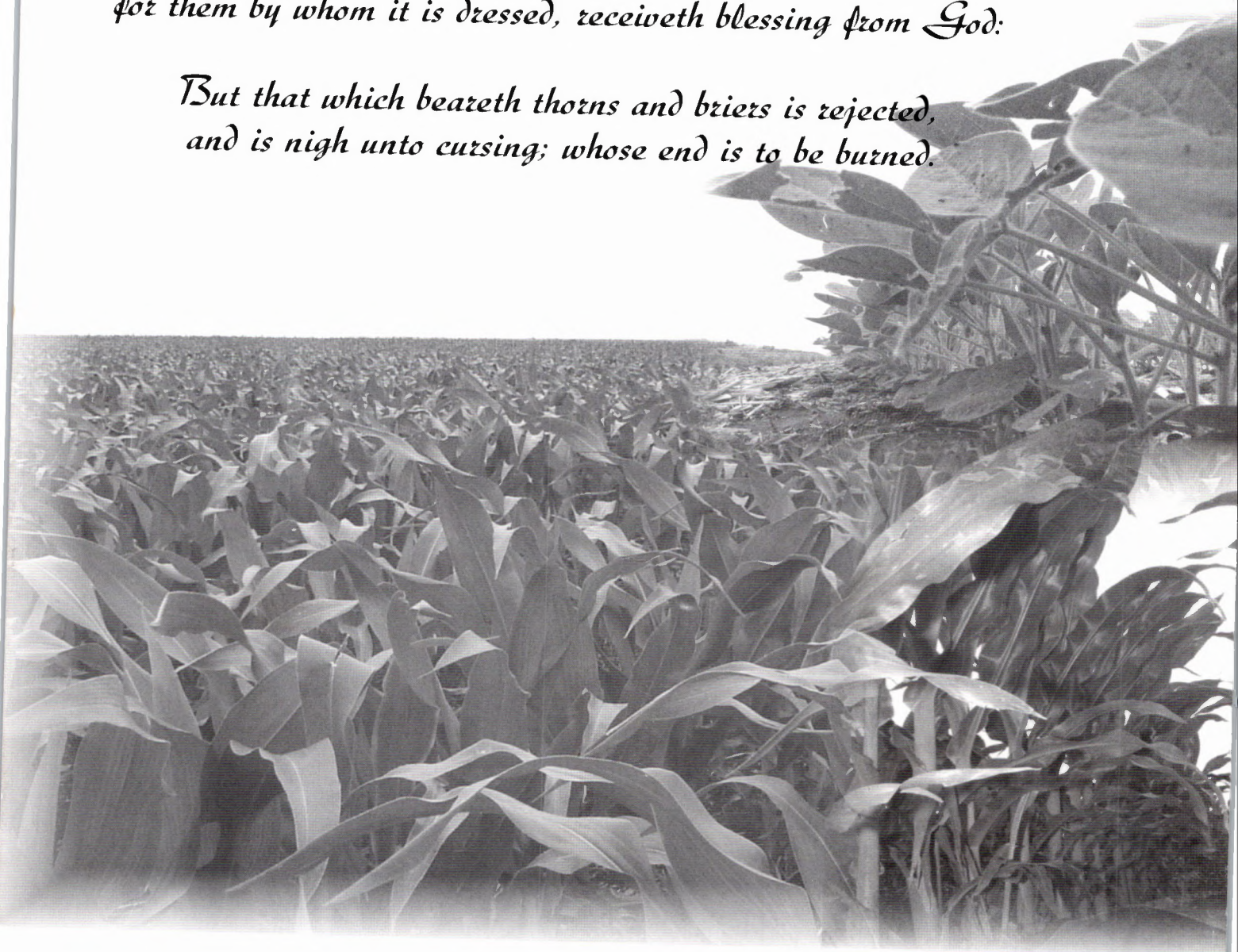
Basically, death means separation, usually the spirit leaves the body, they separate. The way God experienced death is that He and Christ were separated, which is indicated by Christ’s words, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” Mark 15:34. We often talk about Christ dying for us but God also experienced that agony. Not only did the Son experience separation from God, His Father, but the Father experienced separation from Jesus Christ, His Son. That’s a high price to pay for our redemption and for our inheritance in heaven.

Someone has said, “If Christ be God and died for me, then there is no sacrifice too great for me to make for Him.” We are richly blessed for any sacrifice we do make. You are an heir of the spiritual treasures and blessings of heaven. Rejoice.

希望の光

*For the earth which drinketh in the rain that
cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet
for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:*

*But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected,
and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.*



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1389 County Road 1600 N, Roanoke, IL 61561

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MRS. CHARLES WALDER
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