

The Silver Lining



*There is one glory of the sun,
and another glory of the moon,
and another glory of the stars:
for one star differeth from another star in glory.*

*So also is the resurrection of the dead.
It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption*

August 2005

Sermon by Bro. Paul Eisenmann, Burlington, IA

Job 2:13, Job 3 and II Corinthians 12

Want to greet all of you in the name of the Lord. Especially our young people that are here. Just really welcome all of you.

Some of you maybe have already started college or high school or whatever school you might be going to. Just encourage you to remember to rest in the Lord as you face the challenges of education and the things that they throw your way. You definitely have our prayers. I know your parents will be praying and have been praying. Having had three boys go through college, as a parent, we know what it is like to pray for our children as they go to school.

Trust our hearts are open to the truth. We don't know for sure what God has in store as we open the Word. We trust that our hearts are open. He'll do His part. We need to do our part and that being a willing listener. A discerning listener. Someone who is open to the Spirit and allows the Spirit to speak to their heart what truth that we need. And each of us needs something a little different.

Judges 6 goes on to talk about the altar being cast down. It goes on to talk about, in chapter 7, it talks about how Gideon was used by God in a mighty way. Gideon had a sense of weakness, didn't he? He was the weakest in his family. He had the weakest family in the tribe. (Judges 6:15) He really was of no account to those around him. Yet God called him to deliver the land from the Midianites and the Amalekites and others.

Gideon is one of my special Old Testament individuals or characters, if you will. I can remember my first sermon years ago. It was back in 1988 on a Wednesday night. Remember sitting down there and Brother Bob Meyer Sr. encouraged me to go ahead. It was

one of those situations where the longer you wait the bigger it is. So I remember acquiescing and saying yes I will, not having a clue what would happen or how it would open up. It ended up, it wasn't this chapter, but it was about Gideon. It really gave me some encouragement because Gideon was the type of man that needed a lot of assurance.

If you look, it is interesting what the angel called him. Verse 12, "...The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour." Judges 6:12. Mighty man of valor. Where was Gideon at? He was in a winepress threshing his wheat. He was hiding, threshing his wheat because the Midianites would come and they would take the wheat. They would take the crop that they had and just desecrate the land. So these people, the Israelites, were hiding in caves. They were oppressed. They were scared to death. They were fearful. (Judges 6:2-6) The angel of the Lord is coming and telling Gideon that he is a mighty man of valor.

That is what I like about our Lord. Because He saw right past the fear that Gideon was at right then and the oppression he was under. He saw right through that and saw the potential that could be there if Gideon would just let go and trust in God and just rest in Him. And He will do the same to us.

Now Gideon was the type that needed a lot of assurance. I can relate to that. The Lord says, I am going to do this for you. And I ask, when? How? How are you going to take care of this? What about this right here? When are you going to do this? A lot of questions. He is patient.

Gideon had his fleece, remember? He laid his fleece out. (Judges

6:37-40) That was probably a sign of weakness. They said, mighty man of valor, we are going to take care of these things. He gave him the illustration of the fire burning up the food that he got. (Judges 6:20,21) He knew that there was the angel of the Lord and maybe the Lord Himself that had come

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

August 2005

Here Am I

"...Here am I; send me" (Is. 6:8). This answer was given by Isaiah in response to a question the Lord had asked: "...Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" (Is. 6:8). Isaiah did not feel worthy to take the Lord's message to the people because he believed he was of unclean lips. A seraphim took a live coal from the altar and touched Isaiah's lips to take away his iniquity and purge his sin.

Isaiah was willing to go in spite of the fact that he knew his assignment could be very difficult. He knew many would not listen to God's message, but he also trusted God's promise that there would be a remnant of Israel who would be faithful. The truth of God will be preserved and there will be those who remain faithful.

When Elijah was discouraged and thought that all of Israel had forsaken God, he was reminded by God that "...I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him" (I Ki. 19:18).

There are many examples in the Bible where God's servants have responded to difficult assignments from God with "Here am I."

At the very last moment of time when Abraham was called upon to slay his son "...the Angel of the Lord called... Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I" (Gen. 22:11). It was then that the Lord spared Abraham from offering his son. What would have happened if Abraham would not have recognized the voice of God or if he would not have obeyed God's voice immediately? Very likely there would have been a tragedy that would have taken Isaac's life.

At the time of Saul's conversion, both Saul and Ananias heard the Lord's call. Saul, who thought he had been serving God faithfully, said, "...Who art thou, Lord?..." (Acts 9:5). Ananias said "...I am here, Lord" (Acts 9:10). What was the difference? Both men thought they were serving God. Both men wanted to do what was right. Both men had a zeal for what they were doing. The difference was that Ananias knew and recognized the voice of Jesus. Saul, on the

other hand, was so set in his own wisdom and was so confident in his own thinking that he was unable to recognize the voice of the Lord.

Fortunately for us, Saul (Paul) learned to recognize and submit to the voice of God very quickly. He said "...Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do" (Acts 9:6). From that time on, Paul was willing to do the Lord's bidding. He didn't insist on knowing the full assignment. He simply took it a step at a time.

How do we respond to the call of God? Do we recognize His voice and are we willing to do as He says? How can we know it is God's voice or the prompting of another spirit? How does He speak to us?

Many of us needed more than one call from God to do the most fundamental requirement to be a Christian. For many of us, we did not submit the first time we were called to repentance. We may not have understood His call or perhaps we just weren't willing to submit to His call and come out from the world.

Sometimes it may be difficult to know for sure what the Lord would have us to do. Sometimes we allow our selfish desires to get in the way of God's will and the message may get blurred.

Perhaps the first thing we must do is to become completely submissive to God's will and allow Him to completely convert us. If we have been completely converted, we will no longer have a desire to partake of the evil of the world. "...the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life,..." (I Jn. 2:16). We must truly desire to give up these things because the Psalmist reminds us that when the children of Israel "...lusted exceedingly... and tempted God...he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul" (Ps. 106:14-15).

To help us better understand the voice of God and the prompting of His Spirit, we need to become familiar with His Word. His Word "...endureth for ever..." (I Peter 1:25), is milk that "...ye may grow thereby" (I Peter 2:2), "...is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction..." (II Ti. 3:16), "...is the power of God unto salvation" (Ro. 1:16), will "Sanctify them

through thy truth: thy word is truth" (Jn. 17:17) and is absolutely trustworthy: "Heaven and earth shall pass away; but my words shall not pass away" (Lu. 21:33). Since we know the Word and the Spirit of God agree, we can be sure that the Spirit of God will not direct us to do anything that is contrary to His Word.

We may not always understand immediately what God is asking us to do. Many times it takes fervent prayer, diligent searching of God's Word and perhaps counsel from sincere and faithful brethren before we understand His mission clearly. It may be necessary for us to say "Here am I" before we get the full assignment. We may simply need to take a step of faith, trusting that the grace of God will be sufficient to help us do His will.

God speaks to us in a variety of ways. He speaks to us as we read His Word. He speaks to us through sermons, conversations with fellow believers, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in other ways to help us follow His instructions.

With the turmoil and confusion in society, it is necessary for us to separate ourselves so we are in an environment to receive His instruction. "Be still and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth" (Ps. 46:10). Space does not permit all that could be written that would encourage us to serve.

It is very easy to sing "Ready to go, ready to stay, Ready my place to fill; Ready for service, lowly or great, Ready to do His will". However, it is not always easy to be "Ready to suffer grief or pain, Ready to stand the test; Ready to stay at home and send others if He sees best. Ready to go, ready to bear, Ready to watch and pray; Ready to stand aside and give, Till He shall clear the way. Ready to speak, ready to think, Ready with heart and brain; Ready to stand where He sees fit, Ready to stand the strain. Ready to speak, ready to warn, Ready o'er souls to yearn; Ready in life, ready in death, Ready for His return.

(*"Ready", Hymns of Zion, #124*)



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

Mission Committee

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

Eastern Europe: Past And Present

Following WWI there were about 50,000 Nazarean believers residing in what is now known as Eastern Europe. Most of the believers lived in an area governed by the Austro-Hungarian Empire, whose capital city was Vienna. The church fellowships grew as many souls repented and found their souls' salvation. There was economic prosperity during this time and many new Nazarean churches were erected, even though the believers were persecuted for their faith.

During WWII many of these believers suffered much material loss, physical torture, and were ridiculed. Many were separated from their families because of their faith in Christ, and even for loving their enemies. Since the believers were not willing to take a human life during the war, they were imprisoned. Many church buildings were confiscated by the government and used for military storage buildings.

After the war, most of the church buildings were returned to the believers, but they needed to be cleaned, repaired, and repainted. Soon the Communist era began and the Nazareans were again severely persecuted in Eastern Europe. Farms were confiscated and some of the brethren served ten years and more in prison for refusing to bear arms. This lasted until 1989, when Communism fell.

During the 50's and 60's, there was an exodus of Nazarean believers who left Eastern Europe for foreign lands, seeking religious freedom. Thousands fled, most of them younger, while the elderly remained. Most of the believers who remained in Eastern Europe were plunged into

poverty. They were unable to repair and maintain the hundreds of church buildings.

The Apostolic Christian Church of America became aware of the poverty and great need in the Eastern European countries. The war in former Yugoslavia in the 90's caused an economic catastrophe in the entire region, bringing about an even greater hardship for the believers. Former Yugoslavia, once one of the most prosperous countries in the Balkans, continues even now to struggle economically and politically. Because unemployment is widespread, many of the believers are having a difficult time providing for their families.

Assistance programs

The Mission Committee, in conjunction with the European Board, was moved by the Holy Spirit to respond to the great need in Eastern Europe by helping the Nazareans in many ways. One way was to provide funds for the repair and rebuilding of church buildings. Thus, during the past few years, many new church buildings were erected. In addition, vans were purchased so that the elderly could be brought to church.

Currently there are a number of projects underway. In Hungary, a new church building is under construction in the city of Baja. In Romania and the Ukraine we have built numerous church buildings and currently are evaluating the need for more new churches as well as additional repairs.

In former Yugoslavia (Serbia) there are over ten church renovation projects in progress. Financial aid is provided on a monthly basis for the elderly and others in need of assistance. A Self-Help program has been established where eligible

believers are loaned a few thousand dollars in order to start a small business that can provide income to cover their basic needs. These types of loans are paid off as the believers are able. To date in former Yugoslavia, 82 loans have been paid back.

As many families use wood burning stoves to cook, bake, and heat their homes, a large amount of funds are donated for providing fuel. Our Brotherhood's main objective is to see that no one is begging for bread or fuel, and to provide adequate shelter and clothing.

The brethren in Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and the Ukraine thank the Heavenly Father and our Brotherhood for the generosity and love which brought hope for their children and light into their neighborhoods. They rejoice when they have an adequate place to assemble and to hear the Word of Life. As those of us from America travel to Eastern Europe, the local brethren are quick to tell us through their tears of joy, how thankful they are for the assistance.

Future opportunities

The continued prayers and financial contributions from our Brotherhood are greatly appreciated by the believers in Eastern Europe. Without your generosity, many of them would not have adequate church buildings in which to worship, and they would be unable to invite their neighbors and friends to hear the Gospel of Salvation.

Anyone wishing to make contributions may do so by sending funds through their local church Mission Fund or directly to:

Apostolic Christian Mission Committee
Phil Stettner, Treasurer
1780N 450E
Bluffton, IN 46714



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

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

World Relief Project Presentations

A young brother at the Cissna Park Project Presentation meeting in March commented, "I appreciate the information shared and didn't realize how much World Relief is involved with the needy of this world!"

We thank all of you who attended this meeting and the one hosted by the West Lafayette congregation in November 2004. What an opportunity to learn of the many ways that World Relief is helping people all over the world and benefit from fellowshiping with old friends and new acquaintances.

The first World Relief Project Presentation meeting was held in Fairbury/Forrest in 1977. It was decided that there would be an Eastern and Western annual meeting, with the Indiana/Illinois border being the dividing line. The meetings at that time were focused on the sewing projects of the local churches. Since then, the scope of World Relief projects has broadened significantly.

Opportunities for everyone

Today's meetings communicate a wide array of information, presented by speakers and multimedia presentations. The recent meetings included topics like the orphanage in Magdalena, Mexico, the Galilean Home in Kentucky, house parenting and adoption through Gateway Woods, alternative building techniques in third world countries, work team experiences, local World Relief projects, the Tsunami disaster, work in Europe, medical work teams, meat canning, child sponsorship, the World Relief Administrative Office, distribution

centers and summer work projects. Because the speakers were personally involved, they were effective in sharing God's blessings and opportunities with all that were present. Tapes from these sessions are available by contacting your local World Relief Representative.

Also, at these meetings, many displays were set up. These included sewing projects of surrounding churches, Haitian linens, pictures of children available to be sponsored, Gateway Woods information, ideas for family nights, local project samples, work team opportunities and new information for the World Relief Representatives and Sewing Sisters.

The Eastern Meeting is always the 2nd weekend in November. In the year 2005, this meeting will be held in Rittman, OH, on November 12. The Western Meeting is always the 2nd weekend in March. In the year 2006, this meeting will be held in Bern, KS on March 11. Some of the topics of these meetings will be our work in India, work projects in Haiti, opportunities in Mexico, a comprehensive report on where World Relief donations are used, plus much more. An invitation to host upcoming meetings is always appreciated. We also welcome any requests or suggestions on topics that would be of interest to you.

Upholding World Relief

These meetings are interesting, inspiring and informational. Everyone who has any interest in helping others is invited to witness first hand experiences of those who are involved in a variety of projects. We encourage you to prayerfully consider coming to a World Relief Project Presentation meeting and bring someone with you. You will

learn new ways to serve the needy involving your single group or Sunday school children. You will also see examples for local summer construction projects and other projects close to home. These meetings are for everyone, both young and old.

Local Church involvement

As mentioned earlier, World Relief is much more than sewing projects. But we still have a representation of the sewing needs at the meetings. Each World Relief Representative and Head Sewing Sister has a folder of current needs and ideas for projects. World Relief is involving the whole church family starting with the children and including dads, moms, grandpas, grandmas, uncles, aunts and friends. Some of the local projects are soap making, meat canning, kit packing, comforter marathons, meeting your community needs and making school uniforms for Mexico, Haiti and Jamaica.

There are guidelines to follow for collecting needed items and making kits to send. In addition, you can search for new projects concerning local needs at nursing homes, crisis centers, crisis pregnancy centers, schools, children's homes, and any other unique situations you may have, to see what you could do to help. Come to the meetings and see what is available. If you can't come, please pray for the furtherance of the gospel through World Relief. All glory goes to God! For any questions or suggestions contact:

Leon Gerber (Mary K.)
Eastern Coordinator 765/728-2864
Email: leong@parlorcity.com

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

A pamphlet for Apostolic Christian services states:

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

The Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped, an Illinois General Not-for-Profit Corporation, believes all people should have the privilege to experience Christ as a Saviour and Redeemer, as a Teacher and Guide, and as a Friend and Comforter.

ACHH believes that all people have the right and privilege to learn, to accomplish, to experience relationships, to have meaningful experiences and activities, and to receive quality and Godly care to meet the needs they have not yet learned to meet independently.

ACHH believes that people should have the privilege of a Christian home, to feel secure but not limited, and to live in a setting structured to meet their needs and maximize their potential.

It is the philosophy of ACHH that disabled people have the same rights as all people to know Christ, to achieve success, to receive care, and to be safe and secure. It is the mission of ACHH to assist disabled people to exercise these rights.

To actualize this philosophy, Apostolic Christian Timber Ridge has a variety of options for residents. One option is monthly Bible studies for several groups of interested residents.

One of these Bible Study groups is led by a resident. A staff member sits in to facilitate the group. All eight residents that attend, including the leader, are physically challenged and use a wheelchair to ambulate. These participants require a variety of adaptive equipment. Most have somewhat unintelligible speech, but understand what others are communicating. One lady even uses a slight movement of her head to activate her talker. This computer is an augmentative communication device mounted on her wheelchair that speaks for her. When she sees something on the screen that she wants to say, she moves her head slightly to activate the switch. The device talks for her. This is her only way to tell us things. Other residents have a range of unique needs, but all come to the Bible study enthusiastically.

The following are excerpts from two of these Bible studies, drafted by the staff who facilitates the Bible study:

"Last night at the resident Bible Study, the resident who leads the group told me he wanted to do the study on "the blood and grace" ... and I was not sure what he meant, but proceeded assisting the group to the Bible study area. He said he needed a CD player, too ... but he managed to get one from the staff on his own.

The leader did the usual prayer requests, asking each of us what

should be included in the prayer tonight. We had the opening prayer and then he asked me to read something in the Bible about grace. I wanted to read, "His strength is made perfect in weakness, His grace is sufficient for me", but we veered to: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" ... and some other scriptures, too.

He then asked what grace is ... but no one knew how to say it. The question came up, what is the hardest thing you have had to deal with ... and that is when God helped you ... and that is grace. The residents all had examples of the hardest time in their lives. These examples were normal things that people struggle with. They talked about getting through those times.

Then our Bible Study leader said, "I want you to listen to this ... and wheeled himself to the CD player that had been strategically set up. He found the exact spot on the CD for the song "Amazing Grace". He made us listen twice to Amazing Grace. He sang along with the CD. As he sang with his semi-unintelligible speech, I saw Jesus and grace ... in the flesh ... as he sang.

I realized, His grace IS sufficient for me; His strength IS made perfect in weakness. Whew!"

Here is an account of another one of the Bible studies written by the same staff member:

"Our leader rolled into Bible study and announced that he wanted to do the lesson on the suffering of Jesus. I gently reminded him that we had just covered the

Easter message, had reviewed those passages. He insisted that we talk about Jesus' suffering ... so we did.

We reviewed many little points of the last moments on earth for Jesus. We talked about the horror of Gethsemane ... the sweating drops of blood ... the arrest ... the chains ... the spitting ... the thorns ... the beatings ... the whippings ... the cuts ... the contusions ... the abrasions ... the nails ... the spear ... and His death.

The leader stopped ... I indicated there might be more ... hoping he would cover the resurrection, too. Chip slowly said in his semi-unintelligible speech, "If He could do that, we can do this" ... and did not say anything else.

I looked around the room at the silent physically challenged Bible Study participants. That is when I realized what Chip meant. He was saying, if Jesus could do that ... come as God, yet in the flesh for us ... and be beaten and killed like that ... just for us ... so we could live forever with Him ... maybe we could do THIS ... and the THIS of life is whatever we face ... it might even be profound physical challenges and disabilities. I knew right then and there that Jesus gave me the profound privilege and blessing to sit in that Bible Study that night.

Laverna Zobrist has moved from Oakwood Estate to Eureka Apostolic Christian Home at 610 W. Cruger, Eureka, IL 61530. She is missed but is adjusting well to her new home.

SEPTEMBER birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans

Road, Morton, IL 61550: Ed Green (9/3), Judy Vicic (9/3), Marta Graber (9/9), Mike Culkin (9/10), Ricky Harvey (9/14), Glenn Getz (9/20), Cindy Sigulas (9/22), Mike Bedford (9/26), Ethel Borinstein (9/29).

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

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

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

At 1001 E. Idlewood, Morton, IL 61550: Angela Massner (9/9).

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

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

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

**GATEWAY WOODS
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
CHILDREN'S HOME
Sis. Jan Baumgartner**

The following is a poem, which describes the feelings of the women who have chosen to place their children for adoption through Gateway Woods. This placement involves a lot of prayer on everyone's part.

*From God's Arms,
To My Arms, To Your's
—M. McClean*

So many wrong decisions in my past, I'm not quite sure
If I can ever hope, to trust my judgment anymore.

But lately I've been thinking,
Cause it's all I've had to do.
And in my heart I feel that I
Should give this child to you.

If you choose to tell him,
If he wants to know,
How the one who gave him life
Could bear to let him go.

Just tell him there were sleepless
nights,
I prayed and paced the floors,
And knew the only peace I'd find,
Was if this child was yours.

This may not be the answer,
For another girl like me.
But I'm not on a soapbox,
Saying how we all should be.

I'm just trusting my feelings,
And I'm trusting God above,
And I'm trusting you to give this
baby
Both his mothers' love.

And maybe, you can tell your baby,
When you love him so, that he's
been loved before,
By someone, who delivered your
son.
From God's arms, to my arms, to
yours.

News

The Gateway Woods Adoption program is in the process of completing another domestic adoption, wherein women who are pregnant choose to place their babies up for adoption through Gateway Woods. This is a very difficult choice for them. It is our prayer that we can minister to the birth mother at the same time we're arranging a stable home for her child. Please be prayerful for Adoption Services. The poem above reveals some of the unique challenges.

Our home for pregnant teens and teen moms is up and running! This program is for troubled young women in need of our services who happen to be pregnant or have young children. We currently have 5 young women in the house; one who has a 7 month old. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Heather Drayer (Bluffton N, IN) have special heart for these girls and are doing a great job of developing the program.

This new service is part of a larger expansion project that includes building a 4th group home on campus. (See article in the July issue of The Gate Post.) We will introduce the floor plan and cost information at our annual Auction. During the next several months, brochures will be distributed and churches will be taking special collections toward this project. We are waiting in faith and anticipation to see how the Lord works to launch us into this project and the future.

While many schools are empty most of the summer, Gateway Woods School is a hub of activity! Bro. Ryan Donaghy (Bluffton, IN) is working with residents, Pete F, Lavonte W, and Chris B on our landscaping crew called Top Quality. This program teaches important work and life skills. Bro. Tim Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) is busy conducting a volunteer program for our residents and Sis. Margo Waibel (Leo, IN) is helping some of our female residents with a craft and vocational program. There is a lot going on around here in the summer!

We have been wonderfully blessed to have a number of

long-term volunteers this summer who have sacrificed and served our children, staff, foster parents and church unselfishly. They include Sisters Samantha Loy (Bloomington), Stephanie Gerst (Alto), Natalie Knochel (Phoenix), Charla Zollinger (Sardis), Brothers Jeremy Hodel (Roanoke) and Tyler Stieglitz (Leo), and Paula Luginbuhl (Altadena), plus many, many short-term volunteers who encourage, fix, paint, plant, mow, saw, stack, cook, clean, play, sing, baby sit, encourage, and generally bless all of us. Bro. Morgan Langhofer (Phoenix) served as our Summer Volunteer Coordinator. We appreciate his hard work and good leadership.

As summer winds down, we look back at how faithful God has been. May we all continue to go forward with the faith that God is in control and that He is a good and faithful Father.

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

Our summer is nearly over and we are gearing up for the start of a new school year. We have been enrolling new students and beginning to prepare ourselves for the next year. It is exciting and makes me wonder what all these children will teach us (and maybe we can teach them something too) through the next school year.

As teachers, there are days when you can't help but wonder if you really are making a Christ-like difference in the children's lives, or in the lives of their

parents and families. It is our ultimate goal and we can only be successful in this if we totally rely on the Lord's help. One day a single parent confirmed to me in a little note that God certainly is very present among us and He is the one making the difference through us. She wrote, "This preschool has been such a blessing to me. Thank you for not giving up on me. It's hard being a single parent, but God is so good that when times are rough for me, He always pulls me through. He is so amazing!" It was so encouraging that even though we weren't even sure what all we had done for this mother, we knew it was God. He IS working, touching lives and hearts. I was reminded that this is a ministry, and it goes far beyond 1, 2, 3 and A, B, C.

Along with that we want to thank all of those who have so generously contributed to the preschool over the past school year. A very large part of our funding does come from donations, so if the Lord lays it upon your heart, please consider contributing to us over the next school year. Our goal and mission to spread the good news to little children could not be accomplished without your help.

You can send your contributions to us here at the preschool:
Apostolic Christian Preschool
15284 Hastings Rd.
Athens, AL 35613,

Or to:
Bro. Bob Walder
1517 US Highway 150
Congerville, IL 61729

ALABAMA, ATHENS**Louise Hall**

We are sad to say goodbye and yet rejoice that Sis. Louise Haggemaker went home to be with the Lord on July 8. She leaves behind Bro. Ed Haggemaker; one son, Jim Haggemaker; and three daughters, Amanda Cottingham, Ruth Edge, and Ellen Edge. We will miss her and continue to keep her family in our prayers.

Our thoughts and prayers have also been with Shawn Ray. He was in the hospital for heart problems. Shawn is the son of Bro. Milton and Sis. Joyce Ray.

Vacation Bible School for the Sunday school was the week of July 18 – 22. The theme this year was "Building Character for Jesus". Thank you to each one who taught and participated each night to make the week a success. We know all will be blessed.

Our congregation said goodbye to the Zamora family. Fidel and MaryAnn, along with their children, Steven and Suzie, moved back to Colorado. We enjoyed them and appreciated them so much while we had them as a special part of our congregation.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH), Bro. Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose, Smithville, OH), Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH), Bro. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL), Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL), and Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barbara, Bluffton, IN).

ARIZONA, PHOENIX**Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

St. John 9:5

We continue to enjoy the blessings and enthusiasm of Vacation Bible School, we seniors and well as the younger ones. Sharing His love makes us grow!

Visiting ministers this month were: Bro. Fred Funk (Morton), Bro. Jedd Rocke (Goodfield), Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke), Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign), and Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Francesville). We are grateful for God's message.

Our sympathy to Bro. Ellsworth and Sis. Lois Niemeyer and La Vonne Dorneweerd, in the passing of their uncle, Bro. Lawrence Wulf (Lester); and to Bro. Bob and Arlene Farney in the death of his uncle, Bro. Raymond Roth (Kiowa).

Many prayers were offered for our surgical patients and those that were ill: Katie Greenbank, Bro. Rudy Bertschi, Sis. Eunice Dotterer, Sis. Mary Ella Klopfenstein, Dakota Thorpe, Sis. Katherine Laukhuf, Evelyn Howley, Bro. Floyd and Sis. Clara Banwart, and Sis. Bertha Miller.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT**Jane Hodges**

Bros. Darren Drayer and Ryan Bertsch, of the quartet group, Psalm 100 from Bluffton, IN, have been staying in Prescott for a few weeks this summer to help support our church and work with

Bro. Dan Dubach. On July 15, the rest of the quartet, Bros. Chet Baumgartner and Matt Drayer, along with his wife, Sis. Tiffany, joined them for the weekend. After a church dinner on Saturday, they sang for us. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship and praise to our Lord. We thank the Lord for their gift of harmony and song, and thank them for their willingness to share their talent and love with others.

We had one visiting minister this last month. Bro. Glen Funk (Wichita, KS) and his wife, Sis. Sally, were returning home from a family reunion in California and detoured south to spend Sunday with us. We pray that they felt as blest as we did by their visit. We thank them and all the other visitors that have stopped in this summer to worship with us. It has been such a blessing and encouragement. May God richly bless all of you for your love and support.

ARIZONA, TUCSON**Lisa Knapp**

I am thrilled to report that Christie Kaufman (Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline) has made it known that she is repenting. Christie is 13 and is starting her walk with God entering the 8th grade. We are so happy for Christie, and our prayers are with her. The best part is that big, beautiful smile on her face.

We enjoyed a visit from a work team on Sunday, June 24. We always enjoy meeting new people and sometimes we can even renew old friendships. We hope they can feel our love and prayers as they head down to Mexico for their

work.

Today we officially hope to start our monsoon season which is late in arriving this year. The dew point has to be above 54 percent for three days straight before they officially declare the monsoon started. We really look forward to our afternoon thunderstorms and rain during our monsoon season. We were starting to think it wasn't going to happen this year. We are on our 37th day of temperatures above 100 degrees. The monsoon season will help us avoid breaking the old record, 39 days.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Robin Moser

“A wise son heareth his father's instruction, but a scorner heareth not rebuke.”

Proverbs 13:1

Father's Day brought a reminder to be appreciative for the sacrifices and love our fathers have given. It can be a challenge to balance the role of Godly father and provider in a day when many employers expect lengthy hours. May God provide grace to parents to raise the next generation in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Our congregation is thankful for the many visiting ministers who are willing to share the Word with us. This month we were blessed to have Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA) travel to worship with and minister to us.

We are also grateful Bro. Jonathon Sauder (Bro. Frank and

Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) has chosen to spend the summer in the Altadena area. Each new member of our fellowship has something to contribute and can encourage us onward.

Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kay Hackenjoes would like to express their appreciation to all who remembered them during Sis. Kay's illness by cards, encouragement and prayers. We rejoice that her radiation sessions are completed and there are no signs of cancer left.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Peggy Jevremov

Greetings! We are enjoying our summer visitors. Among them was ministering Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN). We pray the Lord will bless him for his willingness to be used on our behalf.

Our annual business meeting was held and the following were the results of our election. Sunday School teacher – Sis. Stacy Koehl; Superintendent – Bro. Terry Koehl; Trustee – Bro. Tibor Bozzay. We want to thank the outgoing teachers and trustee for giving of themselves for our children and the church. They are as follows: Sunday School teacher – Sis. Rachel Petrovic; Superintendent – Bro. Phillip Petrovic; Trustee – Bro. Victor Jevremov.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Julianna Topolchanyi who is hospitalized with a stroke and Bro. Rory Strahm who has been in and out of the hospital several times.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA
Johanna Fortenbacher

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Philippians 4:13

We rejoice with Naomi Ursu (Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb) as she begins her repentance, and walk with the Lord. We must not forget to keep her and our other new converts in our prayers.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Maryanne, Smithville OH), Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA), Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH). May God continue to provide the physical needs in traveling here and to preach the true Word.

*** Special announcement
to Americans***

The American Government will soon be requiring all persons entering the US (citizens and non citizens) to have a valid passport. We would urge all those thinking of visiting to attain one. Your support to us here is vital and very much appreciated.

COLORADO, DENVER
Ann Gonglach

Several students from our congregation are beginning high-school studies this fall. We had a cake reception to mark this milestone in their lives. Congratulations to Robert Gonglach Jr., Kaylyne Hohulin, Tucker Huber, Jean-Paul Lasnier and Erika Schmidt. As another school

year commences, let's remember to be prayerful for all our students.

During the summer, we're thankful for the many brothers and sisters who make time in their vacations to fellowship with us. It's heartening to meet so many who share our faith and to be encouraged by the Word shared by visiting ministers, who recently have been Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO), Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL), and Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA).

We appreciated Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) coming on the weekend of July 15-17, to present a talk on integrity to our young people, as well as a Saturday night presentation to our whole group about church history or "Why We Do What We Do". The talks were both enlightening and inspiring. It's good for us to remember what our church forefathers endured in order to preserve the faith. We pray that we do not become apathetic due to the relative ease of the times in which we live.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Laura Virkler
Amber Reutter**

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

Our good wishes and prayers are with Bro. Jonathan Goric and Sis. Elisa Zahner as their engage-

ment has been announced to us. Parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary-Lou Goric and Bro. Warren and Sis. Bonnie Zahner. We pray their steps will be guided as they plan to spend their lives together.

A new little boy, Landon Joseph, was born to Bro. Andrew and Sis. Colleen Luginbuhl. He joins his big brother Wade. Grandparents are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Ryan and Bro. Ken and Sis. Kay Luginbuhl. Hannah Jane, born to Bro. Dale and Sis. Maryanne Gerber, joins Rebbekah, Lydia and Jacob. Grandparents are Bro. Everett and Sis. Nancy Gerber and Bro. Emmanuel and Sis. Verona Schneider. May God bless these new little ones and give their parents wisdom to raise them.

Visiting with us this month were Bro. Dale Banwart (Sis. Melissa, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL). We appreciate these brothers' willingness to be used in the ministry while visiting with us in Rockville.

Our prayers and condolences are with the family of Sis. Elsie Lanz as she recently passed away. She leaves a daughter, Sis. Norma (Daryl) Luginbuhl. She leaves several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends. We pray that the family, as well as so many others in our congregations, can find joy in the victory won and press onward with God's nearness.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

It seems like it took awhile this year, but summer is here with all the heat and humidity that goes with it.

Our thoughts and prayers are with a couple of folks from our congregation who have been under the care of their physicians. Julia Cardwell (Jim Cardwell and Barbara Rapp Cardwell) had surgery. She seems to be doing fine, keeping up with twin brother Owen. We have missed having Roberta Belsley (Ken) assemble with us and hope she is soon able to attend.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN). We have been blessed with lots of visitors this summer including guests from Junction, Latty, Rittman and Smithville, OH; Rockville, CT; Bluffton and West Lafayette, IN; Peoria and Princeville, IL. We are glad for all the visitors and glad that they let us know they were coming.

Services are usually held the first, third, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month at the Tysons Corner Westpark (Best Western) Hotel, located about one-mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. Song service begins at 10:15, worship service at 10:30; afternoon service begins at 12:15.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. for vacation or business, please call Bro. Adam and Sis. Liz Hermann (703) 212-7339 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for

Sunday services. If you would like to get together on Saturday evening, please let us know that as well. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

**FLORIDA
FORT LAUDERDALE
Renee Mangold**

We were thankful to have visiting ministers this past month. Visiting were Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Bro. Ron Jones (Portland, OR) and Bro. Vic Beer (Sis. Dorothy, North Ft. Myers, FL). We pray that God would bless His servants in bringing forth His Word.

Our prayers for a full and speedy recovery are with Sis. Doris Huber. Sis. Doris fell while vacationing in North Carolina and broke both of her ankles. She has undergone surgery and has begun rehabilitation.

We had our potluck on the beach this month. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and an opportunity to praise God for the beauty He has created here on earth.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Mary Masters**

Of one thing we can be certain, and that is death, unless Jesus raptures us first. As age creeps up, our strength and energy decrease. It's God's way of getting us to slow down so we'll take more time with Him. We can think more deeply about life, ourselves, and others.

We have several deaths to report this month. We were deeply saddened to hear of the untimely death of Bro. Vic and Sis. Dorothy Beer's grandson, David Howard. We grieve with them and David's parents, Seth and Vicki Howard.

We also received word of the passing of Ray Piper's mother and offer our condolences to our dear faithful snowbirds, Ray and Rosemary Piper, of Milford, Indiana.

Wayne Segal, who was a patient of Cape Coral Hospital last month, was called out of this life. Sympathy to Wayne's dear wife, Carol Lynn, who assembles with us, and the rest of Wayne's family.

Bro. Bill Masters' father died after a lengthy illness. He had resided at the Quincy Veteran's Home for the past 7 years.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Sara Hunyady moved from Fort Myers to Port Charlotte. Their new address and phone number are: 2300 Aaron St. #305, Port Charlotte, Florida, 33952-5378. Telephone number 941-629-2816. We wish them well in their new location.

Notes of Thanks:

We want to send our thanks and appreciation to all for the overwhelming, outpouring of love and prayers at the death of our dear grandson, David Howard. May God bless you all.

*Bro. Vic and Sis. Dorothy Beer
Seth and Vicki Howard*

We want to thank those who remembered us during the passing of Bill's father, William Floyd Masters. A special thanks to those of the Taylor, Missouri, church

who went to visit him at the Veteran's Home.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Masters

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Robin Wiegand**

Greetings to all. We were fortunate this month to have visiting ministers: Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) and our own Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL).

We are thankful not to have had any hurricane damage thus far this year. We would appreciate any prayers for protection.

There are also glad tidings of great joy in our congregation this month. Larry and DiAnne Brown and Clyde and Jean Early have been announced for peace and, Lord willing, they will be baptized Labor Day weekend. These two couples are a wonderful asset to our Sarasota congregation.

Bro. Virgil and Sis. Suellen Kaeb hosted a World Relief evening and had a big turnout, completing eight comforters. We also had a welcoming gathering for Adam Ott (formerly of Congerville, IL) who moved to our area and has become part of our church family.

May God continue to enrich and bless you all.

**GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Kevin Kipfer
Benjamin Stoller**

Greetings of love from Atlanta. The Lord has blessed us with an abundant amount of rain and warm weather this summer. We also have been blessed by many

visitors this past month. We thank ya'll for your act of willing service.

On Sunday, June 19, Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) was our visiting minister. On Saturday, June 25, we had an all church potluck at a lake in Alabama. We would like to thank the Camp family for their hospitality. It was a very enjoyable day. The following day we were encouraged by Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL). On Sunday, July 3, we were blessed to have many visitors from the Roanoke, IL, young group along with ministering Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL). We thank you brothers for lending of yourselves to bring us the gospel.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Doreen Moser
Sheila McCoy

Why 9-11? Why do Muslims and Jews believe as they do and why are Christians different? Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) spent a Wednesday evening with our congregation and explained the differences; explained why Muslims dislike Americans and Christians. As we ponder why this and why that, it is always a great assurance to know that the Lord has it all planned out. When we have questions and do some searching, the Bible holds most of the answers and the rest needs to be left to our faith in the Lord.

“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is

Jesus Christ.”

I Cor. 3:11

Construction Zone – “Building Lives for Christ” was the theme for Vacation Bible School this month. Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and Bro. Dean Steffen were the speakers for the Bible classes. Each of the brothers work in the construction field and shared the plans such as blueprints and tools of their trade. As they all explained to the students, each part of their work has to be done exactly right, otherwise the buildings will not turn out correctly and will not get sold. It is the same for our lives. We have the Bible as our blueprint and we need to lay the foundation and build upon it if we want the Master builder to accept us when our lives on earth are finished.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Kara Martin
Ann Nussbaum

We were blessed to have visiting ministers, Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont), Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL), and Bro. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI) share in our worship services recently.

We rejoice with Katie (Jason) Albritton, who recently committed her life to Christ. We offer her prayerful support and encouragement as she begins her repentance.

Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Sara Streitmatter welcomed their third child, Nathan Donald, on July 1. His siblings are Shauna

and Isaiah. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Wilma Kieser of Bloomington and Sis. Mary Streitmatter (Princeville). Maternal great-grandmother is Sis. Jean Kieser (Gridley); paternal great-grandmother is Sis. Emma Meyer (Lester, IA). Nathan Donald shares both his middle name and his birth date with his paternal grandfather, the late Bro. Don Streitmatter of Princeville. Nathan was born on what would have been his grandfather's 75th birthday.

On July 6, Mya Kaeb became the big sister to twin brothers, Simon Richard and Jonah Kenneth. Their parents are Bro. Kory and Sis. Megan Kaeb. Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla Ringger (Gridley) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy Kaeb (Roanoke) are the grandparents. Maternal great-grandparents are Bro. Edwin and Sis. Pat Ringger (Gridley) and Sis. Loretta Bauer (Cissna Park). Paternal great-grandparents are Bro. Richard Zimmerman (Roanoke) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Kaeb (Fairbury).

We welcomed the Bible Class's safe return from a work team trip to Sunset Gap, TN. On Sunday evening, July 10, the students and their chaperones presented a program about their experiences. We praise God for letting these young hearts and hands be used in His service.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Steve Endress

Our prayerful support goes to Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth) as he has been called upon by

God and our church to minister the Gospel. We were reminded by our Elder, Bro. Wayne Anliker, how weighty and special this responsibility is and we certainly wish to pray for Bro. Bruce and all of our ministers that they will be an empty vessel before the Lord, that His perfect will might be accomplished through us.

We appreciate Bro. Matt Rassi (Chicago, IL) visiting us and being willing to be used in the ministry on our behalf.

We are thankful that Bro. Rich Gillespie (Sis. Paula) has safely returned home from Iraq and can again assemble with us. We know that his wife and children are also thankful to have him home.

Our sympathy is extended to our Sis. Jenny Joos (Bro. Ralph) at the passing of her father, Norman Rouse. We hope that God will use this difficult experience to draw all of Norman's loved ones closer to His Father heart.

We continue to lift up our Elder brothers in prayer as they confer and bring conclusions that are beneficial to the Church. As some of us had opportunity to visit brethren in Europe, we were reminded by brethren there that they have the same God, and the same devil.

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”

I Peter 4:12-13

**ILLINOIS
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
Karla Kieser**

Greetings from hot and muggy Champaign-Urbana! The World Relief Work Team came through the area at the end of June and we spent the week doing various jobs for people in need. The weather was hot but much was accomplished and God's work was furthered.

Bro. Peter and Sis. Penny Schroeder have moved recently from Champaign to the Indianapolis, IN, area. Bro. Peter took a job there and we are sad to see them leave. They were a wonderful addition to our small congregation!

Bro. Todd Harris from the Ruestmann-Harris funeral home in El Paso, IL, gave a talk on Wednesday, July 13, about the Biblical explanation for funeral customs and traditions. It was very interesting and we are grateful to Bro. Todd for coming down.

A singing shower was held at Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy Waibel's home recently for our new married couple, Bro. Lucas and Sis. Bethany (Rassi) Young. We welcome them to our church and pray for God's nearness in this new beginning.

Visiting ministers from this past month were Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS) and Ben Walder (Congerville, IL). We are grateful for visitors!

Our prayers are with our Elder body as they meet in Morris, MN, for the annual Conference.

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Rachel Meyer**

Greetings to all from Chicago. Just as I was sitting down to write this article, I heard that there is a severe thunderstorm warning for our area and a call for rain! I know many of you are experiencing the dry weather as well, whether in the cities or the farming communities. I'm reminded of the song we used to sing in Sunday School – “Showers of Blessings”. I especially like a part of the chorus: “Mercy drops 'round us are falling, but for the showers we plead.” Praise God that we can boldly go to His throne and plead whatever concern is on our heart!

Chicago had the pleasure of hosting “Single Focus Weekend” July 9 and 10. What a blessing to have visitors with us and see our church overflowing. A special thank you is extended to the four ministering brothers who so kindly gave of their time and talent to speak on Saturday. The theme of the day was “Walking Holy in Jesus Christ.” With us were Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), and Bros. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), and Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI). We were thankful also that the two Bro. Jims along with Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) and his family were with us on Sunday. Thank you for sharing God's Word through the power of His Spirit.

We have the privilege of welcoming two loved ones to our congregation who have taken employment in the area. Bro. Eric Zimmerman moved from Morton, IL, to accept a position with an in-

vestment firm and Pam Bruellman, native of West Bend, IA, is employed as a veterinarian. We look forward to getting to know them and extend a hearty welcome!

Yesterday, I took the train downtown for an appointment and I found myself sitting beside a young man who was reading. He had just boarded the train, and I glanced down, curious because he appeared to have a well-worn Bible in his hands! Indeed he did. My stop was next, but I wanted to say something quickly to him before I had to exit. I told him he was reading a wonderful book. He asked if I, too, was a reader of the Word. I excitedly said "Yes," and then the train was stopping. As I walked off I called "God Bless!" to him, and I had an extra lift in my step as I walked up to the street. A small encounter, some may say, yet I believe it was much more than that. Not only was I encouraged by meeting one who valued God's Word, I was vividly reminded that this moment was made possible by a day our country celebrates every year - Independence Day, remembering July 4, 1776. A day that freedom was declared and courageous men and women stood up for a new way of life that included freedom to worship as one may choose without fear of arrest or imprisonment ... transcending to freedom for a young man to carry a Bible on a public train in the 21st century without fear.

"...where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty"

II Corinthians 3:17

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Pam Walder
Andrea Walder**

We are thankful to report that another soul has answered God's call in our congregation. Michael Kaeb (Bro. Max and Sis. Beth) has begun his repentance. We wish him God's nearness and grace.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT). May God continue to provide the inspiration for these brethren to preach the truth.

With sadness of heart we bid farewell to Bro. Phil and Sis. Charlotte Waldbeser and family, as they have relocated to Elgin, IA. We also say goodbye to Sis. Sarah Maul as she is moving to Sabetha, KS. May the Lord provide for them in their new homes. We will miss them in Cissna Park.

Several loved ones from our congregation have recently been ill or hospitalized, including Steve Miller, Sis. Harriet Walder, Bro. Herman Bauer, Bro. Art Hari (Sis. Lou), Sis. Eileen Greiner (Bro. Bob) and Bro. Norman Maul (Elizabeth). May healing be granted according to God's will.

We extend our sympathy to those in our midst who have lost loved ones. Wayne Siegle of North Fort Myers, FL, passed away. He was a brother to Sis. Evelyn Rudin (Bro. Ben). Sis. Fannie Wiegand (Eureka, IL) also passed on to eternity. She was a sister to Bro. Bill Rinkenberger and Sis. Marge Alt. Eileen Kaufman also passed away. She was the mother of Sis. Kathy Walder (Bro. Steve). We

trust God's Spirit will be a comfort to the grieving.

Our annual all-church picnic was held on a beautiful Sunday afternoon at the park. It's always a blessing to gather together for a potluck supper.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder are thankful for the safe arrival of another grandson. Braden Keith was born to Bro. Curt and Sis. Amber Wiegand of Congerville. We wish them God's grace in raising their family.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Rachel Schrock

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

Zion's Harp #79, vs. 1

Our hearts are filled with rejoicing as many souls became firmly united in our congregation lately!

On June 19, Bro. Kurt Schrock (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet) and Sis. Julie Zimmerman (Bro. Fred and Sis. MaryEllen) were united in holy matrimony. We welcomed many visitors that Sunday, including ministering brothers: Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) and Bros. Trent Schrock (Sis. Heidi, Leo, IN), Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL) and Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield, IL).

Bro. Josh Virkler (Bro. John and Sis. Maureen) and Sis. Kate

Craig (Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol) firmly bound their hearts together on July 10. Again, we welcome all our visitors, including ministering brothers: Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT), and Bros. Dan Goric (Sis. MaryLou, Rockville, CT) and Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL).

The bond of faith also firmly united the hearts of Bro. Philip Wyss (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna, Goodfield, IL) and Sis. Kristen Roth (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy) on July 17. We appreciated all those who attended to witness their solemn vows, including ministering brothers: Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene, Goodfield, IL) and Bros. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA), Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL), Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL), Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield, IL), Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO), Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL) and Nathan Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield, IL).

On other Sundays we were also blessed with visiting ministering brothers, including Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL) and Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN) and Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy, Wolcott, IN).

Our welcome is also extended to two families that have recently moved to our area. May Bro. John and Sis. Maureen Virkler from Rockville, CT, and Jack and Elizabeth Lutz from California, and their families feel God's presence as they settle into their new

homes.

We can always manage to find room in our overflowing hearts for precious new little babies and this past month two dear little ones have been added to our congregation. On June 23, Marcy Renee entered the arms and hearts of Bro. Brent and Sis. Sheila Ifft. Bro. Curt and Sis. Amber Wiegand welcomed Braden Keith into their family on July 7. We are thankful that all are doing well!

Last, but definitely not least, our hearts rejoice with Hannah Dietrich (Bro. Jim and Sis. Renee) as she begins her repentance. We surround her with our love and prayers as she embarks upon this heavenly journey.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser

"Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field."

Zechariah 10:1

How we long for the sight and sound of reviving rains; yet we know there is a reason behind God's delays.

Amanda Martin (Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean) has partaken of the living water that quenches the soul's thirst and has found peace. We look forward to the time when she can give her testimony and be baptized.

Christ intends for His church to be sanctified and cleansed through the washing of water by

the Word. In the past month, three visitors who assisted our local ministers to this end were Bros. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) and Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL). Their teachings and exhortations were a benefit to us.

As a new Sunday School year begins, Bro. Matt Kinsinger (Mary Jo), Sis. Julie Kellenberger (Bro. Jeff) and Sis. Erica Humbracht (Bro. Eric) will assume new teaching duties. They were selected to replace Bro. Jeff Kellenberger (Sis. Julie) and Sis. Lois Steffen (Bro. Gary). May God bless all past and future labors.

On June 26, James Todd was born to Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika Schambach and joins Joseph, Kathleen, Jack, Kaelin, Jesse and Kalli. James' grandparents are Ken and Anita Anderson and Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne Schambach.

June 26 was also the day of an engagement announcement: Bro. Todd Schambach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne) to Sis. Pauli Angelito of Magdalena, Mexico. We wish them God's continued blessings and guidance as they plan their wedding and life together.

Our dear Sis. Ruth Schurter was called to her heavenly home on July 15. She had lived at Resthaven for a number of years and is survived by her daughter, four sons and their families.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Cindy Stoller
Lisa Metzger

It has been a month of rejoicing for the Eureka congregation. We

are thankful for six souls who have recently begun their repentance. Our prayers continue for Tricia Hoerr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Carolyn), Jennifer Getz (Bro. Gary and Sis. Gail), Kristin Stoller (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry), Jodi Wuethrich (Bro. Rick and Sis. Brenda), Kaylene Wiegand (Bro. Brian and Sis. Tina) and Michael Hartter (Bro. Ron and Sis. Janet).

In addition, we rejoice with Sis. Miranda Blunier (Bro. Sam and Sis. Luann), Bro. Jason Rassi (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), and Bro. Doug Banwart (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lisa) who were recently proved and baptized into the Body of Christ. We wish these three much grace to continue walking the true way.

Bro. Adam Garber (Ray and Sue, Roanoke) and Sis. Bethany Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn) were united in marriage this month. Also, Bro. Randy Blunier (Bro. Roger and Sis. Wendy) and Sis. Roxy Wiegand of Goodfield, IL (Bro. Art and Sis. Pam) have begun their lives as one. May God continue to provide for these new couples.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Holly Bradle welcome home their new little daughter, Amanda Lynn. Amanda's siblings are Jesse, Jordan and Amber, and grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle and Bro. Wallace and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger (Morris, MN).

Our hearts feel the sorrow of Sis. Bena Mae Roche and Sis. Kathy Leman (Bro. Mike) as they experience the loss of Sandra Roche, wife of Bill (son of Sis. Bena Mae and brother to Sis. Kathy). We trust the Lord will provide His

blessed comfort.

Our prayers are with Sis. Melba Mangold as she has experienced recent medical attention. May she especially feel the Lord's nearness during this time. Let us often pray for the many who suffer pain and discouragement with various physical ailments.

The engagement of Bro. Alan Wettstein (Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Bethany Wiegand of Goodfield, IL (Bro. Art and Sis. Pam) was recently announced. May God guide this couple along His righteous pathway of life as their lives are molded together.

Our congregation has been abundantly blessed with spiritual edification through the many visiting ministers we have had. We appreciate the services of Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Bros. Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Ontario), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL), Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL), Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO), John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Tony Manz (Junction, OH). May God be their rich rewarder.

Bro. Michael Beery has informed us of his relocation to the Smithville, OH, area. We trust the Lord will bless him as he moves back to his home town.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Anna Schmidgall

"The Sunday School is our delight, we love it more and more..."

(Hymns of Zion #73). We are thankful to Bro. Don Kaisner and Sis. Phyllis Welborn for their years of service in our Sunday School as they have now completed their terms. May they feel God's blessings in this important work. Bro. Ryan Hartman and Sis. Martha Fehr will be our new teachers and we pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in their new duties. We enjoyed the annual Sunday School picnic on June 26.

We always appreciate visiting ministers who willingly bring forth God's Word. Our thanks go to Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) for assembling with us.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Carmen Kilgus welcomed a new little daughter on July 2. Carla Marie has two brothers, Justin and Trent. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene Kilgus and Sis. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman.

Our prayers have been with Sis. Ruth Meyer, Sis. Donna Banwart and Sis. Diane Rassi who have spent time in the hospital. May God provide their every need.

ILLINOIS, FORREST Jill Wenger Lori Leman

Taking vows to be joined together as husband and wife on Father's Day, June 19, were Sis. Natalie Kilgus and Bro. Mark Schneider. Their parents are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise Kilgus and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra Schneider. May the Lord bless this union of hearts.

We thank visiting ministering

Bros. Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Dennis Rassi and Paul Kilgus (both of Fairbury, IL) for serving us from the Word of God. Also, we appreciated the loving counsel of Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) at the wedding of our loved ones.

We welcome two new little baby boys into our congregation. Loren Stephen was born to Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie Kaeb. Welcoming him home are his siblings: Sis. Krystle, Josh, Kaylee, Kara, Jenna, Joseph, Levi and Lucas. Thankful grandparents are Adeline Kaeb of Fairbury, IL, and Robert and Sis. Elaine Mueller of Gridley, IL. Caleb Alan is the first-born son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Melissa Zimmerman. His sisters, Rebekah and Leah, and grandparents, Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta Zimmerman and Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally Rinkenberger, welcome him home with loving hearts and open arms.

Our hospital patient this month was little Abigail Aberle (Bro. Shawn and Sis. Tami). She is home and doing well. We love to see the sweet innocence of little children.

We sympathize with several in our church family that have lost loved ones. May the Lord comfort Sis. Marie Hohulin in the loss of her sister, Sis. Fannie Wiegand, of Eureka, IL; Sis. Aldine Wackerle in the loss of her stepdaughter, Josephine Forster, of Bay City, MI; and also Sis. Emma Ifft (Bro. Elmer) in the passing of her brother, Edward Schmidt of Fairbury, IL. We pray they can all feel God's nearness and love

through this time of sorrow.

Note of Thanks:

Greetings,

I wish to thank everyone who remembered me on my 80th birthday. It was overwhelming! I certainly appreciate all the cards, gifts and well wishes. A sincere thanks and God bless you all.

Bro. Elmer Stoller

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Amber Grimm
Rita Bauman

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Ephesians 5:22-23

We are thankful for the love in the hearts of those who were married this month. Bro. Phil Wyss (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Kristen Roth (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL) were married on July 17, while Bro. Randy Blunier (Bro. Roger and Sis. Wendy, Eureka, IL) and Sis. Roxy Wiegand (Bro. Art and Sis. Pam) were married on July 24. May God's love and Spirit be felt in each new home.

Anna Marie was born to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Laura Wiegand. Sharing in the joy are Anna's sister, Mary Beth, and grandparents, Bro. Roy and Sis. Jan Wiegand, and Bro. Denny and Sis. Beth Mott (Morton, IL). Joy is also in the home of Bro. Dana and Sis. Mari Wiegand who have adopted Mattilyn Susana from

Guatamala. Mattilyn's new brothers are Drew, Rylin, and Elijah, and her new sister is Mikya. Loving grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Jan Wiegand and Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy Knapp.

David Currier was announced for peace this month. Our prayers are with him as he prepares for baptism.

Several in our congregation were in the hospital this month. We pray that God will help Sis. Elsie Hohulin, Sis. Allene Steffen, Sis. Pearl Nohl, and Bro. Ray Wagner with longsuffering.

Believing through faith that God has brought them together, Bro. Alan Wettstein (Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary, Eureka, IL) and Sis. Bethany Wiegand (Bro. Art and Sis. Pam) have announced their engagement. They are looking forward to a September wedding.

We are thankful for the meekness of our ministering brothers who continue to bring forth God's Word. Visiting us this month were Bro. Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL), Bro. Steph Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville, IN), and Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL). May God bless them for their meek spirit.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

On July 9-10, four brothers and our wives from Gridley attended a Ft. Sam Reunion in Princeville. This reunion is made up of Brothers who were in the Army during the early 1960's. This annual reunion offers a good chance to meet

our long time friends. At this occasion, however, little did we realize one of our ranks had only a few weeks to live. This brother (Paul Gerber) from Bluffton, Indiana, appeared as a picture of health. Yet, this week he died suddenly of a heart attack. This vividly illustrates the uncertainty and brevity of life. Each day we live is a gift from God — and we are wise to put it (the day) to good use to honor the Lord Jesus.

We are happy to report the marriage engagement of Sis. Claire Witzig to Bro. Steve Hodel (Peoria). Her parents are Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary Witzig and he is the son of Bro. Irvin and Sis. Sharon Hodel. A wedding is being planned for December 18, and we wish this young couple the blessings of the Lord.

Sis. Holly Stoller and Bro. Will Kellenberger were married on June 5. Her parents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Elaine Stoller, and he is the son of Bro. Randy and Sis. Ruth Kellenberger (Washington, IL). We wish this couple God's richest blessings as they begin life together.

On July 23-24, three souls were taken into the fold. Here to help for the occasion was Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke). Baptized were Sisters Kristi Ulrich, Victoria Stoller and Kristin Kaeb. The gift of salvation causes much rejoicing. Being justified freely by Christ, this initial phase must now, through God's grace, be maintained until the end. In this endeavor, we wish them much grace and favor from on High, as they humble themselves.

We welcome Nathan and

Angela Glendenning (El Paso, IL) to our congregation. They have three children, Josh, Brittney and Hunter. We rejoice that Angela has made a beginning in the Lord.

Too, we welcome the family of Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Natalie Freed to Gridley. They have two sons, Kyle and Tyler. They came here from Wolcott, IN.

Justin Wiegand, son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Kathy Wiegand, was injured in a ski-lift accident during a vacation in Colorado, and is improving. His injured back needs much rehabilitation, and we pray he will recover to full strength. Many prayers have been offered for this serious situation.

Wade Knobloch, 4, sustained a broken leg when his boot got caught in a grain auger. Thanks be to God the injury was not more serious. Miracles still occur, it seems, and we are thankful he is recovering.

Bro. Ron Kinder is recovering from surgery. Bro. Jerry Christensen had a hip replacement and is doing well. Sis. Rosie Gramm (wife of Bro. Don) suffered injuries from falling down the basement steps; and Sis. Rosie Gramm (wife of Bro. Mike Gramm) suffered a broken arm from a fall in her yard.

We offer our sympathies to Bro. John and Sis. Wave Kaupp on the passing of her stepfather, Denzil Cooper; and to Bro. Kyle and Sis. Monica Edelman for the loss of her uncle, Roy Rodriguez.

On July 24, a son was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Kathy Knapp. He is a first child and was named Jeremiah Edward. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Mary

Bradle (Roanoke) and the late Bro. Larry and Sis. Rosella Knapp. A great-grandparent is Sis. Anna Bradle (Roanoke).

Many prayers were offered for the August 10-12 Elder and Brotherhood meetings. Although the church exists in an ever-secularizing society, God is still in heaven and hears the prayers of the faithful. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

ILLINOIS, MORTON
Julie Bahr
Christie Zeller

We are so happy to announce that Mike and Ramona Davis have professed peace and are awaiting baptism. May God continue to bless them.

Our Elder Bro. Ted Witzig had our Family Worship on "Prayer" on July 6. May we all recognize the constant need for prayer in our lives as we strive to walk more closely to Him.

As always, there is Life and there is Death....

We are happy for the new babies born this month. Bro. Todd and Sis. Wendy Sauder have a new baby girl, Savannah Joy, born June 23. She is welcomed home by big brother, Caleb, and sister, Tori.

Bro. Bart and Sis. Janelle Rinkenberger have a new baby boy, Kade Michael, born July 11. He is welcomed home by big brothers, Carson and Quinn.

Bro. Adam and Sis. Amy Spangler have a new baby boy, Tanner Davis, born July 12.

We wish all these families

God's richest blessings.

Many loved ones have also gone Home to be with the Lord.

Sis. Marie Kaufman passed away June 15 at Restmor. She is survived by Bro. Bill Kaufman, a stepson; Gladys (Don) Carius, a stepdaughter; and Bro. Mel (Sis. Louise) Steiner, a stepbrother; and a sister, Sis. Wilma (Bro. Al) Wiedman.

Bro. Milt Yentes passed away June 27. He is survived by his wife, Mabel, and a stepson, Bro. Steve (Sis. Lynn) Roeschley.

Ray Zimmerman of Walloon Lake, Michigan, passed away on June 28. He is a brother to our Sis. Wilma Bollegar.

Bro. John Oberlander passed away at Restmor on June 29. He is the husband to our Sis. Joan Oberlander.

Bro. Willis Sauder of Tremont passed away on July 3. He is the father to our Sis. Mary (Ted) Staker.

Vi Hodel of Eureka passed away. She is a sister to Shirley (Bro. Elmer) Baer.

Bro. Arch Knapp passed away on July 14. He is the husband to Clara Knapp.

May our loving Heavenly Father comfort these dear families.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Lou and Marjean Lonteen

"And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover them-

selves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."

II Timothy 24-26

We appreciate guest minister, Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA) for recently ministering to our congregation.

We've been blest by a two-part, "End Times Prophecy" Family night studied and shared with us by Bro. Ken Hoerr.

The last day of Sunday School was June 26. A Sunday School picnic was held in the afternoon for all who love and pray for these dear students and their teachers.

Alyssa Hoerr (Bro. Todd and Sis. Sallie) has made known her desire to walk with the Lord. Many prayers are answered with this answer to God's call. His grace allows those who seek Him to find Him.

On May 21, Jay and Tara (Meister) Brenner were married. Tara is the daughter of Bro. Spark and Sis. Rhonda Meister. Jay and Tara live in Edinboro, PA.

On June 2, Jesse Getz was united in marriage to Cara Tingley. Parents of the couple are Sis. Judy Getz of Peoria, Rodney Getz of East Peoria, and Gordon and Cindy Tingley of Beardstown.

Bro. Derek and Sis. Wendy Menold welcomed little Zachary Derek into their family on June 11. Olivia Ann is happy to have a little brother. Thankful grandparents are: Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon Menold (Princeville), and Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Rieker.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Sis. Katherine Knapp and to the family of Sis.

Anna Schneider. Especially to: Norvin, Bro. Norb and Sis. Mary Jane Schneider, and Bro. Rolf and Sis. Verena Kaeppler.

Sis. Carissa Klopfenstein has returned home from a year of teaching in Pinghu, China. Sis. Carissa is the daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein. Welcome home, Sis. Carissa.

Little Terren Waibel was officially adopted by Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa Waibel on June 22. After one and a half years, the whole family is thankful Terren belongs in their family circle. Shelby, Billy, Maddie, Cody and Cooper all love their brother and playmate.

Prayer continues to be appreciated by: Bro. Jim Hoerr, Bro. Bob Joos, Sis. Vera Kibler, and Bro. Ivan Thomas.

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

II Peter 1:4-8

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Vera Baer
Kara Blunier**

“For the wages of sin is death: but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 6:23

With thanksgiving we report the news of two new converts: Kalla Knobloch (Bro. Alan and Sis. Mary Ann) and Janelle Grassi (Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl). We rejoice with them and pray for them.

Likewise, two new babies were added to our congregation this month. On June 23, Bro. Craig, Sis. Cherie and Benjamin White welcomed Joseph Ryan to their family. Sis. Gloria White (Princeville) and Claude White (Rossville, IN) and Bro. David and Sis. Marlene Galat (Rockville) are the happy grandparents. Another little girl, Mareesa Ann, was added to the family of Bro. Mike and Sis. Julie Martin on July 5. Mitchell, Marshall, Melissa and Morissa are her siblings. Her grandparents are Bro. Kenny and Sis. Donna Gehrig and Sis. Janet Joos, all of Princeville. We also announce the addition of a grandchild to the family of Bro. Art and Sis. Joy Baurer. Clark and Irica Baurer (Chicago, IL) recently welcomed Amelia Bena into their hearts and home. May God bless these families.

As we rejoice with the good news in some families, we share in the concern in others. Baby Connor Wagenbach (Curt and Mary Beth) has spent sometime in the hospital recently. Austin Herrmann (Bro. Ben and Sis.

Ann) has suffered an injury and has been in the hospital as well. We are also praying for Sis. Emily Stoller (Bro. Joe). We hope all is well again soon.

On Father's Day, we were privileged to partake in the ministry of two guest ministers, Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). On July 10, Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), along with Bros. Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS), Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), attended a Fort Sam reunion held in our congregation. Bro. Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN) was also here that day. We thank each of these brothers and their wives for coming to visit us, as well as the many other visitors we've had.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Dee Fehr
Doris Fischer**

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to our high school graduates: Alex Fehr (Bro. Ben and Sis. Kathy), Josh Hoffman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Nancy), Sis. Kaitlyn Isaia (Bro. Richard and Deanna), Brett Janssen (Bro. Fred and Sis. Cheri), Alex Knepp (Bro. Rich and Sis. Janet), Harold Presley (Gordon and Karen), Kristen Rassi (Bill and Jan), Kayla Schroeder (Ron and Sis. Peg), Jon Schwind (Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb) and Megan Schwind (Bro. Danny and Sis. Donna). Our prayers continue to be with these young people as they move on to the next chapters in their lives.

“Behold I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him...”

Revelation 3:20

We praise God as he continues to call souls unto repentance. We are thankful that Benji Leman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Janet) and Kyle McKimmy (Tina and Keith) have answered His call and have made a beginning in their walk with Him.

Summer trips have taken some brethren away from home, but have also brought many visitors to our church on the prairie. We appreciated having Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA) share our pulpit and we were glad for his family's visit.

A new baby girl has joined the family of Bro. John and Sis. Lisa Koehler. Kinzie Ann was born on June 25, and is welcomed home by her 2-year-old sister, Adelyn. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sauder and Alan Koehler and the late Cydney Koehler. Bro. Dave and Sis. Lori Whitten also welcomed a new daughter, Anna Marie, on July 14. Little Anna has two sisters, Carolyn and Sarah, and a big brother, Matthew. Her grandparents are Bro. Gene and Carol Whitten. Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy Kaeb are thankful for two new grandsons, Simon Richard and Jonah Kenneth. The twin boys were born on July 6 to Bro. Kory and Sis. Megan Kaeb (Bloomington). Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla Ringger (Gridley) are their maternal grandparents.

In recent weeks, Bro. Byron and Sis. Lisa Gerber have experienced a time of waiting and diagnosis for their infant son, Micah.

As they await the outcome of Micah's uncertain health, may God grant them strength, and may they feel the love and prayers of their church family.

On July 6, our dear friend, Vi Hodel, was called home to her eternal rest. We extend our heartfelt love and sympathy to her siblings, Bro. Warren (Slim) Hodel, Gladys Hartwig, and Shirley Baer.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Heather Rassi
Teresa Rowell**

We were thankful to receive the message by two visiting ministers this month, Bro. John Bradle (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL). May each brother receive his just reward for doing his part in the body of believers.

Sis. Pauline Sauder is in our prayers during the recent passing of her husband, Bro. Willis. Our sympathy is also extended to their children, Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam), Bro. Howard Sauder (Sis. Janice), Sis. June Koch (Bro. Dave), all of Tremont; Arthur Sauder (Carol, Rocky Mount, NC) and Sis. Mary Staker (Bro. Ted, Morton, IL). May each feel the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit during times of sorrow.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Kathy Post are rejoicing over their grandson, Aidan Gregory, born June 9 to Bro. Greg and Sis. Missy Post (Goodfield, IL). Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky Sauder are thankful grandparents of Savannah Joy, born on June 22. Her parents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Wendy Sauder (Morton, IL).

Hospitalizations this month included Galen Huette (Bro. Dave and Sis. Susan), Royce Aberle (Bro. Pete and Sis. Debbie), Bro. Bob Sauder (Sis. Elizabeth) and Sis. Lila Moser. May God who knows the need of each one, supply them with healing and health.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Nancy Knepp
Barb Banwart**

We thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Marshall Heinold (Sis. Jan, Ixtlan, Mexico) and Bro. Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield, IL) for their thought-provoking messages this past month.

The annual Sunday School picnic was enjoyed by many on a warm summer day recently. The shady park provided such a nice place for playing games and making memories for the children. Sunday School now will be in recess until late August. It swells our congregation and the singing on Sunday mornings as the children and their teachers assemble with us. We thank the teachers who faithfully impart the Truth of the Word to the next generation.

Convert Kathy Stoller had knee surgery and our Sis. Sue Ruppert spent a few days in the hospital recently. It is nice to have both of them back with us again.

The loss of loved ones brings sorrow to those remaining. Sis. Dolly Schick lost a sister-in-law, Sis. Martha (Moser) Feucht, from Lester, IA. Sis. Lydiann Wyss and Sis. Pearline Streitmatter laid to rest their brother, Bro. Eli Metzger, also from Lester. Many nieces and nephews from Wash-

ington also will miss their Aunt Martha and their Uncle Eli. What a comfort it is to know that they had made preparation and embraced the hope beyond this life.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Amber Steffen
Elizabeth Frauhiger**

With thankful hearts, we lift up three dear souls in prayer as they have turned their backs to the world and bowed their hearts to the Lord in repentance. Luke Frauhiger (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Jenny) and Tyler and Janelle Geels (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joni Schwartz) have each taken this step of faith recently.

Our prayers are also with our dear Bro. Rex Gerber in the passing of his wife, Sis. Lavon. Sis. Lavon spent many years battling cancer and was finally called Home on July 4 at the age of 52. While it seems hard now to say goodbye, we know that we shall be reunited with her in Heaven. Sis. Lavon also left behind one son, Bro. Blare Gerber; one daughter, Audra Claghorn (Dan); one brother, Bro. Lynn Frauhiger (Sis. Jenny); one sister, Luann Fahl (Phil); and one granddaughter, Ashlyn Claghorn.

As we said farewell to our dear Sister this month, we also welcome two new tiny additions to our congregation. Little Georgia Jeannette Leyse was born to Bro. Troy and Sis. Kelly on June 13. She is welcomed home by Makayla and Curtis. Bro. Mike and Sis. Becky Leyse are also thankful for another healthy granddaughter.

July 5 is the birthdate of Bro.

Eric and Sis. Annie Craighead's youngest son, Hutchenson Maxwell. His big brothers are Dylan and Trey. Hutchenson's grateful grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee Reinhard and Bro. Mike and Sis. Kay Craighead (Bluffton North).

Our congregation has also grown as we welcome a new family to worship with us. We welcome Eugene and Elizabeth Krizan and their five children, Miriam, Jesse, Esther, Brian and Caleb, from our sister church in Vista, CA.

We were blessed to have Bro. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North) share the Word with us this month. We are very appreciative of the willingness of our ministering brothers to give of themselves as they do.

Many in our congregation have been dealing with various health issues recently. They include Bro. Bob Aschliman (Sis. Ida), Sis. Dorothy Fiechter, Tony Gerber (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ann), and Bro. Ken Reinhard (Sis. Ann). We lift these dear ones up to the Lord in prayer.

We rejoice with Bro. Earl and Sis. Pat Gerber as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this month. It is very special to witness couples portraying Godly marriages as an example for all of us.

On June 19, Bro. Micah Rauch (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy, Bluffton North) and Sis. Rozanna Grube (Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda) started out on their married life together. We will miss Sis. Rozanna as she joins Bro. Micah attending Bluffton North.

Finally, we also rejoice with Bro. Brandon Geisel (Bro. Chuck

and Sis. Marcia) and Sis. Amber Byerly (Sis. Susan) as they have announced their engagement. Our prayers are with them as they plan for their October wedding and, more importantly, as they plan for a lifetime together walking with the Lord.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Darren Drayer
Tiffani Schladenhauffen**

“Rejoice in the Lord always:
and again I say, Rejoice.”

Philippians 4:4

We rejoiced to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Sis. Jenna Steffen (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay) and Sis. Adrienne Steffen (Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlise). It is so refreshing to hear how the Lord is working in our youth. We pray they will continue to grow in the Lord. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) to help assist in the weekend. Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN) also was here and shared in the afternoon service.

We were thankful to have two weddings this past month. On June 26, Bro. Rob Jolloff (Bro. Bob and Sis. Bev) was united in marriage to Sis. Kristina Warren. Then the following Sunday, Bro. Tyson Campbell (Mike and Sis. Janet, Leo, IN) was wed to Sis. Rebekah Clough (John and Ruth Clough and the late Sis. Cathy Clough). We rejoice for both of these couples as they center their marriage on Christ, and we are thankful to have both couples wor-

shipping with us.

Along with the weddings we were thankful to have two visiting ministers: Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL). We were glad they came to share in the joyous occasion.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan Schwartz had a busy month. Their daughter, Alicia, was united in marriage to Tucker Benedict. They also became second-time grandparents at the birth of their grandson, Jupe Addison. Their son Brad and Vanh Khanhphane are his parents. We pray a blessing on the Schwartz family as their family grows.

Our prayers go out for Sis. Pauline Gerber (Bro. Jerry) as her father, Bro. Roger Baumgartner (Bluffton, IN), was called Home this month.

We had some loved ones spend some time in the hospital this month. They were Sis. Evelyn Meyer, Bro. Bob Gerber (Sis. Bonnie), and Bro. Steve Gerber (Sis. Gayla). We pray for them and their families as they face some uncertainties. May they take comfort in the Lord and just allow Him to do His work.

“Be still, and know that I am God.”

Psalms 46:10

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Barb Huber**

We extend warm greetings from Francesville. Indeed, the weather has been warm and dry and we look for God above for His provision and care of the growing

crops.

We were blessed with an inspiring week of Vacation Bible School once again. Our theme for the week was "Victory in Jesus". We thank the Holy Spirit for His presence in the hearts and talents of our visiting ministers who shared with all present the eternal value of submission to and life in Christ. Bible School is such a wonderful example of our brotherhood working together. We pray that the good word which was shared takes root in many hearts, both believers and unconverted.

"So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."

I Corinthians 3:7

Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy (Vogt) Huber and daughters, Chloe and Salome, are home for a visit from their mission service at our orphanage in Magdalena, Mexico. It is such a blessing to visit with them again and learn of their experiences. The outreach of the orphanage and their dedication there provides a wonderful opportunity for prayer and service to all of us. We are thankful not only for the physical, structural changes that have been accomplished, but, more importantly, we praise God for His provision for the children they are housing and guiding in the love and admonition of the Lord.

Francesville had the privilege of hosting the Indiana Youth Christian Endeavor on Saturday and Sunday, July 16 and 17. Again, it was a blessing to see

Sunday School teachers and our church fellowship unite in hosting this event. Approximately 95 students and 40 plus teachers and spouses attended. God certainly blessed the weekend activities with good weather, safety and evident joy.

Our ministering Bro. John (Sis. Tammy) Baumgartner (Bluffton North, IN) shared the morning sermon on the Christian Endeavor weekend. We thank God and Bro. John for his willing enthusiasm to speak not only to the youth but to all of us about following Jesus.

We are deeply thankful to our loving God for the well-being of young Ethan Getz, son of Jason and Maggie Getz of Lafayette, Indiana, and grandson of our beloved Sis. Doris Getz. He was injured in a car accident but is thankfully recovering at his home.

We praise God for His loving mercy and entreat His continued healing and care for Ethan and his dear family circle.

"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not."

Lamentations 3:22

John 3:16

1. GOD – the greatest One who exhibits true love.
2. SO LOVED – the greatest degree.
3. THE WORLD – the greatest company.
4. THAT HE GAVE – the greatest act.
5. HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON – the greatest gift.
6. THAT WHOSOEVER – the

greatest opportunity.

7. BELIEVETH – the greatest simplicity.
8. IN HIM – the greatest attraction.
9. SHOULD NOT PERISH – the greatest promise.
10. BUT – the greatest difference.
11. HAVE – the greatest certainty.
12. EVERLASTING LIFE – the greatest possession.

—Davies

Beloved readers, what more is there?

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Debbie Anliker
Sandy Lichtle**

We are thankful for the safe return of the group who traveled to Magdalena, Mexico, for a work project. It was a blessing to hear the group share their experiences at the orphanage with the church. How marvelous is God's love and faithfulness!

Our new Sunday School teachers are Bro. Matt Ackerman, Bro. Brian Blume, Bro. Ron Gress, Bro. J.R. Sauder, Sis. Sara Frauhiger, Sis. Carrie Gutwein, Sis. Tiffany Sauder and Sis. Debbie Anliker. Our new Assistant Superintendent is Bro. Aaron Klopfenstein. May they be granted much wisdom and guidance from above as they teach our children.

We rejoice with Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic as two of their children were married in June. On June 11, Emil Baltic and Angie Mitchell (Mike and Teri Mitchell, Clearwater, FL) exchanged their wedding vows in Clearwater, FL. On June 26, Sis. Rachel Baltic (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Casey

Banks (Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy Banks, Columbus, OH) were joined in marriage in Rittman, OH. We wish both couples God's richest blessings upon their unions.

We also rejoice with Bro. Scott Levy (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue) and Sis. Kate Ringger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Donna, Gridley, IL) as they were united as one in the Lord on July 10 in Gridley. We wish them God's blessings as they make their home here in Indy.

Daniel Bollier (Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie) has answered the Lord's call and is seeking Him in repentance. Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic's son, Aaron Baltic (Rittman, OH), has begun a new life in the Lord. Our prayers are with these two souls as they seek to serve the Master and do His will.

We sincerely welcome Bro. Adam, Sis. Jill, and Madelyn Merkle (Washington, D.C.), Bro. Peter and Sis. Penny Schroeder (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Mitch Schlatter (Latty, OH) to our congregation.

We were blessed to hear the Word brought forth by the visiting ministers this month. We appreciate the servant hearts of our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), Bro. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH).

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Shirley Frank
Cathy Nuest

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath

blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:"

Ephesians 1:3

Once again we were privileged to sit in heavenly places when we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of our new brother, Dan Nuest (Sis. Cathy). We rejoice with our loved ones and are thankful that the door of grace is still open to those seeking their soul salvation. We thank Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) for coming and assisting Elder Bro. Curt. Other ministering brethren here for the weekend included Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Luke Frank (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Ted Steffen (Alto, MI). We thank them for speaking the Word of God to us and our children in Sunday School.

Bro. Kent Mogler and Bro. Dewayne Dill (both of Minneapolis, MN) also shared a weekend with us. May the Lord bless all those who labor on our behalf.

Our Sunday School election was recently held and Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Wettstein were selected to fill the vacancies left by those who have completed their terms. We would like to thank those who have faithfully carried out their duties in teaching our children and we pray for those going in that they will feel a blessing and that they will even learn while they are preparing their lessons.

There will be many of our brethren who will soon be traveling to the Brotherhood Conference in Minnesota. We pray that

each one will have a safe journey. We pray especially for our Elder brothers that the Holy Spirit will guide their discussions and their decisions that they make concerning our Brotherhood. For Satan is willing to wait on our grandchildren if he can get us to make an unwise choice that lead to their abandonment of the faith.

INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter

Our VBS picnic and program was held the evening of June 24. The children were very excited to present what they had learned that week.

Louis Garman (Sis. Ruth) had knee surgery. He, as well as Bro. Pete Maxfield, have made significant recovery and able to return to church services.

Sis. Sandy Bertsch hopes to move the end of July from the assisted living at The Cedars to a duplex. Her new address is: 14420 Sunrise Ct, Leo, IN 46765.

On July 3, visiting ministers, Bro. Justin Koch and family (Washington, IL) and Bro. Darren Plattner and family (Champaign, IL) were with us. We were reminded of our responsibility to tithe, both time and material goods. "We are redeemed." Both Brothers were inspired to exhort us to glorify God and His Son, Jesus Christ, by obedience and being a light of His Majesty.

July 16, Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL) presented a seminar on evangelism. He stayed over for Sunday and was joined on the pulpit by Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL).

We were greatly blessed and reminded to love one another which can only be accomplished through Jesus.

We welcome Bro. Bryce and Sis. Erin Drayer who have joined our fellowship since their marriage. We also welcome Bro. Andrew Gerber who has come to serve at Gateway Woods.

Leah Mae arrived July 17 to bless the home of Bro. Alex and Sis. Lorelei Gutwein. She has two sisters, Megan and Grace. Her grandparents are Bro. Edison and Sis. Chrisann Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Roberta Broquard (Fairbury, IL). Blessings and congratulations to all.

“...what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Mark 8:36-37

The Value of a Soul

What are your possessions you value today?

They are many, I am sure it is true;

But what do you value most highly of all?

Just what is most precious to you?

The riches of earth you are treasuring now –

These comforts will pass on with time;

So why would one ever exchange riches here

For his God-given soul so sublime?

Just what would a man e'er exchange for his soul?

O why would he barter it now?

For riches of earth, or pleasures of

sin?

For these will some day show him how.

In the end, as he faces his Maker again

The earth and its riches then past,
Without Jesus to cleanse his own soul

He has finally lost it at last.

With seeking God first, and His righteousness

Is His promise He'll “add unto you”

All things that are needful for serving Him here,

God asks that our values be true.

—*Nellie B. Weber*

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Carlton Beer
Carol Haab**

Greetings to everyone in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are so thankful for the many visitors that have assembled with us as they vacation in our area. It is so uplifting to have a full assembly and to fellowship with those of like mind and faith. Among our visitors this month we were blessed to have our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN). We thank them for their willingness to share the Word with us.

Delicious food and wonderful fellowship were enjoyed by many of our congregation at our annual church picnic. We appreciate those responsible for organizing it.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Kate Price (Bro. Glenn) at the passing of her sister, Hilda Miller. May God bring her comfort in this loss.

Bethany Wuthrich (Bro. Alan and Kathy) and John Premetz were united in marriage on June 24. May God richly bless them as they begin this journey.

Bro. Vince and Sis. Tessa Schlatter were blessed with a baby boy on July 20. Big brothers, Parker and Reese, are thrilled to have Jace Rudy join their family.

It hardly seems possible that school will be starting soon. May we remember to pray for our children as they begin a new year, especially those leaving home to attend college. We pray they feel God's love and guidance.

The Elder Conference will be past by the time this is published, but we still encourage everyone to pray for peace within the brotherhood. Let us continue to pray for our Elder brethren. May they be filled with wisdom from God, so they can continue to make decisions to preserve our faith until the Lord comes again. We also want to thank the brethren of the Morris, MN, congregation for all of their efforts and love in hosting the Conference.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler
Tammy Waibel**

We greet you in Christian love one and all!

This month's visiting ministers were: Bro. Ken Weerts (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL), Bro. Nate Lehman (Sis. Yvonne, Denver, CO) and Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA). Thank you, brothers and families, for your time to come

and share with us the Lord's Word.

May we all rejoice with Bro. Mark and Sis. Benita Bahler as they announce the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Rachel Bahler, to Bro. Merle Stoller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola, Eureka, IL). Lord willing, they are planning a September 18 wedding.

The annual Sunday School Picnic was on the 26th of June. We want to thank the teachers going out of Sunday school and let's all add prayers to those going in. The teachers going in are: Sis. Jill Hartter (Bro. Chris) for the Pre-school and Kindergarten class, Bro. Jeremy Scheitlin (Sis. Amanda) for the 3rd - 5th class and Bro. Tim Bahler (Sis. Lynnette) for the Bible Class.

On July 13, Sis. Velma Wilson at age 87, went to her heavenly resting place to be with her Father. She was married to Loren Wilson for 60 years. He went home in January 1998. Here she leaves four sisters and two brothers who are: Sis. Evelyn Lehman (Altadena, CA), Sis. Lois Bahler (Bro. Edwin), Carolyn Bahler (Ray) and Marge Stoller (Verlin), both of Fort Wayne, IN, Wally Frey (Adaline) and Lloyd (Thelma) Frey, both of Remington, IN. Two sisters preceded her in death. Thank you to Dale and Marcella Tyler for caring for Velma in her final years. It was a great comfort just knowing she was well cared for.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Melissa Gerst

Stacey Feller

Sis. Kara Beebe has recently graduated with a degree in the field of occupational therapy. She was temporarily relocated to Indianapolis for an internship, and we are glad to have her back in our congregation. We wish her the blessings of the Lord and much fulfillment as she assists others in this way.

Our congregation extends sympathy to Ray and Rosemary Piper in the passing of Ray's mother, Ethel Piper, of North Manchester, IN. She had a very full life, and we are happy she can pass on into her heavenly home. Our prayers have been with Ray and Rosemary as this came right at a time of home transition for them, and they were less than settled for quite some time.

We extend our thanks and appreciation to Bro. Walt Rager and his family from Toledo, OH, for spending a day with us and sharing in the ministry.

As our children begin a new school year, may we intreat the Lord's hand of protection be upon them in spiritual, physical, and emotional situations.

"He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust; his truth shall be thy shield and buckler."

Psalm 91:4

INDIANA VALPARAISO

Ed Lester

Greetings to everyone!

Recently I was afforded the op-

portunity to go back to school. You are expected to have certain skills that you employ to solve problems. Most of these skills are academic and build upon previous skills taught to us throughout our life. Our Christian skills, the fruits of the Spirit, are also learned. When I opened my heart to God, these spiritual gifts didn't present themselves overnight. I have to work at them. Praying a lot with God's grace helps. Also, when we gather around God's Word, blessings are sure to follow. By nature, man is evil and carnal, and I struggle with the fruits sometimes. Keeping ourselves focused on the Word by reading and studying helps us exhibit better fruits. Pretty soon, the fruits will be second nature; building upon previous lessons.

Attending church willingly is one way to demonstrate your love for the Lord. Attending church with an open heart and a willingness to serve is a blessing. Don't come to church because you have to, or because your friends go there. Come to church because you want to worship God with all your heart.

Our Sunday school teachers have revealed their love for Christ this past month. Yes, I am talking about Vacation Bible School. This year's topic, "Decision making: What does God say about...?" Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton, IN) talked about whom we should serve and why. Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL) offered some insight into our education and occupation. Also, Bro. Herbie Knochel traveled all the way from Phoenix, AZ, to offer

some thoughts on marriage. We enjoyed wonderful singing from the Francesville quartet. The children benefited as well. We had a lot of activities for them centered on Christ and our faith. We want to thank all of the Sunday school teachers for their hard work and willingness to make Vacation Bible School a special time.

I know there are a lot of ailments within our churches. Some of them are physical and others are spiritual. But, when one of our body is ill, all feel their pain. Bro. Brady Moser (Bro. Andy Moser and Sis. Diane) is dealing with the return of cancer. We hope you will join us in praying for God's healing hand in this matter.

A special breakfast was hosted for our graduating seniors at the home of Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie Bucher. Dustin Bucher (Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie), Zack Miller (Bro. Jeff and Janet), and Anthony Meiss (Bro. Roland and Sis. Jo) were the special guests.

We would like to thank Bro. Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte), for sharing God's Word with us. Also, Bro. Ron Koehl (Sis. Carol) ministered to us; thank you.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Diana Houston
Nettie Haab**

“And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

Psalm 1:3

We are so thankful for three souls that have surrendered to Christ: Nick Carson, Katie Widmer and Cameron Walder. Parents are Dennis and Diane Carson, Bro. Neal and Sis. Kris Widmer, Bro. Russ and Sis. Darlene Walder. We rejoice with them and their families.

We are thankful to have Bro. Stuart and Sis. Alivia Gutwein and their little baby Ava joining us for fellowship as they now reside in Lafayette. Also, Bro. Makoto Inoue joins us making his home in Lafayette and taken employment near by.

As people join us, they also leave and we will miss Krystal Tyler as she goes to Arizona for several years furthering her education.

We would like to keep in prayer Rob and Kristin Meister and family as she is on bed rest through her pregnancy.

God performs miracles and praise be to God for sparing the life of Ethan Getz, Jason and Maggie Getz's little boy. It was said in one of the messages how it is God that determines whether or not we take our next breath, meaning we are not in control of our lives, but only Him.

Our visiting minister was Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN). We thank them for coming and sharing the Word.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Elaine Bahler
Lisa Furrer**

Believing the Lord hath led them to this day, Bro. Seth Beer and Sis. Brandy Schwab ex-

changed their wedding vows on June 26. Parents are Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy Schwab and Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie Beer (Leo, IN). Rejoicing with them and having the privilege of pronouncing the couple as husband and wife was Sis. Brandy's grandfather, retired Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Sis. Marcella, Francesville, IN). Also sharing in their joy and sharing God's Word was Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN), Bro. Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Phoenix, AZ), and Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN). May God's blessings continue to rest upon this dear couple as they settle in their home in Phoenix, AZ.

Thanks be to God and to those visiting ministers who blessed us with His Word this month: Bro. Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty, OH), Bro. Nate Lehman (Sis. Yvonne, Denver, CO), and Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN).

We rejoice with Phillip and Sasha Kyburz on the birth of their daughter, Gracie Elizabeth, on July 17. Also rejoicing are her siblings, Trenton, Hunter, Calista, and Steven, as well as grandparents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy Kyburz.

**IOWA, BURLINGTON
Brenda Schulz
Laurie Schulz**

This past month, Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) shared God's Word with us. We appreciate his efforts; may God bless him.

Our prayers continue for Bro. Earl Massner (Sis. Ada) who is re-

ceiving treatment in Quincy, IL.

Many of us traveled to West Bend for the wedding of Bro. Jordan and Sis. Heidi Knapp. Their parents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna Knapp (Burlington, IA) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr (West Bend, IA). It was a blessed weekend. May God continue to guide them in their life together.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

Our small flock has been given many reasons to rejoice this past month.

We rejoice with Sis. Sharla Schneider (Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue) and Bro. Aaron Frank (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy, Oakville) as their engagement was made known on July 10. May God be their guide as they consider plans for their wedding and marriage.

We are also rejoicing with the addition of a new family to our area, Bro. Phil and Sis. Charlotte and Lisa, Molly, Luke and Laura Waldbeser (formerly of Cissna Park, IL). May they feel our love as we welcome them into our congregation.

On the weekend of July 16-17, we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of our two new brothers in Christ, Wade Halverson (Roger and Sharlene) and Ben Frieden (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan). Our hearts are filled with thanksgiving.

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

While we appreciate our home ministers, we rejoice when visiting ministers come into our midst and avail themselves in God's service. This past month we have welcomed Bros. Lee Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN), and Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandy, Morris, MN) and Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA). May God grant them divine strength and grace to be faithful in their calling of furthering the Word of God to the hearts of men, women and children in this very troubled and sinful world.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Willa Clark

In Matthew 13 we read the parable of the sower, "But other seed fell on good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

What if the seed planted in my heart or yours on Sunday morning brought forth thirtyfold, sixtyfold or even one hundredfold? What if the seed planted in the hearts of 100 people in your congregation on Sunday each produced one hundredfold throughout the week—what a wonderful, Godly world this could be!

We have had the Word of God sown in our hearts by visiting Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Gerald Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) and our own Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield- Pulaski). Our prayer is that the seed would fall on good

ground and be cultivated to bring forth an abundant harvest.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer

We thank Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL) for his assistance on the pulpit recently.

Rachel Reker (Bro. Roger and Sis. Rhonda) and John Toyne (Jim and Kayla) are engaged to be married. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare for their December wedding and their life together.

We are very thankful for the volunteers that have been willing to help with our church project. The concrete work is complete and the siding and stone work is progressing well. We are also thankful that despite a minor accident in the beginning, the brother that was injured is healing well and would appreciate our continued prayers.

IOWA, LESTER
Dawn Knobloch
Dawn Metzger

There are many in our congregation mourning the loss of a loved one from their family circles. On June 23, Bro. Lawrence Wulf was relieved of his pain and suffering when he was taken to his eternal rest. Surviving Bro. Lawrence are three sisters, Sis. Amelia Roeman, Leah (Dick) Doorneweerd and Mildred (Virgil) Sauder, and a brother, Bro. Bill (Leona) Wulf, along with many nieces and nephews. Sis. Martha Feucht passed away on July 2. We extend our sympathy to her family at her passing. Surviv-

ing her are her children, Mary Lou Schact, Dale (Jennifer) Feucht, Gary (Donna) Feucht, Laura (Paul) Pelkola, LeAnn (Tom) Ransom, Donna Kruger, Rosella Norgaard, Lyle (Emily) Feucht and Loren Feucht. Also mourning Sis. Martha's passing are sisters, Sis. Emma (Noah) Gerber and Sis. Minnie Kussatz, and brothers, Bro. Chris (Marion) Moser and Bro. Bill (Joyce) Moser.

Our Bro. Eli Metzger was called Home on July 13 after a sudden illness. Grieving his loss is his wife, Sis. Alice Metzger, along with their children, Sis. Cindy (Bro. Bob) Leuthold, Bro. Paul (Sis. Delores) Metzger, Bro. Bruce (Sis. Harriet) Metzger, Jack (Sue Ellen) Metzger and Joe (Kristi) Metzger and their families. Also surviving Bro. Eli are two brothers, Bro. Elmer (Sis. Mariann) and Roy (Sis. Evelyn) Metzger, and four sisters, Sis. Emma Meyer, Sis. Freida (Bro. Andy) Mogler, Sis. Lydiann (Bro. Carl) Wyss and Sis. Pearlina Streitmatter.

We are so thankful God is in control and it was evident when Katie Metzger answered the call to repentance the day before her grandfather, Bro. Eli, became ill. Our prayers are with Katie as she embarks upon her walk with the Lord. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Harriet Metzger are her parents.

On June 25, Melinda Steen and Joshua Moser were united in marriage. We wish God's blessings upon them as they start their married life together.

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), Bro. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA), Bro.

Rex Freiden (Lamar, MO), Bro. Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR), Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN). We do realize some of these ministers came for a funeral of a loved one, but we do appreciate their sharing God's Word with us while they were here.

We enjoyed a blessed weekend on July 2 and 3 as Sis. Maria Warner (Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue), Bro. Chad DeSmet (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley) and Sis. Andrea Knobloch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn) shared their testimonies with us. May they always seek God's grace and will in their new life. Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) assisted our Elder throughout the weekend. We trust God will bless them for their many labors of love.

We have dear ones in our congregation that are suffering bodily ailments and in need of prayer. Hospitalized this past month were Tedd (Sis. Diane) Larson, Louise (John) Tolvstad, Adam Kellenberger (Bro. Verlyn and Sis. Linda), Sarah Feucht, and Taryn Besonen (Brant and Samantha). We are thankful that Bro. Larry Leuthold (Sis. Mardi) escaped major injuries after being involved in a bad traffic accident.

We extend belated congratulations to Monica Wulf in her completion of her college degree. She is the daughter of Bro. Arnie and Sis. Myra Wulf.

Bro. Monty and Sis. Bethany Van Wyhe have felt it is the Lord's will to move back to the Lester area from Cissna Park, IL. Bro. Monty grew up in our congrega-

tion. We welcome Bro. Monty, Sis. Bethany, Levi and Lydia to our fellowship.

Lonn, Jammie, Michael and Macy Kellenberger welcomed Maden Jay into their family on June 29. We congratulate them on their special addition. Bro. Verlyn and Sis. Linda Kellenberger are his grandparents.

Note of Thanks:

We want to express a thank you to everyone who helped us through the sickness and death of our brother and uncle, Bro. Lawrence Wulf. All acts of kindness were greatly appreciated. In lieu of thank yous, a memorial will be given to Lyon County Hospice.

The family of Bro. Lawrence Wulf

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

We have many reasons to rejoice this past month.

On June 19, we witnessed the baptisms of our new brother and sister, Reilly Wagenbach (Bro. Colin and Sis. Barb) and Brittny Wagenbach (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Monti). Our prayer is that many more would follow the path they have chosen. We appreciated the help of Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO).

The wedding day of Bro. Greg Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice, West Bend, IA) to Sis. Denise Lanz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet) commenced on July 10. Helping with this special day were Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend,

IA) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX). We will miss Sis. Denise, but are confident she will bloom where she is planted.

On the day of the wedding, we had an engagement announcement. The betrothal of Bro. Aaron Frank (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Sharla Schneider (Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue, Elgin, IA) was made known.

We want to express our sympathy and prayers to Sis. Kim Massner (Bro. Todd) in the passing of her dear father, Bro. Alfred (Al) Knobloch (Sis. Lucy) of Lester, IA. May the Lord be their constant comfort and stay.

Note of Thanks:

No words can adequately convey the deep gratitude we have for each of you who shared in the loss of our dear husband, dad and grandpa. He would have felt so unworthy of and overwhelmed by the tremendous love and compassion shown to us and especially all of the prayers offered on our behalf. Every deed, card, caring word spoken, food and memorial gift will long be remembered. Though Erv's physical suffering was greater than many realized, we can be thankful he was called Home before it became yet greater. May our Lord richly bless each one of you for your acts of kindness.

The family of Bro. Ervin Marti

**IOWA
BLOOMFIELD/PULASKI
Barbara Schock**

Greetings in our Savior's name! In the past month, we were

blessed with visiting ministers. Bro. Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose, Smithville), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago), and Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove) were all here the weekend of June 19. We thank these brothers for allowing themselves to be used on our behalf.

This summer, we've enjoyed the blessings of families vacationing or meeting loved ones in our area, or just stopping through to worship and fellowship with us. We extend an invitation to anyone who may need a place to meet their family, or a place to worship while on vacation, to use either Bloomfield or Garden Grove as a place to stop.

Someone once shared an analogy of life with me. Around this time of year is when we start bean walking. This was their view of beanwalking:

At the beginning, the field is weedy, but as you go, you pull out the weeds. Sometimes, you stop to help others and sometimes you need help of the other bean walkers. You keep going until you reach the end of the field. Then you can look back and see how well you did. Perhaps you missed a weed or two. Maybe a lot. Maybe there was a whole patch.

The bean field is life. Throughout your entire life, you are faced with tests and trials, the weeds in the beans. There are times when you encourage others when they are in a weedy patch. Other times, others will help you through. At the end of life, you can look back to see what you missed, what you should have done. Hopefully, your field will be a pretty clean field, not

a hopelessly weedy one with little hope of a clean crop.

As August approaches, the General Conference does also. May we pray for our Elders as they meet together during the week, and then when they speak to us as a brotherhood.

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

A little boy is a welcome addition to the family of Bro. Dave and Sis. Missy Zaugg. Ethan Oscar was born on June 21. Colton, Dylan, Anna, and Abigail are happy with their brother along with his grandparents, Bro. Martin and Sis. Doris Zaugg and Mr. and Mrs. Don Banwart.

Many visitors have assembled with us this past month. Among them have been several ministering brothers: Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield-Pulaski, IA). We want to thank them again for their willingness to speak.

Two new households have been established in our church family. Bro. Jordan Knapp (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna, Burlington, IA) and Sis. Heidi Fehr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon) were married on June 26. On July 10, Bro. Greg Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice) and Sis. Denise Lanz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet, Oakville, IA) were married in Oakville. We wish both couples much love, peace, and contentment in their lives together.

We will miss Miriam Frieden, Stephanie Reker and Sis. Kris

Banwart and boys as each take up residence in new areas. We wish them each God's nearness and protection.

Sis. Helen Zaugg has been hospitalized this passed month. May God comfort and heal the sick.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to Joan Traub and her family at the loss of her son, Jerry.

As we approach the anniversary of September 11, we recall the events of the day and the days to follow and remember how our countrymen united in prayer and in song for the well-being and safety of our land and it's people. May the song, "God Bless America" continue to ring in our hearts. Let us prize our freedoms and continue to pray for the purifying of our homeland, America.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

II Chronicles 7:14

JAPAN, TOKYO **Marie Inoue**

Our rainy season is now finished, and we are enjoying the bright days of summer. We do hope the rice and fruit farmers received sufficient rain for their crops to mature.

The Sunday School children who had good attendance enjoyed an outing and overnight stay at the church on June 25-26th. The weather was perfect for hiking and playing in the mountain

stream. Sis. Michelle Steidl could be with us for this activity, and we so appreciated her help and example in our church circle while she was here assisting in the Klaus home. She has now returned to her home church of Akron, Ohio.

Have you ever had only a day or so to decide what the will of Lord would be in a situation? A church family from Bluffton had to do just that last year as they took in an exchange student from Japan on a day's notice. They had not signed up to take on a student, so were surprised to receive a phone call asking this favor of them. The student would probably be sent back to Japan if they declined the request. After some time in prayer and reading God's Word and considering another soul who could be exposed to salvation, they decided to accept him. This past Sunday this young boy, after a 2 hour ride on the train, visited our assembly along with his father. He smiled as he spoke of the family and the Bluffton church and the many experiences he had. The family also gained from this experience as they tried to provide for his needs. Due to the this student's language skills, there were no doubt times of frustration. May God bless this family for their many efforts and time, let alone their efforts to share the Gospel with him.

The above situation is an example of what Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart was no doubt referring to when he commented at the end of the Western World Relief meeting held in Cissna Park, IL, this year. The taped message mentioned that often the names of the chairmen, Elders, or ministers are of-

ten pushed in the forefront, but that the real work and mission of World Relief is done by local brethren as they prepare bandages, school kits, haul grain, do food packaging, and even show hospitality to others.

Another visitor with us last Sunday was Bro. Akihiro Ito of Tremont, IL. We so appreciated his help in our services and wish he and Sis. Carrie Sauder the Lord's richest blessings as they unite as one this coming Sunday.

Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana Klaus and family are also spending time in the states enjoying their families and the brotherhood.

KANSAS, BERN **Sheri Edelman** **Rita Menold**

On June 24, Sis. Stella Moser was laid to rest. Our prayers are with her husband, Bro. Rueben; their son and his wife, Jim and Ann, and their daughter, Karen, and husband, Bob Chitwood, of Casa Grande, Arizona. Our church was blessed by her faithful attendance and the duties she fulfilled while she was able. We have the faith to believe she is at peace in heaven and are thankful for that!

Our annual Sunday school picnic was held on July 17. Although the weather was very hot and humid, we all enjoyed the blessings of fellowshiping together!

Sis. Kay Meyer (Bro. Steve) was our hospital patient this month. We wish her a speedy and complete recovery!

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT**Ethel Smith**

Our love and greetings in Christ Jesus, a love that comes only from knowing Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.

AND THE RAINS CAME! We were blest this morning of July 18 with a beautiful rain. It has been ten very hot days here in Ft Scott with the crops very much in need of a drink of water, and we are just very thankful for this nice rainfall.

June 26, the announcement of the engagement and approaching marriage of Sis. Janelle Sinn (Kansas City, MO), daughter of Sis. Carol and John Sinn, to Bro. Chris Wuthrich, Ft. Scott, son of Sis. Valerie Wuthrich, Roanoke, IL, and Bill Wuthrich, Goodfield, IL. Their wedding date will be October 9. We are so happy for them and feel very blest that they will be a part of our little flock.

We are also happy to welcome Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gloria Fischer and family, Joseph, Mary, Noah and Benjamin, from Sarasota, FL, to our Ft. Scott congregation. It is a very special joy to a small church when we can add a family to our flock. Our cup runneth over!

Our dear Sis. Lucille Schurter has recently spent some time in the hospital. She passed out during the morning service, June 25, and was taken by ambulance to Mercy Hospital. The service was paused and everyone was asked to have a silent prayer. She is doing quite well now. She lives alone but her home is next door to her sister, Sis. Mabel Springer, Bro. Lon and Sis. Deb Banwart. She is blest to have good family care and support.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL), Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL). We are thankful for the Word preached in all truth and sincerity and the blessing of meeting some of these visitors whom have never been to Ft Scott. One of the brothers reminded us that all mankind has a void or vacancy, which can only be filled through Jesus Christ's shed blood. We are not covered under an umbrella policy for salvation, nor can we ride in on someone's coattails. It is an individual choice.

We sincerely pray for God's presence and guidance through the Word and the Holy Spirit as our Elder body and ministers meet for the coming Conference in August.

"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

**KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Eileen Bahr**

How spoiled we are! As I attempt to write, we are waiting on a service man to come and fix our central air. At 10:30 a.m. the indoor temperature is 82 with hu-

midity 78. High 90's predicted for this week ... I don't like to sweat! I know we are spoiled when I recall as a young newly married bride in the summer of 1954, there was a drought in Kansas. There was no air conditioning in homes or cars. The temperatures stayed in the 100's and one week it reached 117 degrees. The grasshoppers stripped the corn leaving just the stalk. When the back of my dress stuck to the varnished church bench, I didn't know what to believe when they said it wasn't "normal" weather. I remember sitting in our kitchen with my feet in a pan of water writing wedding thank you notes wondering "what am I doing here?" Then the answer came: "You know it's the Lord's will." Back in Elgin, IL, there was a visiting minister on Sunday evening who seemed to be talking directly to me with the story of Isaac and Rebecca. The next day I got a call from our Elder ... it has been a blessed 51 years.

Bros. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) and Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS) came home for Father's Day and blessed us with inspired messages.

On July 5 Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene received the good news of a baby granddaughter, Claire Leann Metzger (Bro. Cory and Sis. Jodi).

This past weekend was a special treat when a group from Smithville, Rittman and Junction, OH, accompanied ministering Bro. Mark Steiner. Also a family from Forrest on their way to Mexico.

KANSAS, SABETHA**Dawn Strahm****Rebekah Beyer**

We have once again been blessed with several visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bro. Mark Bahr and Bro. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI) both brought forth the Holy Word to us. Bro. Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH) also ministered to our congregation. May the Lord continue to be near these brethren as they work in His vineyard.

Kellen Robert Wenger was born June 29 to Dan and Cheryl Wenger. He is welcomed home by his sisters, Lexi and Kirsten. Grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wenger and Phil and Alice McClain (Goff). Annie Marie Edelman was born on June 29 to Bro. Steven and Sis. Kelly Edelman. Siblings, Maddie and Ethan, are happy to have a new sister. Grandparents are Gene and Judy Edelman (Sabetha) and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter. All were thankful for the safe arrival of these two dear babies.

Our thoughts are with Sis. Arleta Wenger and Sis. Lois Grimm who were both recently hospitalized for surgery. May we remember them in our prayers and hope for a speedy recovery.

New Sunday School teachers for the upcoming term have been announced. Brothers Kevin Grimm and Brian Plattner and Sisters Carrie Grimm, Marci Grimm, and Jean Wenger will be taking these responsibilities. They need our prayers also as they sow seeds in the hearts of our children.

KANSAS, WICHITA**Emma Miller**

Bro. Cory and Sis. Jodi Metzger are the parents of newly born Claire Leann. Little Claire, born July 5, is a source of pride and wonderment to her brothers, Harrison and Landon. Also, she has the distinction of being the first baby girl born to a church family since 1985. Thankfully, we have girls who moved here with their families. We treasure them as we treasure Claire.

Sunday School classes are discontinued for six weeks and will resume in mid August. During this time many of our children and the teachers can enjoy vacations without the problem of finding substitutes. It is our custom in Wichita to have the Sunday School students sit in the front pews at the beginning of the morning song service and then are dismissed to go to their classes. Usually one of the students asks that we sing "Jesus Loves Me". The entire group enters into the singing with gusto. For myself, I find the words to the song just as meaningful to me as it seems to be for the children.

I was given the following thank you note with the instructions to see that it was sent in to the Silver Lining. It reads as follows: "I am submitting my thank you to Sis. Emma for giving her beautiful old stained glass windows to be installed in our sanctuary. These windows came from Bro. Godfrey's and her house and are 100 years old, having laid in their attic for years. Now they've been brought out for us to enjoy. I like to think of their reminding us that we "should show forth the praises

of Him who hath called us out of darkness into His marvelous light." (I Peter 2:9). One of the congregation.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**Barb Huber**

"Come and see the works of God: He is terrible in His doing toward the children of men."

Psalm 66:5

Summer vacations have brought many visitors and we have been richly blessed by this opportunity of fellowship. The beauty of God's handiwork was the setting for our June 29 mid-week service in the midst of some beautiful surrounding mountains. Families from Rockville, CT; Akron, OH; Fairbury and Forrest, IL; and Portland, OR; spent the week camping at DH Resorts near Flemingsburg. They so graciously invited us to join them for a deliciously grilled meal which resulted in an evening of fellowship and singing. We had a blessed time of spiritual refreshment and would like to thank all the families who made this possible.

Other visitors worshipping with us during the past month were represented from the following churches: Goodfield, IL; Bluffton, LaCrosse, and Leo, IN; Junction and Smithville, OH. Your Christian fellowship is always a blessing to our small church.

We want to thank all our visiting ministers, Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Oakville, IA), Bro. Gary

Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL), Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Deb, Princeville, IL), for their support and inspiration to us through God's Word. May the Lord bless you for your many efforts and faithfulness in the service of our dear Lord.

Now as summer vacation ends and many students are returning to school, we are reminded of the words of Solomon (Proverbs 1:5): "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels." Just as students increase their knowledge as they study, we should be reminded to continue to strive toward wisdom by studying God's Word to increase our knowledge of Him.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."

II Timothy 2:15

We again want to extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in our area or travelling 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).

MEXICO, IXTLAN
Claudia Gonzalez

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

faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22,23

Greetings and love dear ones! How thankful we are to know that our Heavenly Father's mercy is with each one of us. It's new every morning.

As the Master calls for reapers, our dear Sis. Gloria Gonzalez left for Magdalena on June 21 to help in God's vineyard, Casa Vida y Esperanza. May the Lord give her wisdom and grace to instruct the little ones in His ways. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

We rejoice with Sis. Pauly Angelito (Morelia) whose engagement to Bro. Todd Schambach (Elgin, IL) was announced on June 26. Our prayer is that the Lord guide and bless them as they are planning to live the rest of their lives together in love.

Meet Sis. Lidia Rosas Tinajera:

My name is Lidia and I am 55 years old. My husband, Ramon, and I have 10 children and many grandchildren. I used to attend mass regularly but that didn't help me to become a better person. My sister who lives in the U.S. visited me and gave me a Bible. She encouraged me to pray that the Lord would heal the sores on my legs. After praying, I was healed and began attending her church in Zamora. This lasted about five weeks and then a sister from our church invited me to church. I liked it, especially the singing, but I also noticed how they treated each other. I continued to attend and after a period of time I re-

pented because I recognized I was a sinner and I knew God wanted the best for me. At first I had problems with those who didn't want me to go, but later that changed. I talked with the people I was at odds with and made peace.

Now my desire is that all my family come to church since life outside of the Lord has no meaning. My prayer is that He will give them a new heart, a heart of flesh, and take away their stony heart. (Ez. 36:26). I am thankful to have a church close by and that they send a van to pick us up. (Lidia was baptized January 18, 2004.)

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Terri Huber
Rose Watson

Our VBS week was a success, thanks to all that helped in planning and volunteering their time. The children really enjoyed learning about the different "seeds" and the songs. Also, we would like to thank our Wednesday night speaker, Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN).

We would like to thank our visiting ministers and their families for their service in the past month. Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Bro. Matthew and Sis. Deanna Steffen (Princeville, IL), Bro. Ben and Sis. Juanita Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bro. John and Sis. Peggy Jackson (Bay City, MI).

We would like to send our congratulations and prayers to Luke and Ruthanne Grummit (Bro. Tom and Sis. Michele Oesch) as they begin a new journey together in marriage. Congratulations to

Ryan and Summer Stephen (Bro. Ron and Sis. Penny Erisman, thankful grandparents) as they bring their second miracle into this world. Baby boy, Cade, also has a big sister just waiting to play with him.

Also, we would like to give a BIG welcome back to Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan Schrenk as they have decided to make permanent summer living in Dutton, MI, as they will be congregating with us here at Alto. We are so pleased to have them back.

“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.”

Exodus 20:12

Wishing God's blessings to Bro. Lloyd Blough (Sis. Eloise) on his 90th birthday this month.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

I must needs go home by the way
of the cross,
There's no other way but this;
I shall ne're get sight of the Gates
of Light,
If the way of the cross I miss.

Hymns of Zion #167

Vacation Bible School was June 20-24. We are thankful that five visiting ministers were able to come and share about “The Road to Eternal Life (Salvation).” Bro. Edwin Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS), Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA), Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo,

IN), Bro. Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener, ON) and Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA) clearly explained the path we must take if we wish to inherit the kingdom of Heaven.

Over the past month, the Bay City congregation was blessed with visiting ministers in addition to those who came for Vacation Bible School. Our gratitude goes out to Bro. David Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH) for their willingness to serve us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those from our congregation who have spent time in the hospital this past month. They are Sis. Alice Eisenman, Sis. Eleanor Munsel, Sis. Barb Knochel, Bro. Winsor Mosher, Sis. Mabelle Wackerle and Bro. Wallace Wackerle (Sis. Alvina). We pray that the Lord continues to shower on each His healing powers.

May Bro. Sam (Sis. Lorraine) Wackerle be comforted in the death of his sister, Josephine Forster.

As we approach the new school year, our prayer is that our children can be a light and example to those in the world around them and that the Lord will continue to watch over them and support them in all the situations that they encounter.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Tiffany Wieland
Mary Weigele

In Psalms 66, verses 1 and 2 we are encouraged to “Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands; Sing forth the honour of his name:

make his praise glorious.” With much gratitude, the Detroit Apostolic Choir hosted our 17th annual benefit for the Woodhaven Retirement Community on July 17. It was an opportunity for our choir, as well as other vocal groups, to sing praises to God and enjoy many hours of fellowship with all who visited us this day. The choir also hosted the accompanying meal and wish to thank all who made the day such a blessing. We were especially appreciative to have Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol) here for the day to share in the ministry. Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI), and Bro. Greg Steiglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN). We thank all of you for visiting us.

June 27 – 31 was the date for Vacation Bible School. The theme for this year was “Seeking Godly direction and making wise choices”. VBS was very well attended and we extend a special thanks to those who helped make the week a success. On Friday evening, a Church picnic was enjoyed by many and the children presented a program to demonstrate what they learned during the week.

We wish to extend our sympathies to the family of Bro. Doug Maibach and his wife, Carole, in the death of her grandmother, Rowena Basford.

We are grateful that God tempers sorrow with joy! We congratulate Kristen Rauhe and Tom Siver as they were married on July 16. Kristen's parents are Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay from our Detroit congregation. Tom's parents

are James Siver and Carol Colville. We pray that God will bless Kristen and Tom as they begin their lives together.

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
LaRae Dill**

Summer in Minnesota always brings a number of outdoor picnics and activities. Recently we've enjoyed the Minneapolis - Winthrop annual potluck held at Baylor Regional Park. The Sunday School picnic was hosted at Bro. Ted and Sis. Kelly Schmidt's home this year. This event brings the Sunday school year to a close. July brought our annual Invite-A-Friend weekend. We certainly enjoyed a full sanctuary and inspiring singing and messages on Sunday. Visiting ministers that day were Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), and Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN).

Family gatherings, vacations and graduations have brought a number of visitors our way, including Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA), and Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL). Thanks for your visits.

Jordan and Masondra Metzger are a welcome addition here, following their college graduation and move to the Twin Cities from Ames, IA. They are presently living in Hopkins, MN. We're also enjoying the presence of another young family, Peter and Jessica Zarkovacki and their baby son, Alexander. In addition, Paul Katonic and Jill Prevet have been assembling here in Minneapolis.

The fellowship and involvement of each has been a blessing to our church family.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Heidi Nohl
Katie Koehl**

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bros. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL), Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Jim Meiss (Phoenix, AZ), Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), Jeff Neihouser (Francesville, IN) and Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN). May God bless them for their labors.

Glory be to God in heaven,
Praise to Christ, our Saviour great!
By the power of Thy spirit
A new man Thou didst create...

Zion's Harp #34, vs. 1

Andy and Echo Hacker were baptized on June 26. We are thankful to welcome them into our brotherhood.

We continue to pray for those dealing with health matters. Sis. Mabel Schmidgall and Emil Greiner (Arlene) have been having difficult times, and need our prayers.

Our congregation has been blessed with two new babies. Gage Marvin was born to Bruce and Penny Schmidgall on June 27. He was welcomed home by Samantha, Bryce, Mason and Parker. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine Schmidgall and Marvin and Judy Becker. Carissa Marie was born to Bro. Terry and Sis. Connie Timmerman. Anxiously awaiting

her arrival were Courtney and Tyler. Grandparents are Don and Marsha Timmerman and Bro. Arnold and Sis. Sharon Koehl. Carissa was hospitalized for a short time, but is home now and doing fine.

Lucy Wulf (Bro. Dave and Sis. Nancy) and Amber Rath (Tom) graduated from higher schools of learning. We trust all goes well for them in the future.

Coby Backman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Cathy) and Chauntel Larson (Tami Larson) were united in marriage on July 16. We hope all goes well as they begin their lives together.

We want to welcome Bro. Kirby and Sis. Areli Reutter, who have moved here for the summer.

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Ginny Stoll
Rachel Steiner**

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) for laboring on our behalf this past month.

"Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding."

Proverbs 4:1

We thank our fathers for their love and dedication as we remember and honor them on Father's Day.

Bro. David Messner and Sis. Bethany Kuenzi were united in the Lord on July 3. Parents of the couple are Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy Messner (Morris, MN) and Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). We pray for God's

blessings on this couple as they walk down life's pathway together.

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

Our medical and hospital patients were Sis. Delores Messerli, Malakai Ebling (Adrian and Beckie), and Bro. Leo Messner (Sis. Georgia). May God continue to strengthen them as they face these earthly trials. Our prayers are with them and their families.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Mindy Braker
Wendy Braker**

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

Psalm 127:3

We welcome two small bundles of joy to two families. Quinton Wade was born to Bro. Brian and Sis. Kristen Leman on July 3, and joins his brothers, Brett and Andrew. Grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirley Leman (Eureka, IL) and Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller.

Bro. Michael and Sis. Kristi Huber are thankful for the safe arrival of Emily Rose on July 5. Her siblings, Laura and Seth, welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Violet Luthi and Bro. Gary Huber (Eureka, IL) and Karen Huber (Morton, IL).

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Krista Banwart

Once again we are thankful to have had summer visitors this past month. Visiting ministers included Bros. Dale Banwart (Wolcott, IN) and Randy Gudeman (Francesville, IN). With harvest season approaching, we are reminded of Jesus telling His disciples that the fields were ripe for harvest and that they should pray for labourers.

May we pray "Lord, send me"
And let me be of use
Don't let me be "too busy"
Or give any poor excuse.
The time is ripe for furthering
Thy kingdom rich and great
So send me as a labourer
Before it is too late.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Sally Haerr

It has been a month of wonderful family reunions. How happy we are to see and reconnect with each one. And when some are missing we wonder why ... Didn't they get their invitation? Are they sick or hurting? Or did they just not want to come and chose to stay away, maybe thinking, "I'll go next year, it will be easier then." How about that eternal reunion? Are we putting off until tomorrow, or next year, the decision to follow Jesus? Christ has perfect plans for us that will assure us a place at that Heavenly Reunion. Let's all be there.

We have enjoyed many blessings here in Taylor this past month simply because so many brothers have loved us enough to travel over the miles to bring us

spiritual messages and Topical Bible Studies. On June 15, Bro. Neil Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette, IN) gave a Topical Bible Study. On June 19, Bro. Don Broquard's family chose Taylor as their place of worship, which brought Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), and Bro. Jim Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS). On June 26, Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) and Bro. Ben Wysong (Sis. Janice, Sabetha, KS) came as part of the Stavenik Family Reunion. Then on July 3, many came for the Rassi Family Reunion. Among those attending were Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL). July 6 brought Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL) for a Topical Bible Study. On July 10, Bro. Brad Bauer (Sis. Sandy, Tucson, AZ) came to share God's Word with us and on July 13, Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) was here. We want to express our appreciation to each of these Brothers and their families for being willing to serve and may we, as listeners, be willing to learn.

On June 20, Magdalena Lauren Haerr was born to Bro. Shannon and Sis. Susan Haerr. She was welcomed home by sisters, Madison (12) and Hattie (4), and big brother, Abe (2). "Lena" was brought to God's house for the first time on June 26. On this same Sunday, Chuck and Tami Lucci (Basco, IL) brought their baby girl, Sierra Lorreine, for her

first time in church. We are always so glad to see them.

Those sick and/or hospitalized this month were: Brenden Massner (Chad and Lisa), Sis. Nerys Lightner (Peter) and AnnaLynn Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny). AnnaLynn remains hospitalized at this time and needs our prayers. We thank God for healing and continue to pray for those who battle health problems on a daily basis. Many times we are not aware of those in poor health, but God knows and we are so thankful for that.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone for the cards, gifts and memories received for our 50th wedding anniversary. We are now settled in our home at 2603 Kings Pointe SW, Quincy, IL 62305.

Bro. Arnie and Sis. Marge Gerst

Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Graf, Sis. Beth Steidl, Kevin Greenbank, Matthew Pamer, and Eric Steidl. Hurricane Dennis hit Jamaica while they were there, and they were very thankful and praised God for His protection from harm and for their safe return home.

We enjoyed a group of young people visitors, and all the others, for our Sunday evening singing. We appreciated Bro. Jerry Bauman giving us an inspiring message following the singing. May God bless all of them. We appreciated all.

Joe Rye recounted his conversion experiences before our congregation on July 14, giving a good testimony of his faith in the Saviour Jesus Christ. He mentioned that he has no relatives in the United States. He rejoiced, as we also did, that he has become a Brother in Christ with us. Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman) assisted our Elder Bro. Dave Graf with these duties.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Steidl were blessed with the birth of a baby girl on Sunday, July 17. They named her Naomi Esther and also welcoming home her baby sister is Mya. We wish them God's blessings with their two precious girls.

Bro. Paul and I had a 25th wedding anniversary August 10. We give our wonderful God thanks and praise for His blessings all along life's way.

ministers during the summer. Sharing with us this month were Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), and Bros. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA) and Art Ingold (Rittman, OH). May the Lord richly bless each and every one of these dear brothers who travel the many miles to share God's precious Word with us.

June 26 was the wedding day for Bro. Casey Banks (Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Rachel Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty, Indianapolis, IN). May God bless this couple as in their union they have formed that "three-fold cord that cannot be lightly rent apart".

**OHIO, JUNCTION
Cindy Schlatter**

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

Zion's Harp #237

June 26 was the wedding day for Sis. Rachel Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty of Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Casey Banks (Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy of Columbus, OH). May God ever be near this dear couple as they walk life's pathway together. We will miss Sis. Rachel and hope she and Bro. Casey will visit us often.

We were thankful that ministering Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) visited us on a Wednesday evening. We trust our Heavenly Father will continue to be with our ministering brothers

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Hope Graves**

We have been blessed with a warm summer and plenty of rain. The crops and gardens are thriving!

We are thankful that Sis. Charlotte Virkler is again able to assemble with us after spending some time in the hospital. We pray for the Lord to continue to strengthen her daily.

**OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser**

A group from this area went on a work project to Jamaica. From our Akron church were our Elder

**OHIO, COLUMBUS
Nancy Banks**

It is a blessing for our little congregation to have so many visiting

as they stand and bring forth God's Holy Word.

Our hearts were once again filled with thankfulness as we heard of another soul that has turned to the Lord. Lilly Manz (Bro. Russ and Sis. Vera) has decided to lean upon the Lord and strive to walk the straight and narrow pathway. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Lilly, and we continue to pray that many others will hear and answer God's beckoning call.

OHIO, LATTY
Amanda Steffen
Bonny Wenninger

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever."

Isaiah 40:8

As I write this, the summer holiday is half over and it is a rainy day. Men may fret and worry over not enough rain for crops and plants, but God still has everything under control and no amount of worrying on our part will change anything.

We were blessed to have the following ministers this past month: Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI), Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Susie, Rittman, OH), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH).

The weekend of June 25-26 was a blessed one as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of two dear souls. We

welcome Bro. Duane Sinn (Carrie) and Bro. Corey Laukhuf (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Vickie) to the family of God.

Chad Keysor has found peace with God and man and is awaiting a baptism date along with his wife, Jennifer, who found peace a short time ago as well.

It is with great joy to say that Todd Wenninger (Lacey) has begun his repentance. His parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Deb Wenninger. May God continue to be with this young man in the coming days.

Addendum: Drywalling is coming along well in the addition onto the church. Some windows and doors have been installed. The targeted completion date is still around October.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Esther Baumann

"And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm."

Mark 4:39

On June 19, it was announced that Christine Ramsey (Bro. John Sr. and Sis. Dawn) and John Ramsey Jr. (Bro. John Sr. and Sis. Dawn) have received God's peace and great calm. Please pray for their continued growth as they await baptism.

Seth Angelo Miller was born to Bro. Roger and Sis. Dorina on June 28. Also welcoming him home are excited siblings, Bethany and Justin; grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Lillian

Miller and Angelo and Mica Surian from our Kitchener, Canada, sister church.

Please continue to pray for Bro. Lawrence Popp (Sis. Viola) as he recovers after being hospitalized.

Our heartfelt thanks to Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) for his willingness to serve us in the ministry this past month.

We enjoyed the fellowship at our annual Sunday School Picnic on July 10. Special thanks to Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie Boliantz for hosting the picnic at their home.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Anne Widmer
Hannah Beery

"...In all the earth, there is no higher standing than this, to follow in the Saviour's ways." (Zion's Harp #16). What a blessing it is when souls realize their need for a Saviour and seek Him in humble repentance. Brant and Tiffany Gasser, Lloyd Emch, Aaron Steiner (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail), Drew Rupp (Bill and Sandy of Seville), Holly Acker (Boyd and Barbara), Cymbal Riggerbach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie), Brian Ball (Myra) and Beth Dotterer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Mardel) have all turned unto Him. May each one truly surrender and seek that perfect peace that only He can provide.

We were thankful this month for the many visiting ministers who were used in our congregation. Sharing in the Word were Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), Bro. Nathan Wieland (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH), Elder Bro.

Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Bro. Samuel Schlatter (Junction, OH), Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), and Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL). We appreciate the diligent efforts these brothers extend on our behalf.

Bro. Amos and Sis. Sarah Maibach welcomed their second child home recently. Jack Avery joins his older sister, Andrea. Grandparents are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Denise Maibach and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Dianna Bako (Akron, OH).

Bro. Matthew and Sis. Laura Bauman also brought home a bundle in the birth of Alena Laurelle. Her siblings are Kirk and Kendra. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Rebecca Zollinger (Smithville, OH).

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman are also the new grandparents of Naomi Esther, born to Bro. Andrew and Sis. Mary Steidl (Akron, OH) and older sister, Mya.

The Bro. Samuel and Sis. Gail Hartzler family also rejoices in the birth of Kelsey Dawn. Completing the family are children, Sarah, Heidi and Julia. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser.

Bro. Casey Banks (Columbus, OH) and Sis. Rachel Baltic (Junction/Rittman, OH) were joined in marriage this past month. Parents of the couple are Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy Banks (Columbus,

OH) and Bro. Daniel and Sis. Betty Baltic (Indianapolis, IN). Also married this month were Jason Winchell (V. Lee and Betty Winchell of Rittman) and Dara Bauman (Bro. Douglas and Sis. Dianna). We wish God's richest blessings upon these couples as they seek to create new Christian homes.

Hospitalized this month were Kaden Katanic (Bro. Mike and Sis. Heather) and Douglas Raifsnider (Sis. Diana). May the strength of the Lord be given to each one during times like these.

OHIO, SARDIS
Jami Hartzler
Terry Zollinger

"Now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

I Corinthians 13:13

The wedding of John Weslow II (John and Brenda) and Amanda Alrutz (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet Indermuhle) took place on June 18 in Athens, OH. May the Lord bless them with guidance and wisdom as they start their married life.

Thus our duty is made plain,
Trusting and in God abiding.
Faithful to thy Lord remain;
Til your eyes in light beholding,
See prepared there for the blest
Shining crowns of righteousness.

Zion's Harp #105

The last weekend in June was our memorial service in New Martinsville. Ministering Bros. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL), Nathan Wieland (Sis. Su-

zanne, Goodfield, IL), and Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine, Burlington, IA) willingly brought forth the Word. We would like to thank everyone that made the effort to visit on this special weekend.

There are friendships that we cherish
In our daily walk of life
Friends with whom we meet and labor
In our earthly toil and strife,
Friends among the aged and youthful,
Friends that live from us apart
Friends of higher rank and station
Find a place within my heart.

Hymns of Zion #91

It was a blessing to host an Invite-A-Guest weekend July 2-3. We appreciate all those who came to visit.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Ruth Gasser
Edith Miller

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth..."

Eccles. 12:1

Over the July 4 weekend, our single group had invited single groups from various churches. It was such a blessing to meet and greet so many of like mind and faith, and the congregational singing was just beautiful, with so many young voices blending together with those of our home folks. May each one who took part be blessed.

Our thanks to several visiting ministers this past month. Bros. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), Ken

Schneider (Remington, IN) and Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) brought forth the Word to our congregation. May the seeds that were sown bring forth acceptable fruit and may these brothers be blessed for lending themselves to God's work.

We rejoice that peace has been granted to Aaron Marty (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Marie) and Josie Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Janice). May they continue to feel God's help and grace as they await baptism.

A baby girl has been welcomed to the home of Bro. Cody and Sis. Kara Stoller. Ava Rose was born on June 20, and joins her brother, Hayden, at home. Grandparents of Ava are Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman and Sis. Irma Stoller (Latty, OH).

Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky Zollinger are thankful for the safe arrival of their new granddaughter, Alena Laurelle, born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Laura Bauman (Rittman, OH) on July 8. Also, George and Norma Spence welcomed a granddaughter, Melissa Marie, born to Trey and Janet Hansen (Schererville, IN) on May 31.

Sis. Shirley Klotzle (Bro. Bob) was hospitalized recently for surgery. We trust in the Great Physician for a full recovery.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard

Our heartfelt thanks go to Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) for sharing the pulpit with us this past month.

We pray that the healing hand

of God will be with Sis. Dorothy Steven (Bro. Bob), Sis. May Fetter, Kurt Rager (Bro. Walt and Sis. Sharon) and Kristie Sancraint (Ryan) as they have all been hospitalized recently.

It was a privilege to spend a Sunday afternoon on June 26 with the Sunday School and their guests at our annual Sunday School picnic. May these young and tender hearts continue to grow in the love of God.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Brianna Strahm

Greetings to each of you in our Lord and Saviour's name.

We want to especially thank our Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton) and Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend) for lending themselves in the ministry this month in our congregation. It's such a blessing to meet and greet brethren from afar and yet feel the same bond of love in the Spirit.

Sis. Elizabeth Folia has our prayerful support as she has been nominated to help teach in our Sunday School. We know this is a weighty position and we trust the Lord will richly bless her for her labors on behalf of our children.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Cindy Metzger
Melissa Kuenzi

We are happy our convert, Juanita Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda), has found peace and is ready for baptism.

There are two new babies to welcome. Lillian Esther was born to Bro. Chad and Sis. Megan Wal-

ter on June 23. Her siblings are Andrea, Lorena, and Kathryn. Her grandparents are Mike and Anita Massey (West Linn) and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter (Silverton).

Housten Troy was born to Bro. Troy and Sis. Sherri Kuenzi on July 3. His siblings are Annaleise and Mathis. His grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris Metzger (Lester, IA) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi (Silverton).

Our prayers have been with Bro. Chad Walter (Sis. Megan) and his family through his recent illness and hospitalization. We are glad he has been able to return home.

Congratulations to our newly married couples. Sis. Kimberly Kuenzi (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marilyn) and Bro. Shawn Schurter (Leonard and Cheryl) were married on June 16.

Sis. Bethany Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann) and Bro. David Messner (Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy Messner, Morris, MN) were married on July 3. Sis. Bethany will be moving to Winthrop, MN, and our congregation will miss her.

What a blessing to have so many visiting ministers over the last month. Elder Bros. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN) and Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) and Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA) were here to preach the Word to us. Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) was also here to assist with the Bible Class Weekend. Thanks to Bros. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) and Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) of Portland for ministering to us in

the past month.

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA**

**Nathan and
MaryElizabeth Gasser**

This month we enjoyed an "invite a friend" weekend, and had a number of visitors from several locations spend the weekend with us.

We regret having to say farewell to Bro. Josh Steffen, who has been attending graduate school in our area for the past few years. He leaves the area this fall, and we wish him God's richest blessings in all that lies ahead. We also say goodbye to Jamin Steffen (Bluffton), who spent the summer worshiping with us while on a job internship.

We were grateful to have Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) and his wife, Sis. Nancy, among our visitors this month, and appreciate Bro. Everett sharing the Word with us.

**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Mike and Monica Fritz**

God has abundantly provided for our desire for fellowship and encouragement in the past month with numerous visitors, including many ministering brothers. We are thankful to the Lord and the following ministering brothers for their willing efforts on our behalf: Bros. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), James Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL), Fred Eberhardt (Sis. Kathy, Burlington, IA), Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Sue, Atlanta, GA), Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), and Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan,

Bluffton, IN), and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH). We are also thankful for the large groups of brethren and friends with whom we had the privilege to fellowship. We enjoyed our visitors from Rockville, CT; Atlanta, GA; Chicago, Cissna Park, Congerville, Fairbury, Forrest, and Roanoke, IL; Bluffton, Francesville, and Remington, IN; Burlington, IA; Alto, MI; Junction, Sardis, and Smithville, 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: Fairbury, IL (8/21); and Alto, MI (8/28); Bradford, IL (9/4); Tremont, IL (9/11); Francesville, IN (9/18); and Belvidere, IL (9/25). If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

**TEXAS
DALLAS/FORT WORTH
Carrie Beyer**

Thanks so much to Bros. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucille, Eureka) and Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke) for taking the time to serve our church through their ministry over the past month. We look forward to welcoming ministers from Smithville and Morris in August.

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).

**TEXAS, SAN MARCOS
Amy Ringger
Serenity Ringger**

Our ministers this month were Bros. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse), Edwin Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern), Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman), and Kim Sutter (Sis. Vonnette, Taylor). We also appreciated the visitors from Smithville and Forrest.

The following churches are on the minister rotation for September: (4) Bloomington, (11) Bluffton North, (18) Sabetha, and (25) Eureka.

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 southbound frontage road.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Mary Plattner

We had a beautiful rain when the Hurricane Emily came into Northern Mexico. Fortunately we were spared the heavy winds and there was no damage in Zapata.

All of the residents have been to the midwest this summer visiting their families and have returned and are making plans for the arrival of our winter family again. It is a time of year we always look forward to.

Our prayers are with our winter resident, Bro. Leo Messner (Georgia) of Winthrop, who has been hospitalized in Minnesota.

We thank Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) who came to Pharr to provide services to those

that live in the Valley. There are several families living in the Valley which is about two hours south of Zapata. They attend church in Zapata when there are no services in Pharr.

VERMONT, NORWICH
Sheila Gerber

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, and be ye thankful.”

Colossians 3:15

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are thankful for the visiting ministers who brought God’s Word to our small congregation this past month. Serving us on the pulpit on June 26 was Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH) and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT). On July 10, Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT) wor-

shipped with our gathering. We are also grateful to meet and greet the many other visitors that attended this month from the Eureka, Rittman, and Forrest congregations.

If you have plans to visit New England this summer or fall, please plan to worship with us! A call in advance would help us to plan for your attendance. Services will be held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month through October 2005, and then will return to the second Sunday of the month beginning in November. Services start at 10:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Sunday school is taught during the morning services. 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. If you are a song leader, please do not forget your pitch pipe.



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down to speak to him. Yet Gideon needed some more assurance.

Another thing that is so special about our God is He was willing to work with him. He didn't admonish him or chastise him when he asked to do the fleece. He gave him the answers he needed. He gave him the answers he needed. He will do the same for us.

Now I am not advocating that we go about with fleeces and signs. He wants us to move from immaturity to maturity. The only way we do that that I can understand when I read in the Word, is to move from immaturity to maturity is in Hebrews 5:14. You can look it up. Not now but later. Hebrews 5:14. Talks about those who know the Word and apply the Word will grow up. I paraphrased but basically that is how we grow. That is how we grow in maturity. Application of the truth that we know. So He doesn't want us to stay in the state that Gideon was in. The state of doubt, mistrust. But He will work with us where we are at and bring us to a higher level.

It is interesting, the first task that Gideon did was not to gather the army and go out to fight. The first task that God - and the reason they were oppressed in the first place, look at the beginning, it says "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord..." Judges 6:1. When we disobey God, when we go against His Word, what can we expect?

Hebrews 12 talks about discipline. We can expect to get His discipline because He loves us. We will struggle. I am not saying every struggle that we have in life - there are people that are sick. They are facing a lot of sickness. It is not because they have sinned. But there are times trouble comes because of our disobedience. We need to rec-

ognize when that is the case and allow God to work with us and do what Gideon did. He asked him to tear down an altar. An altar that his father had to Baal. (Judges 6:25)

These are Israelites! These are God's chosen people! And they have got an altar of Baal in their backyard? Correction - their front yard! What kind of an example was this to the people around them? No wonder they were oppressed. No wonder the Midianites thought that they had everything and they could take care of them. No wonder they were so confident.

The first thing He wanted him to do is tear down the altar and build a new altar. An altar to the living God. Sometimes it happens to us. As God gives us truth, as He opens our eyes to His will in our life, sometimes there is an altar that has got to come down. Sometimes there is something that we are hanging on to that we have got to let Him have. That we just have to open our hands and let Him take it.

What is that altar? What is that Baal? Maybe you are clean. Maybe you don't have anything. That is great. That is great. Move on to that higher level of maturity.

Maybe you do have a little bit of a Baal. Or maybe it's a big piece of Baal. Whatever it might be, as God opens your eyes to that - and He will and He has His ways to do that - do what Gideon did. Take it down. He did it at night. He was afraid. He took ten others with him. But he did it. He did it. Then he went on to gather his army. You know the story. I would encourage you to read six. Read chapter seven. I am not sure where it ends - it has been a while since I read it. But you know the story where he started out with thousands and God said you've got too many. You've got too many. And he whitt-

led it down finally to three hundred. Three hundred.

Now remember the Midianites, they were ones that Moses had pretty well defeated them earlier as they were coming through the wilderness. They had a grudge. The Midianites did not like the Israelite people. They had a vendetta against them. They were pretty powerful. It wasn't an easy army to defeat.

You can see how oppressed the Israelites were. They were hiding in caves. They didn't have any weapons. They didn't have any food. They didn't have animals. And the Midianites had camels. You couldn't even count them all. They had all the equipment. They had the resources. They had the momentum. They had everything. (Judges 6:2-6)

Poor old Gideon didn't have much of anything. But he had the Lord God. Let us never forget that with the Lord we are the majority. He whittled him down to three hundred men. Not only that, He took his weapons away and says all you need is a torch with a pot over the top of it and a trumpet. (Judges 7:16) That's all you need. Can you imagine being one of the three hundred fighting men and you are going to face an innumerable army, a lot of people. A big army. You are facing this army and all you have is a torch with a pot on the top of it to hide it and a trumpet. Would you be afraid? I wonder if they were afraid.

Again, I can relate to Gideon so well. What did he do? Just before - and God knows him and knew him - just before the battle, He said, go on down to the camp, to the enemy camp in the secrecy of the night. If you are afraid to do that, take somebody with you. (Judges 7:9,10) I can't remember the individual's name. But take somebody

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with you. Look at our God. He knew Gideon. He knew that he needed an additional encouragement. He knew that Gideon was probably even afraid to go down by himself. He said, take a friend with you.

How often does He do that for us? Gives us a friend. Gives us someone to go with us. He went down and sure enough. Someone had a dream and they shared their dream about how Gideon was going to, the army was going to get wiped out because of Gideon. What kind of assurance! That's just such a blessing that God does that for us!

Gideon was faithful. His three hundred men were faithful. I'm sure he shared that illustration to them and gave them that encouragement to trust in the Lord and they defeated the army. It is just amazing how God works. And how He can work and will work with us. But we have to take these examples and we have to figure out what the application is. We pointed out some of the application. I don't know all the application. I know how it applies to me. I kind of do. But I don't know exactly how it applies to you.

That is where the Holy Spirit comes in and He will give us that understanding and insight on how these examples apply to us. I think the bottom line for all of us will be, trust in God. He is faithful. He is faithful.

"In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him." Ephesians 3:12. I think those two really need to go together; boldness with access. Gideon had boldness because he had access to the One that could provide for him. To the One that could deliver. Without that access, he wouldn't have had the boldness. We have the boldness because we

have the access to the throne. We have the access to God at any time, at any point.

You can be in school, you can be at wherever and the professors can be totally off base but you have access, even in the middle of a class, even in the middle of a test, you have access to God to give you what you need at that point. Or at work or wherever it might be.

Why did God take him down to three hundred men? Because God wanted the glory for the victory over the Midianites. It is not that God expects glory and wants to be lifted up and elevated. He deserves to be lifted. He deserves to be elevated. It is not that, but He wanted the people to recognize that their only source of strength, their only source of confidence, their only source of their boldness is Jesus Christ or God or both.

It says in verse 13, Paul had been going through some tribulations. People at Ephesus, others, tribulations. Probably tribulations that we don't even understand and are probably beyond us, being in nice, cozy America with the freedoms that we have and the comforts that we have. We have so much, don't we! It says, "Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you..." Ephesians 3:13. Faint not. Fainting is giving up. Fainting is something that Gideon could have done. God gave him plenty of assurances to prevent him from fainting. Fainting is something that many of us have been tempted with.

I am fifty three. I have been tempted with fainting quite often. You know what is interesting? My temptations to faint - not in the faith, not in serving God, but by standing in the gap that I need to stand in, to be strong in the places I need to be strong in - those temptations have been more in the later years than they were in the earlier

years when I had a lot of maybe idealism and maybe a lot of energy as a youth. As I get older, that enthusiasm, it wanes. It shouldn't but it does. Satan has his ways to get at us. So I don't care what age you are, what level you are. We have that temptation to faint. And he is encouraging us not to faint.

It goes on to talk about in verse fourteen and one of the key ingredients to keep us from fainting, because God wants us to be faithful in the position that He has put us, one of the key ingredients to keep us from fainting is in verse fourteen. It says, "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ," Ephesians 3:14. Time in prayer. You want to be effective? You want to grow? You want to be strong in face of the challenges that Satan puts at us? You better be doing this. You better be doing this consistently and effectively. You better be making time to bow your knees to pray.

I am not saying a particular position. I am talking about spending time, spending energy, putting your heart into seeking God and to praying to Him. Communicating with Him. Are we healthy in that aspect? Are we doing it? Are we effective there? If we are not, we can change. He'll help us to change. We need to change. People are counting on us.

Paul had a lot of concerns, a lot of challenges facing him. I wonder how many hours he actually did spend on his knees. "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;" Ephesians 3:14-16. That's strength, that you may be rooted and grounded in love. (Ephesians 3:17)

Recently we were in Chicago in downtown. I remember looking out of the window and seeing these big skyscrapers and wondering how can they stand? How can they stay there year after year after year without leaning or falling over or slumping? They have a foundation. You can go by and you can see and you probably have seen it in cities, where they have construction. They have a fence around and they usually have maybe a building they have torn down and they are building another building. It just seems to take a long time for them to work and to build that foundation. They go deep and they go down to the bedrock and they set the foundation so that when they build up, that it is solid, that it is strong, that it will hold. It takes time and effort.

For us, for us to be strong, for us to be rooted and to be grounded in love, it is going to take time and it is going to take commitment. Are we up to it? Do we have the time for it? You are going to have, those of you in school, you are going to have projects, you are going to have term papers, you are going to have all kinds of things you have to do that take time.

Now prayer is not one thing - and this rooting up and building this foundation is not something you want to do where you wait til the last minute and just before you need it you start working on it.

You might get by with a term paper. You might be able to do that and get a decent grade. By waiting to the last minute and quick doing that. It doesn't work at all in the Lord's work. He wants us about His work at all times.

If you listen to the conference tapes, you hear Brother Willis Ehnle. It is twenty four hours a day. Pretty high standard. Are we up to it? Are we willing to pay the price that it is going to take of reading the Word, of spending time in the Word, of memorizing the Word. Memorizing verses that mean something to us. A good verse for you in college is Psalm 71:1. "In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion." It is a good memory verse before you go to class, before you go to Philosophy class or some of these other classes, or in Biology or something. Pray a simple prayer like that. It is worth it.

"...to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;" Ephesians 3:16. That is where our strength is at. Let's never forget it. "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love," Ephesians 3:17. Rooted and grounded in love. One of the songs we sang was ninety nine. The Solid Rock. (Hymns of Zion). Solid rock. Everything else is sinking sand. Just look at that word picture. Something solid like a rock versus something that is like quicksand.

Big difference isn't there?

It goes on to talk about being able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height. That's big, isn't it? Knowing what God is all about and what Christ is all about and trying to understand Him. We'll never understand Him totally. (Ephesians 3:18)

It all comes down to this. All comes down to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly - that is a pretty big word - above all that we ask or think. (Ephesians 3:20) Look at that promise. Look at the promise to Gideon. Gideon, you follow me and I am going to show you I am going to take care of the Midianites. I am going to take care of this oppression for you. I am going to take these enemies and they are going to be dispersed. You are not even going to have to fire a shot. I am going to do that for you. I am going to do exceedingly above what you can ask or think. Exceedingly above what you even deserve, Gideon.

He will do the same for us. If we are willing, like Gideon, to yield to Him, to yield to His power, we have a promise. It says, now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly above all that we ask or even think, according to the power that worketh in us (Ephesians 3:20) - and we heard about what that power was. That is the Holy Spirit. May God help us to do that as we do His work.



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

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Iowa: Martin Zaugg
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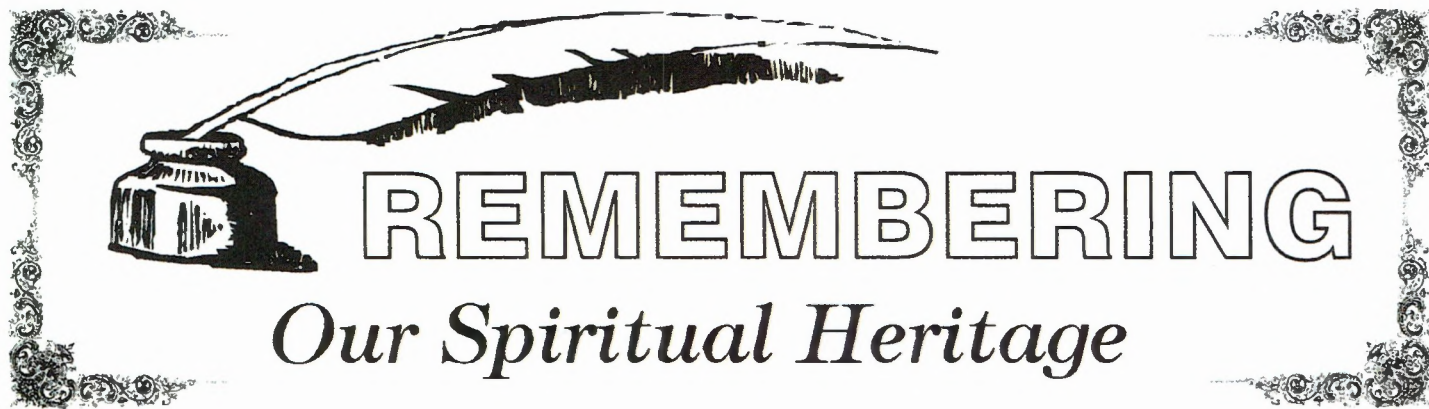
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Mexico Work Teams 2005

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

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



The Ties That Bind

Our series entitled, "The Ties That Bind" continues. A very special aspect of our church denomination is the closeness we feel among the brethren, and among the 86 or so congregations in our faith. The close ties are for a reason. As stated previously, our foremost tie is our faith in Christ Jesus and His redemptive work at Calvary. Also, our common, church-wide pursuit in "following" Christ results in a very important tie as well. More ties follow.

Applicational Unity

We as a people try to walk in unity. A common application of the Word reflects that God's ways are clear, and that He is not divided; neither are His truths pluralistic. The Word is unmistakable that truly converted believers are to keep the same spiritual judgments (I Corinthians 1:10). An equal yoke in belief and practice offers a blessed consistency that gives strong encouragement and high personal incentive toward godliness (and oneness).

As the Word is read, studied and thence interpreted under the auspices of the church, it is applied in a practical, everyday way and the form in which it is applied results in a visible tradition.

Applicational unity has built a deeply-appreciated closeness among the brethren. Applicational variance can give the enemy an avenue to dis-

turb closeness and unity. A common practice of holiness and good will wherein individual liberties are almost completely diminished results in a strong bond among the membership. It is a high ideal worth striving for, yet Satan wants to pull it down. No individual member, from a fleshly standpoint, likes the concept of self-denial — and if he/she sees other brethren in a state of common self-denial, it gives encouragement and inner stamina to continue on in obedience.

A Common Separation From The World

Living apart from sin and worldliness strengthens the church. Avoiding ungodly, fleshly patterns "which war against the soul" (I Peter 2:11) provides a collective strength for the brethren. As each believer willingly flees those areas defined in the Bible (and by the church) as worldly and detrimental to the soul's welfare, it accrues to the unity of the church.

From an individual perspective, it is a lot easier to come out from life's worldly pleasures if one knows his fellow brothers and sisters in Christ are doing so as well.

A Common Order

In a historical sense, our forefathers stood by a literal interpretation of the Scriptures. They grasped the Bible's teachings on a common order, and that consistency in applying God's Word results in unity.

Walking by the same rule and mind—the same thing (Philippians 3:16) are Biblical ideals that foster keeping the same judgments. Such ideals are God's commandments.

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (I Corinthians 1:10). "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3)

Both our lifestyle order (a common holiness) and our liturgical order (worship form) have sought to be uniform over the generations — although Satan wants both to fall prey to diversity. As our common order in lifestyle and worship thrives, our unity and close ties are strongly enhanced. When our order wavers it threatens our unity.

There is a correlation between doctrine and order (application). If the latter is strong and uniform among the brethren it bolsters the doctrine because our order is a reflection of the doctrine. Conversely, if the order falters, it can affect doctrine.

By Perry Klopfenstein

Next issue:
More "Ties That Bind"

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“The New Testament”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

To live in accordance with the teachings of the New Testament is the best possible life a human being can live here on earth.

We all need to have the slate wiped clean and to have a new start. It is a kind of a rejuvenating experience. “Repent ye, therefore, and be converted.” Acts 3:19. “Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.” II Corinthians 5:17.

To be ready to meet God is very comforting, but that’s only the beginning. There are many other benefits as we read the New Testament and make an earnest effort to follow its teachings. We are taught “Present your bodies a living sacrifice,” Romans 12:1, and that reminds us that we have in God a superior, someone to whom we are responsible. It helps us to remember that we really are not so powerful as we may think we are. We should try to avoid accidents and illness, but actually, we have no promise for tomorrow. “Boast

not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.” Proverbs 27:1.

We are taught, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God.” Matthew 22:37. Now if we love Him, we avoid doing those things which are wrong and displeasing to Him. We are taught, “Love not the world,” I John 2:15. Therefore, although we love God’s creation which includes all of nature, all human beings, and animals, we try to stay away from the influences of this world which may be harmful and disturb our peace. In this way we can stay on “The King’s Highway,” Numbers 20:17, and avoid the turmoil around us. Isaiah tells us, in 35:8, “And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called, The way of holiness.” It is on this highway that we can reach a pinnacle of joy and fulfillment.

We are further instructed to love our neighbor, “And thy neighbour as thyself,” Luke

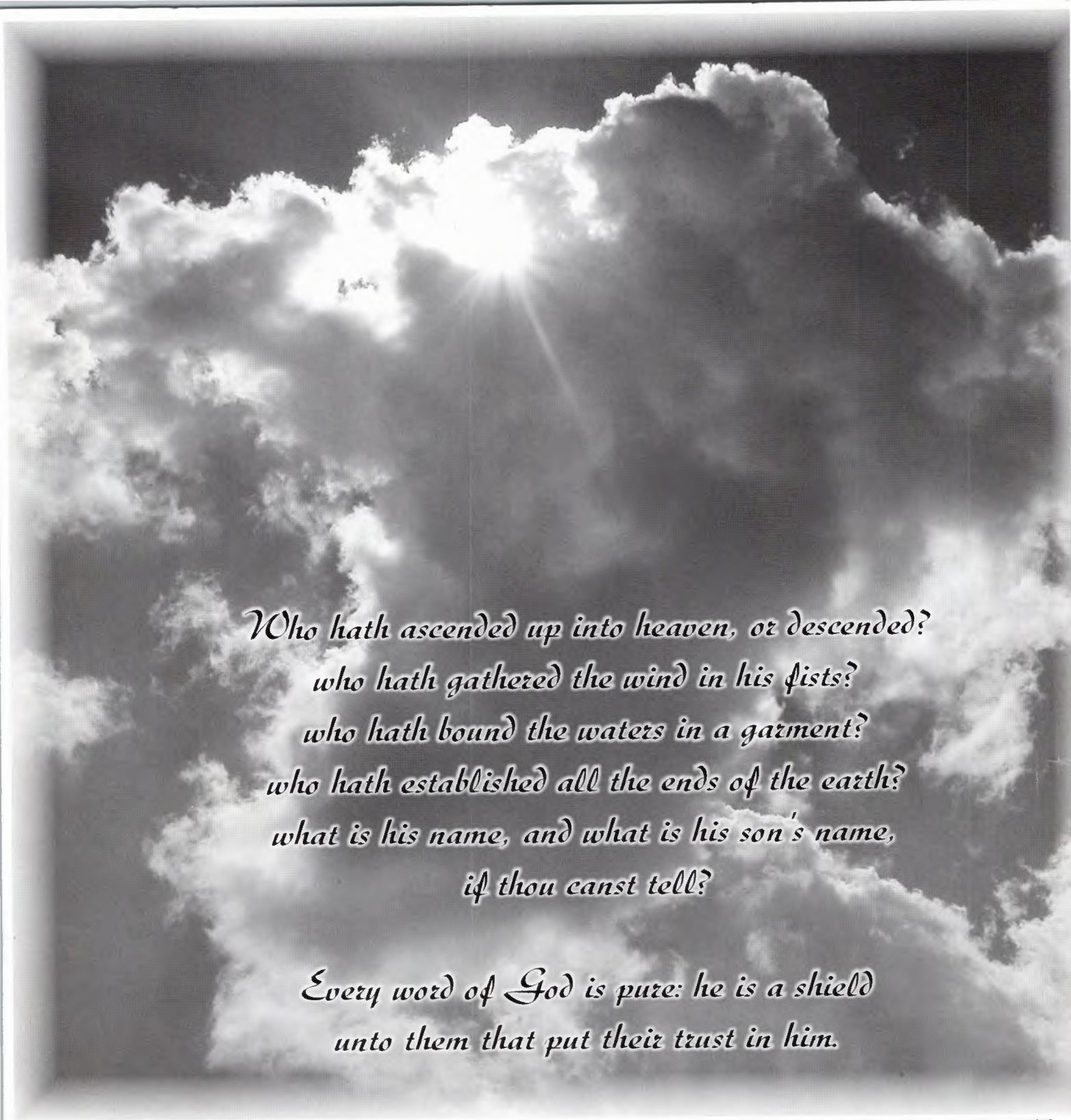
10:27. To live the abundant life, we must forget self as much as possible. Loving others and helping others is therapeutic and fulfilling.

We are taught, “Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost.” I Cor. 6:19. Therefore, we avoid tobacco, excessive amounts of alcohol, and everything else that we know might be harmful to our bodies. This builds self-control and prevents us from becoming slaves to an addiction.

The New Testament teaches us, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.” Hebrews 10:25. It is very helpful for us to be accountable to others. We may think that others should mind their own business, but in the family of God, it is the business of everyone to kindly encourage and help others, within the group. It gives us a very personal sense of “belonging”.

To live by the New Testament is by far the best possible way to live here on earth.

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*Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended?
who hath gathered the wind in his fists?
who hath bound the waters in a garment?
who hath established all the ends of the earth?
what is his name, and what is his son's name,
if thou canst tell?*

*Every word of God is pure: he is a shield
unto them that put their trust in him.*

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