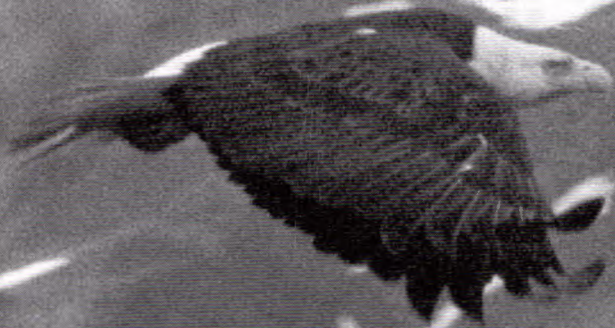


# *The Silver Lining*



*There be three things which are too wonderful for me,...*  
*The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a*  
*rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea;...*

July 2005



*Sermon by Bro. Paul Eisenmann, Burlington, IA*  
**Job 2:13, Job 3 and II Corinthians 12**

We find Job, a time in his life, perhaps at the lowest point that he had ever reached and would ever reach. And yet we know the end of Job. Even the beginning of Job and the end of Job show forth his faith in God.

We know at the beginning when his wife said, Why don't you just curse God and die? He said thou speakest as a foolish woman. (Job 2:9,10). He had faith in the One who had provided for him until that time and hour. In the end we know how that he realized that man is but flesh and man is nothing and God is all. He is our faithful shepherd.

Can any of us relate to a time in our life, and I believe many probably cannot, when all was so contrary to our own wishes that we felt there was nothing but a black tunnel into which we were traveling? There was no hope. There was no light at the end of the tunnel.

I think Job had come to this point. He was ready to give it all up. He wished he had never been born. Perhaps we carelessly sometimes speak somewhat to this fashion. Wish I was never born. But I believe Job truly had a very great trial here, a test that was difficult to understand. But as he had known that God had been with him and there was a God and he trusted in Him, we likewise, when we get to that point in our life when we think all is surely lost, there is no turning back, there is no hope, but someone will say, it will not always be like this. It will improve. Trust. This is what Job had to do. He had to trust in the One who knew the end from the beginning.

I feel that at one time I had a similar - nothing as great as Job - but something wherein I felt it was only going to get worse and worse. It wouldn't improve. I would never feel as I felt before. I was reminded, you will not always feel this way. Things will change. Though we

ourselves thought it could not be worse, there was a higher power and a greater source of knowledge than we had ourselves. Our experience was small compared to the experience of others. So by remaining faithful to God, relying on the help of knowledgeable doctors, we were able indeed to come beyond that point, as Job came beyond that point. How the end was so much better even than the beginning.

God understands. He understands how each of us feel through the low points of our life and through the blessed times of our life. I would have to testify as I know Job did, when it was all passed and he had been through the valley, through the darkness, that the light is more wonderful than we have ever known. Likewise, our Lord and Savior, if we trust in Him fully and totally, that light in our life is more than we will ever find anywhere else.

Paul, the Apostle of the Lord, had done many things. He had suffered many tests and trials. Also he had had some experiences that perhaps none of the other apostles had. In that we read here, "I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago..." II Corinthians 12:2. Many believe it was Paul himself that, "... (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body...)" II Corinthians 12:2, whether he was transferred or transported in the body or as a spirit, he does not know. "...such an one caught up to the third heaven." II Corinthians 12:2. Paul had some of these experiences that are very, very infrequent in the Bible. So great an experience and opportunity to rise from this life to the third heaven.

Why was he chosen? Perhaps because of his diligence in going forth from nation to nation, country to country to teach the Word of God. What it was that was revealed to him when he was there, it says, "How that he was caught up into

paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter." II Corinthians 12:4. Things that we would only be privileged to hear if we get to heaven. If we pass from this life being a child of God. Being a brother or sister of the Lord Jesus. That is what, when

*Sermon continued on page 45*

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

# Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

July 2005

## Spiritual Riches II

In the previous "Light From the Word", the confusion of the world concerning the values of material and spiritual riches was introduced. Scriptural foundations concerning the value of spiritual riches, the deceit of material riches and a definition of spiritual riches were discussed. This article will focus on examples of spiritual blessings, some means of acquiring them and some assurances we have to help us retain our spiritual blessings.

Paul reminded us that God provides us with many blessings. "I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in everything ye are enriched by him,..." (I Cor. 1:4-5). As he was explaining some of his sufferings in the ministry, Paul reminded us that even in these distresses he found blessings: "As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things" (II Cor. 6:10).

By giving a little thought no doubt each of us could list many spiritual blessings we have received. The following list is not intended to be exhaustive but rather to spark a few thoughts.

\* We have a powerful, loving God who created all things with an orderliness about them. In this creation we have provisions for all we need (Gen. 1).

\* We most certainly appreciate having a loving Savior who paid the price for our sins and provides us a way whereby Satan can be defeated and we can have peace with God and man through all eternity (Jn. 14:27-31).

\* The Holy Spirit is a very present help in our battle with Satan. His presence enables us to remain faithful (Acts 1:8).

\* The Word of God is available to each of us in a manner that we can be fed as often as we have the desire (Lk. 8:11-15).

\* The grace of God gives us hope and assurance that He will help us (Ro. 5:15-19).

\* We have a church where the truth of God's Word is preached (Acts 10:28).

\* Most of us have families who love us and help us to stay on the right path (II Cor. 12:24).

\* We have access to God through prayer and His Word (Ro. 12:12).

\* We have beautiful hymns whereby we can praise God and be encouraged (Eph. 5:19).

\* We have access to the history of those who sacrificed on our behalf so the truth would be preserved (Heb. 11).

\* We have the opportunity to worship God, to learn the truth and to live in a manner that will help preserve the truth for those who come after us (Jn. 4:23-24).

\* We have pillars of faith who went before us and who live among us (Ro. 8:17).

\* We live in a land of freedom where we have the privilege of worshipping God as we believe we are instructed to do in His Word (Act. 24:14-16).

\* We have multiple opportunities to help those who may have a need and we have those who will help in our times of need (II Cor. 8:1-5).

\* God will not allow greater temptations to come upon us that the grace will enable us to bear it (I Cor. 10:13).

\* We have the promise that ultimately Satan will be defeated (Rev. 20:10).

No doubt the reader could add many other blessings that we have.

How do we acquire spiritual gifts? We need to make spiritual investments, to have our priorities in godly order and we need to be willing to live for God. The Bible gives us ample instruction on making spiritual investments. Jesus said "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Mt. 6:20). He also said "...If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and

come and follow me" (Mt. 19:21).

Paul wrote "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, ... that they be rich in good works, ... Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life" (I Tim. 6:17-19).

How can we retain the spiritual blessings God gives us? We hardly can exhaust the means God has provided for us to retain our blessing. We must live our life according to His instruction by working out our soul's salvation in fear and trembling (Ph. 2:12). This, of course, includes remaining faithful (Jn. 15:1-11), loving the Lord and our neighbor (Mk. 12:29-31), and not placing the spiritual treasures that God gives us in an unwholesome atmosphere (Mt. 7:6).

God gives us many tools to help us serve Him. Prayer, reading God's Word, singing hymns, fasting and sharing with others what God has given us. He also has provided us with talents to use the gifts He has given us.

We understand from Christ's teaching that we will be asked to give account of what God provided for us. Those who waste their blessings will surely regret it (Mt. 25:14-30).

Our opportunities for spiritual riches are limited only by our willingness to serve God. We can be blessed in so many ways if we follow the Word of God (Mt. 5:1-11; I Cor. 13). When we truly understand the temporal nature of material blessings and the eternal nature of spiritual blessings, we can understand that Satan's goal to deceive will be enhanced if we dwell on material blessings. We will also better understand the words of Jesus when He said "...provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, ... For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Lk. 12:33-34).





## 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

### Building Advisory Committee

The Building Advisory Committee (BAC) was formed in 1996 for the purpose of assisting new and/or small congregations in obtaining an adequate place of worship. In the ensuing years, the group has worked in an advisory capacity with many churches including purchase and renovation of an existing building in Atlanta, GA and new construction in Kitchener, ON; Prescott, AZ; Belvidere, IL; Elgin, IA and Bloomfield/Pulaski, IA.

The BAC is advisory in nature and works with local brethren and church leadership with various aspects of facility planning such as:

- **Assessment:** review of growth patterns and demographics.
- **Needs Determination:** help with determining appropriate next steps such as renting or purchasing existing facilities, new construction, etc.
- **Funding:** determining local capacity and eligibility for national funding. This includes administration of grants and loans from the North American Church Building Fund (NACBF) which was formed in 1998 to provide funds for these projects
- **Project Development:** site selection, architecture and permitting
- **Construction:** coordination efforts with volunteers and contractors

### A Place to Call Home

Something most of us take for granted is the blessing of driving to a building owned and maintained by our church. We come expecting the doors to be open, the facility clean and well-maintained, and a private

place to worship. And with the exception of the blessed sound of a child crying, we have quiet sanctuaries suitable for worship, prayer and quiet contemplation. Next time we sit on a nice padded pew perhaps we could whisper a prayer for brethren whose experience is a little different.

Our loved ones who meet in motel rooms consistently deal with questions of whether the room will be ready when they arrive or whether they'll find another group accidentally scheduled for the room they usually use. Or maybe an adjacent room contains a noisy gathering or even another church service. Sometimes bringing food is difficult or even prohibited, making the enjoyment of our traditional noon lunch harder or even impossible.

The expense of renting multiple rooms can make Sunday School a very difficult or impossible option. Perhaps that becomes a limiting factor when brethren with young children are considering a job transfer to a small congregation?

Another challenge associated with worshipping in a rented facility is that of feeling like one has a "real" church to attend. This may not seem important until you start thinking of children who don't know how to answer their friends when asked where they go to church. And what about inviting friends and neighbors? It's evident that a modest facility owned by the local congregation is a blessing and something we should work to provide where possible.

As you can see, there really is an evangelical mission in the work of supporting facility development of small congregations – both in teaching our children in Sunday School and for inviting others to attend church with us.

### Current Projects

The BAC is currently working with Central Texas; Denver, CO; Philadelphia, PA; and Washington DC in various capacities.

The Central Texas congregation has been worshipping in a motel for several years and has begun exploring ways to find a more permanent facility in a central location.

Our Denver congregation has begun to outgrow their facility in Aurora, CO, especially in the busy summer travel months. Efforts have been made to find a site where a new building could be constructed.

The congregation in Philadelphia has also been blessed with numerical growth and is planning a building addition to address several areas where space is simply insufficient. A special blessing there is the need for additional Sunday School rooms!

Our church in Washington DC has also met in a motel for many years. Planning has begun to determine next steps and whether a more permanent facility can be provided.

### How Can I Help?

Your financial support of the NACBF provides needed funds to help small congregations obtain a suitable worship facility. Also, through World Relief there are opportunities to provide labor as we remodel or build facilities.

If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to email Bro. Brad Eisenmann, Chairman at [bdeisenmann@comcast.net](mailto:bdeisenmann@comcast.net) or call (815) 463-0697. Other brothers currently serving are Bros. Orin Rufener, Bill Masters, Dennis Rassi and Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm. Elder Bros. Phil Stettner and Peter Petrovic serve as liaisons between the BAC and the Mission Committee.





APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men,  
especially unto them who are of the household of faith. GALATIANS 6:10

## Food Packages Assembled for First Time In Romania

For over 20 years, a full sea container of food packages has been sent monthly from the Bluffton Distribution Center (BDC) to our needy brethren in Romania. This effort has brought vitally needed assistance to hundreds of our brethren in that troubled land. However, as time has gone on, circumstances have changed. Given these changing circumstances the European Board has been evaluating the most effective method of continuing to deliver this relief.

### The Antioch Corporation

We have assisted in establishing a not-for-profit corporation in Romania that is administrated by the Romanian, German, and American brethren. This includes a building complex in the village of Vladimirescu, just on the outskirts of Arad, Romania. We have kept our brethren informed of our efforts, and currently the property is under renovation to adapt to future needs. Bro. Filip Augustinov of the local congregation is president of this corporation, with members from all countries involved. There is currently an adequate place to receive goods and assemble food packages.

### A trial effort

After much prayer, effort, and research, the European Board agreed to make a trial run to assemble the food packages in Romania. The container that would normally have been shipped in March 2005 was not shipped. This meant that there were no American food packages that would arrive in Romania in May.

Bro. Filip was given many months notification of this trial effort, and he purchased local Romanian products in sufficient quantity to make up the same amount of parcels normally shipped from BDC.

### American team at the site

Under the direction and approval of the European Board, Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna Lehman and Bro. Kurt Munsel traveled to Romania to be present when these parcels were assembled. On Friday, May 20, 2005, a group of Romanians from the Arad congregation came to the Antioch center. In four hours of working together, they assembled the food parcels, numbering over 900. The first time something is tried is often the most difficult, but all were greatly encouraged by the smooth way in which this effort proceeded.



The packages are stored and distributed in the same manner as the food packages received from the USA. All present agreed that the effort was quite successful, and worthy of further investigation.

Not only are the contents of the food packages in keeping with the diet to which the Romanian people are accustomed, the savings amounted to well over \$9,000 for this one shipment. This has given us the needed encouragement to further pursue this project.

### Involvement of ICM

Iron Curtain Ministries, a group of Amish people, has shared in the cost

of these food packages since the beginning. We have an excellent ongoing relationship with ICM. They are supportive, and agree to remain with us as the future unfolds. Five members of their group traveled to Romania and Ukraine in June of this year, and visited the Antioch facility.

### The livestock programs

Another effort of Antioch is furnishing animals to the Romanian brethren as small livestock projects. The brethren receive 3 baby pigs or 100 baby chicks plus all the feed necessary to finish them to slaughter weight. At the end the local people receive two animals and Antioch receives one, or an equal percentage of poultry.

Last year we had 279 such projects that were highly successful, and this year hope to have a similar amount. The purpose is to teach and help the Romanians to help themselves in lieu of continuing to send them food. The team visiting Romania was pleased with the way this effort has gone and is supportive of continuing.

### Financing of Antioch

The European Board has the support and encouragement of the World Relief Committee in helping to develop the Antioch project. So far there have been sufficient designated funds to support the work and it has not been necessary to request funds from the World Relief general donations. This support is greatly appreciated.

### More information

For more information on supporting the Antioch program, contact Bro. Gene Lehman – 219/261-3313 or [opalehman@midwaynet.net](mailto:opalehman@midwaynet.net).



## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Recently some employees of Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped facilities had occasion to express their appreciation for the opportunity of working here. One expression was that the Vision is carried out, not just talked about.

### *Our vision...*

Serving According to God's Purpose  
Believing God's promises are true  
Directed by Christian values  
Believing we are called to serve  
Believing all people have dignity and potential  
Giving our best to help others achieve their best

It was also stated that working here has ingrained the value God places on all His children, even the ones the world might consider flawed.

Another felt honored to be working at Apostolic Christian Home because this is the first job where she made a difference in a person's life or where the people she worked for appreciated their workers. One employee stated that when she gets off work she knows she has touched lives, bringing smiles to some faces that in return have given a smile to her face. Others also commented on the contagious nature of smiles and positive attitudes.

There was the gratitude expressed for the opportunity to open up arms, hearts and homes to some of the residents, comparing Christ's endless compassion to the many unending chances to show compassion among our people. Even the stressful times were ap-

preciated as new ways were learned to handle tough situations.

An employee who has worked here for many years was grateful that the Agency has helped her to grow in and learn the ways of Godly servanthood. Another long term employee revealed her initial anxiety upon taking the job here but now says her fear turned to joy as she learned how loving, grateful and thankful the residents are for anything done for them.

Several felt that God's calling for their life's work was made clearer through their experiences at the Home for the Handicapped facilities.

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

At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550: Daniel McDonough (8/2), Amanda Riggerbach (8/14).

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

At 652 Detroit, Morton, IL 61550: Wayne Leman (8/12).

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

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## GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Sis. Jenny Rufener

"Oh, Lord, Thou hast searched me and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, Thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasses my path

and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways."

*Psalm 139:1-3*

Our Father knows each of us. He understands our weaknesses and He sees our sins. He knows and understands us far better than we can possibly know ourselves. This awareness at times causes us to wonder how such a powerful and all knowing God could have any use for us, and yet He has a work for each of us. As we consider some of the people in the Bible, we can see their sins and God's mercy in allowing them still to be used to further His kingdom. Abraham and Sarah (Gen. 17:17 and Gen. 18:10-14) laughed when God told them that they would have a child in their old age and yet he still gave them a son. Esther thought first about her own safety when asked to approach King Ahasuerus, but went on to be used to save her people (Esther 4-8). Peter denied knowing Christ because of his fear (Luke 22:54-62), but went on to be one of the leaders in the early church. Paul persecuted the Church, but when Christ spoke to him, he repented and went on to spread the gospel of Christ (Acts 9).

When the storms of life come and we are all too aware of who we are, we should not despair. We need to seek a closer communion with our Heavenly Father and be willing to be corrected and molded in order to be more fit for His work. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." (I Corinthians 15:58)



*News*

We are delighted that God continues to use Gateway Woods to serve many hurting and troubled children and families. We currently have 46 children in our Residential and Foster Care Programs, while at the same time we are serving over 100 families with our home-based counseling services in Indiana and Illinois. In addition, needy children all over the world continue to benefit from our Christian Adoption Services. May God be praised!

We are saddened to say farewell to Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy Herrmann (Washington, IL) who recently returned to Illinois. They faithfully served as Houseparents for nearly 3 years.

We are thankful, however, to announce the hiring of Bro. Adam and Sis. Katie Reinbeck from the Tremont congregation. Bro. Adam and Sis. Katie covet your prayers as they and their four children make the transition to Houseparenting.

We are also thankful to announce that Bro. Andrew Gerber (Washington, IL) will be our new Office Manager. Bro. Andrew will replace Bro. Joe Gerber (Bluffton, IN), who will be remaining with Gateway Woods in a limited capacity. Please remember to pray for Bro. Andrew.

On June 2, Stacey G. graduated from Gateway Woods School with a high school diploma. We are very proud of Stacey's accomplishments. Stacey's inspiring story was featured in a large Ft. Wayne newspaper for 3 straight days in the fall of '04. May God bless her future in every way.

Our Summer Volunteer Program is up and running. We have 4 summer-long volunteers and a

number of short-term volunteers blessing us this summer. If you're interested in volunteering, please call Volunteer Coordinator Bro. Morgan Langhofer at 260-627-2159 ex. 137.

Finally, please keep your eyes and ears open for 2005 Auction opportunities as well as giving opportunities for our 4th House construction project. We are trusting in God's provision to meet our needs through His people. May He bless you!

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

A few things that melted my heart and brought big smiles to my face over this past month:

— Martin (a little boy whose only language was Spanish just 10 months ago) was swinging one day all by himself and just singing his heart out "God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, God is so good!" Now Martin is even correcting his mother and helping her learn better English. Amazing — yes God is so good!

— It was stormy one day and thundering and lightening. One really loud boom startled Chance, one of our 3 year olds. So I asked him not really knowing what response I would get "who made that thunder?" His response was immediate, "God did!" I love hearing that. But then I guess kids will be kids — this is the same child who got his beautiful eyes from who? "Wal-Mart!"

The sun has been shining its face so much and it has helped make our summer full of fun things. We have been swimming, playing in the dirt, riding bikes, blowing bubbles, pick-

ing clover flowers, and so many other things. We also have had fun taking care of the April flowers we planted. It has been amazing to the kids and teachers too, to watch our sunflowers. We started with just a little seed poked in the dirt. With a little tender, loving, care they are now taller than all of us. Just like with faith. All you need is just a little and God can do such big things.

We are currently enrolling for our next school year. With several leaving at the end of the summer to go on to kindergarten, our trust is in God to completely fill their empty places. Please pray for us that God will fill our preschool to the amount that He knows is just right.

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**ALABAMA, ATHENS  
Louise Hall**

The Holy Spirit was definitely in our midst for our annual Memorial Day weekend. Thank you to each one that came and took part in the singing and fellowship. It was an encouragement to our Athens church to feel such wonderful support from those we have known a long time, along with those we met for the first time. We would love to have you back next year and bring more! Thank you especially to the ministers who spoke throughout the weekend: Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH), Bro. Andy Moser (Sis. Diane, Valparaiso, IN), Bro. Ron Koehl (Sis. Carol, Sarasota, FL), and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN).

The Edelman family (Bro. Kerwin and Sis. Sara) had a family reunion here the weekend of Father's Day. Nearly all of Bro. Kerwin's family were able to



come, along with his dear parents. You all were a blessing to have here and it was neat to see and experience that special bond that families have. God bless you each one.

We are rejoicing and so thankful that Steven Kyle has decided to let God be the leader and center of his life. God certainly does answer prayer and we continue to pray for him that he can continue walking close to Him. Steven is the son of Bro. David and Sis. Barbara Coulter.

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**ARIZONA, PHOENIX**  
**Ron and Ev Hoerr**

“Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

*Philippians 4:4 & 13*

We welcomed Collin Hunter and Ella Katherine into our church family on June 1 and 2. Collin's parents are Vladimir and Carmen Okhmatovski. Ella's parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Stacy Steffen.

Our hospital patients were Katie Greenbank (Bro. Joe and Sis. Patty), Bro. Floyd Banwart, Bro. Rudy Bertschi, Mary Ella Klopfenstein, and Bro. Ron Hoerr. Our sympathy to Bro. Sam and Sis. Cindy Hohulin in the passing of her mother, Sis. Lucy Grusy (Goodfield, IL).

We welcome Sis. Ella Marie and Sis. Rosalee Edelman. Their new address is: 7804 E. Phantom Way, Scottsdale, AZ 85255.

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein

(Francesville), and Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton).

Our VBS was held June 2 through June 8. This year's focus was on Matthew 5:16 “let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven.” Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein shared with us on the topics of letting your light shine in suffering and waiting. Bro. Steve reminded us that waiting is an “anxious yet confident expectation that God will intervene on our behalf”. Our frustration is often found in waiting for things to happen. We were reminded that we are to let our light shine in the waiting. Romans 8:28 applies so well. Bro. John Reinhard shared on the topics of letting our light shine in prosperity and living. Prosperity is abundance, and that can be in money, time, energy, talents, or experiences. In whatever category God has blessed us, it is so we can be more generous in giving in that area. Bro. John also shared that Jesus called us to be His disciples. By applying the following verses on discipleship to our lives, we can let our light shine to others through our living: Luke 14:33 and 14:27, as well as John 8:31, 15:8, and 13:35. May God bless Bros. Steve and John for sharing these important teachings with us. All those who attended were surely blessed.

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**ARIZONA, PRESCOTT**  
**Jane Hodges**

“Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:”

*Jeremiah 32: 17*

Bro. Henry Volz has been moved from the V.A. Hospital to:

Prescott Samaritan Village  
1030 Scott Dr. RM 104  
Prescott, AZ 86301

He has shown improvement in the last month, but is wheelchair bound and dependent on others for his care. Remember him in your prayers.

We extend our condolences to Sis. Verena and Bro. Rolf Kaepler in the death of Verena's mother, Sis. Anna Stoller Schneider. Sis. Anna was in Gridley, IL, in 2003 and resided the last ten years at the Apostolic Christian Skylines in Peoria. We pray that God will comfort her remaining loved ones.

Our annual corn-on-the-cob picnic is 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 or Sis. Jan Elsasser for more details.

We are very thankful for our visiting ministers this last month. They included Bros. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN), Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Patricia, Congerville, IL) and Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL). May God richly bless them and their families for their love and support.

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**ARIZONA, TUCSON**  
**Lisa Knapp**

Our Bro. Norm and Sis. Jan Reckemmer have left for Illinois signaling the last of our “winter” visitors. I'm not sure we can classify them as winter visitors since



they were treated to some pretty hot weather before they left for home. We will miss them and pray God will watch over them until we meet again.

Summer has officially arrived in Tucson, we've hit the 100 degree mark several times but are experiencing some beautiful 90 degree days with wonderful cool breezes once the sun goes down and of course, it's a "dry heat" during the day!

Summer is also evident at church with some of us gone much of the summer traveling and some of us escaping for a week or two on vacation. Our Sundays are small and we usually don't meet on Wednesday evenings. Trying to cool down a big building for a few people doesn't seem to make much sense. We will be hosting a couple of work teams this summer so we won't be quite so small on those Sundays.

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### **CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA** **Robin Moser**

"From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised."

*Psalm 113:3*

We in California are experiencing "June gloom", where we have fog for a good part of the day. Yet we know that the sun is still rising and setting behind the cover of mist. Similarly, our Lord and Creator has nothing obscuring His oversight, even when we cannot see very far.

We are thankful Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) was willing to present the Memorandum to our

congregation this month. Other visiting ministers included: Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN). We are grateful for all those who are willing to travel the distance to worship with us.

Our congregation continues to pray for Sis. Kay (Bro. Glenn) Hackenjos as she recently finished her last round of radiation treatments for cancer. May the Lord's healing hand be on Sis. Kay and also on her daughter-in-law who has recently developed health complications.

We welcome Joseph Alan Arroyo back to our congregation as he finished his school term in Leo, IN. We pray God will direct his path as he continues his education here in Los Angeles.

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### **CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO**

#### **Peggy Jevremov**

Greetings to all. We rejoiced as Bro. Peter shared with us the betrothal of Sis. Rachel (Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian) Petrovic and Bro. Zachary (Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane) Kuenzi, Silverton, OR. We pray the Lord's blessings upon them during their engagement and throughout their marriage. We look forward to their July wedding.

We have continued to enjoy our visitors. Among them were the following ministering brothers: Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL) and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL). We pray the Lord will bless them for their willingness to share God's Word with us.

We are thankful to have Trent Kilgus (Remington, IN) assembling with us while he has summer employment in our area.

We rejoice with Sis. Stacy (Bro. Jim and Sis. Hildy) Koehl in her graduation from high school. We wish her the Lord's guidance as she looks to her future plans.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our Bro. Rory Strahm who has been hospitalized with a fractured hip. We pray the Lord's healing hand will be upon him and that he can once more assemble with us again.

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### **ONTARIO, KITCHENER** **CANADA**

#### **Johanna Fortenbacher**

Our visiting ministers this month have been Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), Bro. Mike Baumann (Sis. Florina, Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI).

"...My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness..."

*II Cor. 12:9*

Sis. Ingrid and Sis. Johanna Fortenbacher are thankful to have had the wonderful privilege in helping with the CCCD mission in Jamaica. We both agree that the needy ones there did more for us than we did for them. An added bonus was the great fellowship we experienced with so many loved ones.

At the Sunday School picnic we were blessed in seeing all the young people display such energy.

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**COLORADO, DENVER****Ann Gonglach**

Twenty-five years ago, on the second Sunday in June, the first Apostolic Christian Church services were held in the Denver area by Bro. Chuck Sauder. Twelve people attended including the Chuck Sauder family from Tremont, the Ralph Levy family from LaCrosse, the Bill Baumgartner family from Bluffton, Sis. Kathryn Riess and Russ Mogler. God has truly blessed our little congregation and today we have 43 members and many more who attend, especially in the summer months when we're thankful to have lots of visitors.

Recently the Lord added to our membership again and we were blessed to witness the baptism of Jacob Leman (Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb). We appreciate that retired Elder Bro. Nate Steffen and Sis. Marilyn (Elgin, IL) were able to be with us for this sacred occasion. Bro. Nate faithfully served as our counseling Elder for many years. We sang the following song during the services on that Sunday. May it be Bro. Jacob's prayer as well as that of us all.

I give my heart alone to Thee;  
Use it for Thy design!  
This vain world's I would never be,  
Dear Lord, but wholly Thine.

Depart vain world, with all your  
sin!

From bondage I am free.  
A humble offering do I bring;  
My heart I give to Thee!

*Zion's Harp, #163*

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary-Lou, Rockville, CT) and Bro. Trent

Meiss (Sis. Lucille, Eureka, IL). We're grateful for their service to us.

Deborah Braun and Richard Reynolds were married at a Braun family reunion in Isabella, MO, on June 12. May God guide and bless them as they begin their new life together.

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

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior! As the garden outside my window begins to grow, it often reminds me of my own spiritual life. It takes effort, it takes pruning, and it takes time to grow and flourish. May we never lose hope that this arduous process will bring forth fruit as we diligently seek out His will.

As our school systems have finally closed for the summer recess, many graduates find themselves on the brink of adulthood. Many will leave home, others will go off to college, and others will seek their way into the job force. Among our graduates are Beth Wagenbach (Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary), Nate Luginbuhl (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue), Nate Hany (Brian and Sandra), Doug Bahler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Carole), Rachel Elliot (Richard and Sis. Joanne), Laura Hills (Bro. Scott and Sis. Luanne), Levi Schneider (Bro. Lenny and Sis. Deb), Sis. Marcy Bahler (Bro. Ronald and Sis. Bonnie), Audrey Lanz (Bro. Barry and Karen), Sis. Heather Lanz (Bro. Greg and Sis. Linda), Josh Bahler (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori), Ben Luginbuhl (Bro. Scott and Sis. JoAnn), David Luginbuhl (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Ka-

ren), Rachel Schneider (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Tina), Eric Willis (Bro. Ken and Sis. Nancy) and Carol Hoffman (Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lynne). We pray that each one may allow the Lord to guide and direct them as they make these decisions that will impact them the rest of their lives.

Our hearts have been troubled by the sudden passing of our dear friend, Craig Gottier. We pray for his parents, Bro. Arthur and Sis. Judy Gottier; brother, Douglass (Kim) Gottier; nephews and extended family, as they seek God's grace through a turbulent time. May the love of Almighty God be a strength to all that mourn the loss of this loved one. "Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:39)

We rejoice with John and Janelle Sawka as they welcomed Bradley Carl into their home on May 31. May the Lord continue to provide for their growing family and grant them guidance as they rear up their children.

We are reminded in Proverbs 27:1, "Boast not thyself of tomorrow: for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." It's sometimes easy for some of us to take for granted that we have good health and our bodies are functioning properly. May we continue to keep those in our prayers that are battling the uncertainties of life, and rely upon the grace of God for His intervention and healing. Among those recovering from recent hospitalizations are Ross (Robyn) Luginbuhl, Sis. Irma Luginbuhl, and Sis. Betty Luginbuhl. May the Lord be with them and their fami-



lies.

"By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor, and life." (Proverbs 22:4). It is out of humility and the fear of the Lord, that Bro. John and Sis. Maureen Virkler and family have felt directed to make their new home in Congerville, IL. We are grateful for them, wish them God's blessings along the way, but cannot deny that we will miss their presence amongst our congregation.

We also rejoice with Bro. Jon Goric (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Lou) and Sis. Elisa Zahner (Bro. Warren and Sis. Bonnie) as their engagement has been announced. May the Lord be with them as they make preparations for their August wedding.

May the Lord guide us each one through yet another month!

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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON  
Henrietta Meyer**

"Thou hast made summer and winter."

*Psalm 74:17*

As I write this, we are getting a big dose of hot summer weather. It took awhile for summer to get here, but it is here now.

This month we welcome Sis. Holly Bohart to our congregation. She and Bro. Joe were married May 22 in Detroit. Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Vi Barton from Detroit and Jerry and Phyllis Bohart of Dunlap, IL.

June is the month of graduations and we have a graduate this year. Delaney Steffen (Phil and Mona) is graduating from elementary school. Our prayers and best

wishes are with her as she faces challenges ahead of her.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda) and Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy), Philadelphia, PA, Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN). Other visitors this month were from Morton, IL, Latty and Akron, OH, and Lafayette, IN.

During our lunch hour on Sunday, Bro. Rod Stoller shared slides of some of the work of the World Relief in Eastern Europe.

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.

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**FLORIDA  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
Renee Mangold**

We were thankful to have visiting us ministering Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), Bro. Ron Jones (Portland, OR), Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota,

FL), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH). We pray that God will bless His ministering brethren.

Congratulations to Tara Hohulin (Bro. Mike and Sis. Faye) upon her graduation from Coral Springs Christian Academy. Tara will be attending UF in the fall in their Honors Program. May God bless and keep her as she goes forward into this next phase in her life.

At our monthly potluck this month we honored Bro. Harry Sutter on his 90th birthday. We are all blessed to know a brother who shows us an example of a true and faithful servant.

We are thankful that David Mangold (Mike and Renee) has recovered from his appendectomy and is doing just fine. Sis. Vi Gerber was in the hospital for a few days because of a spell with her heart. She is doing well and getting the medications she needs to get back on her feet. We rejoice when we see God's healing hand on loved ones around us.

Sis. Elena Zurz passed away this month. She was a lovely sister who loved the Lord and those around her.

Sadly, we wish to say farewell to Bro. Bud and Sis. Billy Klopfenstein who are moving to Atlanta, GA. A farewell dinner was held to wish them well. They will be missed in Ft. Lauderdale and we hope they will visit often.

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## FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS

### Mary Masters

We are saddened to hear that Alice and Gene Myer have moved to Illinois, but are happy that they can be near family and friends. They are living at the Myerling which they founded and ran until their retirement. Darwin and Laurie Steidinger purchased the home from Gene and Alice and continue to run it. Their new address is: The Myerling, 2218 E. Lincoln, Bloomington, IL 61704. Their phone number is 309-662-5900.

Our area has had abundant amounts of rainfall to the extent that there were flood warnings at times. The weather patterns seem to be back to normal now again.

We have had several visiting families, but no visiting ministers this month. It is times like this that we are especially thankful for our own ministering brothers, Vic Beer and Marvin Steffen.

As we have recently celebrated Father's Day, let us reflect on the heritage that has been handed to us by faithful fathers of the past. Whereas, many can reflect on strong Christian fathers, others may choose to focus on the One Father and God of us all as Paul wrote about in his letter to the Ephesians in chapter 4 verses 4-6. "There is one body and one Spirit even as you are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God, and Father of all, Who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Paul continues in chapter 5, "Be ye followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and has given Himself for us an offering and sacrifice to God for a sweet

smelling savor."

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## FLORIDA, SARASOTA

We always have so many reasons to be thankful. "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High" (Psalm 92:1). We rejoice that the Lord has led Bro. Adam Ott, formerly of Congerville, to accept employment in our area and become a part of our congregation. We welcome him and trust there will be mutual blessings as we walk together with the Lord, along life's pathway.

We are also thankful that Bro. Miklos Bozzay is improving after a time of illness and that Bro. George and Sis. Betty Siladie escaped harm when a serious fire struck their home.

We enjoy the blessing of many visitors in the winter months as well as the smaller numbers who visit here in the summer. Each one is welcome to worship with us here in Sarasota. We thank Bro. James Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) for sharing the Word with us recently. May the Lord add His increase to these efforts.

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## GEORGIA, ATLANTA

### Kevin Kipfer Benjamin Stoller

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

*Isaiah 41:10*

We are now experiencing the warm summer rays in Atlanta. This past month we appreciated our visiting ministers. They were Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Victor Beer (Sis. Dorothy, North Ft. Myers, FL). We were also privileged to have some of the Francesville young group, including our dear Bro. Alex Leman. Our friend Will Olar will be leaving Atlanta for his summer break and will return in October. He will be missed.

On June 11 the singles had a Bible study on Philemon. We had a potluck at Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue Waldbeser's home on Sunday, June 12. It was a time of sweet fellowship and good food. The food certainly had a "good do." The potluck was bittersweet because our church said farewell to our dear Sis. Erica Stoller who will be relocating to Morton, IL. Our visiting ministers for the upcoming month are from Mansfield, OH (August 7) and Forrest, IL (August 21).

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## ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

### Sheila McCoy Doreen Moser

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

*Mark 16:15*

In June the Goodfield and Belvidere Bible Classes along with several from our congregations had the opportunity to go on a work team to the Apostolic Christian children's home "Casa Vida y Esperanza" in Magdalena, Mexico. In spite of temperatures every day



over 100 degrees, we felt God's blessings. We pray our efforts will indeed help to make it a 'house of life and hope' for these fourteen children.

Keith Mueller (Bob and Sis. Elaine) will be a college graduate this summer. As our graduates pursue new beginnings, may God lead and direct their paths.

Bob and Sis. Elaine Mueller moved to Gridley, IL. They grew so dear to us and they will be missed.

We have several engaged couples. Shayna Mueller (Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene) and Gene Summers are planning a fall wedding. Nicole Moser (Gary and Sis. Doreen) is engaged to Eric Edwards. Keith Mueller's fiancée is Danielle Underwood. May they "...love one another with a pure heart fervently." (I Peter 1:22)

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### **ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**

**Kara Martin  
Ann Nussbaum**

Our congregation has had an eventful month, and with it many blessings and reasons to rejoice!

On May 27, Bro. Delayne and Sis. Lori Stickling welcomed Drendon Layne. He joins sister Macy. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Diane Stickling, and Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall (Morris, MN).

We thank Bros. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL), and Ned Stoller (Alto, MI) for sharing the Word with us on May 29.

Also on May 29, the engagement of our Sis. Alesa Knapp to Bro. Clint Bahler (West Lafayette, IN) was announced. Their parents are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dixie Knapp,

and Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette Bahler (West Lafayette, IN).

Lucas Knapp (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dixie) graduated from college in May, and we pray for God's blessings on him as he begins employment.

Vacation Bible School was held June 6-10. The theme was The Word, our ultimate survival guide. We heard messages on Power of the Word, Passion for the Word, Practice - obedience to the Word, Proclaiming the Word, and Pursue - stewardship according to the Word. Our minister speakers for the week were Bros. John Bradle (Roanoke, IL), Dave Obergfel (Peoria, IL), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Neal Widmer (West Lafayette, IN), and our Kevin Knapp. We also had music shared with us by our Bloomington Men's Quartet, Living Waters (Gridley, IL), Roanoke Men's Quartet, and the VBS students. Our congregation was abundantly blessed by the week, and we are grateful for the many willing hands that served to bring the week together.

June 12 was the wedding day for Sis. Molly Hodel and Bro. Ben Knochel (Taylor, MO). Parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine Hodel and Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny Knochel (Taylor, MO). We pray for God's blessings on this couple! We had several visiting ministers for the wedding. They were Elder Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), and Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL), Dave Marquart (Taylor, MO), Kim Sutter (Taylor, MO), and Jeff Thames (Washington, IL).

We are grateful to Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL) for his willing-

ness to minister to us on June 15!

Our Bible Class and several adults are currently on a mission trip to Sunset Gap, TN. We are prayerful for each one on the trip and that God's name will be glorified!

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### **ILLINOIS, BRADFORD**

**Steve Endress**

We are thankful to experience growth in our church. We welcome two families to our congregation and community. Joseph and Geraldine Kieser and children, Jerrica, Jolene, Jenifer, Jeanna, and Jakob, moved from California to Wyoming, IL. We are certainly thankful to have them assemble with us. Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida Kellenberger and children, Chad and Sis. Trisha, moved from Elgin, IL. Their loss is certainly our gain.

Our church has once again called upon faithful members to assume duties in the church. Our prayers and support are with Bro. Joe Beer (Sis. Heather) and Sis. Barb Klumpp (Bro. David) as they begin their work in our Sunday school. We extend our appreciation to Bro. Bill Ringger (Sis. Karen) and Sis. Sherrill Stoller (Bro. Nate) for their years of service in our Sunday school.

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### **ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA**

**Karla Kieser**

Greetings from Champaign! It feels pretty empty with all of the students gone for the summer.

We welcome a new couple to the area. Bro. Lucas Young (Elgin) and Sis. Bethany Rassi (Chicago) were married in May and have made Champaign their home until Bro.



Lucas graduates in December.

Bro. Nick and Sis. Sandra Waibel experienced one of God's perfect miracles this month. Caden David was born June 9. He is welcomed by big brother, Elijah, and grandparents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Gerry and Sis. Marcia Waibel (W. Lafayette, IN).

Champaign had Vacation Bible School for the Sunday School students June 20-24. Many live far from church so it can be difficult to get the kids to VBS every night but many made it. The effort put forth by the teachers and helpers is much appreciated!

We thank our visiting minister from the past month, Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL).

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### **ILLINOIS, CHICAGO** **Rachel Meyer**

Greetings from Chicago. As the summer activities begin, may we all feel the nearness of God as we go through each day. We all enjoyed our annual Sunday School Picnic, held after church June 12. It was a blessing to be together as a group. The day was warm and sunny and the children presented a lovely program. We thank our Sunday School teachers for the time, effort, and love they put into teaching our children. A special thank-you is given to Bro. Tom Neu, for serving his Sunday School teaching term.

We welcome Bro. Brent Young, from Fairbury, IL, for the summer as he works as an intern with the Aspen Group. A new face is always welcome, no matter how short the stay may be.

Special thanks to Bro. Curt Kaufman (Tucson, AZ) for ministering to us this month on a

Wednesday evening. The following ministers shared inspiring truths during our Vacation Bible School which focused on "Building our Spiritual House": Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Chris Huber (Francesville, IN), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO). May God bless each of these brothers for being willing to share with our Chicago congregation.

This summer I am doing research for a Speech Pathologist, and it is always somewhat anxiety-provoking to go into a new and unknown situation. One never knows with whom they will be working, what the atmosphere will be like, and if anything will be learned. Thankfully, things seem to be going well and I enjoy the research and my co-workers' company. While attending our Sunday School Picnic, the thought came to me regarding how comfortable I feel around my church family. And I know why. It's because we all have something in common. We have Jesus as our Lord and Savior, or, some are still waiting to make that change in their lives. Either way, we believe in the same God, that Jesus is our Redeemer, and we don't fear talking freely about it. At the picnic we had the opportunity to sing a few songs together. I saw some people milling along the street and I thought, "I hope these words are audible to them. That they may know what we stand for and perhaps be encouraged themselves." What a joy to be able to sing praises to Jesus in the middle of a public park for anyone to hear. Today, may you take the opportunity to praise Jesus, with or without

words; in whatever situation you have been placed. No situation is too small or insignificant. Not one.

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### **ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK** **Pam Walder** **Andrea Walder**

We rejoice with two couples who were recently joined together. Bro. Zach Anderson (Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee, Congerville, IL) and Sis. Karla Kaisner (Robert and Cherie, Fairbury, IL) were joined together as one on May 22. We pray that God will be with them and bless them in their marriage and their new abode as they will be making their home in Congerville. We will miss Bro. Zach in our congregation. We are also thankful that Bro. Greg Maul (Mike and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Heidi Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy, Forrest, IL) were united in marriage on June 12. We welcome Sis. Heidi to our congregation and wish them God's blessings as they now begin their walk together in the Lord.

We thank visiting ministering Bros. Greg Braker (Lamar, MO) and Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) for being with us and allowing themselves to be used in the Lord's service. May the blessings of the Lord be upon them and their families.

Our congregation is sorry to be losing two families that will be gathering with our brethren in other locations. Bro. Jim and Sis. Beth Walder will be assembling with our Champaign congregation and Bro. Monty and Sis. Bethany Van Wyhe have moved to Lester, IA. We pray God's nearness to these families in this transition.

Merle and Elsie Eisenmann are



happy to welcome a new granddaughter, Mycah Renee. Mycah's parents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Shalome Hoffman, Indianapolis.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Bro. Larry and Sis. Jeannie Kaufmann in the death of her father, Bro. Bill Belsley of Eureka, IL. We also want to remember the family of Katherine Knapp in her passing. May our Comforter be with each of these families and provide for them in this time of sorrow.

Our high school graduates this year are Selah Hadi (Kathy Hardison), Michael Kaeb (Bro. Max and Sis. Beth) and James Young (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marilyn). We pray that God will be near to them and direct them in their future plans.

Our Vacation Bible School was held on June 6-17 this year. May the seeds that have been planted in the students' hearts during these two weeks bring forth fruit in their lives. We appreciate the labors of the following ministering brothers during the evening Bible Class sessions: Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Chris Wuethrich (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and our Elder Bro. Tom Stock.

*Note of Thanks:*

I wish to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, flowers, visits and phone calls. Your love and kindness has touched me deeply and has been a wonderful source of comfort. May God bless you!

*Sis. Lucille Walder*

**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**  
**Rachel Schrock**

In a sermon recently we were asked, "You may have never been

drafted into the US Army, but are you a faithful soldier of the Lord?" As we pass through America's most patriotic season of summer, we should also focus on being steadfast in the Lord's battlefield.

As we partook of Communion recently, we were given a gentle reminder of the battle our Lord endured for our sakes. Our thanks is extended to Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL) who assisted our Elder Bro. Bob Walder in this work. We are also thankful for this month's other visiting ministers, including Bros. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN) and Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN).

A thankful couple in our congregation is Bro. Zachary and Sis. Karla Anderson as they were united in Holy Matrimony on Sunday, May 22. Their parents are Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee Anderson and Robert and Cheryl Kaisner (Fairbury, IL).

Other thankful, rejoicing souls this past month are all of our graduates. Graduating from high school was Sis. Kate Craig (Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol), Sis. Kristin Roth (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy), Emily Knapp (Bro. Denny and Sis. Gay), Eric Zimmerman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Kathy), Ryan Schrock (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet), David Roth (Bro. Alan and Sis. Joanne), Andy Stevens, Ryan Leman (Bro. Randy and Sis. Kim) and Bro. David Virkler (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gayle). Rose Hoerr (Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne) and Sis. Anna Rinkenberger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna) both graduated from ICC this semester as well.

As some move on to new areas of their lives, others arrive into this

world. Warren Michael blessed the home of Bro. Rudy and Sis. Katie Wiegand on June 7. Welcoming their new brother with open arms are Carolyn and Rachel.

**ILLINOIS, ELGIN**

**Amy Gasser**  
**Miriam Gasser**

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

*Rev. 3:20*

On the weekend of May 21-22, we were encouraged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Sis. Diana Kellenberger (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Debbie). May God help her to be a true light in a dark world.

That Sunday evening at the Fellowship Center, there was a farewell potluck and singing for Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida Kellenberger and their children, Sis. Trisha and Chad, who have now moved to the Bradford, IL area. We reminisced about special times with their dear family. Their presence and support in our fellowship will truly be missed.

A note of appreciation is due the visiting ministers who refreshed us through the Word, within the past month. They were Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Tom Leman (Denver, CO) and Edwin Strahm (Bern, KS).

The engagement of Bro. Keith Schambach (Bro. Les and Sis. Alison) to Sis. Emily Bollier (Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie, Indianapolis) was announced on June 5. We wish them God's grace and blessing as



they prepare for their wedding and life together.

Bro. Dick Klopfenstein (Sis. Judy) had valve replacement and bypass surgery a few weeks ago and is recovering well. Sis. Joyce Schifferer also had surgery recently and is recuperating.

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## ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Cindy Stoller  
Lisa Metzger**

We will miss our dear Sis. Fannie Wiegand, as she has recently passed on to her eternal reward. We pray for her son, Dale Wiegand (Sis. Freidora); daughter, Sis. Janet Knecht (Bro. Richard); and for the rest of her family who will feel the loss of this loving woman of God. We also share in the sorrow of Sis. Karen Sinn (Bro. Charles) in the loss of her stepfather, Bro. Milton Yentes (Morton, IL).

We had a joyful weekend of provings and baptisms to welcome Sis. Amanda Wiegand and Bro. Mark Wiegand (Bro. Don and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Lindsay Hoerr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Carolyn) into the body of Christ. May God grant each one of His children the needed grace to stay true.

We appreciated the following ministers who joined us for the weekend of baptisms: Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Bros. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO). We were also thankful to have visiting minister, Bro. Jed Rocke (Goodfield, IL), on another Sunday. It is a blessing to hear the true Word of God preached by inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The engagement of Bro. Merle Stoller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola) to Sis. Rachel Bahler (Remington, IN

– Bro. Mark and Sis. Bonita) was announced recently. We wish this couple God's blessings and guidance as their lives blend into one.

Jason Carr (Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna) and Jill Kelly (Leroy, IL – Carlisle and Deanna) were united in marriage on June 11. We pray God will be with them as they begin their lives together in Jackson, CA.

Our prayers are with Sis. Connie Hoerr (Bro. Norman) and Sis. Laura Kupferschmid who have undergone surgery this month. May the Lord be near and grant healing in His time and will.

We welcome Bro. Ben and Sis. Audrey Ehnle to our congregation. They have relocated from the Bradford, IL, area to reside in the Eureka Apostolic Christian Condos near our church. We hope they feel at home here.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Heidi Schumacher and their boys, Cody, Clint, Clayton and Cade, welcome home another little boy, Cale Robert. "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord..." (Psalm 127:3). Grandparents of Cale are Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene Schumacher and Bro. George and Sis. Fern Knapp (Goodfield, IL).

### *Note of Thanks:*

We wish to thank all of you dear ones who supported us in our time of sorrowing at Bill's passing. We could feel the prayers and appreciated the many phone calls, gifts and the love shown. May God bless each of you.

*Sis. Helen Belsley and family*

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## ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Anna Schmidgall**

Our prayers are with Bro. Rick Plattner and his wife, Sis. Mary, at

this time as Bro. Rick has received the support to appear at the Elder Conference in August for approval to be ordained as Elder of the Fairbury congregation. We wish them the grace of the Lord.

"Thus united and in concord, let us walk the path of life..." Bro. Zach Anderson (Bro. John and Sis. Cyndee, Congerville) and Sis. Karla Kaisner (Robert and Cherie) were united in marriage on May 22. We trust they will feel God's nearness as they begin their life as one in Christ.

We are thankful for several visiting ministers, including: Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), Bros. Mike Rinckenberger (Congerville, IL), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Harvey Kuenzi (Silverton, OR), Dan Moser (Elgin, IL), Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) and Ben Walder (Congerville, IL). May God be their rich Rewarder.

We have several graduating seniors this year. They are Kent Steidinger, Denver Rassi, Tyrel Steidinger, Russell Edelman, Austin Fehr, Klint Kaisner, Andy Mashburn, Sis. Renee Slagel, Sis. Kristin Schmidgall, Sis. Kelly Hinrichsen, and Sis. Janelle Steidinger. Our prayer for them is that they look to God for His leading and guidance.

Our Sunday School students enjoyed a week of Vacation Bible School June 6-10. We pray that the wonderful teachings of the Bible will stay with them always.

### *Notes of Thanks:*

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and visits following our accident and Dick's recent surgery. We are very thank-



ful for our loved ones, friends and church family. May God bless each one.

*Bro. Dick and Sis. Betty Wiegand*

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our dear family and friends for the prayers, cards, calls, gifts, visits, and support that we have felt and received since Don's vehicle accident in April. He continues in rehab at a nursing facility in our area. May God richly bless every kind deed done in our behalf.

*Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy Schneider*

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### **ILLINOIS, FORREST**

**Jill Wenger  
Lori Leman**

"Our love shall not diminish, nor fade nor wane away..." We rejoice with our Sis. Heidi Rudin and Bro. Greg Maul (Cissna Park, IL) as they were joined as one in the Lord on June 12. Their parents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin and Mike and Sis. Kathy Maul (Cissna Park). We pray that God will richly bless them and continue to lead and provide for them.

Two couples in our church were blessed with firstborn sons this month. Bro. Adam and Sis. Rachel Zimmerman welcomed home Nolan James. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Micki Zimmerman and Bro. Paul and Sis. Sherri Kelson. Kole Rieger came to bless the home of Bro. Trent and Sis. Jennifer Johnson. Kole's grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Til Johnson and Darren and Peggy Kerrins. May God bless these families and give them grace to raise their children in the fear of Him.

We also had loved ones who spent some time in the hospital. They were Arlen Steidinger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly), Bro. Lloyd Honegger (Joyce), and Sis. Dorothy Bachtold (the late Bro. Alf). We pray that God will continue to grant His healing powers.

We are thankful for visiting ministers that have taken time to speak to our Bible Class during Vacation Bible School. This year the ministers were Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Bro. Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL), retired Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL). We pray that the words that they spoke will fall on listening ears and that it will bring forth fruit. Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL). May God bless these brothers for being willing to be used in His service.

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### **ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**

**Amber Grimm  
Rita Bauman**

Three families in our congregation are enjoying the blessing of a newborn in their homes. On June 2, little Naomi Joy was born to Bro. Derek and Sis. Joy Roth. Anxiously awaiting to hold her were her grandparents, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rosemary Wiegand and Roy and Sis. Corrine Roth.

Kassidy Post is excited to have a brother, Aiden Gregory, for a playmate. Thankful parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Missy Post and Aiden's grandparents are Bro. Les and Sis. Helen Bauman and Bro.

Gary and Sis. Kathy Post (Tremont, IL).

Bro. Mike and Sis. Amber Grimm welcomed their firstborn child, Jayden Michael, into their hearts and home on June 13. Loving grandparents are Sis. Sharon Adams and the late Bro. Terry (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Grimm. May each one look to Thee to raise your precious little lambs.

June 4 was the wedding day for Ryan Davis and Nicole Samford. Parents of the couple are Bro. Noel and Sis. Molly Davis and Cindy and Don Samford, Eureka, IL. We wish them God's blessings.

A July 8 wedding is being planned for Abbie Blunier and Joe Tabor. Their parents are Bro. Daryl and Sis. Lucy Blunier and Cathy Tabor (Urbana) and Lyle Tabor (Congerville). May they feel the Lord's blessings and guidance as they prepare to be joined as one in the Lord.

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord..."

*Jeremiah 30:17*

Our prayers are with several in our church who were hospitalized last month. They were Bro. Joe and Sis. Irene Rinkenberger and Sis. Vera Heinold. We are thankful that they are home and recuperating.

Our Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 20. Our speakers for the week were Bro. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), "Have You Been Taught on How to Walk the Talk"; Bro. Dave Obergfel (Peoria, IL), "How Society Affects Our Lives"; and Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), "Jericho! Are You



Standing On the Wall or Are You in Line with the Lord?" It was a convicting and thought-provoking week. Thanks to those brothers who so willingly gave of their time.

We "rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep" (Romans 12:15). Sympathy is extended to Bro. Joe Rinkenberger (Sis. Irene) in the loss of his sister, Sis. Fannie Wiegand (Eureka, IL). May you take comfort in knowing she went to her eternal reward.

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### **ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY** **Perry A. Klopfenstein**

As of this writing (in late June), we are in the throes of a drought. Rainfall during the past 30 days has been very scant, leaving corn and bean fields very dry, along with our residential yards parched and dried out. It's a very serious matter concerning the crops, and the outcome is according to God's will. Man can plant, but it is God that gives the increase. As such, our farmer brethren, and all of us, appeal to God for rain, but await His will knowing what He does is well done. God will not forsake any who will not forsake Him. Presently, the dry conditions are reminiscent of the 1988 drought.

At our June business meeting, Bro. Harvey Kaeb was selected as a new Trustee. New song leaders were Bros. Grant DesCarpentrie and Doug Wettstein.

Our annual Vacation Bible School was held during June 6-10. The general theme for the week was "God's Plan For Relationships." Speakers were Bros. Dave Obergfel (Peoria), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington), Rick Plattner (Fairbury), Jeff Thames

(Washington) and Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN).

Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) was a visiting minister on Father's Day. He spoke on the chapter regarding the prodigal son, as seen through the eyes of the father. It was encouraging to note the mercy and joy demonstrated by the father as he saw the son coming back in repentance — like our Heavenly Father was when we too repented and returned to our Father in heaven. The earthly father was heavy-hearted as he saw his son leave home, but rejoiced to see him return. There is a vivid parallel between the earthly father and the heavenly Father regarding mercy and forgiveness. We thank the Lord for inspiring Bro. Curt to allow the Holy Spirit's message to us.

Sis. Ruth Gramm is now residing at the Home in Eureka, and we wish her the very best. She is in our prayers, and may she feel the Lord's nearness. We are thankful she is in fairly good health, and very clear of mind. It is always a blessing to visit with her.

Eric Schlipf, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, is engaged to marry Christina Hitt, also of Wauwatosa. He is the son of Bro. Enid and Sis. Lila Schlipf. Her parents are Steve and Debbie Hitt of DuQuoin, Illinois. A wedding is planned for August 13.

A daughter was born to Jacqui Butikofer on May 16. She was named Vanessa Marie. Grandparents are Donna Butikofer of Gridley, and the late Bro. Mike Butikofer. We wish the best for this little bundle of joy and her Mother.

We offer condolences to Sis. Marge Kuntz over the passing of her brother.

Sis. Winifred Schlipf continues

to take treatments for her illness. Also, Sis. Bertha Funk remains a shut-in. There is a never ending need for prayers. It's no wonder the Bible teaches us to "pray without ceasing." (I Thessalonians 5:17)

We sorrow over the passing of Sis. Fannie Wiegand, 93, who passed away on June 24. Although she has resided in the Eureka Home complex for a long time, she once lived in Gridley for many years. She had moved here with her husband, Bro. George Wiegand, and five children. He died in his mid-30s, and left her a widow with five growing children, ages 3 to 13. Her saintly demeanor, kindness and patient endurance of her widowhood was an inspiration to all of us. The Lord provided for her, and she was an encouraging example to her children as they grew into adulthood. Her children, all of whom survive her, are: Bro. Marvin Wiegand, Taylor, MO; Dale Wiegand, Eureka; and Keith Wiegand, Broken Arrow, OK; Shirley Alltop, Pontiac; and Sis. Janet Knecht, of the Eureka congregation.

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### **ILLINOIS, MORTON** **Julie Bahr** **Christie Zeller**

Sis. Mary Ann Klaus and Bro. Don Stoller (Gridley, IL) were united in Holy Matrimony on Wednesday evening, June 1. May God richly bless them and their families.

Our annual Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 6-10. The theme for the week was "Making Choices" from the scripture passage Joshua 24:15.

Monday's topic was "Choose to Pray" - Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis.



Cindy, Gridley, IL);

Tuesday - "Choose not to Worry"- Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL);

Wednesday - "Choose to Respond"- Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL);

Thursday - "Choose to be Content"- Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL);

Friday - "Choose to Hope"- Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN). May God bless these dear brothers for lending themselves in sharing with us God's Word for a very blessed week.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Abby Kaufman have a new little girl, Iris Kate. Big sister, Ava, and brother, Layne, welcome her home. May God continue to bless their growing family.

Sis. Erika Stoller (Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda, Atlanta, GA) is making Morton her home. She is going to be a counselor for Apostolic Christian Counseling Services. May God bless her in her work.

Bro. Bill Belsley passed away May 15. He is the father to our Sis. Diana Kaiser (Bro. Bob). May God continue to comfort this dear family.

Our visiting ministers for the month were: Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL), Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO), and Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN). May our Heavenly Father richly bless these loved ones for their labors of love.

## ILLINOIS, PEORIA Lou and Marjean Lonteen

"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed; and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."

*Revelation 3:18*

Our congregation was blessed by the following guest ministers: Bro. John Bradle (Roanoke), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Francesville, IN), Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), and Bro. Nate Wieland (Goodfield).

Vacation Bible School was held June 6-10. Special thanks to each and every student, parent, teacher, and everyone else who made this an inspirational week. To God be the glory, great things He hath done.

Congratulations to Bro. Ben and Sis. Heidi (Huthmann) Hartter on the birth of your little baby boy. Kyler Benjamin Hartter was born on May 13. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Chris Hartter (Roanoke) and Bro. George and Sis. Ruth Huthmann.

Engagement announcements are as follows: Sis. Holly Stickling (Bro. Scott and Sis. Jan) to Bro. Brian Zobrist (Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnn, Congerville). They are planning a July 24 wedding.

Bro. Ben Sceggel (Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy) is engaged to Sis. Taunya Rumbold (Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Jackie) of Princeville.

May God's hand be upon you as you plan your life together in His love.

Sis. Jolyne Scholl (Bro. Bill and

Sis. Joanne) graduated on June 11 from Ruth University Medical College in Chicago, IL. She starts June 1 in the Family Practice residency at West Suburban Medical Center in Oak Park, IL. We extend congratulations on this accomplishment. May God's presence lead and guide you each step of your future.

Jesse and Rachael Waibel and their family have moved back to Illinois and are again worshipping with us. Welcome home!

Bro. Dan and Sis. Shelly Geyer and family have relocated to Alabama. We wish you God's nearness and blessings while you are away.

### *Notes of Thanks:*

Thanks for your prayers offered along with your loving kindness shown to Luke during his hospital stay from a head injury.

*Bro. Jack and Sis. Jody Hoerr*

Thank you to all those who sent me birthday cards and gifts for my birthday. I truly appreciate the thoughtfulness shown to me by so many people. God bless you all.

*Shirley Klaus*

Prayers are appreciated for these dear ones: Bernice Houk, Bro. Jim Hoerr, Luke Hoerr, Ben Hofstetter, Bro. Bob Joos, Bro. Ed Meister, and Bro. Ivan Thomas.

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with



my Father in his throne.”

*Revelation 3:19-21*

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## **ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**

**Kara Blunier  
Vera Baer**

“Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them; for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”

*Deuteronomy 31:6*

Elder Bro. Jim Plattner read this verse and spoke words of advice to our high school graduates at Senior Breakfast, hosted by the Bible class teachers. We thank the teachers and their wives for the many activities they host for our children throughout the year. Graduating this year are: Adam Baer (Bro. Larry and Sis. Vera), Bro. Cam Blair (Elder Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner), Dane Christ (Bro. Fred and Sis. Tina), Andrew Ehnle (Bro. Phil and Sis. Barb), Raquel Knobloch (Bro. Alan and Sis. Mary Ann), Katie Loesch (John and Lynda), Lisa Martin (Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary), Shane Martin (Bro. Alan and Sis. Janice), Whitney Menold (Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy), Cassie and Corrie Shaner (Phil and Sharon), Jeff Streitmatter (Chuck and Linda), Tanya Wagenbach (Curt and Mary Beth).

Connor and Colton were born to Curt and Mary Beth Wagenbach May 26. They are welcomed and loved by their three sisters and their thankful grandparents, Bro. Ray and Sis. Betty Wagenbach, and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Joan Berchtold, all of our congregation. May God be with each of them in

the busy days ahead.

Thanks to Bro. John Bradle (Roanoke, IL) for being willing to speak to us as the Spirit moved him. May he and his family feel God's blessings.

Vacation Bible School was the week of June 13. Bros. Dave Zehr (Gridley, IL) and Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) spoke separate nights to our Bible class. May the seeds that have been planted bring forth fruit. We trust God has blessed these Brothers and all who put forth effort to plant the Seed, by example and in speaking.

May Sis. Joan Berchtold (Bro. Vernon) feel God's love and nearness while she again faces treatments for cancer. Our prayers are with them and their dear family.

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## **ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**

**Doris Fischer  
Dee Fehr**

“All we really need to know about salvation, we learned through Vacation Bible School Songs!” This was the theme for our week of summer Bible School, held on June 13 – 17. We are greatly indebted to the five ministering Brothers who brought us the messages: Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor) spoke on the inspired Word of God (The B-I-B-L-E). Bro. Brad Eisenmann's (Chicago) topic was Jesus' shed blood (Jesus Loves Me). Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington) spoke on purity in all areas of our lives (O Be Careful Little Eyes). Standing by a purpose firm (Dare to Be a Daniel) was the topic for Bro. Craig Martin (Princeville). Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington) spoke to us about repentance (The Banquet). We also were privileged to have Bro. Jeff

Thames (Washington) visit us on a Sunday. May God richly reward each of these Brothers for so willingly and diligently sharing the Gospel message with us.

Spring is the time of new beginnings! Three precious couples have embarked on a new chapter in their lives. Staci Hohulin (Bro. Tim and Sis. Cathy) and Jerime Barrett were married on May 28. Andrew Hoffman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Nancy) and Elizabeth Pantaleone were united in marriage on June 4. The wedding day for Bro. Luke Luginbuhl (Bro. Rob and Sis. Gina) and Sis. Angie Sutter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Debbie) was June 5 in Taylor. Our prayers are with each of these newlyweds, that God will provide for them and bless their marriages.

Bro. Blake and Sis. Kristin Gerber are beginning an exciting new phase of their lives as they became first-time parents on June 10. We rejoice with them as they welcome little Gabriel Nathan. Grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise Knepp and Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish Gerber (Goodfield).

We bid Bro. Dan and Polly Lemman farewell as they relocate to Michigan. At the same time, we welcome Bro. Robey and Sis. Angie Shuck as they have moved from Taylor to Roanoke.

On June 3, the family of Bro. Raymond Roth said farewell to their loved one. We were privileged to have Bro. Raymond among us here in Roanoke for the past five years. Those of his family from our congregation include his daughter, Sis. Christa (Bro. Glenn) Moser, and his sister, Sis. Leona (Bro. Melvin) Weyeneth. As his earthly body has returned to the wheat



fields of Kansas, his soul is experiencing harvest-time in heaven.

“Let us now fear the Lord our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season: he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest.”

*Jeremiah 5:24*

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## ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Heather Rassi  
Teresa Rowell**

As we come through another Memorial Day weekend, our hearts go out to all those who have lost loved ones this past year. The emptiness can never be filled except with God's love. We are especially mindful of our soldiers over in Iraq and Afghanistan and need to remember to pray for them and their families as they experience the horrors of war.

As summer is upon us and the Lord sends the sunshine and the rain as He sees fit, so we each must rely on Him for our spiritual and physical needs. As school comes to a close, we have seven graduating from high school. Sis. Mary Rassi, Julie Kaeb, Janelle Kilgus, Bro. Mark Sauder, Rollin Aberle, Bro. Tim Beutel, and Bradley Koch will hopefully now make their way down the path that God intends for them as they go on to college or into the work world. May they always seek Him in their endeavors.

Also making changes in their lives are three couples who are planning weddings in the near future. They are Curt Schweigert (Becky Schweigert, and Roger (Nancy) Schweigert) and Heather Zeman, Randy Aberle (Bro. Pete and Sis. Debbie) and Darla King, and Rodney Aberle (Bro. Pete and

Sis. Debbie) and Staci Getz. We wish these couples many of God's richest blessings as they take this important step in their lives.

Having taken this important step, we congratulate Nathan and Stephanie (Bro. Dean and Sis. Karen Beutel) Ramquist and David and Tammy (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Zuercher) Callan on their weddings. We pray they will seek God's direction as they walk through life together.

We want to thank all of our visiting ministers for coming and laboring in our midst this month. They are Bros. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO), Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA), Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL), Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) and Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL).

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Dean Beutel (Sis. Karen), Bro. Paul Wagenbach (Sis. Beth) and Bro. Dick Miller (Cindy). We are thankful that they are all on the road to recovery and assembling with us again.

We also want to wish Godspeed to Betty and Amanda Kemp who have been assembling with us for quite some time. They are planning a move to Sumpter, SC. Our prayers go with them as they travel far from family and friends.

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## ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Barb Banwart  
Nancy Knepp**

B – Bible School the first week of June always signals the beginning of summer. The enthusiasm of our youth mingled with memories of our teachers as all were reminded of the “Fruits of the Spirit”. Our Bible Class students joined Eureka

for their week of spiritual encouragement.

L – Love brought two hearts together on June 5 in Gridley, IL, as Bro. Will Kellenberger and Sis. Holly Stoller were united as husband and wife in the Lord. Parents of the new couple are Bro. Randy and Sis. Ruth Kellenberger and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Elaine Stoller (Gridley, IL).

E – Embracing Chase Daniel, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Chelby Sauder are marveling at the birth of their first son. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda Kaeb (Bloomington, IL) are the new grandparents.

S – Summer in Magdalena, Mexico, is the mission of Bros. Matt Gerber and Logan Hangartner. As they help build the campus and young lives, their youthful energy will be greatly utilized and appreciated.

S – Speaking the Word of truth were our guest ministers. Bro. Ted Schock (Sis. Heidi, Belvidere) and Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) as they

I – Inspired us to keep the faith with the genuine “professional” model of salvation that's built to last and to dare to be different, because it is the difference in our lives that draws others to Christ.

N – Now is the day of salvation our graduating seniors were reminded at the annual Bible Class Breakfast at the home of Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss.

G – Greeting Sis. Sally Fritz (Bro. Ed) and Bro. Gene Kellenberger in church again was a special day after their recuperation.

S – Sharing a Memorial Day pic-



nic, the Morton Friends Bible Class from Timber Ridge enjoyed the fellowship with their teachers and van drivers.

Blessings overflowed this month from our Heavenly Father. May we honor Him all the days of our lives!

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**INDIANA, BLUFFTON**  
**Amber Steffen**  
**Elizabeth Frauhiger**

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

*Hebrews 12:2*

A dear sister in our congregation, who has continued to look beyond this world and towards the face of our Master, has finally met Him face to face. Sis. Devona Gerber went Home to be with the Lord on June 2. Our deepest sympathies go out to Kent and Janice Ringger, Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda Kipfer, Sis. Susan Byerly, and Bro. Dee and Sis. Laura Neuenchwander and the rest of the extended family. However, it is certainly a joy when we can be assured of the salvation of a loved one.

Our sympathies also go with Bro. Harry Steffen (Sis. Betty) who has recently suffered the loss of his dear sister, Hilda Robinson. As they go through this difficult time, we are prayerful for them and their dear family.

The Bluffton congregation has had many opportunities to pray for those in need in the past month. Bro. Howard Schwartz underwent heart bypass surgery and asked for

the church's prayers. Also, Sis. Lucille Gerber (Bro. Dwight) was recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. As she endures this trial, we pray for her and her family. Sis. Lavon Gerber (Bro. Rex) is still suffering from cancer and underwent surgery to remove fluid from around her heart. Through her entire struggle, the church has continued to lift her up in prayer. Our thoughts and prayers go with each of these dear brothers and sisters.

The first two weeks in June are a busy time for the children in the Bluffton and Bluffton North congregations, as they participate in Bible School. The theme this year has been “Love One Another”. As the many lessons go forth, and the seeds of truth are planted in their hearts, we are thankful for the many blessings it gives all those who are involved. The director this year has been Sis. Jacki Kershner, and her assistant director has been Sis. Joy Tonner. We continue to pray that many more lives will be touched by the messages taught.

May 28 marked the day of the groundbreaking ceremony for our new fellowship hall. This exciting venture has been in the planning for the past few years and has required much research and prayer. We are thankful for the efforts of all involved.

Bro. Dick and Sis. Rita Everett proudly welcomed their new granddaughter, Ava Merlot, on May 25. Her loving parents are Vince and Susy Everett.

May 27 was a wonderful day for Bro. Ryan and Sis. Bethany Donaghy as little Alayna Grace arrived into their family. Also welcoming Alayna are her big brother, Kyler and sister, Kinsey. Alayna's

thankful grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Jean Neuenchwander.

Bro. Harry and Sis. Robin Anderson recently traveled to China to adopt their new little girl, Lily Fei, who was born on June 14, 2004. Warmly welcoming her to their family are her grandparents, Bro. Robert and Sis. Janice Sutter. Lily's new brothers are Tristan and Alex.

Sis. Andrea Sipe is the thankful grandparent of little Brian James. He is the new son of Anthony and Mindy Gerke who was born on June 2.

We have also been blessed with two engagements in the past month. Sis. Rachel Reinhard (Bro. Larry and Sis. Deb) announced her engagement to Bro. Austin Smith (Dave and Loretta). Our prayers go with them as they begin a new chapter in their lives together.

Also, Bro. Jim and Sis. Rachel Isch announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Vanessa, to Bro. James Stoller. He is the son of Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan. Our love and support goes to both of these new couples, and we pray that God will use them for His glory!

Our congregation is also thankful for the conversion of Tiffany Troxel (Bro. Kim and Sis. Lisa). We are pleased to see the changes that each convert must make. Our prayers go with Tiffany during this new stage in her life.

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**INDIANA**  
**BLUFFTON NORTH**  
**Tiffani Schladenhauffen**  
**Darren Drayer**

Love and greetings from the northern end of Bluffton. On June 12 many from Bluffton traveled to



Francesville to witness the wedding of Bro. Bryce Drayer (Bro. Denny and Sis. Jan) and Sis. Erin Ward (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandy) of Francesville.

Wedding hymns again rang out on June 19 as Bro. Micah Rauch (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy) married Sis. Rozanna Grube (Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda) of the Bluffton congregation.

Sis. Susan Byerly is the grandmother of Noah Andrew, born May 2. He is the son of Andrew and Gay Byerly. He joins a sister, Grace.

We extend our sympathies to Bro. Alvin Fiechter (Sis. Bernice) on the death of his sister, Sis. Devona Gerber.

Bro. Bob Gerber (Sis. Bonnie) and Sis. Mahilda Dubach spent time in the hospital this month.

On June 18, our Sunday School young people favored us with a V.B.S. program—the grand finale marking the end of two weeks of Bible School. Lifting their voices in song, the children reminded us that “Jesus is Coming Soon” and “Heaven is a Wonderful Place.” We were encouraged to always be “Living in Harmony” and to “Love One Another.” A special group of girls sang about the “Sweet, Sweet Spirit” of that night. Near the end of the program, a small group of boys beseeched the Lord in song to “Open the Wells of Salvation.” It was a special time of praising the Lord.

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.”

*Psalms 100:1*

## INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

### Jessica Murray

Greetings loved ones in the name of our Lord and Savior. We have been blessed this past month by God’s hand in many events at Francesville. We had the opportunity to share in the graduation ceremony of our eight seniors who will be going their own separate ways in life, but we pray they can all travel the path the Lord has chosen for them.

This year’s graduates are: Sis. Kendra Neihouser (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sue), Amy Pelsy (Bro. Dale and Sis. Terri), Bro. Caleb Wuethrich (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lynne), Luke Gudeman (Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky), Heath Mounts (Timothy and Lydia), Sis. Heidi Nuest (Bro. Don and Sis. Deb), Sis. Danielle Wuethrich (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy), and Robin Overmyer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet). We pray the Lord continues to lead and guide you and that you can always fall back on the things you learned in Sunday School. Please continue to attend worship and learn of the Word. We wish you the best.

Our prayers are with Sis. Evelyn Pelsy (Bro. Vernon) as she is recovering from a stroke and continues to have therapy for her eyesight. May the Lord continue to heal and strengthen you and your family as you go through this stepping stone in your life. You’re in our prayers continually. Our Sis. Carol Huber is staying with her daughter Pam and would love to hear from you. We love you dear sisters and you are in our prayers. We pray the Lord will continue giving you daily blessings.

On June 12, Sis. Erin Ward (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandi) and Bro.

Bryce Drayer (Bro. Denny and Sis. Jan, Bluffton North, IN) were united in marriage as they joined their hearts and lives in unity with the Lord.

What a blessing to have wedding vows that are based on the Word and the whole direction of our lives spelled out in the Bible. We wish you the Lord’s blessings as you begin your lives together.

We want to thank our visiting ministers, Bros. John Baumgartner and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), and Bro. Rustin Meister (West Lafayette, IN) as they shared in this day by sharing the Word and the services. Also visiting this past month were Bros. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), Ted Steffen (Alto, MI) and Ron Palitto (Akron, OH).

May God bless you for your willing service, which was a blessing to our church.

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## INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS

### Sandy Lichtle Debbie Anliker

Warm greetings from Indianapolis.

Another month has quickly passed, and we have much to share with you. We have experienced joys and blessings, a little sadness and have seen evidence of answered prayer.

We were blessed to have two visiting ministers this month. We thank Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North) and Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo) for traveling to be with us and for being willing to be used in God’s service. Bro. Doyle shared through some of his life experiences that we can trust God, that God knows all



things! The next Sunday morning Bro. Lynn seemed to continue that message by reminding us that it is God who has the answers.

Mycah Renee was welcomed by first-time parents, Bro. Lee and Sis. Shalome Hoffman, on May 26. Mycah's grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl Knobloch and Merle and Elsie Eisenmann.

On June 1, Bro. Aaron, Sis. Julie, and Lydia Zeller welcomed Micah Aaron into their family. His grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Bev Huber (Francesville) and Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny Zeller.

Michael Rowe (Heather) is recovering from a rather serious accident. He continues to improve and we are so thankful for answered prayer.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail Bradford have extra joy in their family. Their son Bill was recently married to Brandy Skaggs. We rejoice with Bill and Brandy and their families.

We had the joy of hearing two engagements this month. Bro. Austin Smith and Sis. Rachel Reinhard (Bluffton) announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Loretta Smith and Bro. Larry and Sis. Deb Reinhard, all of Bluffton. Sis. Emily Bollier and Bro. Keith Schambach (Elgin) also announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier and Bro. Les and Sis. Alison Schambach (Elgin). We wish these couples God's richest blessings.

We are currently in the midst of our week of Vacation Bible School. The theme verse for the children in Psalms 25:4-5, "Show me thy ways, O Lord: teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truths and teach me; for thou are the God of my sal-

vation; on thee do I wait all the days."

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**INDIANA, LACROSSE**  
**Shirley Frank**  
**Cathy Nuest**

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

*Psalm 127:3*

We rejoice with Bro. Eric and Sis. Bobbi Heinold for they have been blessed with another baby boy, David John. Welcoming him home is older brother, Daniel. Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy Heinold (Lacrosse, IN) and Bro. Bob and Sis. LuAnn Gerber (Wolcott, IN) are the happy grandparents.

"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh."

*Ezekiel 36:26*

We look forward to hearing of the change that has taken place in the heart of our convert, Dan Nuest (Sis. Cathy). Dan has found peace with God and man and desires to give the church a testimony of the miracle that has taken place within his life. We want to remember him in our prayers during this time. May we continue to pray for those who have begun on the way, that they would allow our Lord to convert their hearts wholly.

A good number of our congregation recently gathered together for a food packaging project for World Relief. We want to thank Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth Steiner, their son, Bro. Rod, and his wife, Sis. Jill

(Rittman, OH), for bringing the materials and assisting us in this work. We were thankful that the couples stayed with us for the entire weekend. A special thank you goes to Bro. Ron for ministering the Word to us on Sunday. May the Lord bless him for laboring on our behalf!

We would like to thank Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) for ministering to us and our graduates.

We also want to thank the following brothers for traveling to be with us for Vacation Bible School. Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) spoke on "The Mark of the Beast Compared to the Mark of the Believer". Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) was asked to talk about "The Power of Forgiveness" and Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) spoke about "Truth in Creation". Let us all continue to pray for the brothers who are called upon to minister to us and our children.

Sis. Lucille Nuest has had surgery this month. We pray that she will feel the Lord's nearness and healing power today and in the days to come.

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**INDIANA, LEO**  
**Ethelyn Schlatter**

Sunday afternoon, May 22, Bro. Seth Beer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie) and Sis. Brandy Schwab were honored with a singing shower. Sis. Brandy's parents are Bro. John and Sis. Wendy Schwab (Wolcott, IN). May God bless their marriage as they locate at Phoenix, AZ.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Carmen Kilgus and family spent May 29 with us. We were inspired by Bro. Paul's message, and welcome them back.

Our best wishes to our high



school graduates: Sis. Emily Blunier (Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheri), Stacey Gibbs, foster child, graduating from Gateway Woods School, Kyle Fiechter (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda), Adam Herrmann (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy), Erica Sauder (Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny) and Sis. Natalie Stieglitz (Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda). May they experience God's grace as they go on to higher learning.

June 5, a singing shower was held for Sis. Julie Zimmerman and Bro. Kurt Schrock (Congerville, IL). May God shower blessings on their June 19 wedding and their life together. We appreciate the time Sis. Julie fellowshiped with us during her service at Gateway Woods.

We are happy to welcome Bro. Tim and Sis. Christa Wiegand as a couple. Praying God bless them as their relationship grows in Him.

Our prayers are with those who are experiencing health problems. Most are attending church services again except Bro. Pete Maxfield who had hip surgery on June 16.

The children's Vacation Bible School starts June 20, for five days. The theme is "Soldiers of Purpose". In conjunction with this week, the adults were instructed on the same topics on the five Wednesday evenings starting June 1.

Day 1 – Choosing to become a Christian Soldier (Story – Gideon). "You are my witnesses, saith the Lord ... that you may know, believe me, and understand that I am He." (Isaiah 43:10)

Day 2 – Putting on the full armor of God (Story – David and Goliath). Truth, righteousness, gospel of peace, faith, salvation and the

sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. All these are a reflection of Jesus. (Eph. 6:13-17)

Day 3 – Worshipping the King (David's pure worship, I Chronicles 16:7-36 and Paul and Silas worshipping in prison). Worship is in the heart. (John 4:23-24)

Day 4 – Discerning the Enemy (Joseph who chose to keep God's purpose in mind). Replace Satan's lies with what Jesus would say to us. (Philippians 4:8).

Day 5 – Gathering the Troops together (Story – Good Samaritan). "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you." (Eph. 4:32).

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### INDIANA, MILFORD

**Carol Haab  
Carlton Beer**

Our congregation has had the blessing of two babies being born this month. Although we have no formal ritual for newborns, our whole church prays for them and thanks the Lord that they are healthy children. Bro. Brent and Sis. Pam Beer have a baby boy named Cabe Christopher. Grandparents are Bro. Bob Beer and Sis. Urma Stoller. Haley Price was born to Bro. Darin and Sis. Monica Price. Haley's grandparents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane Price and Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen Steffen.

Fred and Wendy Young announce the engagement of their daughter, April, to Rustin Mikel. Rustin is the son of Russ and Sis. Pat of our congregation.

In June we enjoyed VBS and the Lord blessed us with the following speakers: Bro. Tom Troxel stressed the importance of a name. Many popular and important people go

into oblivion after a few generations. This is not the case of the name of Jesus which has lasted over two thousand years and changed the world.

Bro. Randy Gudeman stressed the necessity of believing in the name of Jesus and putting that belief into action.

Bro. Rustin Meister told of how we should confess the name of Jesus and not to be ashamed of the cross of Christ. Praise His name by our daily living.

Bro. Steve Baner told of the wonderful privilege we have to worship Jesus and our Heavenly Father. He spoke of preparing ourselves for worship and in praising God, He in turn will bless us.

We had some wonderful singing groups also. It was a great time of refreshing for all of us.

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### INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler  
Tammy Waibel**

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Tammy Waibel (Bro. Dean) in the passing away of her grandfather, Clair Thompson, from Gary, IN. "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." (John 14:18)

Anna Bahler found grace to express her need for a Savior to take away her sin. She is the oldest daughter of Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynnette. "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3)

Our dear sister-in-faith, Emily Kilgus, decided to make her home at Parkview Haven Nursing Home, 100 Constitution Drive, Francesville, IN 47946. I came to church several Sundays in a row subconsciously thinking, "someone is missing." I finally realized it was



Sis. Emily, who has a way of meeting you on Sunday with a sweet comment and little chuckle. "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 Corinth. 5:1)

June 13-17 was Vacation Bible School for which we combine with Wolcott. It's a blessing to take turns hosting so everyone can get a taste of working together to provide an intense week of godly teachings. Our visiting ministers were: Bros. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) and Greg Lehman, as home minister took an evening.

Most of us realize our Elder brethren will be meeting in several weeks in Morris, MN for our summer Conference. Recently, a brother shared the method he uses to pray for our Elders who serve us so unceasingly. He uses the minister book and starting at "A" goes through each church praying for our leaders and their families. This simple idea seemed worth sharing. May we all unite in prayer for our Elder brethren.

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**INDIANA, SOUTH BEND**  
**Melissa Gerst**  
**Stacey Feller**

"If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained."

*I Timothy 4:6*

Our congregation has truly been

blessed in the past month as Bro. Rich Gramm (Sis. Samantha) has been called to the ministry. We praise God for his willingness to serve and our prayers and love are with their family as they begin a new "chapter" in their lives. Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA). We thank them for sharing God's Word with us. This past week the South Bend and Milford congregations had Vacation Bible School for the children and adults. It was a very blessed week for all who could attend; many thanks to all those who had a part in planning and presenting. Our theme this year was "the name of Jesus".

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**INDIANA, VALPARAISO**

**Ed Lester**

Greetings, to all our congregation of believers. Peace unto you.

What a wonderful time of the year. Crops are coming up, all of the trees are in bloom, and lots of flowers are in bloom. It's funny how these simple tasks for God change our mood and outlook. But don't forget to give thanks for the things we take for granted. Like, the roll our mothers play in our lives. Many of the things our mothers provide for us, nurturing, chastisement, love and guidance are also provided for us by our Father and Lord Jesus Christ. All of these things are used in our lives to guide us and shape us. Let us not forget to give thanks for the spiritual gifts, however they are delivered to us.

In May our mothers and daughters had a wonderful brunch with singing in the fellowship hall. Bro. Arnold Gerst (Sis. Marjorie, Tay-

lor, MO) visited and shared God's Word with us. Thank you. We also would like to thank Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN) for ministering to us. Thanks to Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) for allowing God to use him to share the gospel with us this past month.

We would like to send our sympathy out to the Ames family. Dillar Ames passed away this past month at the age of 84. He is survived by his wife, Ellan Ames, and siblings, Sis. Carolyn Lester, Dillar Ames Jr., Bro. Tim Ames, Todd Ames, Sis. Cindy Susdorf, Bill Ames and Mary Yaggie. May God bless you all during this grievous time.

There are many ailments at Valparaiso; the hips, the knees, and Bro. Brady Moser is wrestling with physical issues. Please include them in your prayers.

"Father into thy hands I commend my spirit."

*Luke 23:46*

When will our time on Earth be over? Only God knows for sure. It is easy to forget we are only here for a short time. How are you spending the time that God has given us here?

The Old Testament shows people in and out of favor with God. The New Testament, where we get most of our guidance, tells us to love everybody. Don't give Satan a chance to nick your armor. I know that it is hard to love someone when they just cut you off in traffic, but just take a deep breath, say a little prayer, and keep on loving!

Satan really has a grip on various cultures around the world, so



remember to include the men and women of our nation's armed forces in your prayers.

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**INDIANA  
WEST LAFAYETTE**  
**Diana Houston**  
**Nettie Haab**

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

*Proverbs 22:6*

Our young children up through high school age enjoyed Vacation Bible School this past week. "Solid Rock Construction, Building Christian Character" was the theme. Thanks to everyone who helped to make this a success and took the time to teach our youth.

We rejoice with Bro. Clint Bahler (Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette) and Sis. Alesa Knapp (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dixie) of Bloomington, IL, as their engagement was announced. May they look to God for guidance as they make plans to establish their Christian home.

We appreciate our visiting ministers who come and minister God's precious Word to us. They have been our Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla) and Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn), both from the LaCrosse, IN, congregation.

Bro. Neal and Sis. Kris Widmer and their family recently spent a week in Jamaica at the Deaf Village. We are thankful for their safe return.

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**INDIANA, WOLCOTT**  
**Elaine Bahler**  
**Lisa Furrer**  
Greetings from Wolcott

We want to thank Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Donna, Morton) for sharing God's Word with us through a Bible Study.

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

*Psalms 122:1*

After many months of destruction, then construction, we are now gathering in our church building once again. Our dedication and open house were held June 12. Many thanks to all who helped in this project in any way.

We bid farewell to Bro. Jeremy, Sis. Natalie, and Kyle and Tyler Freed. They have moved to the Bloomington, IL area. We wish them God's blessings as they set up home in our neighboring state. We will miss their smiling faces and hope that they visit often.

Life lessons from Bible Characters was the theme of Vacation Bible School. Many thanks to all those who had a part in making it an enjoyable week, especially the ministering Bros: Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott), Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury), Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington), Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley), and Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton). We also thank the Klopfenstein Sisters who traveled many miles to share their beautiful voices in song.

Shane Bahler (Chris and Sis. Teresa) recently had knee surgery. May God grant him more strength each day.

Our hearts rejoice with the angels in heaven as Hannah Bahler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi) has begun her walk with the Lord. May she

feel His nearness during this precious time.

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**IOWA, BURLINGTON**

**Brenda Schulz**  
**Laurie Schulz**

We held our Sunday School election, and Bro. Philip Schulz (Sis. Kelli) and Sis. Christy Massner (Bro. Dallas) are our new Sunday School teachers. We give them our prayerful support. We thank Bro. Dick Taeger (Sis. Dorothy) and Sis. Dixie Messner for their years of teaching our children.

We had two high school graduates this year: Sis. Krystal Knapp (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna) and Kate Eberhardt (Bro. Curt and Jean). Also, two have graduated from college: Sis. Jaclyn Schaer (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sandy) and Sis. Brenda Schulz (Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody). May God guide and direct their futures.

This past month, Bro. Brad Funk (Garden Grove, IA), Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall and Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) have all shared God's Word with us. We appreciate their efforts, and may God bless them.

Our prayers continue for Bro. Earl Massner (Sis. Ada) who is still in the hospital. We also pray for Herb Miller (Esther) who recently spent some time in the hospital.

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**IOWA, ELGIN**  
**Gloria Frieden**  
**Heidi Butikofer**

Again, we are in the midst of another busy summer, with reunions, vacations, gardening, fieldwork, etc. If we are not on guard, Satan can successfully keep us away from our daily personal and family devo-



tional time. At a recent midweek service we were reminded that "where our treasure is, there will our heart be also." If our treasure is in heavenly things rather than earthly things, then our devotional time will not suffer – it will continue to be a priority.

We rejoice with Wade Halverson (Roger and Sharlene) and Ben Frieden (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan) as they have been announced for peace and are looking forward to giving their testimony of faith.

What an encouragement and blessing is felt as visitors come to worship and fellowship with us. We appreciate all who have come and encourage many more to visit us at the "Little Switzerland of Iowa". Among our visitors this past month have been three visiting ministers who have willingly lent themselves in the Lord's service: Bros. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA), Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) and Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA). May God richly bless each one.

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### **IOWA, GARDEN GROVE** **Willa Clark**

We have been so richly blessed with visiting ministers in May and June, including Elder Bros. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Mike Lemman (Denver, CO), Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) and Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) and Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO). We thank each one who serves the Lord and brings us His Word in truth and purity.

We rejoice with our new brother in faith, Clint Moser, who gave his

testimony and was baptized in June. He is the son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Dawn Moser.

We also rejoice and welcome Bro. Brandon and Sis. Rhoda Plattner and their son, Mason, who have moved to the Ames, Iowa, area and worship with us. They were formerly in Sabetha.

As summer is a traditional family vacation season, we welcome all visitors who might be coming our way. Stop and fellowship with us. We have singing every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the church, and our regular Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

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### **IOWA, IOWA CITY** **Diana Butikofer**

We want to thank Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) for visiting and assisting on the pulpit recently. We appreciate his willingness to travel and be used for God's kingdom.

We've had various changes to our families recently. Our prayers are with Bro. Chris Hattan (Sis. Sara) following the death of his grandmother. Our thoughts and prayers for His grace and wisdom are also with Sis. Janette Schulz as she now has a second daughter; Liberty Jo is Adriana's new little sister. We wish Josh and Heidi Hydeman (Doug and Debbie Hydeman of Lenexa, KS, and Ron and Audrey Landherr of Marion, IA) God's grace and guidance as they establish their new home together in Kansas City following their May 28 wedding day.

The Elder brothers will be meeting at the Conference in a few weeks. Please remember to pray for our Elder brothers as they meet and make decisions regarding the

Church and for the Spirit to also work in the hearts of the rest of the Church.

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

We have three couples who have been joined in holy matrimony this past month. On May 21, Jordan and Masondra (Kuehl) Metzger were married. Jordan is the son of Bro. Art and Sis. Kris in our congregation. This couple also graduated from college this past month and are now making their home in the Minneapolis, MN, area. Visiting Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA) were with us for Sunday services during that weekend.

Brent and Priscilla (Wips) Bosch chose May 28 for their wedding day. Bro. Tony and Sis. Pam are Brent's parents.

On June 19, we witnessed the wedding vows of Sis. Kary Hartter and Bro. Dana Metzger. They are the children of Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gail Hartter and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joleen Metzger. Visiting ministers sharing the Word of Life for this special day were Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA). May God bless these new homes that have been established.

Ty John Leuthold was born May 28 to Collin and Cheri Leuthold. He arrived earlier than expected, so is still hospitalized but doing very well for which we are most thankful. Grandparents in our congregation are Bro. Larry and Sis. Mardi Leuthold.

Elyse Meyer (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill) has felt the need of repentance in her life. We are thankful that she



has overcome Satan and made this beginning. Chad DeSmet (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley) feels peace with God and man and is awaiting baptism.

It seems there are many in need of our prayers as they struggle with health issues at this time. Hospitalized this past month were Sis. Martha (E.A.) Feucht, Bro. Lawrence Wulf, Sis. Mary Metzger (Bro. Harv) and Sis. Lee Leuthold (Bro. Mark).

Bro. Alfred Knobloch passed into eternity on June 2. He had been diagnosed with cancer in December 2004. His funeral service was held on June 6. Visiting ministering brothers during this time were Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Bro. Wayne Fehr (Portland, OR). Surviving is his wife, Sis. Lucy; and children, Ronda (Jim) Thielen, Lola (Dan) Deragisch, Sis. Kim (Bro. Todd) Massner, Sis. Carla Knobloch, Bro. Cameron (Sis. Tamara) Knobloch and Sis. Penny (Bro. Jim) Domnick. Also surviving are three sisters, Libbie Den Hartog, Sis. Naomi Knobloch and Sis. Esther Warner; and five brothers, Gilbert, Bro. Melvin, Bro. William, Bro. Silas and Bro. Clyde. Our deepest sympathy is extended to these loved ones and their family members. We also want to remember Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla Bajema and their family in our prayers as they say farewell to Bro. Rod's dad, Leonard Bajema, who passed away on June 14.

Youth Fellowship Weekend was held in Morris, MN, the weekend of June 11-12. A big thank you to all those who worked very hard to make this a memorable and enjoy-

able time.

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

*John 1:1*

Our gratitude is extended to Bro. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) and Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) for sharing God's Holy Word with us this month. May they continue to rely on the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Our prayers are with the Elder brothers as they gather together in Morris, MN, for the General Conference. May they seek the wisdom that is from Above as they consider matters concerning the spiritual welfare of the Church.

The Sunday School term is ending and our thanks go to outgoing teachers, Bro. Paul Hay, Bro. Colin Wagenbach, Bro. Dave Stoller, Sis. Kathy Frank and Sis. Denise Lanz. Our support is extended to the new teachers who are Bro. Curt Frank, Bro. Jeff Wagenbach, Bro. Keith Lanz, Sis. Stacia Tapp and Sis. Nola Gerst.

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**IOWA**  
**BLOOMFIELD/PULASKI**  
**Barbara Schock**

This past month, we were blessed with a visiting minister. Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend) was here for the weekend on June 5 and 6. We thank him for his efforts to come and share God's Word with us. May God bless him and his family.

We would also like to congratulate Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley Wuthrich as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May God continue to bless this couple with many more years to come.

As Independence Day approaches, we should all stop and think about what it really means. It's not about having the day off of work or fire works. It is the day that our nation declared independence. Sacrifices were given freedom and we still have it today. We have been greatly blessed to live in a country that allows us the freedom of religion and the right to not bear arms in times of war.

Our thoughts, prayers, and thanks go out the men and women who are serving in the services, especially our Brian Schaer who is serving in Iraq. May God bless and protect each one of them.

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**IOWA, WEST BEND**  
**Sue Schneider**  
**Lori Skoglund**

Many ministering brothers have traveled here recently and brought forth the Word as God faithfully inspired them. They were Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO) and Bros. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl) and Kent Getz (Sis. Betty), both of Elgin, IA, Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR), Bro. Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN), and Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA). Much is required of our dear ministers. May we be faithful in prayerfully supporting them.

On June 13, Bro. Greg and Sis. Gwen Schupbach were blessed with a new son, Cortlyn Eljin. Lit-



tle Cortlyn is welcomed home by a sister, Leandra, and a brother, Trysian. Bro. Dave and Sis. Yvonne Bruellman and Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach (Elgin, IA) are happy and thankful grandparents.

Little Logan Roy is the fifth boy to bless the home of Bro. Jordan and Sis. Ann Grimm. Logan was born on Father's Day. Brothers, Nathan, Nolan, Colman and Creytan, happily welcome him into the family, along with grandparents, Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose Grimm and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr.

Adam Beecher and Gina Bruellman were united in marriage on June 11. Gina is the daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Yvonne Bruellman and Adam's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Lindsey Beecher of Dike, IA. May God bless and be a part of this new union.

Bro. Cameron (Sis. Tammy) Knobloch has lost his beloved father, Bro. Al (Sis. Lucy) Knobloch of Lester, IA. May he and his family be comforted with the hope of that glad reunion some day. "In that fair homeland, (where) we'll know no parting, beyond the sunset, forever more.

Many can be thankful for the compassion shown to them while they have been hospitalized: Bro. Albert Banwart, Brad (Julie) Banwart, Melanie (Ralph) Bormann and Bro. Greg (Sis. Gwen) Schupbach. Infant baby, Kiersten Montag (Bro. Jeff and Sis. LaRae), has also been hospitalized. All are home and recovering. We should all be appreciative of good health if we are so blessed and pray for others in their times of need.

"Let us hold fast the profession

of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works."

*Hebrews 10:23-24*

## **JAPAN, TOKYO**

### **Jana Klaus**

We were very thankful to hear that Bro. Yoshio Yamazaki was able to come home after a 3 month hospital stay resulting from a bad fall. He is in good spirits, feeling the Lord's hand over him, and being well taken care of by neighbors and volunteers. He hopes to continue rehabilitation at a nearby hospital as moving is still painful. We pray he can be back in church soon.

And, it brought us such joy to see Mr. and Mrs. Hashimoto back in church after a long absence since he had again injured his back after shoveling snow. Please continue to pray for these elderly people who are so dear to our congregation.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Honegger (Bluffton North) and sons, Joe and Adam, visited us on Sunday, June 19. Sis. Mary is a cousin to Sis. Marie Inoue. Another son of theirs, Rob, had visited us a few years ago, and is now married to an Indonesian lady. They were all on their way to join up with Rob and his wife who are in Indonesia visiting relatives. It was a joy to meet them and to see their delight at visiting other countries.

Also, we appreciated Bro. Bob's afternoon Bible Study on three examples of human faith and Jesus' ways with people in Luke 7— the centurion, the widow who lost her only son, and the woman (called a sinner) who anointed his feet with perfume and washed them with her tears. He encouraged us to think

about our faith — How do we get it? How do we keep it? What examples do we have of God working with our faith? It was good to have some group participation in discussing this subject.

Our congregation sure appreciated getting to know Sis. Michelle Steidl (Akron, OH) who came to help out in the Klaus household. In addition to her support on Sundays, she shared about her work as a hospice nurse at our monthly ladies' meeting. She will soon be heading back and we wish to say a big thank you to her for her loving and servant heart. What a blessing!

## **KANSAS, BERN**

### **Sheri Edelman**

### **Rita Menold**

The angels in heaven are rejoicing and so are we as two souls have given their life to God in repentance! We pray for Scott Strahm (Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie), and Jason Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan) as they build their firm foundation upon Jesus Christ!

Nick Moser (Jim and Ann) is engaged to Hillary Ellingson. We wish the couple a blessed and wonderful life together!

Memorial Day weekend we were thankful to have Bro. Lee Plattner (Sis. Mary) from our Zapata, TX, congregation minister to us, and Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer) from Silverton, OR, on June 12. We may not all be called upon to speak the Word from the pulpit, but may we each remember that we may minister to others by being a Godly example! We thank these brothers for lending of themselves!

I failed to mention in the last writing that Sis. Kristen Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) has



graduated from Baker University, and is beginning her career in the nursing field!

The week of June 13–17 was Vacation Bible School. The theme for this year was “Keys to the Kingdom”. On Wednesday evening, June 15, Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield–Pulaski, IA) spoke to the Sunday School senior Bible class, on love being a key to the kingdom. One of Bro. Doug’s opening comments for the evening was “The love of God, is greater far, than tongue or pen can ever tell...” If we stop and think about the words to the rest of the familiar hymn, it really is hard to imagine how much God really does love us! May God bless Bro. Doug for his efforts!

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### **KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Ethel Smith**

Greeting in Christ Jesus, the One who died on the cross that we might have that peace that passeth all understanding. We are especially reminded of our freedom and independence as we commemorate the signing of The Declaration of Independence. Our forefathers fought, and many lives were sacrificed, that we might enjoy this freedom - freedom to worship our great God, our Lord and Savior without fear. “One nation under God, with liberty and justice for all.” Our country has been blessed. Let us ever be thankful for our country.

Our congratulations to Bro. Trenton and Sis. Kristi Banwart on the arrival of a baby boy, Josiah Jordan, born June 8. Josiah will enjoy the company of his big brother, Benjamin. Bro. Lon and Sis. Deb Banwart, and Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen Kellenberger are the thank-

ful grandparents. May God bless their little family.

We ask your prayers for Sis. Mabel Springer and Sis. Amber Kellenberger who have been hospitalized. They are both doing well at this writing and hope to be home soon. Sis. Mabel is the mother of Sis. Deb (Lon) Banwart with whom she lives. Sis. Amber is the daughter of Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen. We would also seek your prayers for our dear Bro. Harold who battles his illness and his wife, Sis. Wanda, and family, who faithfully care for him. May God grant them strength and grace for each day.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. James Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS), Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), our Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) and Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL). The Kochs were accompanied by two of their children, Ben and Logan, their parents, Bro. Oliver and Sis. Emma Jean Stieglitz and Bro. Vern Koch and Sis. Ruth. Bro. Koch related in his sermon that often when we go through difficult times, that in our distress, we cry out for God’s help and mercy. We become much more teachable in times of distress. This is so true, as it was with the Israelites in their journey from Egypt. We had a wonderful weekend of fellowship, a picnic and singing at Bro. Raymond Banwart’s home.

June is the month that we are reminded to honor our earthly fathers. A great responsibility rests upon fathers (parents) to teach their children about the Heavenly Father, who is the true example of fatherhood and from whom all wisdom comes.

He does not seek the wealth of the world,  
Nor prestige, nor power, nor fame.  
He does not ask for honors to grace  
The plainness of his name.

His life is rich with priceless gems  
When Truth and Faith applaud,  
When friends can look at him and  
say,  
“He has won the trust of God.”

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### **KANSAS, KIOWA Jenny Stewart Laura Wagenbach**

When my earthly life at last is finished  
And in faith and love my race is run,  
I shall praise Thee, Saviour, for  
Thy sufferings  
Which for me eternal rest has won.  
*Zion’s Harp #182*

Our Bro. Raymond Roth passed on to his heavenly home. O, what a glorious place to be. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Matt Schupbach and Courtney Garrouette were joined in holy matrimony on May 28. Matt is the son of Bro. Kent and Sis. Darcy Kisling. Courtney is the daughter of Larry and Sherri Garrouette, Oologah, OK. May God bless them as they begin their life together.

The harvest season is in full swing in this part of the country. Our prayers are for the laborers for continued safety in the fields and on the roads. We cannot harvest the fields without thinking of God and His blessings.

“The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.”



*Psalm 24:1*

Let us always look to the Lord and strive to be chosen for His harvest.

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**KANSAS  
LAMONT-GRIDLEY  
Eileen Bahr**

Sis. Dorene Metzger had surgery in Topeka Tuesday and was able to return to work Thursday afternoon.

Since there was no more "news" from our little church, I prayed that the Lord would show me something. Years ago when I was a SL reporter they requested interviewing the oldest member of our churches. Note pad in hand, I interviewed our dear sister in her mid-nineties. Many interesting things she told me, but she did not want me to tell her age. Early the next morning she called and asked that I not write – she didn't do anything. I disagree and feel like she has been an inspiration to us – we need to know how our ancestors lived – and what spoiled or privileged people we have become!

Family: Oldest in a family of five brothers and three sisters. What did you do for entertainment as a child? Worked. Where did you go to school? We walked to Gridley or traded with our neighbors in horse and buggies. When it was cold or rainy their father took them to school as he had the time then because he couldn't farm. One day she stayed after school to watch a demonstration of a Victrola and ran home so she wouldn't be late. In high school she didn't want to wait for her brother practicing football, so she took off with the car – she had never driven and drove in

second gear all the way home!

The fall of 1921 was a very hot dry windy day. The air was filled with dust. A piece of hedge wood (osage orange known to produce hot heat along with sparks) was put in the woodburning range in the kitchen for the noon meal. The fire started on the roof by the chimney. A neighbor riding his horse by noticed the fire as soon as they did. The young girl hired to help the family went to get some of her belongings upstairs and the chimney fell knocking her and the trunk down the stairway. Later they found postal cards, etc. a half mile away in the field. Her mother had washed that morning and most of the clothes were still on the line – that was all the clothing they had other than what they were wearing.

After graduation from high school, she moved 40 miles away to Emporia to work as a maid, cook and childcare for a family. (There were no other jobs for single girls at that time.) Wages were \$1.00 per day, one afternoon off a week and a weekend once a month ... and no paid vacations.

She repented when she was thirty. One evening she walked over to the church sisters who were also working in Emporia and she talked so long it was too late to walk back (none of them had cars) so she had her first and only taxi ride! Bro. Mangold from Illinois proved her and was baptized before her mother died.

When her mother was dying from cancer, she came home. The doctor told her how to give the shots for pain and said "You are going to do it." Her youngest brother was five years old when their

mother died and she has been mothering her family and us since then. She lovingly taught the primary Sunday School class for years as well as Bible School and World Relief chairman.

After her youngest brother moved to the home place, she and her father purchased a home in Gridley. She could not find a job in Gridley, so she enrolled in a two week school for nurse aid training and began working at the county hospital in Burlington.

When her father became ill (he lived to be 101), she gave up her job to care for him. She made and passed out the most delicious peanut brittle when we Christmas caroled at their home. When her sister died, she mothered her niece and babysat her children. She still bakes cinnamon rolls for herself and her niece's family along with tending a small garden, washing her windows, scrubbing her kitchen floor down on her knees (she gave up mowing her lawn!). Takes no medications except for an occasional pain pill for arthritis. The container is always empty when she brings deviled eggs to potluck.

It is a privilege to take her to church. She has such a sense of humor. Proverbs 31:29-31 "Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates."

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**KANSAS, SABETHA  
Rebekah Beyer  
Dawn Strahm**

We are thankful that the Lord



has provided two new ministering Brothers. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) assisted as Bro. David Hartter (Sis. Beth) and Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy) were placed in the ministry.

May the Lord be with them and provide sufficient grace as these Brothers lend themselves.

For visiting ministers this month we welcomed Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Twyla, Lester, IA), Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), and Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Fort Scott, KS).

This Memorial Day weekend we enjoyed the company of many young group visitors in the Bern/Sabetha area. Churches participating were Rittman/Smithville, Akron, Denver, Eureka, Goodfield, and Congerville.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Henry Plattner and Sis. Sue Meyer and family of Sis. Loree Plattner as she was laid to rest after a battle with cancer. Our prayers are also with Bro. Fred and Sis. Charlotte Aberle and Sis. Irene Lehman in the recent passing of their daughter and granddaughter, Luanne (Aberle) Strahm. Luanne passed away after a severe automobile accident. We also think of her husband, Brian Strahm, during this time of sorrow.

The annual Sunday school picnic was held this past month. We enjoyed the fellowship and bonding with our young people as well as remembering the willing labors of the Sunday school teachers.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

We wish to express our sincere appreciation for all your expressions of kindness during the time of our mom's illness and passing.

These memories will remain with us forever.

*Loree Plattner's family,  
Hank, Sue, Sandy, Doug, Jan,  
Joan and families*

### **KANSAS, WICHITA**

#### **Emma Miller**

As the springtime days merge into summer, many of us have enjoyed watching the outdoors change from dormant to magnificence. The rains were slow to come but when the time was right, rain came in abundance. Though our plans may have been ruined because of the rain, our area has escaped some of the wrath others nearby experienced. According to the Word, it will rain on the just and the unjust (Matt. 5:45). I take comfort in the assurance that God is in control and I breathe special prayers for the farmers as they see their hopes for harvest thwarted.

The Wichita congregation observed Father's Day a week early. The church fellowship area was filled to overflowing on the evening of June 12 as many sons and their families joined us for a time of reunion and refreshing. On that same day we were privileged to have visitors from at least four other congregations. At the close of the afternoon service, Bro. Max Reimchisel asked us to stand and sing Zion's Harp #237. The title of the hymn is "Unity" and Bro. Max asked us to be especially mindful of verse four that reads, "With the love of God inspired, There is joy for us on earth: May the Spirit we've acquired, Grant us blessing, peace, and mirth."

Bro. Phillip Bowers has been experiencing serious health problems. He endures and still has a

cheerful greeting whenever he is permitted to assemble with us. His parents, Sis. Lillian and Bro. Milton, are celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary this month. What an example they have set for those who know them. Sis. Lillian told me they had a family reunion recently and they count over a hundred family members. I am reminded of Psalm 127 where children are compared to arrows. "Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them."

### **KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**

#### **Barb Huber**

"Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort."

*II Corinthians 1,2,3*

Our assembly is truly grateful for His grace and peace, and for all the ministering Brethren who have traveled many miles to faithfully share God's Holy Word here at Lexington: Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN) and family; Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL); Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH) and family; Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH); Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) and family. May the Lord bless each of you and your families for all your efforts to help serve in the Lord's vineyard.

Among the many "truths" expounded upon from God's Word was a special nugget gleaned that is worth sharing here. May it comfort your hearts as it did ours. "Jesus



gave three Cheers for encouragement in the Bible. For our *past*, "...Be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee." (Matthew 9:2). For the *present*, amid the storms of life, "...Be of good cheer, it is I; be not afraid." (Mark 6:50). For the *future*, precious promises, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me, ye might have peace. In the world, ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33).

How blest we are to be recipients, also, of God's mercy every day. Memorial Day weekend, His loving hand of mercy was graciously extended when He so kindly answered prayer for little Jasmine Gramm (Bro. Larry and Sis. Melinda, Chicago, IL) in bringing restoration of life and health. We praise God for His ever present help and comfort in time of need.

We want to congratulate Bro. Scott Germann as he has graduated from high school. Having sought the Lord as his Saviour and Redeemer, we pray the Lord will continue to bless and lead Bro. Scott in a plain path as he seeks to do the Lord's will for his life. (Philippians 1:6)

It was July 4, 1776, when our country was declared free. We're thankful, but we know many gave their lives for the cause of freedom. May we continue to remember all our servicemen in prayer. Jonathan Huber (Ben and June) is expected to return to the states in August. Your prayerful support has been greatly appreciated.

Again, we want to welcome anyone who may be in our area or traveling through to worship with us. You may contact Bro. Doug Germann (859-224-8710), Bro.

Lester Huber (859-745-2541) or Bro. Jan Neukomm (859-273-8574).

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**MEXICO, IXTLAN**  
**Claudia Gonzalez**

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live..."

*John 11:25*

On May 22, with tears and much sorrow in our hearts, we said good-bye to our dear brother, Javier Gonzalez, who left this world to be with the Lord. Our sympathy is extended to his dear wife, Sis. Bertha, and their children, Sis. Rosario, Sis. Claudia, Sis. Gloria, Maggie and Carlos (Rosy).

May it comfort you to know that your loved one is safe in God's care now and that friends are praying for you in your time of sorrow.

Once again we have been blessed to have Bro. Bryan Stoller (Sis. Kara) and his family serving in the eye clinic from May 27-31. There were more than 250 people who came. We thank all who were able to help in this work. May the Lord keep giving strength to work in His vineyard.

"If we all work together, what a joy it will be" is a song the little children sing in Sunday School. This past weekend, June 4, our little congregation got together to clean our church as we do every year for a general cleaning. Afterwards, we were thankful to be able to have fellowship and share a meal.

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation for all the prayers, phone calls, cards and ex-

pressions of love in our time of sorrow.

*Sincerely, the Gonzalez family*

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

We would like to congratulate our graduates this year. We have both high school and college. First, we would like to send our congratulations to Gavin Blough (Gordon and Trisha) and Kim Wingeier (Bruce and Tammi) for their high school graduations; and secondly, Bro. Brett Plattner (Sis. Laura) for his graduation from medical school. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of you for your accomplishments and your future. May you all trust and follow our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We are blessed with four new babies to welcome to our congregation this month. Two were born the same day (not twins, though). Jon and Danielle Eickhoff (Peny and Sis. Denise Oesch) welcomed their firstborn baby boy, Grady, into the world; and also Richie and Michelle Stouffer (Dave and Bonnie Stouffer) welcomed their firstborn boy, Gabriel. Rob and Rachel Cadwallader (Bro. Duane and Sis. Cathie Schrenk), along with their two boys welcomed Anthony to their home with excitement. Also, Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy Steffen along with their seven children happily welcomed Anna home as well. We pray for God's blessings to you all as they are such precious beings. Congratulations!

The Father-Son campout was a success with about 50 men and boys participating. We hear they had a fun-filled blessed weekend in fellowship together. Thanks goes



to those who put all the plans into action.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Ernie Blough (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Liz) who is home recovering well from recent surgery.

We are so thankful as we start our first VBS week in our fairly new fellowship hall. More to come with the week turn-outs and visitors, but in the mean while, we are so thankful and looking forward to the week ahead.

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

O now, my Saviour, do Thou take  
 My heart and make it Thine.  
 I'll follow Thee a servant true,  
 Within Thy fold divine.

*Zion's Harp #163*

On May 21-22, our congregation witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of two dear souls who turned their hearts and lives over to Jesus. Our thoughts and prayers are with our new Sis. Ann Jacobs (Girard and Sis. Diana) and Bro. Wade (Amanda) Meylan as they move forward in service to the Lord.

We are thankful that Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) and Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN) were able to be with us for the baptisms. We also were blessed to have Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and his family with us for a recent Wednesday evening.

We extend a sympathetic heart to Sis. Leanore Knochel (Bro. Norman) and Sis. Marian Knochel (Bro. Floyd) as their sister, Beatrice Meddaugh, passed away on May 26.

Our prayers and congratulations go out to Lori Wackerle on her marriage to Juan Beltron. Lori's parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Kimberly Wackerle. We pray that the Lord will continue to guide and direct this young couple as they start their life together.

We rejoice with those in our congregation who have welcomed new grandchildren. Bro. Joseph and Sis. Dorothy Ramseyer have a new grandson, Leo Ramseyer. Leo's parents are Clay and Jackie Ramseyer. Norm and Sis. Linda Andrzejewski have a new grandson, Carsen Paul Abbs. Carsen's parents are Chris and Kori Abbs. Congratulations to both sets of first-time parents. It is our prayer that they will raise their children in the ways of the Lord.

Sis. Mabelle Wackerle and Sis. Florence Wieland both spent time in the hospital this past month. We are thankful that they are both back at home and pray that the Lord's healing touch would still be upon them.

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**MICHIGAN, DETROIT**  
**Tiffany Wieland**  
**Mary Weigle**

Our congregation was privileged to witness the union of Sis. Holly Barton and Bro. Joe Bohart (Washington D.C.). Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Vi Barton and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Bohart (Peoria, IL). Sis. Holly is a close friend to many of us here in Detroit; we were sad to see her go, but we know that she will be a positive addition to the small congregation in Washington D.C. We appreciate Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle) from Philadelphia trav-

eling to Detroit to share in the day from the pulpit.

After much prayer and consideration, our congregation felt led by God's Spirit to seek additional brothers to serve in the ministry. Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie) and Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal) were chosen to fill this need. We were thankful that God was able to work within our congregation in such a way that we had clear direction in this matter, and we are thankful that He continues to provide for us. We want to remember Bro. Jesse and Bro. Lucas in prayer, that they would feel peace, assurance, and inspiration with this new and important responsibility and that God would direct them so it would continue to be His Word that would be spoken. We appreciate Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta; Alto, MI) and Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda; Leo, IN) traveling to Detroit for the ordination service.

Also sharing in the ministry as they visited Detroit this past month were Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen; Alto, MI) and John Rowell (Sis. Nelda; Burlington, IA). We appreciate these brothers giving of themselves to share God's Word with us.

Our prayers are with Sis. Barb Johnson as she begins extensive medical treatment. We also want to remember Sis. Martha Szilagyi as she was recently hospitalized. We pray for God's strength and healing hand on each of them, and hope for a swift recovery.

We also want to remember Sis. Lynette Moser with the passing of her grandfather, Bro. Raymond Roth. While we are happy for those who can go on before us to their



eternal reward, their absence in this life can often bring much sadness, and we pray for the Spirit's comfort for those who are mourning.

As life ends for some, we find it beginning for others. Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner have another grandchild as David and Karen deReyna brought home a new little sister, Margaret (Maggie) Kathryn, to big brother William. We pray for God's guidance as David and Karen raise Maggie, that she could come to know God and His ways.

Several individuals in our congregation are recognizing education milestones this year. Bro. Brandon Bahr (Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn) is graduating from high school, Brooke Knochel (Bro. Dana and Sis. Beth) is finishing middle school, and Bro. Brett Plattner (Sis. Laura) is finishing medical school and moving on to a residency program. We wish them God's blessings and direction in their future endeavors.

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**MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS  
LaRae Dill**

"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*

It has been a month of transition for many in our congregation. We are thankful for the confidence we have in God bringing all things to a good result.

Alissa Messner (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sue), Braden Mogler (Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary), and Ben Dill

(Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae) are graduating seniors from our congregation. Andrew Messner (Todd and Sis. Renee) graduated from St. Cloud State with a degree in Finance.

We always enjoy the visits of Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane Stoller (Rockville, CT) as they periodically worship with us when visiting their daughter, Dana, and family. We all had opportunity for prayers for this family as Dana experienced a severe allergic reaction. Despite the circumstances, we were glad for Bro. Dan's ministry once again. Other visiting ministers to our congregation included Elder Bros. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN), Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), and Bros. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL).

Elder Bro. Leroy Messner's visit this month was significant. For the past 10 years, Bro. Leroy and Sis. Joann visited nearly once a month, as Bro. Leroy served as the Elder for the Minneapolis church. This likely will change as Bro. Leroy has turned these responsibilities over to Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN). We're all thankful to Bro. Leroy and Sis. Joann for their dedicated service to our church. We ask God to bless them with His peace.

Another periodic visitor to Minneapolis was Bro. Al Knobloch and his wife, Sis. Lucy (Lester, IA). The Knoblochs were always so cheerful and friendly and enjoyed visiting their daughter's family, Dan and Lola Deragisch. We all felt a sense of sadness and loss when we heard of Bro. Al's death. We extend our sympathy to the entire family, and especially Dan and Lola and grand-

children in our congregation, Christa and Carissa Deragisch, Brent and Tina Deragisch, and Bud and Tera Runquist.

It's been a pleasure to see God at work in the lives of Chris and Nancy (Messner) Williams as they seek His peace in their lives.

Sis. Diane Stewart (Bro. David) was hospitalized this month for knee replacement surgery. We certainly pray for a speedy and complete recovery for Sis. Diane.

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**MINNESOTA, MORRIS  
Katie Koehl  
Heidi Nohl**

We were blessed to have visiting Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) and ministering Bros. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Jim Koehl (San Diego, CA) and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL). May God bless them for their willing service.

Our congregation hosted the annual Youth Fellowship weekend. The young people from the Lester, West Bend, Winthrop, Elgin and Minneapolis churches attended as well as the Sunday School teachers. It was a blessing to our entire church family.

Hospitalized this month was Sis. Mabel Schmidgall. We pray God will heal her and hope she can gather with us soon.

Amy Schmidgall (Bro. Dave and Sis. June) recently graduated from college. We wish her God's richest blessings as she begins this phase in her life.

Our prayers go out to our Sis. Penny Domnick (Bro. Jim) and her family as they laid to rest her father, Bro. Al Knobloch (Sis. Lucy,



Lester, IA). We pray that God will comfort them during this time of sorrow.

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### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Ginny Stoll**  
**Rachel Steiner**

We would like to thank ministering Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) for laboring on our behalf this past month.

We extend congratulations to Russell Miller (Sam and Sandy) and Amanda Kisor (Rick Kisor and Teresa Heath) as they were united in marriage on May 21. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their life together.

The annual Minneapolis-Winthrop picnic was held this past month. It is so good to break bread and fellowship with our closest church congregation.

Sunday School has ended for the year and will resume on August 7. We thank the Sunday School teachers for their labors on behalf of the children.

A special thank you to the Morris congregation for hosting the annual Youth Fellowship weekend.

We extend congratulations to the following high school graduates: Shaina Heikkila (Mike and Sally), Amanda Miller (Sam and Sandy) and Brett Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda). We wish them God's protection and guidance in their future plans.

Our hospital and surgical patients this month were Sis. Delores Messerli, and Bro. Mike Messner (Sis. Joyce). May they feel God's nearness as they heal.

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### MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Wendy Braker**  
**Mindy Braker**

Blessed, holy is the hour  
When we, Jesus, think of Thee,  
And Thy Word in godly power  
Hear and in our hearts receive.  
So we pray to Thee, imploring,  
Open Thou our understanding!  
May we hear, as Mary heard,  
Sacred teachings of Thy Word.

*Zion's Harp #219*

We've enjoyed a number of visitors this past month. We especially want to thank Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) for bringing forth God's Holy Word to us. May the Lord richly bless him for his willing service.

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### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

**Krista Banwart**

Visiting ministers this past month included Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Ronald Joos (Sis. Christy, Bloomfield-Pulaski, IA), Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL), Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL).

We are thankful for their service as well as the fellowship of the many summer visitors we've had. A warm thank you to the brethren in Tokyo and Shioda Japan who so graciously welcomed and hosted a few of us from the States recently. The congregations in Japan are smaller in number than I realized, but rich in spirit. It was interesting to learn more about Japanese culture and the unique challenges Christians there face.

We were also able to spend time with Sis. Stephany Moser who is serving the Lord faithfully in China. Being in China was certainly a reminder to be thankful for the freedoms we have to worship Christ openly here. It is almost overwhelming to think of the number of people in those two countries (as well as around the world) who have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. I know the brothers and sisters there appreciate our prayers and support, and would graciously welcome any who would be able to visit. God is truly the God of the universe, and it is amazing to see that no matter the place or the culture, He continues to reach out, calling more souls to Him and communing with those who are already His.

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### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

**Sally Haerr**

This has been a wonderfully busy month. It started out with the testimonies and baptisms of Alexander and Aubrey Hoerr (Bro. Scott and Sis. Anna). Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) came to assist our Elder Bro. Kent Heimer with these special duties.

On June 1, ministering Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. SueEllen, Sarasota, FL) spent some time here in Taylor. They came to attend the wedding of Sis. Sue Ellen's niece, Sis. Angie Sutter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Deb), and Bro. Luke Luginbuhl (Bro. Rob and Sis. Gina). We rejoice with them and wish for them God's enduring love and blessing. Another wedding that many of us here in Taylor attended was Bro. Ben Knochel (Bro. Eric Knochel and Sis. Penny) and Sis. Molly Hodel



(Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine). The wedding took place in Bloomington, IL. They plan to make their home in the Bloomington area. They will be greatly missed by all of us here in Taylor. We pray that God will bless them and provide their every need.

The children enjoyed a "blessing filled" week here at Vacation Bible School. The teachers put forth so much effort and their reward is the blessing of a job well done. We appreciate them and extend our thanks to each one.

The annual Father-Son campout took place near here, at Mark Twain Lake. There were many from far and near in attendance. This is such a wonderful time of sharing and bonding. A true reality of the hymn, "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" ... our hearts in Christian love. (Hymns of Zion #156)

The sick and/or hospitalized this month were Bro. Rusty Adrian (Sis. Amy), Sis. Luann Knapp (Bro. Mike), Adam Adrian (Bro. Rusty and Sis. Amy), Bro. Steve Sutter (Sis. Deb), Sis. Marge Sutter (Bro. Gerald) and Barb Plank. Most of these dear ones are again assembling with us and seem to be enjoying reasonably good health. We praise God for this ... The Great Physician!

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**NEW YORK  
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG  
Hope Graves**

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand and his family with us for the weekend of June 11-12. The church shared a potluck dinner together Saturday evening, followed by Communion.

Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee,  
Through Thy blest sacrifice which  
we,  
Partook that joined in heart and  
hand,  
To Zion's realm and holy land,  
We journey on.

*Zion's Harp #200, vs. 5*

Our high school graduates are Brittany Ciulla, Amber Greenwood and Marissa Hirschey. We also have several college graduates this year: Amy Farney, Matthew Farney, Buffy Graves, Cary Purvines and Emily (Paul) Virkler. We wish them all well as they make important choices and select the next pathway their life will take.

We rejoice with Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard in the birth of their new grandson, Ezra George, on May 19. Ezra is the newest addition in the household of Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene Sinn (Latty, OH). Excited siblings are Zachery, Daniel, Sadie, Mirriam and Claudia.

Our prayers go out to Bro. Walter Rumpf who has met with surgery and will have an extended recovery time ahead of him.

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**OHIO, AKRON  
Joyce Gasser**

Sis. Michelle Steidl, daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl, has made the trip to Japan to help Bro. Andy and Sis. Jana Klaus during a time of their needing some help. Sis. Michelle plans to return this summer. May God bless her for her willingness to go to help where needed.

Bro. Marvin Indermuhle had a business trip to Europe and some of his family were with him. We are thankful for their safe return.

As the time approaches for the summer Church Conference, we should remember our dear Elder Brothers in prayerful support as they consider the various issues involving our churches.

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**OHIO, COLUMBUS  
Nancy Banks**

Our love and congratulations are extended to our college graduates this month. We entreat the Lord's blessings for Sis. Kristi Hill (Bro. Mick and Sis. Delores, Mansfield) who has graduated from Columbus State with a degree in sign language and interpretation for the deaf and Sis. Wendy Miller (Bro. Matt) who has graduated from the Ohio State University College of Veterinarian Science. Our prayers are with Sis. Kristi and Sis. Wendy as they enter into this new phase of their life.

"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*

Our visiting ministers for this month were Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT). We do thank these brothers and their wives for serving us.

We enjoyed a blessed weekend when the Princeville and Bradford young group came to Columbus. We are so thankful for those who are willing to travel the distance to fellowship and worship with our congregation.



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## OHIO, JUNCTION

### Cindy Schlatter

Our High School graduates this year are Joseph Manz (Bro. Roger and Lisa), Joseph Rose (Joe and Gina), Tami Manz (Bro. Lester and Sis. Karen), Beth Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen), Trent Gasser (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue), and Laura Herr (granddaughter of Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Manz). We pray that each of you will allow our Heavenly Father to guide you as you make your plans for the future.

God has blessed our congregation with two new ministers: Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise) and Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy). We pray God's Spirit will ever lead, guide and direct them as they stand to proclaim His Good and Holy Word. We thank Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH) for his assistance the evening this work was carried out.

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## OHIO, LATTY

### Bonny Wenninger Amanda Steffen

Our congregation was blessed by visits from ministering Bros. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) and Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL).

On May 19 our congregation was blessed with two new babies. Brandon and Johanna Pardon welcomed home Jaxon Stanley. Grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn Sinn. Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene Sinn, along with Zachary, Daniel, Sadie, Miriam, and Claudia were blessed with little Ezra George. Grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn, and Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard

(Croghan-Naumburg, NY).

Feeling peace and forgiveness from God, Corey Laukhuf (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Vickie) and Duane Sinn (Carrie) are now awaiting baptism. We wish them God's grace as they continue to walk with Him.

Our hospital and surgery patients this month were Bro. Charlie Dunham, Bro. Darl Stoller (Sis. Iva), Landyn Whitman (Jeremy and Mandy), and Nyle Stoller (Bro. Reid and Sis. Amanda). May God's healing touch be felt by each one.

The wedding engagement of Bro. Bill McClure (Rose McClure, Van Wert, OH) and Sis. Brenda Wenninger (Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine) was made known on May 29. On June 5, two more engagements were announced to our congregation: Bro. Ryan Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam) was announced to Sis. Kori Bauman (Bro. Victor and Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH), and Sis. Emily Stoller was announced to Bro. Howard Harmon (Toledo, OH). We wish these three couples God's continued guidance and blessings each day.

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## OHIO, MANSFIELD

### Esther Baumann

On June 11-12, we were blessed to witness the testimonies and baptisms of Sis. Bethany Hill (Bro. Chip and Sis. Sieda) and Bro. Edward Ramsey Jr. (Bro. Edward Sr. and Sis. Laura). Bro. Jacob and Sis. Lydia Chant also gave their testimonies and we welcome them into our fellowship. We thank Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) for helping with this sacred work.

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family of Sis. Anna Webel

(Bro. John Sr., dec.) who passed away June 1. She is survived by six children and their spouses: Bro. Pete and Sis. Linda Webel; and from our Sister Church, Rudy and Olga Webel, John Webel Jr., Frieda and Martin Gottschling, Herta and Bill Green, and Anna and Dave Brauchler.

A warm welcome to Bro. Justin Gherian (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon, Junction, OH) as he worships with us while attending school.

Please pray for Sis. Lucille Groh as she was recently hospitalized.

The week of June 13-17, we were blessed to have our annual Vacation Bible School for both adults and children. Ministering brethren who taught the adult classes were: Bro. Larry Wenniger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH), Bro. Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn, Junction, OH), Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN). We thank all of them and all those who worked to make this week possible.

We are also thankful for our recent college graduates: Kimberly Hill (Bro. Mick and Sis. Delores) - Computer Graphic Arts; Sis. Kristi Hill (Bro. Mick and Sis. Delores) - Sign Language Interpreter; Bro. Jared Hill (Sis. Stephanie) - Electrical Utilities; Jon Hill (Bro. Chip and Sis. Sieda) - Finance; and Bro. Nathaniel Ramsey (Bro. Edward Sr. and Sis. Laura) - Surveyor.

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**OHIO, RITTMAN**  
**Anne Widmer**  
**Hannah Beery**

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

*Luke 15:10*

With thankfulness we report that Dave Christian (Bro. Ronald and Sis. Joann), Debbie Rupp (Doug, Bro. Ronald and Sis. Joann Christian), and Aaron Baltic (Bro. Daniel and Sis. Betty, Indianapolis, IN) have begun seeking the Lord in repentance. May they feel the strength of the Saviour as they submit to His perfect will.

Visiting our congregation this month were Bros. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN). We sincerely appreciate the labors extended by these ministering brethren.

Morgan Thomas Kries was born to John and Sis. Sheila (Smithville) in June. Welcoming him home are siblings, Jacob, Gabriel and Skyler. Grandparents are Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna Rufener.

Our congregation was sobered with the still birth of Larae Jennifer to Bro. Daniel and Sis. Jennifer Hartzler. Siblings of Larae are Wendy, Tresa, Rachel, Troy and Joel. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Schamback (Akron, OH).

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Lillian Maibach (Bro. Andrew) and Bro. Mike Katanic (Sis. Heather). Matthew Dotterer (Bro. Richard and Sis. Dawn) also underwent surgery. We pray that the one true Comforter will be near unto each one of these.

On May 22, Bro. Ryan Steiner (Bro. Dave and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Julie Hartzler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Bev) were joined in Holy Matrimony. We pray for God’s blessings upon their union and upon this new Christian home.

**OHIO, SARDIS**  
**Jami Hartzler**  
**Terry Zollinger**

“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*

As these young men plan to further their educations, we congratulate Jason Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam) as he graduates from high school and Kurt Indermuhle (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet) from grade school. May they look to the Lord to direct their paths in the future.

Appreciation and thanks go to our visiting ministers this month. Bro. Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) willingly brought forth the Word to us. May God’s blessings be upon them and their families.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee Beard and family express their thanks as we extend our sympathy of the death of Ed’s father, George Beard. May the Beard family feel our love and support.

We have enjoyed having Ben Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry) assemble with us while he has been on leave from the Army during the month of June. He plans to return to Kuwait for another year. His address is the same

as before: CW2 Benjamin Zollinger, 411th Transportation Detachment (LSV-6), APO AE 09366. May he, as well as all the military, feel our prayers as they serve our country.

Praying for God’s healing hand as John Brake (Sis. Almeda) is hospitalized and thankful Sis. Dee Beard (Bro. Ed) has recovered from surgery.

We feel blessed to have Bro. Garth Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois, Smithville, OH) residing and assembling in Sardis. May he feel welcome and the love of our congregation.

The Sunday school is our delight.  
 We love it more and more;  
 ‘Tis here we learn to do the right  
 And live forever more.  
 We hear the truth, so pure and  
 clear,  
 Of Jesus’ love so sweet and dear;  
 There we are taught to do lift our  
 eyes  
 to Him who lives on high.

*Hymns of Zion #73*

Our annual Sunday school picnic was a blessed time and we would like to thank Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH) for speaking to our young students about the Holy Bible and its never-changing truths.

**OHIO, SMITHVILLE**  
**Edith Miller**  
**Ruth Gasser**

Seeds of goodness we are sowing  
 In the hearts of man today.  
 Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper,  
 And bear fruit for harvest day.

*Hymns of Zion #46*

As we see the tillers of the soil la-



bor diligently at this time of year in hopes of a bountiful harvest, there are those also who give of themselves to labor in the Word for a spiritual harvest. We are grateful for the sacrifices of our Elders and ministering brothers. Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) recently visited in Smithville, and we thank him and pray that his labors are blessed.

Sometimes we see increases in the congregation, but this past month we have bid farewell to several who have felt the Lord's leading to relocate. Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary Maibach and children, Sis. Rachel, Bro. Samuel, Daniel and Philip have felt led to move to Bloomfield/ Pulaski, IA. Also, Bro. Garth Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois) has relocated to Sardis, OH. Although we feel a loss when this happens, we entrust each to God's care and keeping, knowing others are blessed by their decisions.

Little Sophia Lusk was hospitalized this past month and we wish a special measure of strength to Sophia and her parents, Mike and Terry, in providing for her special needs.

John and Sis. Sheila Kries have experienced grief in the loss of John's father. May they feel the comfort of the Holy Spirit and the support and prayers of brethren in this time. Then on June 14, the Lord blessed their home by the arrival of another son, Morgan Thomas. Morgan is welcomed by siblings, Jacob, Gabriel, and Skyler, and grandparents, Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna Rufener (Rittman, OH).

The engagement of Sis. Kori Bauman to Bro. Ryan Stoller (Latty, OH) was made known to

the congregation on June 5. Parents are Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman and Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam Stoller (Latty, OH). May their faith be strong and they continue to feel the Lord's leading as they prepare for marriage.

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**OHIO, TOLEDO**  
**Teresa Rywalski**  
**Rebecca Beard**

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

*Ecclesiastes 12:1*

We pray for God's continued guidance on Linda Harmon (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna) as she has graduated from high school and will be entering college in the fall.

Sis. Betty Fetter is once again worshiping with us after a brief stay in the hospital.

We were pleased to hear the engagement of Bro. Howard Harmon and Sis. Emily Stoller (Latty, OH). May they feel the Lord's nearness as they prepare to live as one.

Lending support to our home ministers this past month were Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH). May God bless them and their families.

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**OREGON, PORTLAND**  
**Louisa Gallup**

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord..."

*Psalms 127:3*

On June 1, Emma Ann was born to Bro. Allen and Sis. Jennifer

Knecht. Emma was also welcomed home by her brothers, Kyle and Austin. We rejoice with the Knecht family and wish them God's blessings and guidance as they raise their precious children. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie Knecht (Silverton, OR) and Jim and Janet Loomis from Oregon City, OR.

We were blessed with numerous visitors again this last month; please come again. We thank Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) and Bro. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele) from Silverton, OR, for their faithful support of our congregation.

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the many prayers, cards, gifts and food, at the time of the birth of our daughters, and during their hospital stay. May the Lord richly bless each of you.

*Bro. Brent and Sis. Brianna Strahm*

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

Bro. Zach Kuenzi and Sis. Rachel Petrovic (San Diego, CA) announced their engagement this month. Their parents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane Kuenzi and Elder Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian Petrovic (San Diego, CA).

Rhet Cullen Leman was born May 24 to Bro. Mike and Sis. Lisa. His siblings are Vonn, Maris, and Nelia. Rhet's grandparents are Bro. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL) and Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz.

We are thankful that little Haley Brockamp (Sis. Kristen and Matt) is home from the hospital



and doing well.

Our converts, Craig Schurter and Betsy Dettwyler (Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene), were announced for peace and are awaiting their testimony and baptism.

We are thankful to have several visiting ministers this month: Bro. Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS), Bro. Curt Kaufman (Tucson, AZ), Bro. Wayne Fehr (Portland, OR), and Bro. Ron Jones (Portland, OR).

*Note of Thanks:*

Thanks for all the cards, food, money, gifts, visits, phone calls and, most of all, prayers, during my recent stay in the hospital and at home. It's amazing how God and prayers carry families through times like this. May God richly bless you for your kindness.

*Love in Christ, Sis. Elizabeth Peasley*

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**PENNSYLVANIA  
PHILADELPHIA**

**Nathan and  
MaryElizabeth Gasser**

“To every thing 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*

It was truly a time of rejoicing and a time of sorrow in our congregation this month.

The Lord has blessed Bro. Nathan and Sis. MaryElizabeth Gasser with a baby girl, Calina Anne. Big sister, Eliana, and grandparents, David and Gail Gasser and Daryl and Sis. Norma Luginbuhl, all welcomed Callie to the family. She joins quite a number of young children that we pray will grow into

the next generation of our precious congregation. In fact, she and her sister are the first two children with a parent who was born into the Philadelphia congregation!

And then, just one day after first seeing her newest great-granddaughter, our dear Sis. Elsie Lanz was called Home to her reward. After living nearly all her 91 years in Rockville, CT, she spent her last few months with us, living with her daughter, Sis. Norma Luginbuhl (Daryl). We are all grateful for the time she was able to spend with us, and our sympathies are with the family who lost such a gentle and loving soul. Funeral services for Sis. Elsie were held in Rockville, CT.

We were also grateful to have Bro. Nathan Wieland (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL) share the Word with us this month, and encourage all who are traveling through our area to join us in worshipping God.

Finally, for those who are traveling to the East Coast this Summer, we do plan on having Church Services in the New York City area on Sunday, July 24, and Labor Day weekend, Sunday, September 4. If you are interested in attending, please call Bro. Ben Wiegand, (215) 295-4526 for more details and directions.

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**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE  
Mike and Monica Fritz**

God has richly blessed us with precious fellowship and strengthening encouragement from His Living Word brought to us by our visiting ministering brothers: Bros. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), and Chris

Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, LaCrosse, IN). We have also been greatly blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Chicago, Eureka, Forrest, Princeville, and Washington, IL; LaCrosse and Leo, IN; Burlington and Oakville, IA; Bern, KS; and Junction, Latty, and Rittman, 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: Princeville, IL (7/24); Eureka, IL (7/31); Latty, OH (8/7); Leo, IN (8/14); Fairbury, IL (8/21); and Alto, MI (8/28). If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

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**TEXAS  
DALLAS/FORT WORTH**

**Carrie Beyer**

I just finished reading I Corinthians 13, Paul's famous love chapter. What a description, and what a challenge! Near the end of his exhortation, Paul writes, “For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known” (I Corinthians 13:12). To me, this verse – by acknowledging man's limited view of God's plan – helps confirm the power of love within the body of Christ. In our congregation, we've experienced this great truth as we've recently seen each other go



through struggles and experience change that we can't fully understand. During stressful times, it has been amazing to see God at work in our relationships with Him and with each other. And at the very core of our dependence on each other? Love.

It has been such an encouragement to host a couple visiting ministers over the past month. Many thanks to Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peggy, Goodfield) and Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix), as well as all our other recent visitors, for blessing us with your presence.

We welcome 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 either direction on Highway 121, exit on Main Street; the hotel is on the south side of the highway. For worship times or other information, please contact Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson (817.431.0832) or Bro. Kyle and Sis. Carrie Beyer (817.750.1028).

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## TEXAS, SAN MARCOS

**Amy Ringger**

**Serenity Ringger**

As we thought of Mother's Day last month and now Father's Day this month, the following poem came to mind. Sometimes we can be affected by the world's view of family and so we thought you might enjoy looking at those things from a godly viewpoint.

*Tied Down?*

"They tie you down," a woman

said,  
Whose cheeks should have been  
flaming red  
With shame to speak of children  
so.  
"When babies come you cannot go  
In search of pleasure with your  
friends,  
And all your happy wandering  
ends.  
The things you like you cannot do,  
For babies make a slave of you."

I looked at her and said: "'Tis true  
That children make a slave of you,  
And tie you down with many a  
knot,  
But have you never thought to  
what  
It is of happiness and pride  
That little babies have you tied?  
Do you not miss the greater joys  
That come with little girls and  
boys?"

"They tie you down to laughter  
rare,  
To hours of smile and hours of  
care,  
To nights of watching and to fears;  
Sometimes they tie you down to  
tears

And then repay you with a smile,  
And make your trouble all worth  
while.  
They tie you fast to chubby feet  
And cheeks of pink and kisses  
sweet."

"They fasten you with cords of  
love  
To God divine, who reigns above.  
They tie you, whereso'er you  
roam,  
Unto the little place called home;

And over sea or railroad track  
They tug at you to bring you back.  
The happiest people in the town  
Are those the babies have tied  
down."

"Oh, go your selfish way and free  
But hampered I would rather be,  
Yes, rather than a kingly crown  
I would be, what you term, tied  
down;

Tied down to dancing eyes and  
charms,  
Held fast by chubby, dimpled  
arms,  
The fettered slave of girl and boy,  
And win from them earth's finest  
joy."

*By Edgar A. Guest*

Our ministers this month were Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton), Bros. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis), Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville), and Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest). We also appreciated the visitors from Smithville and Nashville.

The following churches are on the minister rotation for August: (7) Tremont, (14) Minneapolis, (21) Wolcott, and (28) Bluffton.

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. Also, because visitors add much to our local fellowship times, it helps if we know about your visit well in advance so that we can accommodate you more readily in our weekend gatherings. 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 south-bound frontage road.

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## TEXAS, ZAPATA Sandy Leman

“As cold waters to a thirsty soul,  
so is good news from a far country.”

*Proverbs 25:25*

We were refreshed by a visit from Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder. They usually come to Zapata during the winter, but had some business in Texas and came to spend a week with us. It is always good to be able to welcome friends back to our little fellowship here.

I neglected to report last month that Sis. Enid Miller broke her arm. We are glad to see that she is making a good recovery.

We are still on our summer schedule, which means that we are worshipping with the believers in Pharr a couple of times a month. If you are planning to be in the Zapata area, we welcome your visit! Please call first (956/765-5612) to see if services are here or in the Pharr church for the weekend you will be here.

## VERMONT, NORWICH Areli Reutter

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

*Psalms 127:3*

Greetings one and all, from far and near!

We thank God for the ministering servants which He sent us this past month: Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Bros. Everett Gerber and Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT).

The Lord has opened the way for us to hold services on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, from April until August. The following churches are 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 summer, 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.

This past month, the Lord has also blessed the little flock with a new soul to pray for! Our beloved friends, Rich and Naida Beutel (along with their daughter Mariah), welcomed their first grandchild, Ella Rae Gillespie. Parents are Ryan and Braelyn Gillespie of Craftsbury, VT. Great-grandparents are Robert and Jeanette Gillespie of Hydepark, VT, and Bro. Al and Sis. Carol Beutel of Tremont, IL.

We pray to God that He use each little incident to further His work in the Northeast. If we rejoice so much at a physical birth, how much more we plead that God will touch the community with rebirth for unregenerate man!

“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

*John 3:3*





*Sermon continued from page 2*

Paul went forth, he spoke this word to the people. What they must do that they would have eternal life.

Having had this experience then, and many other experiences that he had, many difficulties as well as many good opportunities, blessings while he traveled upon the way and spoke to the different peoples, he said, "It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory..." II Corinthians 12:1. He could not even glory in the fact, he didn't feel it was expedient for him to glory about his own doing.

That kind of humility, that kind of love for others is what we need to have among our own always. That we would be willing to do whatever we can do and yet not expect to have glory heaped upon us. Especially not to heap glory upon ourselves. If other people thank us in appreciation for what we have done, this is not what this speaks of. This speaks of self glory. We want not to praise ourselves but we want to praise others. We want to serve others and not serve ourselves.

Jesus, when He came into this world, He came to serve us, to serve all mankind. We have been recipients of His love and of the gift of His life and His shed blood for which we praise Him. We don't praise ourselves because we accomplished salvation. That was only following His will and doing as He asked. He gave us the grace and the power, the strength and the desire.

Says, "Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory..." II Corinthians 12:5. Now he speaks of this in essence as it were two people. But the idea, the person that was caught up because of whatever he did, for whatever reason he was chosen to be called up, those things that he accomplished was worthy of glory. Glory in the name of the Lord. Not glory in self. It says, such an one will I glory. One that accomplishes God's will - we praise and glory and are thankful and want to

uplift those that serve the Lord. Yet of myself will I not glory.

"...but in mine infirmities." II Corinthians 12:5. That is what he is going to glory in. Seems strange. If none of us ever had infirmities, we would not have anything to glory about, according to this Word.

He reminds us then of the different things that had come to pass in his life. "For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth..." II Corinthians 12:6. When we say the truth, it is not us, it is not we who are able to accomplish these things, to overcome sin and Satan. To become converted, to become a child of God. Those are the things that are accomplished in us but not because of our own knowledge, strength and ability. But because of the Lord providing this for us.

"...but now I forbear..." II Corinthians 12:6. Now that is where we started in Job. He had so much that he had to forbear. And he almost, he got to the point where he wanted to cast it all off. I know the feeling. Now there is a great love in being with the brethren. When there is a time ever in your life when you have no desire to gather in the house of the Lord to sing hymns, it is a miserable, low and dark time.

"...lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be..." II Corinthians 12:6. We can look at one another and we know we are just men. We are flesh and blood. When I say men, I mean people, men and women. We are only people. We should not boast about ourselves. But glory in God and the Lord. Because we can see what each of us are. We make mistakes. We can try our utmost. Even when we try our utmost we fail. There are some even that do not put forth all the effort that they could. They are not attentive of what God asks of them. We are not to, as we will come to it later, to be those that talk of one another, uncleanness, fornication; lasciviousness. (II Corinthians 12:20,21). Those kinds of

things should never be named among us. But there are many other things that are less, probably gross in sin, but yet distract from our life and the opportunity to ever receive the glory that God has intended for us.

"And lest I should be exalted above measure..." II Corinthians 12:7. Sometimes foolishly we might speak about how great we are and so much that we can accomplish. Paul had done many, many, many things that, perhaps beyond what we have ever thought about doing, in serving people, going forth and enduring hardship. Yet in spite of this he said, "...lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh..." II Corinthians 12:7. To keep him humble. To keep him serving God diligently and with all his might, Paul was given a thorn in the flesh.

Sometimes we hear it said, oh if anybody deserves to have glory or praise or honor or increase in wages or whatever, it would be that person. So it wouldn't puff up that person, here Paul says he was given a thorn in the flesh. No doubt, he would have liked to have escaped this thorn, whatever it was. Some say maybe it was his poor eyesight and others perhaps other thoughts. Whatever it was, it must have hindered him considerably. He besought the Lord thrice that it might depart from him. He asked that the Lord would remove this obstacle. No doubt he prayed earnestly. We know he was a man who did much in the way for the Lord, on the way. Yet the Lord said, the Lord knew the end from the beginning. That is what He knows with each of us. He knows our end from the beginning. Therefore He gives unto us and allows to happen those things which will keep us, His children, if it is so our desire to be true and faithful.

"And he said unto me, My grace

*Sermon continued on page 46*



*Sermon continued from page 45*

is sufficient for thee..." II Corinthians 12:9. So we, certainly if we have difficulties and trials and tests, let's pray for God's grace. What is God's grace? It is the things He does for us that we do not even deserve. He gave us peace in our heart. Except for the fact that we came in repentance upon our knees in humility, which is pleasing to Him, there was no reason why He needed to give us that great joy that we had, and the peace after He forgave us of our past life. Everything we need to do, for everything we need to go to Him and be strengthened. To be encouraged. To be lifted up when we are down.

My grace is sufficient for thee. The grace of God is sufficient for each and every one of us, dear ones. We must ask for it and believe that the Lord will provide.

"...for my strength is made perfect in weakness..." II Corinthians 12:9. We see our great weakness many times, do we not, when we come short of doing what we had hoped we would be able to do. By acknowledging our weakness and allowing the Lord to work in us, we can be strengthened. His strength, God's strength. Remember, when we can overcome, it is God's strength made perfect in weakness.

The one who went to pray and

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smote upon his breast and said, God be merciful to me a sinner, he was the one who was justified, not the rich man. Not the Pharisee who spoke and bragged about the things that he did every week. Like he was the one who was doing these good things. That did not please God. He was not giving God credit. The poor sinner, he smote upon his breast and he said, forgive me. A sinner. He went home to his house justified rather than the other. He felt his weakness and he was glorified.

"...Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities..." II Corinthians 12:9. So that's the reason. In realizing our infirmity, realizing the help we need and calling on the Lord and Savior Jesus. Then can He find glory in us and be satisfied.

"...that the power of Christ may rest upon me." II Corinthians 12:9. When we acknowledge our noth-

ingness, our weakness, our infirmities, our infirmities, then the power of Christ may rest on us. That is our strength, dear ones.

"Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." II Corinthians 12:10. Some people would say, that are of the world, oh look at that weak brother. Look at that weak person. Anybody can run over him, so to speak. He doesn't fight back. But that is when we are strong. Not when we fight for ourselves but when we allow the Lord be our shield and our defender and trust in Him.



### 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  
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 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](mailto:thitzhome@juno.com). For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-263-4036 or E-mail [kjs@a5.com](mailto:kjs@a5.com).

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JAMAICA					

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Ron Palitto	330-336-5373		
Bob Beebe	574-291-2158	574-299-8173	<a href="mailto:rbeebe@surfpure.com">rbeebe@surfpure.com</a>
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	734-454-9259	<a href="mailto:thitzhome@juno.com">thitzhome@juno.com</a>
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Bill Rager	419-263-2989		
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**(\*)** = Changes or additions since last issue

**(\*\*)** = Spring Break Timeframe

## Mexico Work Teams 2005

Location	Date	Project	Coordinator	Phone	E-mail
Juarez	September 14-21, 2005	Medical/Dental	Cheryl Herrmann	309-385-1082	<a href="mailto:cherylh@mtco.com">cherylh@mtco.com</a>
Magdalena	November 19-26, 2005	Construction	Loren Dettwyler	503-873-5784	<a href="mailto:lmdettwyler@peoplepc.com">lmdettwyler@peoplepc.com</a>

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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## Deaths of the Martyrs

*"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment,  
worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."  
-II Corinthians 4:17*

*Ever wonder what happened to many of those in the early church? Here is a list of several of the martyrs from the early church. All of the following people are mentioned at least once in the Bible. Many of them were mentioned in Paul's letters.*

**Andrew\***: Crucified in Patras and hung on the cross for three days (around the year A.D. 70)

**Andronicus**: Martyred in Rome (around A.D. 70)

**Antipas**: Roasted alive in a copper steer at Pergamos (A.D. 95)

**Aquila**: Martyred in Rome (around A.D. 70)

**Aristarchus**: Martyred in Rome (around A.D. 70)

**Barnabas**: Dragged (with a rope) out Salamina and burned (A.D. 64)

**Bartholomew\***: Beaten with rods, crucified head downwards, flayed, and beheaded in Armenia (A.D. 70)

**Epaphras**: Martyred in Rome (around A.D. 70)

**James the son of Alphaeus\***: Thrown off a temple, stoned, and beaten with a club in Jerusalem (A.D. 63)

**James the son of Zebedee\***: Beheaded in Jerusalem (A.D. 45)

**John the Apostle\***: Abandoned on the isle of Patmos from A.D. 97-99, died in peace at Ephesus~

**John the Baptist**: Beheaded in the castle of Machaerus (A.D. 32)

**Jude\***: Beaten to death with sticks in Persia (around A.D. 70)

**Junia**: Martyred in Rome (around A.D. 70)

**Lyke**: Hung from an olive tree in Greece (A.D. 93)

**Mark**: Died while being dragged (with hooks and ropes) out of Alexandria to be burned (A.D. 64)

**Matthew\***: Nailed to the ground and beheaded in Ethiopia (around A.D. 70)

**Matthias**: Crucified, stoned (while on the cross), and beheaded (A.D. 70)

**Onesiphorus**: Tied to wild horses and torn or dragged to death at Hellespontus (around A.D. 70)

**Paul**: Beheaded in Rome (around A.D. 69)

**Philip\***: Head tied to a pillar and stoned in Phrygia (A.D. 54)

**Prisca**: Martyred in Rome (around A.D. 70)

**Silas**: Martyred (around A.D. 70)

**Simon Peter\***: Crucified head downwards in Rome (A.D. 69)

**Simon Zelotes\***: Crucified in Syria (A.D. about 70)

**Stephen**: Stoned outside of Jerusalem (A.D. 34)

**Thomas\***: Tortured with red-hot plates, cast in a furnace+, and speared at Calamina (around A.D. 70)

**Timothy**: Stoned in Ephesus (around A.D. 98)

\* Indicates one of the original twelve disciples

~ When Emperor Domitian, who banished John to Patmos, died, John was delivered back to Ephesus

+ Thomas was not harmed by the fire

The source for this information came from the book entitled "Martyr's Mirror".





## The Ties That Bind

This continues a series on "The Ties That Bind," a look — historical and otherwise — at the special characteristics of our faith and practice that have bound us together as believers over the generations.

It goes without saying that the central tie (that binds) is faith in Christ Jesus and His redemptive work at Calvary. And from this a Holy Spirit-empowered life of obedience and following the teachings of Christ and the Apostles results. More "ties that bind" are listed:

### A True Conversion

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

*Hebrews 13:20-21*

Our doctrine, based on the Word, emphasizes a soul becoming converted (from a past sinful life). In this, one comes to the Lord in a state of total and unconditional surrender. He/she repents and is sorry for sin. The soul turns from sin and seeks the Lord with all devotion. Confession and restitution are made, along with coming out from the world and seeking, through God's power, to live an overcoming life. As a soul becomes truly humble, the grace of God gives strength to overcome sin and evil. God molds a seeking soul into a new

creature in Christ Jesus.

A true conversion, and ongoing spiritual devotion, will see a soul in a state of submission to the will of God; and willing to take his or her place in the household of faith. The converted soul, via God's power, finds a willingness to submit to God-given authority in the church as the new man in Christ replaces the old man of the flesh.

A thorough conversion with common expectations of holiness across the church builds close ties among the brethren. Historically, a sense of common holiness has been a vivid foundational tie that has bound us.

There is hardly a greater joy among the brethren than to see a lost soul turn from sin, and to seek God's help to walk on the narrow way; and to thence find, through humility, the grace to overcome his old nature.

### A Bible Patterned Brotherhood

The ongoing stability of our church structure has been a wonderful tie that has bound us together. The church is organized according to the Bible's pattern. Elders serve as watchmen and under-shepherds, and lead by example. The sheep (members) are taught to obey/follow the shepherds (the Elders, i.e., church leaders, *Hebrews 13:7, 17*).

The believers in church are also members of Christ's body — and they are closely linked together by the Bible's definitions:

- (1) Members one of another (*Ephesians 4:25*).
- (2) Perfectly joined together (*I Corinthians 1:10*).
- (3) Subject one to another in the fear of God (*Ephesians 5:21*).

Are to help one another through encouragement and helpful cautions (*Hebrews 10:25*).

Share mutual joys and sorrows. When one suffers they all suffer; when one rejoices, they all rejoice (*I Corinthians 12:26*).

A national administrative and teaching authority that directs the spiritual welfare of the local churches has been a wonderful tie since the Froehlich days. The Elder Body has served as a unifying, cohesive force. By meeting annual and semi-annually and by holding a General Brotherhood Conference each year they help to unite brothers and sisters together in a common yoke. And it insures the perpetuation and cohesion of doctrinal truth (and practice) over the years.

Historically, the emphasis on a church walking according to God's Word and Spirit has been an ongoing pursuit. Church leaders, from the time of Samuel Froehlich — who traveled extensively on behalf of the newly-established congregations — have worked diligently to keep the churches cohesive and likeminded, both in doctrine and order. In America, Elder Joseph Bella (in the early days) along with Bro. Johannes Krienbuhl traveled widely to help nurture the early believers. This pattern has continued on as many leadership labors yet today are expended to bolster and maintain the structure/foundation of the church, of which Christ is the Head.

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:  
More "Ties that Bind".



# The Light Of Hope

## From Across The Ocean

### 希望の光

#### “Counting The Cost”

*Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan*

We learn from Ephesians 2:8 that salvation is free. It reads, “It is the gift of God.” I notice that the wording is “the gift,” not “a gift,” which indicates that salvation is not one of many similar gifts but that all other gifts pale into insignificance by comparison.

However, our Lord Jesus Christ, when speaking about being His disciple, added the following statement: “For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it,” indicating that if we want to be His disciples we should first consider the cost and decide for sure whether or not we are willing to go all the way with Him.

It can be argued that there is a difference between receiving salvation and being a disciple of Christ, but Matthew 7:21 reads, “Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” We will let the judgment with God. The

thief on the cross was saved but he didn't have time to do the will of the Father, other than to ask to be remembered. Nevertheless, this verse in Matthew indicates that obedience is quite important as proof of having faith, and I don't think such obedience can be properly called “legalism.” “Legalism” appears to have been a problem in the Galatian Church where the keeping of the Mosaic Law was emphasized, including circumcision, in order to be saved. The Apostle Paul wrote, “I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.” Galatians 2:21.

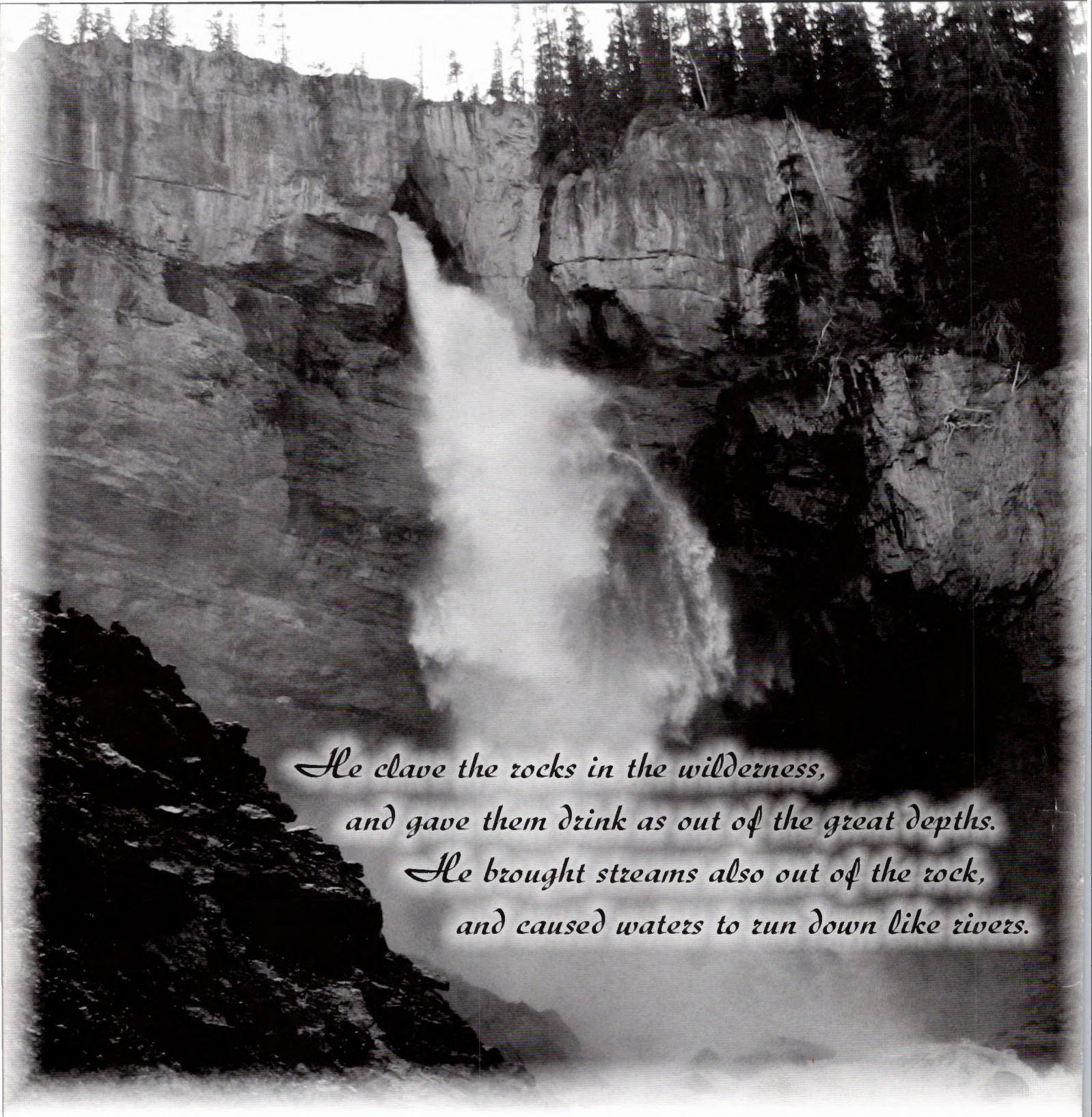
Returning to the problem of counting the cost, the Lord Jesus may have been speaking to Himself, too, when he made that statement. In the Garden of Gethsemane, He counted the cost of providing salvation for us and prayed, “O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.” The big cost was paid by Christ, “For ye

are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.” I Cor. 6:20.

The cost to us is that we be willing to glorify God in our bodies and in our spirits. We no longer have jurisdiction over ourselves; we relinquish that jurisdiction to God. We follow the teaching of Romans 12:1, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” We may think it is costing us something to avoid “The lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life,” (I John 2:16), but we can get along very well without those things and, in the long run, we reap huge benefits from striving to live a more holy life. If you count the cost, salvation is very inexpensive for us but it was very expensive for Christ. Christ just wanted us to know if we receive His gift of salvation, there are some obligations; we are not our own.

# 希望の光





*He clave the rocks in the wilderness,  
and gave them drink as out of the great depths.  
He brought streams also out of the rock,  
and caused waters to run down like rivers.*

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