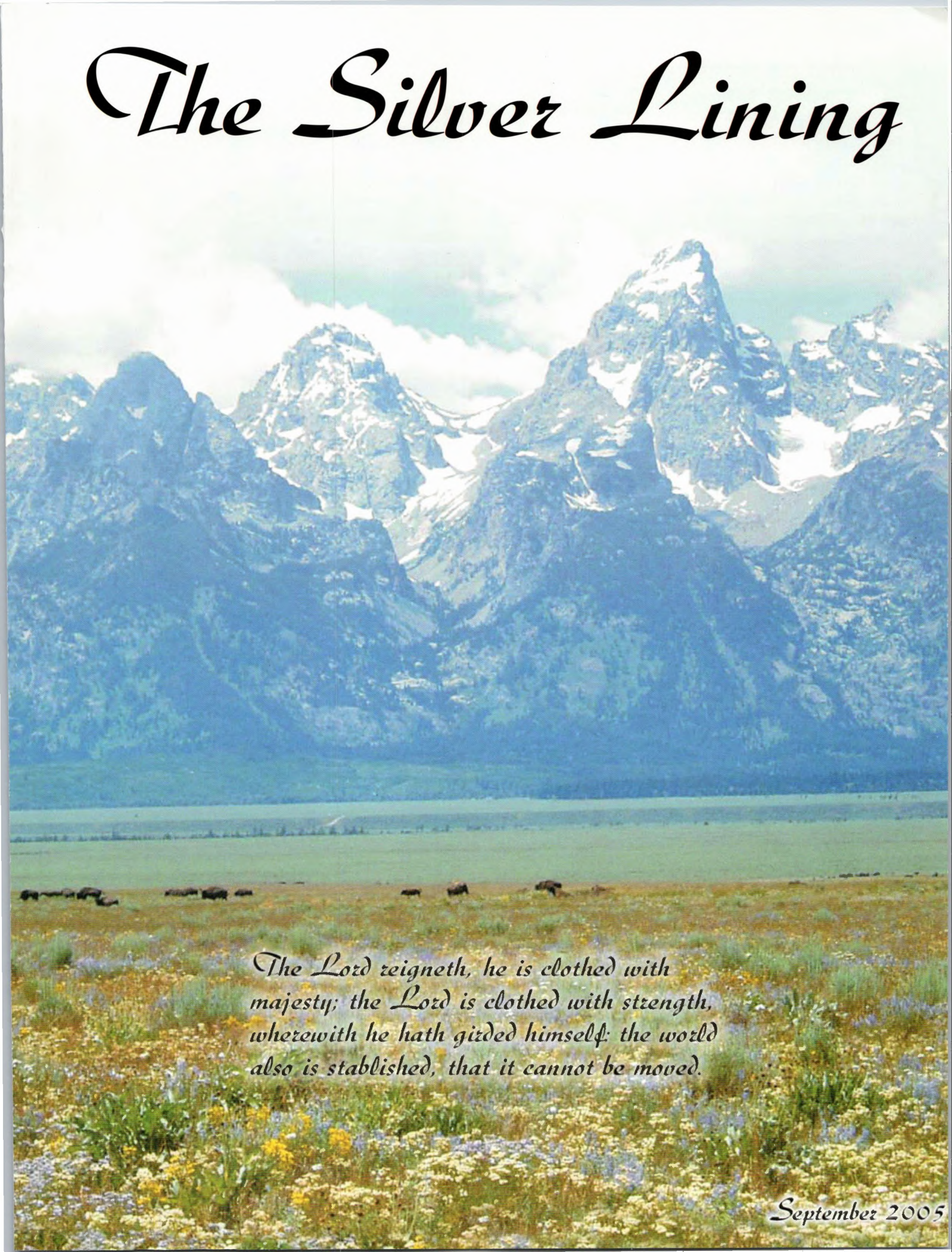


The Silver Lining



*The Lord reigneth, he is clothed with
majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength,
wherewith he hath girded himself: the world
also is stablished, that it cannot be moved.*

September 2005

Sermon by Bro. Bill Waibel, Bay City, MI

Ecclesiastes 2 and I Corinthians 1

The man that wrote this is considered to be Solomon. He is, in this book, considered to be The Preacher. He is speaking from the wisdom of both man and of God. What I mean, in this chapter here he talks about looking at it from man's view or from the wisdom of man. What is life about? He points out in his book here, he talks about what is considered the chief good. What is the chief good of life? He concludes it and we will get to that in a moment.

We run into a word in this chapter, as you have seen. It is called vanity. The word means, in this setting, it means futility, falsity and there is one more word meaning nothing or void. What does he mean by all this? Well he is looking at life from the natural view. If you follow life in the natural view, what is life all about? I enjoy these things, I heap these things up. He got everything that he wanted. Solomon was considered one of the richest men that ever lived. Still is considered one of the richest men that ever lived, in comparison. Yet he found it all empty, futile and false.

So what does he mean? So we have to go back a little bit in order to pick up what he means by all of this. We have to go back to the creation in order to find out what he means by all of this. At the beginning God created all things. He created all things and brought them into existence by just speaking the word. Then toward the end of His creation He did something very special. He created man, human-kind in His own image, in His likeness. (Genesis 1) He gave man, humankind, a living soul (Genesis 2:7). Different from all the other animals and creatures on the earth. With this living soul, now He had union with this creature He made, which is humankind. We can read there in the scriptures, in the beginning, that He walked and talked with them in the garden of paradise (Genesis 3:8, 9). So He had a communication with them, different than all the other creatures. This communication is what God wants with you and I.

If I was to be given the question, what would you say to young people, what would you say, what advice

would you give them, I would give them exactly what Solomon is saying here. That life is, from the human view, only looking at it from the human view and what can be pleasant, what can be pleasing to the senses, of the human senses, is vanity. It is empty, falsehood and of no value. Why? Because we are made in the image of God. We have a living soul. That soul, that craving within us desires to be united with the Creator who created us. With a living relationship. Without that living relationship, all life is meaningless.

If we follow it through, particularly as we that are older, we can see the vanity of youth, as he also describes in chapter four or five here. He calls it the vanity of youth. He doesn't mean that youth shouldn't enjoy things. He doesn't mean that youth shouldn't live. But what he is saying is that often youth looks at things on a superficial way. That they don't consider the chief good, as it is referred to.

And what is that chief good? It is to have that relationship with our Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ. Without that, our life is futile. We have no purpose. We go aimlessly through life. Thousands and millions of people are going aimlessly through life. They are trying to fill up that emptiness in their heart with all kinds of pleasures and all kinds of seeking after wealth, power, whatever it is. They are trying to fill that void in their heart.

But I want to tell you the truth this morning. There is only one way you can fill the void in your heart. That is by coming to know the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, Lord and God. There is no other way. We can seek after things and Solomon wrote it all here. We just read about Solomon amassing everything. He had all the pleasures he could want. He had everything he wanted.

We all, as young people, boy we want this and we want that. Boy if I had this, I would be happy. He had it all and he was not happy. Happiness does not come from external things. Happiness only comes, true happiness, only comes to the soul that is in relationship with the Creator. A good

relationship with the Creator. That is the only way you can come.

The philosophers, if you go back, I don't know how many of us read, I don't read much about philosophy. But I am acquainted with it a little bit. Well, the philosophers had four basic questions about life and here is what they were: Who am I? Where did I come from? What is my purpose here? Where do I go when I leave? Now those are

Sermon continued on page 45

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

September 2005

Satan is Real I

For a true child of God, the existence of Satan is a given. The Bible clearly indicates that Satan is real, that his influence in the world is evident and that God's people must constantly be on guard lest we be overcome.

In spite of what the Bible says, in spite of Satan's influence, in spite of the sadness that his work brings and in spite of what Jesus went through to defeat Satan and give us the opportunity for salvation, there are still many people who do not believe Satan is real. In a 1999 survey, fifty-eight percent of American adults believe that Satan is merely a symbol of evil but not real. In a 2001 survey forty-five percent of American adults who professed to be born again Christians denied the existence of Satan.

Who is Satan? Where did he originate? What are his goals? How does he operate? What will be the ultimate fate of Satan? How can we escape a similar fate? It is probably not possible for the human mind to fully grasp the significance of Satan, his work and his influence in the world. However, if we search the Word of God we can gain a significant understanding of Satan and what we must do to overcome his influence against us. God would not place us in this earthly battle between good and evil without helping us to understand the battle plan of the enemy. Any general going out to war would like to know his enemy's plan. If we understand Satan's plan, our victory will be that much easier.

Satan is described in a number of ways. He is referred to as Abaddon or Apollyon (angel of the bottomless pit), the accuser, the adversary, Belial, Beelzebub, the Devil, the god of this world, a murderer, the prince of devils, the prince of the power of the air, the prince of this world, the ruler of darkness, a serpent, the tempter, an unclean spirit, the wicked one and the great dragon. If one has any understanding of the meaning of these titles we can surely understand that Satan is a force to be dealt with.

From the scriptures we understand

that Satan at one time was in heaven. "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground which didst weaken the nations" (Is. 14:12). Although Satan was defeated in his attempt to prevail against God, he will likely again try to gain power in heaven in the last times, but he will not prevail, "...neither (will) there place be found any more in heaven" (Rev. 12:8). The vanity, pride and self-exaltation of Satan caused him to rebel against God. This resulted in his expulsion from heaven and should help us to understand our ultimate fate if we also rebel against God.

Having been eternally banned from heaven, Satan's goal for each of us is a similar fate. From the very earliest scriptural account of Satan, we find that his goal is to deceive mankind: "...Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (Gen. 3:4-5).

Satan would like us to have pride and a fate similar to his. He said in his heart, "...I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God ...I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High" (Is. 14:13-14). He would like us to become as the king of Tyrus whose "...heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee" (Ez. 28:17).

Jesus reminded Peter of Satan's evil work and his goals for mankind. "...Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not..." (Lk. 22:31-32).

Numerous passages of scripture tell us of the power of Satan and how he uses his power to deceive mankind. He was given the power to cause great affliction to come upon Job. Job's family was destroyed, his material wealth was taken away, he suffered much physical distress, his wife turned against him and his friends railed upon him.

Satan laid a false claim to authority over

the entire world. He took Jesus to a high mountain to show Him all the kingdoms of the world and said to Jesus "...All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If Thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine" (Lk. 4:5-7). If Satan will lie to Jesus and attempt to deceive Him, do we really believe he will not do so to us also?

Satan will try to blind the minds of unbelievers so they cannot learn the truth. "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, shall shine unto them" (II Cor. 4:3-4). Jesus reminded his disciples of the blessings and importance of seeing clearly when He said to them "But blessed are your eyes, for they see..." (Mt. 13:16)

Not only does Satan work to keep the unbelievers from learning the truth, he tries to cause confusion among the believers "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12). Satan lies to try to cause the truth to be mixed with deceit. "...When he (the devil) speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it" (Jn. 8:44). There are numerous examples in the Bible where lying caused much grief. Jacob lied to his father when he said he was Esau (Gen. 27). Joseph's brothers lied to their father about his death (Gen. 37). Ananias and Sapphira lied to Peter (actually to God) about the sale of their property (Acts 5). Peter lied when he said he did not know Christ (Mt. 26:69-75). In attempting to avoid the truth and take the "easy" way out, we can get ourselves into serious trouble.

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



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

Mission Committee

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

Committee Meetings

This article provides a summary of meetings of the Mission Committee held in May and July of 2005. As each meeting begins, the Lord's guidance and blessing is sought through prayer. He has been faithful in moving hearts to provide good financial support for this work as well as brethren who are willing to labor in various capacities. As the work grows, the needs for support increase as well.

Communication

The official web page for the Apostolic Christian Church has been in place since early this year. It is providing a useful resource and has generated inquiries from a number of individuals who wish to learn more about our church. The Mission Committee, along with our Technology Committee, has adopted a policy that any program, which seeks authorization to be accessed from this site, must have approval by the Mission Committee. Only church related programs of a national scope are being considered at this time. For linkage to the national web site from a local site, no committee approval is needed. However, any local church affiliated web site activity should be undertaken with guidance and support from the local elder. It was also decided that our Statement of Faith should be included on the national web site.

Guiding Principles

The Committee has been working to clarify a set of guiding principles that will guide the mission efforts in our church. It is very important for an organization to have a clear purpose and to frequently review its plans and actions in light of its

stated guiding principles. The purpose of our Mission efforts is much the same as the mission of our church. Along with the guiding principles, various procedures are being developed to enable proper planning, implementation and accountability regarding the many efforts for which the Mission Committee is responsible.

Mission Candidate Review

Along with growing opportunities for service in our various mission projects, there has been the added blessing of increased interest on the part of our brethren. An orderly process is being implemented for review and placement of candidates as needed. Most importantly there is the need for much prayer and seeking of the Lord's direction in such an important endeavor. Each individual must have the support of his or her local elder and be sincerely committed to upholding the biblically based beliefs and mission of our church.

When a soul comes to a peace that he or she has been called to serve, contact should be made with our Mission Committee. A preplacement questionnaire is completed and sent to a subcommittee, which conducts candidate interviews. When the Mission Committee review leads to a conclusion that candidates should be sent, additional steps are taken regarding placement. Although effort is made to match needs with abilities, it is very helpful if candidates are flexible with regard to the type of assignment.

Mission Projects

Mission work in Ixtlan and Magdalena, Mexico continue to provide opportunities for assistance as many precious souls come under the influ-

ence of caring brethren and have the blessing of hearing the Word of God. Steps are being taken to develop a school in Ixtlan, which will afford a number of opportunities for service. It has been decided that a group home approach will be utilized for the orphanage at Magdalena. This will provide opportunity for service as house parents and other assignments. An application process is in place for volunteers. Those serving six months or less may apply directly to the Magdalena office. Those serving longer terms should follow the Mission Committee procedures described above.

Small Church Study Committee

This committee has completed its gathering of information and is developing recommendations. Representatives have made presentations at the last two Mission Committee meetings. Effort has been made to develop approaches for the small churches to consider as well as for brethren in our larger churches who are willing to help. Communication will be an important part of this effort. When brethren are made aware of needs and of suggestions as to how they can be of help, hearts can be moved to participate in meeting needs. All should be prayerful that when the Lord touches our heart to give of ourselves to others, we will be ready and willing to say as Samuel of old, "Speak, for thy servant heareth" (1 Sam. 3:10). We are taught that our first responsibility is to those of the "household of faith," and then to "all men" (Gal. 6:10). Anyone seeking further information about mission activities should contact Bro. Phil Stettner, Secretary-Treasurer at (260) 565-3499 or phs@adamswells.com.



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 Distribution Centers

World Relief Centers serve the Brethren of the Apostolic Christian Church by providing means whereby we might help those who are in need of material assistance. We are thankful to have World Relief Centers at six locations in the United States. The Spirit has moved the hearts of the Brethren to acts of love and kindness toward needy souls.

In Matthew we read "Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee, or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in, or naked and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?" (Matt 25:37-39)

May the Lord reward every quiet, and unselfish act of support and generosity manifested by many brethren throughout our churches. World Relief supports the making and distribution of several products which express the love and compassion of the brotherhood. The following are a few of these.

Clothes

Sea containers of clothes have been sent to those in need in Uzbekistan, Tbilisi and Romania as well as shipments within the U.S. Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, a country in the Transcaucasus, has encountered economic plight by the influx of some 300,000 refugees after the country's civil war between the years of 1991 - 1994.

An additional 200,000 refugees were displaced to other regions of the country. This war resulted in autonomous regions, leaving Georgia with a disrupted and

declining economy. In 2003, United Nations Statistics show the Gross National Income at \$750 per capita in Georgia verses \$37,305 in the U.S. The people of Tbilisi were thankful for our recent shipments of clothing.

Comforters

The comforters made for the needy are an emblem of compassion toward the recipients. In receiving a pallet of comforters, one cannot help but think of the countless hours of love and kindness expressed by such a work. Light, medium and heavy weight comforters are made to accommodate various climates. As the name would depict, many are comforted.

Packaged Meals

Rice Pilaf and Barley Soup are made by numerous churches. Low cost, nutritious meals have been supplied for disasters such as the Tsunami. A few pallets of these meals were combined with loads of grain.

International Services Of Hope, who assisted in shipping the containers, indicated that the Rice Pilaf was well received because the product was easily adapted to the culture and packaged in durable buckets.

Soap

The Wolcott and West Bend areas continue to make soap. Bar soap is molded and packaged with one or three to a bag. Ground soap is also available. The requests for soap are many. One or two pallets of soap have been sent with disaster shipments, many of which were sent to Indonesia. It is not hard to realize how this helps those who are living in flood-devastated areas.

Meat

Canned meat has been distributed from the Ohio center to disasters within the U.S and for disasters or extreme needs internationally. Pallets of beef and turkey were shipped to Mennonite Central Committee sponsored orphanages in North Korea. One of the MCC Material Aid Coordinators grew up in South Korea. He reported to us the great impact the meat had on the children. He gave accounts of expectant mothers who relied on this meat – only several chunks per day – to survive during poor living conditions. Recent shipments went to Sri Lanka, Haiti, Guyana and Columbia. We are thankful God has provided us these resources to help those who are in need.

Beans

Beans are packaged and shipped from the Morris and Bay City areas. Recently, for disaster relief, yellow peas and light red kidney beans have been used due to the higher price of pinto beans. The beans we send are some of the most economical sources of protein available for those who have suffered hardship.

Grain

Grain shipments have recently been sent from the Bloomfield, Bluffton, Fairbury, Ohio and Princeville areas. These are primarily corn shipments. The corn is used to make tortillas and is included in other recipes. We are grateful for the opportunities granted to us that we might send grain to provide this aid.

The needs are great and the recipients are deeply appreciative. Thanks be to God for the many brethren who have been moved to help alleviate human misery and suffering throughout the world.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN COUNSELING SERVICES

"We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me."

Romans 15:1-3

The Bible teaches us about our responsibilities to bear each other's burdens. Are we our brother's keeper? Yes!

Apostolic Christian Counseling Services received the support of the Elder Body and began services in January, 2000. Over the past five years we have grown and developed. We are thankful for the support we have received from the church and for the opportunity to be a part of bearing the infirmities of others. We are thankful when souls are able to get help to make changes that allow them a closer relationship with God.

While ACCS is located in Central Illinois, we serve the entire church nationally and internationally. Because distance can be a barrier to people getting help, we have been trying to find ways to be of support to our brethren wherever they are located. ACCS recently received support from the Elder Body to make some of our services available on the Internet. This site is available to the public at www.accounseling.org.

The web site has the following features:

- Interested individuals can find

information about mental health issues and relationship problems.

- The information can be accessed whenever it is needed.
- Information about how to find help for oneself or others is available
- Information about ACCS and the services we provide can be found
- Print information can be downloaded and/or ordered online
- New information is being added to the site regularly and we plan to continue to add to the site as we are able.

Part of the site is devoted to elders and ministers. This part of the site requires a password to access. The information in the Elder/Minister area is not necessarily sensitive, but it is material that is specifically for the purpose of assisting them in their roles.

The content of the site has been carefully screened by a committee consisting of the Board of Directors, elders, ministers, and other interested parties. We want the site to be useful to those accessing the site and supportive of the church. We hope and pray that it can be used to the honor and glory of God.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Time

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose un-

der the heaven."

Eccles. 3:1

"Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you."

Hosea 10:12

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."

Romans 13:11

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light."

Romans 13:12

"Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."

Proverbs 27:1

"...our days upon earth are a shadow."

Job 8:9

"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

James 4:14

"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

Ephesians 5:16

TODAY is a gift from our Heavenly Father.

Worship Him in it.

Praise and thank Him for it.

You will never have this day again.

Spend it wisely.

Redeem each moment.
 Enjoy this gift from God.
 Look to this day,
 For it is life,
 In its brief course lie all
 The realities and verities of earthly
 existence –
 For yesterday is but an experience,
 And tomorrow a vision of Hope,
 Look well, therefore, to this day.

OCTOBER birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Tricia O'Donnell (10/1), Erin York (10/1), Julie Urish (10/3), Emma Walker (10/15), Curt Jewett (10/24), Jan Springer (10/30).

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

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

At 1001 E. Idlewood, Morton, IL 61550: Anita Schuon (10/13).

At 652 Detroit, Morton, IL 61550: Chadwich Gerber (10/9).

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

**GATEWAY WOODS
 APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
 CHILDREN'S HOME**

Patsy Stoller

God's Word is filled with promises and directives to inspire us with a confident hope and assurance in Jesus Christ. One such passage of scripture that continuously reminds me of the assurance of Jesus Christ as my Shepherd is the 23rd Psalm.

"The Lord is my Shepherd...I shall not want." When we recite these words through our minds, with emphasis put on one word at a time, it assures us of His sufficiency

to provide our every need.

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, He leadeth me beside the still waters." These simple phrases can fill one's mind with word pictures, assuring oneself of the gentleness and abundant provision of our Shepherd as we experience trials and tests, which have not gone unnoticed by Him. Picture His provision of a plush meadow with flowers blowing in the breeze, blue sky with puffy pillow clouds making us to lie down in His pasture to 'digest' His Word while listening to the trickle of water to drink and be refreshed. With confidence we can trust Jesus our Shepherd; He knows our strengths and weaknesses.

"He restoreth my soul, He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for His name sake." Jesus is continuously tending to the needs of His sheep. He heals, He revives, and He leads all for His glory!

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me." Again Jesus wants us to know of His assurance of being with us through the darkest hours.

"Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me." Often our paths are winding and steep, with many unknowns. He uses His rod for our protection and He uses His staff to pull us back on the pathway when we've slipped along the steep slopes. The tools He provides are a comfort for our protection and correction.

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies." Again, what a comfort to trust Jesus our Shepherd and His Word as we come to His table for nourishment, even when sur-

rounded by enemies!

"Thou annointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over." On life's journey we will sustain bruises, scratches and wounds, as well as become tired and weary from the heat of the battle. As we come to the door of His shelter we can be assured that our Shepherd will tend to our needs. He will pour His healing oil into our wounds and share with us His life-giving water in abundance. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

The Lord is my Shepherd...I shall not want!

News

2005 Auction: What a blessing! Thanks and praise be to our Great God for another wonderful Auction! We want to thank everyone for coming and for "Sharing in the Blessing." The total dollar amount for this year's Auction ended up at \$312,000 on Auction day alone! Every year it seems that the total keeps increasing. A special thanks to Bro. Bob and Sis. Kim Maller (Bluffton) for playing a huge role in Auctions over the past few years. We really appreciate it! Thanks to everyone for being willing to give back what God has given to you.

4th House: Also on Sale Day we announced our plans for building another group home on campus in 2006. It is our request and hope that most congregations will take a special collection this fall for this growth need.

Back to school: School was back in session on August 22. We hope that the kids can be focused this year and that they will recognize the importance of receiving a good

education and that hard work pays off.

It is important to remember that Gateway Woods provides services to more than just the kids living on campus. Gateway Woods specializes in Foster Care, Adoption, Family Services (IL), Home-Based Services, Christian Counselors, and, of course, the Family Focused Residential Child Care Program. We are thankful that God continues to help us improve each of these programs and it is a wonderful thing to see lives being turned around!

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

"Do butterflies eat leaves or pine needles?" The children were elated one day to actually catch a butterfly. Little did they know in their innocence, that they had cut their little friend's life very short. With it's wings tattered and torn from being passed from one hand to another and it's legs barely kicking, they came to the conclusion that maybe they had just fed it too many "crunchy chips" (leaves). Wow the mind of a child is fascinating, but just as tender as the wings of that butterfly. Every day they are exploring, learning and discovering what life is all about. What we say and do influences them in so many ways. God reminded me that day that this is a job so much bigger than me...it's His size. With Him these children will one day "fly" with their own beautiful wings.

Our school year has begun. Over the past month our theme has been "Back to School". We have been getting to know more

about each other, routines, rules and so much more. God continues to bless us with students and we are so thankful for every one. Each one has a way of bringing a different and unique ray of sunshine into our days.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

We were thankful for our visitors this month. Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL) were our visiting ministers this month. Thank you for your service and also to those who traveled with them. We enjoyed your company.

This past month nearly all of our congregation traveled together up to Leo, IN, for the Gateway Woods auction. We had a wonderful time and were so thankful the Lord blessed our trip.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."
Philippians 4:13

What a joyous time when Sunday School started August 14, after a short time for family vacations.

Our visiting minister was Bro. Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA). Our hearty thanks to God for you, Bro. Jim.

We are delighted to welcome two babies into our congregation: Ashley Kae was born to Bro. Brandon and Sis. Mindy Rinkenberger on July 24. Her grandparents are Sis. Judy Knapp

and Bro. Ken and Sis. Devona Rinkenberger. On August 5, Austin Kyle was born to Aubrey Lindenbaum. Bro. Ron and Sis. Marge Lindenbaum are his grandparents.

We have had many dear ones on our prayer list. Surgical patients were: Mary Ella Klopfenstein, Bro. Rudy Bertschi, Dakota Thorpe, and Evelyn Howley. Others needing special prayers were Sis. Katherine Laukhuf, Sis. Eunice Dotterer, Sis. Bertha Miller, Bro. Floyd and Sis. Clara Banwart, and Franz Hoerr.

It seems that there are numerous opportunities to witness for Christ, and people seem so hungry! Let's make use of each chance we are given.

**ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Jane Hodges**

Adelaye and Ayra Dubach welcome their new sister, Ahna Stasia, born on August 16, weighing 6# 10oz. We are thankful for her safe arrival as are her parents, Sis. Bethany and Bro. Dan Dubach, and grandparents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena Furrer and Bro. Ken Dubach (Bluffton) & Jodi Holloway.

We also welcome to our church family Sis. Kara Drayer (daughter of Bro. Herm and Sis. Julie of Bluffton) and Bro. Ed and Sis. Jenny Schambach (Elgin, IL). Sis. Kara plans to pursue a career in nursing and has started C.N.A. training at Prescott Samaritan Village, the same nursing home where Bro. Henry Volz resides. Bro. Ed and Sis. Jenny will be living in separate quarters at the home of their son and daughter-in-law, Bro. Ed and Sis. Gail Schambach. We

thank and praise the Lord for the new additions to our congregation.

Our visiting ministers included our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich, Bros. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA), Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy) and James Emch (Sis. Gina), both of Phoenix. We wish to thank these Brothers for their service, love and support. May God richly bless them and their families.

Correction to July's reporting: Sis. Verena Kaeppler's mother, Sis. Anna Witzig Schneider, who died on June 13 at the age of 101, was born in 1903 to Emil & Elizabeth Stoller Witzig of Gridley, IL. She married Ernest Schneider in 1932. He preceded her in death in 1998.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

As I write this Tucson has just enjoyed a beautiful morning rain shower. Quite unusual considering our monsoon rainstorms are usually in the afternoon. We are having a really nice monsoon season after a record 38 days in the 100 degree temperatures. What wonderful relief God provides.

We said goodbye to C.J. Kaufman (Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline) as he heads off to Akron, OH, to start his college life. C.J. will be playing soccer at Akron along with his studies and we pray that God will help him adjust to the many changes he faces. We will miss you, C.J., and we are all praying for you!

Our college, high school, middle school and elementary children have started back to school. We pray that God will help them shine a different light on the world around them as we send them into

a world very different from their home environments.

We have, as I'm sure you all do, too, many people on our hearts and minds to pray for. And as life tends to go, some of our prayers are of praise and thanksgiving and some are prayers of pleading for God's healing and mercy. We are praying for our dear Sis. Shirley Luthi and her children as well as Bro. Reuben and Sis. Chrystol Luthi in the loss of their cherished husband, father and son. We hold them up in prayer as we also hold up the Altadena church; we know how one life can greatly affect a small church family. Our prayers are also with Steve and Maria Bauer and their family as her mother battles the challenging effects of life with cancer and a recent surgery.

As for the prayers of praise, we are rejoicing with Bro. Brad and Sis. Sandy Bauer as Sandy's older sister has answered the call to offer her life to Christ in service. She was baptized in Peoria recently and Bro. Brad and Sis. Sandy were able to attend. Again, what wonderful relief God provides in the midst of life's storms.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Robin Moser

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."

John 12:24

Our church family mourns the passing of our beloved minister, brother and friend, Bro. Jeff Luthi (Sis. Shirley) who died suddenly on Sunday evening, August 7. Bro.

Jeff will be sorely missed in our small congregation, and especially in his family circle. He is survived by his wife, Shirley; children, Daniel, Lydian, Alyson, Joel, Micah, and Anne; and parents, Reuben and Chrystol Luthi of Morris, MN.

Bro. Jeff had just finished leading a topical Bible study about the character of God the week before he went to be with Jesus. He made a comment that was reiterated often at the funeral: "God is not a fumbling God". It is easy to think that the Lord must have made a "mistake". However, Bro. Jeff trusted God's wisdom and timing above his own, and we shall do the same. He also reminded us, "God sees everything from the mountaintop while we can only see one side of the mountain." Some day we'll understand.

We are thankful for visiting ministers who were willing to assist our Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody) with the funeral service, including: Bro. Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN). In addition, Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), Bro. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Curt Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson, AZ) Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Jay Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Tucson, AZ) shared the Word with us this month. We are grateful for all of their efforts on our behalf.

Just this week, our congregation bade farewell to Bro. Jonathon Sauder (Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) following his working summer with us in the Pasadena area. We appreciated Jonathon's contributions and hope he can return. In addition, we said good-bye

to Sis. Stephany Moser as she returned to China for another year of work and missions.

We would like to welcome Braden Mogler (Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary Mogler, Minneapolis, MN) as he moves to the Los Angeles area for study at Pepperdine University. Even better was the news that Braden recently began a new walk with Christ. We rejoice with him and pray the Lord will lead Braden as he adapts to many transitions.

The Luthi family would like to submit the following:

Once they saw through a glass
darkly,
Now they see their risen Lord.
Once they fought through tests
and trials,
Now they stand in faith's reward.
Once they had but partial knowl-
edge,
Now they know as they are known.
Once they walked a pilgrim's jour-
ney,
Now their feet are safely Home.

—Roy Lessin

Through this difficult time we take comfort knowing that Jeff is now seeing His risen Lord.

We pray God's blessing on each of you for your prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, monetary gifts, food and other expressions of support and love you have shown to our family.

We are grateful not only for the great outpouring of love now, but also for how much your prayers have ministered to our family the past 6 ½ years.

Although Jeff's sudden and unexpected death was a shock, due to very recent tests showing Jeff remained cancer-free, God continues to show His mercy in seeing evidence of His perfect timing.

With sincere appreciation and love,

*Shirley, Daniel, Lydian, Alyson,
Joel, Micah, Anne, Reuben and
Chrystal Luthi*

The following letter is being submitted at the request of some brothers in our Altadena congregation, with Sis. Shirley's permission.

It is human and natural to feel anger at God because of a young father of six children and beloved husband being taken cruelly, it would seem, from his family. But I fear this anger will hinder our understanding of God.

The God of the Bible that Jeff and I know is a God of purpose. Early this morning, as I could not sleep, several things were brought with great clarity to my heart and mind.

God prepared us for this by teaching us in Jeff's recent Bible studies that God is eternal. The Bible says of God, that "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God" (Psalm 90:2). God is not bound by time as we are — He sees all — past present, and future — as we are able to see things presently.

Also, God is purposeful. He says in the Bible that "he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:27-28). He works all things for His greatest good, which is man's relationship with his God. He says that He has

"made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him" (Ephesians 1:9-10).

With this in mind, Jeff's death is not untimely. God is not (as Jeff called the misconception) a "fumbling God." He has timed Jeff's earthly death perfectly for His purposes — to know you and cause you to seek Him.

God is a God of love. He says that "he that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" (I John 3:8-11). Jeff bowed to His sovereignty when alive and sought deeper relationship with Him. As he grew in relationship with God, so did his love for, adoration of and trust in his God increase.

God in His love for Jeff did not give Jeff a choice as to whether or not to stay or leave. Jeff loved his family, church family, and friends dearly. As you know he was faithful to responsibility at home, church and workplace. He would have felt an obligation to stay. God in His love and omniscience relieved him of choice and simply took him. Jeff would have told us we could trust God's wisdom, which is infinite (Isaiah 46:9-10) over our limited wisdom.

The children ... the wife ... the only son ... the ministry ... the ones he knew and loved ... the work projects...? Jeff taught us God is independent. God is not dependent on Jeff to complete the work Jeff began. He will see that needful work is done and those affected are cared for.

Will we miss Jeff? Will our hearts sorrow? Yes! This world is full of the hurt, confusion, and pain brought about by man's rejection of his Maker. God in His love stretches out his hand through Christ to take us to a safe haven with our eternal God. We need not "sorrow even as others who have no hope" (I Thessalonians 4:13).

I called out to God as I and others attempted to resuscitate Jeff. I pleaded with Jeff to breathe and live. I prayed with such intensity to spare Jeff yet again. This time God in His omnipotence, immutability, omniscience, love and mercy, said no.

Join me and others in rejoicing in Jeff's final homecoming. I believe Jeff is prostrate in love and humble adoration at the feet of God his Savior as he finally sees Him without his earthly hindrances.

I love Jeff and count it a privilege to have been his beloved for 21 years. Because of his love and pursuit of God my heart safely trusted in his leadership of our family. He pointed me to God and in so doing helped prepare me and his children for this day. I see this now.

You were his people, and so in a way you are mine, too. His God is my God. I lift you up in prayer and ask God's comfort and revelation. Seek Him and you will find Him. God will continue to honor and answer the prayers Jeff said for his

family and those he loved.

*With much love,
Shirley*

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Peggy Jevremov

What a blessed day we had on July 24 as we witnessed the wedding vows of our dear Sis. Rachel Petrovic and Bro. Zachary Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). Their parents are Elder Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian Petrovic and Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane Kuenzi. We surely will miss Sis. Rachel here in our little congregation. We pray the Lord will richly bless them as they begin walking together as one in the Lord. We look forward to their many visits to San Diego!

Among our many visitors this month was Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) and Bros. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) and Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL). We want to thank them for sharing God's Word with us and pray the Lord's blessing upon them.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

Johanna Fortenbacher

May the Lord richly bless all our visiting ministers this past month. They were Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit), and Bros. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan/Naumburg), Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford), and Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville).

"Sit and pause a while, my spirit,
This great miracle behold..."

Zions Harp #226

We are thankful to hear that the

Brotherhood Conference went well this year, and for the many people involved in making this possible. May we never take this wonderful, blessed event for granted.

Since many Kitchener brethren were on holidays throughout this summer, it was so nice to have visitors come and support us here.

COLORADO, DENVER Ann Gonglach

Divine Wisdom

With patient course thy path of
duty run;
God nothing does, nor suffers to be
done,
What thou wouldst do thyself,
couldst thou but see
The end of all events as well as He.
—author unknown

Our prayers have been with Justin Wiegand and his family (Gridley, IL) as he suffered an accident while vacationing in Colorado and has been in the hospital and rehabilitation here for the last several weeks. May it be the Lord's will to continue to heal him.

Once again we've been blessed with many visitors and visiting ministers including Bros. Gary Endress and Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA), Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL), Dave Steffen (Elgin, IL), Garth Steffen (Portland, OR), and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT).

CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE Laura Virkler Amber Reutter

They gladly bear the cross of Jesus,

Fear not its burden or distress:
 Beneath its pride and envy ceases,
 It leaves no time for idleness.
 Although at times they feel dis-
 couraged,
 They look upon their pilgrim way
 To Christ, their Savior, and their
 stay,
 And bear their load, renewed with
 courage.

Zion's Harp #64

How thankful we are to be blessed with the presence of the Holy Spirit. Having the Lord with us is such a comfort and strength! We thank all of those who made the effort to make it to the Conference and labored on our behalf. Those of us who were not able to attend look forward to the opportunity to listen to the tapes. These are special and uplifting times!

Our prayers reach out to Sis. Carol (Bro. Doug.) as she, her siblings, and her extended family mourn the loss of her brother, Bro. Eldon Metzger (Sis. Doreen). May the Lord be a comfort to her and her family through this time.

Our prayers also extend to our dear Sis. Irma Luginbuhl as she prepares for an extensive surgery this coming week. We pray that the Lord's hand will be with her throughout the operation, and provide for her a measure of healing. We all have appreciated Sis. Irma's staunch faith throughout these past months, and has been a blessed example to us all. May the Lord richly bless her.

Our congregation was blessed with a new convert this past month, Beth Wagenbach (Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary). We rejoice with her as she embarks on this pathway. May she find much grace and strength from the Lord and His

many children. We are delighted and pray that the Lord will continue stir many more hearts!

We are also blessed to have another child born among us. Amos John Gottfred was born to Bro. Glen and Sis. Erica Bahler on August 8. His siblings are Isaac, Micah and Moses. It always warms our hearts to see the many children represented in our congregation. May the Lord richly bless each growing family with much grace and mercy!

We have been showered with so many visitors these past few months out here along the East Coast. We appreciate each one that has made the effort to assemble with us. It is always an encouragement to feel the strength of the Brotherhood across the miles. It is the fellowship that fuels our zeal in our service to our Lord and Master. May the Lord be with you all along your pilgrim way.

Note of Thanks:

It is with deep appreciation and gratitude that we express our heartfelt thanks for the many prayers, cards and loving support given on our behalf since the death of our son Craig. May God richly bless each one for your love and compassion.

*Bro. Arthur and Sis. Judy
 Gottier*

Doug, Kim and Family

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 WASHINGTON
 Henrietta Meyer**

*"Weep with them that weep."
 Romans 12:15*

We extend our sympathy to

Wendy and Matt Fetter, Skyler and Rhett at the loss of their father and grandfather, Bro. Eldon Metzger of the Lamont-Gridley congregation. We were blessed to know Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene in their many trips this way to visit their family.

We enjoyed having Dan Lynch of Bluffton, IN, in our midst while he had an internship this summer.

This month we were blessed with not only lots of visitors, but also lots of visiting ministers. This month our ministers were Bro. Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy, Rockville, CT) Bro. Keith Beyer (Sis. Alisa, Detroit, MI), Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria, IL) and Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH). Thank you, Brothers, for lending yourselves to minister to us.

We are glad many folks included us in their vacation plans. This month we had visitors from Junction and Latty, OH; Bluffton and Francesville, IN; Tremont, Forrest and Roanoke, IL; Rockville, CT; Alto, MI; Lester, IA; and Phoenix, AZ.

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 or Sis. Henrietta Meyer (703) 904-8301 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 that we had visiting ministers this month. May God bless Bro. Marvin Steffen (Sis. Rhea, North Ft. Myers, FL) and Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL) who came and shared God's Word with us.

Summer is over and the school year is starting. We pray that God would bless and lead the children and their families throughout the scholastic year.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Mary Masters**

There is much rejoicing in Curt and Sis. Jane Huette's family as they have a new grandson and will also be welcoming a new daughter-in-law. Caleb John was born on July 6 to Lisa (Huette) and Phil Ekema. Three year old Andrew is so excited for a new brother. Chris Huette and Deepa Ramamurthy will be united in marriage in September. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their new life together.

We are missing our dear Sis. Daniela Todoran, as she remains in Arizona helping out with family. We hope she is doing well and will be so happy when she returns to us.

We continue to enjoy visitors this summer which adds to our small numbers. We are thankful

for each and every one who comes to worship with us.

Our sympathy goes out to our Sis. Mary Ann Mann in the loss of her brother, Irvin Knapp. We also extend our sympathy to his wife, Phyllis.

We were blessed with good food and sweet fellowship at the home of Bro. Stan and Sis. Naomi Vogel where an all-church potluck was hosted.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Robin Wiegand**

Greetings! We were fortunate this month to have Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) minister to us. We always enjoy visiting ministers. We wish to extend a welcoming hand to any ministering brothers (and their families) who feel led to visit our congregation. Peace and love to one and all.

**GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Kevin Kipfer
Benjamin Stoller**

"Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing."

Psalm 100:2

Hello everyone! We hope these recent weeks have been a great experience in your relationship with our Father. Once again we were very thankful for our visiting ministers during the past month. Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Susan, Detroit, MI), Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), and Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) blessed us with their presence. Our friend, Will

Olar, has finished a singing tour along the west coast with his youth choir and is currently in Europe visiting family.

During the week of July 17, we learned about and practiced serving God for our vacation Bible school (Psalm 100). On Sunday, July 31, we said goodbye to Bro. Keith, Sis. Carol, Sam, and Matthew Kauffman who have moved to Sabetha, Kansas. Sis. Rachel Huber and Bro. Regg Beer also visited us during the first week of August to help with an outreach project for some inner-city Atlanta youth. It was certainly a wonderful endeavor for all those involved and we were sad to bid "farewell".

Our visiting ministers for the upcoming month are from Latty, OH (October 2), Peoria, IL (October 16), and Akron, OH (October 30).

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Kara Martin
Ann Nussbaum**

We were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Andy and Sis. Brooke Feucht (Bro. Jordan and Sis. Kathy Feucht, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Brad and Sis. Cheryl Baurer, Roanoke, IL) on July 16-17. We thank Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) for being with us for the weekend.

On July 24 we had two visiting ministers, Bros. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) and Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO). God bless them for serving our congregation.

Also on July 24, our annual Sunday School picnic was held. We shared a potluck dinner together along with activities and fellow-

ship. It is a joy to spend time with our students!

We rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. David, Jr. and Sis. Haley Kieser. They welcomed Landon Tate on July 30. His grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Gerry Kruse (Morton, IL) and Bro. David and Sis. Wilma Kieser. May God grant wisdom to Bro. Tater and Sis. Haley as they seek to raise Landon in His ways.

Joshua Carlisle has been attending our church, and we lift him up in prayer as he seeks to further his relationship with Christ during his repentance.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD **Steve Endress**

We rejoice with Ryan and Jill Pyles as they welcomed their first child into this world. Emma Katelyn was born on July 18 and is welcomed home by grandparents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky Pyles and James and Brenda Kelly.

The summer so quickly draws to a close and school is beginning once again. We offer our prayers and support to our Sunday School teachers who lovingly take the responsibility to teach our young people. Our prayers and support are with Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel) as he has been chosen to fill Bro. Bruce Endress' term as Sunday School teacher. We appreciate Bro. Bruce's years of willing service.

Ron and Sis. Deanne Baer are enjoying their first grandson. Ethan William was born to their son, Marvin, and Linda on August 15.

We bid farewell to Sis. Kay Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida) who traveled again to Japan to take a teaching position. We pray

for God's protecting hand over her in the coming year.

ILLINOIS **CHAMPAIGN-URBANA** **Karla Kieser**

A picnic was held for the new college students the Sunday before classes began. We are happy to see some new faces! The new students are Bro. Josh Steffen from Belvidere, Convert Michael Kaeb from Cissna Park, Bro. Mark Sauder from Tremont, Convert Cameron Walder from W. Lafayette, Sis. Kristin Schmidgall from Fairbury, Sis. Gabrielle Roeschley from Morton, Sis. Jenny Wyss from Washington, Bro. Blake Knapp from Goodfield, TeAnna Johnson from Forrest, Bro. Jeremy Hodel from Roanoke, Jolyn Koehl from Forrest, Bro. Blake Zehr from Fairbury, Bro. Josh Schmidgall from Forrest, Bro. Brent Rocke from Roanoke, and Denver Rassi from Fairbury. We pray that these new students will feel welcome in our small church! The Sunday School is also back in full swing. We didn't have Sunday School for a part of the summer so the students and teachers had some time off. Most families took advantage of this time off and did some traveling.

We are very joyful for Convert Will Moser as he has come to a time in his repentance where he feels at peace with God and man. He is the son of Ginger Moser from Champaign. Lord willing, he will share his testimony and be baptized the weekend of November 5-6.

We thank our visiting ministers from this past month. Bros. Ben Walder (Congerville), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City), Greg

Rassi (Chicago), Jeff Thames (Washington), DeWayne Dill (Minneapolis), Dean Steffen (Belvidere) and Nathan Wieland (Goodfield) all shared in God's Word with us.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO **Rachel Meyer**

Greetings of love from Chicago, where our grass is greener, our plants are taller, and we are thanking God for the blessing of rain received this past month. One day I was fairly sure it was going to rain, because our two cats were hiding instead of roaming around our home. If you have pets, you may have noticed how sensitive they are to changes in the atmosphere – they seem to be able to sense the coming change before humans. How much more so with God. He knows what is ahead for each of us, and by trusting His will we can walk with confidence, as opposed to hiding from our future.

It is a pleasure to welcome two new faces to our Chicago congregation. Monica Wulf of Lester, IA, and LaNae Knapp (convert) of Champaign and Fairbury, IL are both pursuing their studies in Chicago. We look forward to getting to know these young ladies and are glad to have them assembling with us.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the ministers who have visited this past month. Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), and Bros. John Grimm (Columbus, OH) and Dave Steffen (Elgin, IL) gave of their time to preach God's Word. It was a joy to have these brothers and their families with us.

As a congregation we give our support to Bros. Kim Steffen and

Dave Westfall who have been selected to serve as Sunday School teachers. We are thankful for each brother and sister who is willing to be a vessel for the Lord to instruct our youth in the ways of truth.

Our prayers for continued healing are with Sis. Gloria Stahl (Bro. Norm). Sis. Gloria recently had knee surgery, and we wish her a speedy recovery. God bless you!

Time. It comes in seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, years...we could go on and on defining time and its measures and movements. It is perceived differently by each of us, often because of the perspective by which it is being viewed. I was vividly reminded of this recently by a sincere comment made by my 4-year-old nephew. He and his family were going to another family's home for the evening. My sister was explaining to him that the lady of the house they were going to visit had been a bridesmaid in "Aunt Rachel and Uncle Ricky's" wedding. My nephew thought about it and then said, "But Mom, that was hundreds of years ago!" Ouch. (I am pleased to report it was only ten years ago!) My nephew's perspective of time is obviously a lot different than mine. It is true, however, that in the ten years since our marriage many things have changed and most likely will continue to do so, Lord willing.

On a serious note, it reminded me of how God counts time. The Bible says in Psalm 90:4, "For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night." Second Peter 3:8 says, "...one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." Most

likely each of us has experienced heartache, a disappointment, or a serious burden that seems to have been with us too long. We pray for relief, for the burden to be taken away...yet time seems to continue to march on endlessly. I have felt this way, too. Where is God? Why does He allow my heart to break anew each day and does He even hear my prayer at all? These can be desperate times, yet soon we will come through them. But by who's definition of "soon"? Mine or God's? While none of us can answer that question, we have assurance from God that every prayer is heard, every tear drop stored up in Heaven, and that God has a purpose for every situation. "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8).

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Pam Walder
Andrea Walder**

We rejoice that several more souls in our congregation have answered the call to repentance. Our new converts are Julia Kaeb and Ben Kaeb (Bro. Max and Sis. Beth), Reid Walder (Bro. Steve and Sis. Kathy), Steve Miller and Lyle Young. May God grant them His blessings and grace as they begin their repentance.

We thank visiting ministers, Bros. Darrin Fehr (West Bend, IA), Ned Stoller (Alto, MI), and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) for being with us and allowing the Spirit to work through them to bring forth the true Word of God. May the blessings of the Lord be upon them and their families.

Our Sis. Lorine Rocke passed away this month and we wish to ex-

tend our sympathy to her family. We especially want to remember her brother and sisters, Bro. Lester Rocke, Sis. Aldean Kaufmann and Sis. Doris Koehl.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Valerie Kaeb are the thankful parents of a new son, Tyler John, born on August 17. Also welcoming him home are his siblings, Amber, Nathan, Justin, Trevor, Abigail and Audrey. Grandparents are Bro. Sid and Sis. Sandy Kaufmann and Bro. Elmer and Sis. MaryLou Kaeb. Sis. Velma Rinkenberger is thankful to welcome a new granddaughter, Amber Kay, who was born on August 15. Amber's parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Anne Moser (Elgin, IL).

Note of Thanks:

With love and thankfulness from our heart, we wish to thank all who expressed their sympathy, prayers, monetary gifts, flowers, food, and cards at the loss of our dear sister, Lorine Rocke. A sincere thank you to all at Fairview Haven Home who cared for her in loving kindness and patience. A thank you to those who visited her and offered prayers from time to time. She so appreciated the prayers. Also thank you to the nieces and nephews for food at the funeral home and acts of kindness throughout her illness. May God bless each and every one of you.

Bro. Lester Rocke, Sis. Doris Koehl, and Sis. Aldean Kaufmann

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Rachel Schrock

We are always encouraged as we attend or listen to the tapes of the Brotherhood Conference. One dear Elder Brother encouraged us to always keep our feet shod with the

preparation of the gospel of peace (Eph. 6:15). Being prepared is the key to being ready to "sell" a pair of peace filled shoes to a searching soul.

Thankfulness flows from our hearts to those who are willing to minister to us each Sunday and Wednesday night helping us keep spiritually ready to work in God's vineyard. We especially wish to thank our visiting ministering brothers this past month, including Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) and Bros. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barb, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy, Wolcott, IN).

We extend our prayers for peace to the friends and family of Beverly Schieber as she recently passed on from this earthly life after a drawn out battle with cancer. May each of us be ready for the day the Lord calls us Home to Him.

Peace also fills the heart of our Bro. Brian and Sis. Holly (Stickling) Zobrist who were joined in Holy Matrimony on July 24 in Peoria. Their rejoicing parents are Bro. Clarence and Sis. Luann Zobrist of our congregation and Bro. Scott and Sis. Jan Stickling (Peoria, IL). Many of us attended their wedding and could feel the love of our neighboring congregation. We warmly welcome Sis. Holly into our church family!

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser**

We rejoice with another dear couple whose lives have been directed to become one in the Lord. The engagement of Bro. Brently Schambach (Bro. Don and Sis. Leann) to Sis. Molly Beery (Bro.

Earl and Sis. Suzanne of Rittman, OH) was announced on July 31. May God's blessings rest upon them as they prepare for a January wedding.

Students, teachers and their families enjoyed the annual Sunday School picnic at the Fellowship Center the last Sunday of July. Vacation Bible School was held the following week. We extend special thanks to those who traveled here to speak on various topics. The guests included ministering Bros. Ed Sauder and Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), Ted Schock (Belvidere, IL) and Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL). Bro. Kent Kloter from Gateway Woods gave a topical presentation to the entire church on Wednesday evening.

We were encouraged to have over a dozen Indiana and Ohio visitors stop in Elgin for the mid-week service on their way to the Brotherhood Conference. Included in that number were four ministers: Bros. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Ben and Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Ron Palitto (Akron, OH). Other visitors in the past month were ministering Bros. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington-Normal, IL) and Steve Stieglitz (Leo, IN). We thank each brother for providing us spiritual nourishment from God's Word.

On August 14, we bid a reluctant farewell to Bro. Ed and Sis. Jenny Schambach, who will be relocating to Arizona. They will be closer to some of their children and plan to assemble with the brethren in Prescott. We've appreciated Bro. Ed and Sis. Jenny's support and many labors of love to the Elgin congregation and will pray for

them and their family, especially during this time of transition. May God watch between us!

Bro. Dan and Sis. Anne Moser welcomed little Amber Kay into their family on August 15. Joshua, Ryan, Nathan and Alyssa are excited to have a new sister. The happy grandparents are Sis. Velma Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Libbie Ann Moser.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Cindy Stoller
Lisa Metzger**

The marriage engagement of Bro. Jonathan Wiegand (Bro. Don and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Marla Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Dianne) was recently announced. We are thankful for the Lord's direction in their lives and pray they will continue to feel His blessings.

Brenda Stoller (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie) and Mike Geiger of Ann Arbor, MI (Paul Geiger and Rochelle Geiger) were united in marriage on July 30. Also, Ed Wettstein (Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna) and Stephanie Kamp (Kent and Cindy, Eureka) were married on August 13. We wish these new couples God's blessings as they start their married lives together.

We offer our congratulations to Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie Zimmerman as they have recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We are confident they have felt the Lord's blessings along life's way and we wish them His continued nearness in the years to come.

Note of Thanks:

Our heartfelt thanks to all who remembered us with food, cards

and your many prayers during the long illness and passing of our daughter-in-law and sister-in-law, Sandy Rocke. May God bless you for your kindness and love.

Sis. Bena Mae Rocke

Bro. Mike and Sis. Kathy Leman

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Lila Fehr

Anna Schmidgall

Twyla Jean came to join the family of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Katie Meiss on June 15. She has a big sister, Darla. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane Meiss and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna Kaisner. May they be blessed with much wisdom from above as they raise their family.

We thank our visiting ministers, Bros. Al Schambach (Remington, IN), Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) for their willing service in preaching God's Holy Word to us.

The engagement of Bro. Walter Edelman, Jr. (Bro. Walter and Sis. Rosie) and Sis. Janelle Steidinger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn) was announced August 7. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare for a life together.

Our prayers are also with Fanny Steffen and Kyra Gadberry (Jaythan) who have spent time in the hospital. May they feel God's nearness at this time.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jill Wenger

Lori Leman

We were so thankful to hear the engagement of our Bro. Bryan Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne) and Sis. Lisa Dotterer (Sis. Kathy and the late Bro.

Wendell). We pray that God will continue to lead them and provide as they make plans to be joined as one.

Already taking that step of marriage were Ben Wenger (Marv and Rita) and Leah Stoker who were married August 6. May God bless them and be with them each day.

Another little boy came to bless the home of Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicki Mueller. Remington Job was welcomed home by Reagan, Royce, Rollie and Chloe, along with his grandparents, Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Loida Mueller and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Darlene Steidinger (Fairbury, IL).

Bro. Ryan and Sis. Tabby Honegger are thankful for another son. Aaron Peter will also be welcomed home by his siblings, Kara, Renee, and Lyle, and grandparents, Bro. Lloyd and Joyce Honegger and Ron and Laurie Franz.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our Bro. Nathan Kelson (Sis. Paula) as he is undergoing chemotherapy treatments for cancer. May God be very near them and continue to provide in the days ahead.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Doris Koehl as her sister, Sis. Lorine Rocke (Cissna Park, IL), passed away. May God continue to be near and comfort in this time of sorrow.

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who shared the Word of Life with us this month. They were Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Bro. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS), Bro. Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO) and Bro.

Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN). May God bless them for being willing to be used in His service.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Amber Grimm

Rita Bauman

Summer has passed and another school year has begun. As students of all ages return to their study for knowledge and wisdom, let's remember them in special prayer that they may overcome the trials and temptations that come their way.

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;

Lord, I will forever and always be Thine,

For Thou hast created and purchased me too,

Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest me new.

Zion's Harp #209

We were so thankful to hear the testimonies of two dear ones on July 30. We welcome our new brothers in Christ, Bro. David Currier (Art and Sis. Mary) and Bro. Brent Schmidgall (Bro. Randy and Sis. Cindy). May they continue to look to Thee for grace and guidance in their walk with Him.

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

Proverbs 22:6

It is always a joy when new babies arrive safely and healthy into families. Bro. Tim and Sis. Diana and Nathan Currier welcome little Justin Mark into their hearts and home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Teresa Schieler

and Art and Sis. Mary Currier. Also welcoming home Dane Kenneth are Luke and Jake and Kyndra Lowery, along with their parents Ken and Sis. Jaci. Rejoicing grandparents are Bro. Norm and Sis. Eileen Musselman.

“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.”

Matthew 5:4

Our sympathies are with Sis. Clementine Joos as she laid to rest her dear sister, Sis. Alice Knapp, Morton, IL. We also want to remember Sis. Jane Descarpentrie (Bro. Russ) in the loss of her brother, Bruce Frank. May they feel the comfort of God’s consoling hand upon them and their families.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bros. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) and Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), and Bros. Scott Schaffer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL), and Ralph Garber (Sis. Lynn, Morton, IL). We thank each one for these messages of hope.

Our congregation has been listening to the tapes of the General Conference. What a blessing we receive by listening and may we put those instructions into action in our lives.

The engagement of Sis. Amy Knobloch (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jackie) and Bro. Tyler Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann, Silverton, OR) was made known on August 21. May God be with them as they get to know one another and plan for their special day.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

“Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God; for God is in heaven and thou upon earth; therefore let thy words be few.”

Ecclesiastics 5:2

The above verse is wise counsel for the believer. We live in an era of much diversity and many opinions, and yet the Scriptures give a sure exhortation to everyone to be discreet in language and verbal expression. We are wise if we can indeed curb our expressions, and that our words remain “few”.

Kathy Taylor suffered injuries in a 14-foot fall at work. She is recovering at home, and escaped very serious injuries, for which we are thankful. Sis. Delores Marti is recovering from a broken ankle.

The wedding engagement was announced of Sis. Sarah Funk to Bro. Larry Gerber, Bluffton North. She is the daughter of Bro. Virgil “Bud” and Sis. Shirley Funk, Congerville. His parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge Gerber, Latty, OH. They are planning a November 20 wedding.

Eric Schlipf was married to Christina Hilt on August 13. He is the son of Bro. Enid and Sis. Lila Schlipf of Gridley, and her parents are Steve and Debbie Hilt of DuQuoin, IL. We wish them much happiness in the years ahead.

We are happy to welcome Bob and Sis. Elaine Mueller to Gridley. They live at 605 McLean Street. They had been living in Wisconsin. Too, we welcome Bro. Matt and Sis. Jennifer Feucht (from Roanoke) and Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Natalie

Freed (from Wolcott, IN) to our congregation. And we welcome as well Nathan and Angela Glendenning to our church. They reside in El Paso.

Justin Wiegand, son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Kathy Wiegand, continues to recover from serious spinal injuries suffered in a fall from a ski lift in Colorado during a family vacation. He is making progress, for which everyone is thankful. He is slated to remain in an apartment at Craig Hospital in Denver, taking treatments and physical therapy. Many prayers have been offered for Justin’s recovery, and may God heal Him according to His will.

Many of our youth are in college this year: At the University of Illinois are Lucas Stoller, Bro. Scott Wettstein and Jordan Meiss.

At Illinois State University are: Sisters Alison Romersberger, Callie Prevo, Leslie Ringger, Leah Stoller, Carrie Stoller, and Kristen Zimmerman; Brothers Nathan Hodel, Jamin Ringger, David Prevo; and Derek Meiss and Seth Campbell.

Studying at Heartland College are Sisters Jen Ringger, Maggie Schrenk, Amber Miller, Kaleigh Schlipf, Natalie Stoller, Elise Kaupp, Ashley Kiefer, Bethany Witzig, Amanda Hodel, Traci Gramm, and Danielle Wolf. Also at Heartland are Kelsey Zehr and T. J. Kaupp.

Other college students are Bro. Christopher Stoller at Illinois Central College, Sis. Amanda Funk at Eureka College, Jen Steffen at Indiana Wesleyan, Joel Campbell at Augustana College, Sis. Claire Witzig at St. Francis College of Nursing and Bro. Brian Vercler at

Bradley University.

May the dear Lord watch over these loved ones as they study at these institutions of learning; and may the values taught to them in their youth continue to guide them amid possible ideological challenges.

A son was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Erin Hodel on July 31. He is their first child and was named Caden Douglas. Grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Norma Witzig and Bro. Daryl and Sis. Deb Hodel. Great-grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marjorie Witzig; Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Zimmerman; Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Hodel; and Bro. Richard and Sis. Rachel Leman, Roanoke. May the Lord give this couple much wisdom as they train up their little son in the ways of the Lord.

Kaleb Michael Krug was born to Michael and Audrey Krug, Lexington, Illinois. Grandparents are Sis. Linda Krug, Gridley; and Duane Krug, El Paso. Great-grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Ethel Schmidgall, Eureka, and Cliff and Barb Krug, Panola.

Our sympathies are with Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb Kiefer over the loss of her brother, Roger Durbin.

As this is written the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina is in its most awful phase. Many thousands of residents on the Gulf coast are without the basic necessities of life — water, food and shelter. It should behoove us to be thankful for the plenteous nature of our life, and may God open the way that we can share our abundance with these poor souls who are so needy.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Julie Bahr
Christie Zeller**

We are so thankful for the baptisms of two more dear souls on July 31, Mike and Ramona Davis. May God continue to bless them in their walk with Him.

Our Family Worship was held on Wednesday, August 3, by our Elder Bro Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL). His topic was "Internet and the Media". We all know perilous times will come and that knowledge will increase, but may we all use discernment in using the Internet and avoid the evil and deception and strive to approve the things that are excellent and good.

Bro. Melvin Steiner passed away July 22. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Louise, and a half sister, Sis. Wilma (Bro. Al) Wiedman.

Bro. Eldon Metzger (Lamont/ Gridley, KS) passed away. He is a brother to our Bro. Jim (Sis. Jean) Metzger and a brother-in-law to our Sis. Julie (Bro. Brian) Bahr.

Sis. Alice Knapp passed away August 11 at Restmor. She is a sister to our Bro. Chris (Sis. Emma) Knapp and Bill (Eileen) Knapp.

May God ever comfort these dear families.

Our visiting ministers for the month were: Bro. Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington, IL) and Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz, Portland, OR). May these brothers be blessed for their labors of love.

Notes of Thanks:

The family of Milt Yentes wishes to extend their love and appreciation shown to him in his illness and also the love shown to his family in his death.

The Milt Yentes Family

First and foremost, all thanks, praise, and glory be to God for His patient pursuit for our souls.

Thanks be to Jesus our Lord for taking our place on the cross.

Thank you, Gateway Woods, for reaching out to those (us) who were not a part of the Apostolic Christian family and faith.

Thank you church family for the love, the welcome, and especially the Christlike example. We look forward to serving together.

The Davis family—Michael, Ramona, and Isaiah

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Lou and Marjean Lonteen

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

Ecclesiastes 3:1

We appreciated guest ministers willing to come and share God's inspiration with our congregation. Our guests recently were: Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury), and Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington). We wish you God's blessings for your services.

"A time to love..."

Ecclesiastes 3:8a

On July 24, Sis. Holly Stickling and Bro. Brian Zobrist were united in Holy Matrimony. Parents are: Bro. Scott and Sis. Jan Stickling and Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnn Zobrist (Congerville).

On August 14, Bro. Ben Sceggel

was united in Holy Matrimony with Sis. Taunya Rumbold. Parents are: Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy Sceggel and Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Jackie Rumbold (Princeville).

Bro. Steve Hodel became engaged to Sis. Claire Witzig (Gridley). Parents are: Bro. Irvin and Sis. Sharon Hodel and Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary Witzig.

“He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end. I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life.”

Ecclesiastes 3:11

Sandor Davidovics (Bro. Fedi's brother) has made known his desire to walk with the Lord. God has given man a desire for eternity and perpetuity; therefore man cannot be satisfied with what is merely temporal. Man's quest is for “eternity”.

“I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it; and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.”

Ecclesiastes 3:14

“And a time to heal...”

Ecclesiastes 3:3

Prayers for healing would be appreciated for these dear ones: Bro. Jonathan Aupperle (broken leg), Sis. Lucille Beyer (broken hip), and Sis. Dorothy Meier (hospitalization).

“Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?”

Ecclesiastes 3:22

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”

Revelation 3:21

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Kara Blunier
Vera Baer**

“And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.”

Ezekiel 34:26

God has seen it for our best to withhold rain showers most of the summer. This last week we were blessed with rain in our area for the earth. We are also very thankful for the Spiritual blessings He has sent us; Christian love, fellowship, His grace and most of all His Son's blood that was shed for us.

Visiting ministers have been Bro. Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL), Bro. Kenny Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Andy Klaus (Tokyo, Japan). Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL) was here for a Bible Study, “How to Study the Bible”. We thank each of these Brothers and their wives for the willing effort to serve us.

Hospital patients were: Bro. Jim Knobloch (Sis. Helen), Bro. Bob

Scholl (Sis. Arlene), and Sis. Joan Berchtold (Bro. Vernon). May God be with them and their families as they recuperate at home.

Bro. Todd Stoller (Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia) is making his residence in the Goodfield, IL area. We wish for him God's nearness as he starts employment as a teacher.

Connor James Blunier was born to Bro. Darin and Sis. Keri on July 18. Cody, Mallory, Clayton, Madison and Colton are enjoying loving him and helping with his care. The thankful grandparents are (late Bro. Dale) and Sis. Joyce Blunier and Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann, all from our congregation.

As was prayed for Sunday, we wish God's nearness to each of the college students as they start a new step in their life. May they seek God's protection and wisdom.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Doris Fischer
Dee Fehr**

“Suffer the little children to come unto me....for of such is the kingdom of God.

Mark 10:14

Several families in our congregation are experiencing the joy of welcoming new little additions. Hattie Lyn is the newest member of Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Megan Hodel's family. She arrived July 24, and her big brother Dexter also welcomes her, as well as grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Linda Hodel, and Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue Zimmerman (Morton). Bro. Steve and Sis. Diane Bates have a new grandson, Tanner Davis, born on July 12. Tanner's parents are Bro.

Adam and Sis. Amy Spangler (Morton). On July 23, Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Bradle gained another grandchild, when Jeremiah Edward was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Kathy Knapp (Gridley). May these little children be reared in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, as the heritage of our precious faith is passed on from generation to generation.

On June 25, Chad Hancock and Krista Knapp (Bro. Dave and Sis. Carol) became husband and wife. Chris Leman and Amy Bunselmeyer were married on July 9. Chris is the son of Russ and the late Sis. Joan Leman. Bro. Chris Wuthrich (Ft. Scott, KS) and Sis. Janelle Sinn (Kansas City, MO) have felt led by the Lord to become engaged, and plan to be married on October 9. Bro. Chris' parents are Sis. Valerie Wuthrich from our Roanoke congregation, and Bill Wuthrich, and Sis. Janelle's parents are Sis. Carol and John Sinn (Ft. Scott). Mark Blunier (Wayne and Sis. Marjorie) and Cathy Deppe have announced their engagement and wedding plans for November 26. Cathy lives in Metamora and is originally from Iowa. We extend our best wishes to each of these newlywed or engaged couples, and pray they will look to God for guidance as they begin their lives as one.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Millie Leman at the passing of her brother, Matt Anliker. Matt was a resident of our Home in Roanoke for a number of years, and was well known for his great love of singing.

While listening to the radio recently, a gentleman was recounting how the area where he lives in Florida had been spared from dev-

astation during the hurricanes of this past summer. He was quoted as saying "The gods were with us." I couldn't help thinking, why doesn't he say, "God was with us"? Is it so difficult to acknowledge from whence our help and protection come? Let us never be remiss in offering our thanksgiving and praise to our Heavenly Father and His precious Son, our Lord and Saviour.

"While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being."

Psalms 146:2

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Heather Rassi
Teresa Rowell

"And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water..."

Exodus 23:25

Truly we are blessed to have a loving Father in Heaven who desires to be among us. His presence is felt especially at times such as the Brotherhood Conference. Those who were able to attend this year in Morris, MN, could attest that once again the Lord was present to lead His people with instruction from the Holy Word and by His inspiration through the Holy Spirit.

Our prayers go up to Heaven at the beginning of every service that the Lord would be present and bless the message. Time after time our requests are fulfilled through brethren who are willing to be empty vessels for the Holy Spirit to fill. If our hearts are prepared and willing to receive, we walk away spiritually fed. Visiting ministers

this month included Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bros. Randy Mogler, Ed Fritz and Justin Koch (Washington, IL), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Andy Klaus (Tokyo, Japan), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Ron Jones (Portland, OR) and Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN). May each one receive a blessing of the Lord in return.

"...and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee..."

Exodus 23:25

Bro. Vernon Koch (Sis. Ruth) and Bro. Dean Leuthold (Sis. Mary Jane) both spent time in the hospital recently and are, Lord willing, on the road to recovery.

"There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land..."

Exodus 23:26

Bro. Troy and Sis. Anne Stuber's household has been blessed with a second child. Big brother, Matthew, and his parents welcomed Alexander Gabriel on July 19. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth Stuber as well as Bro. Roger and Sis. JoAnn Beutel. Rejoicing over the birth of their daughter, Jubilee Lynn, are Bro. Chad and Sis. Lauralee Plattner. On July 31, she was welcomed home by siblings, Jesse, Javan, Jared and Jolene. Her grandparents are Elder Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Dale and Sharon Riley (Seville, OH). May each child continue to grow in the nurture of the Lord and their families.

"...the number of thy days I will fulfill."

Exodus 23:26

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Dean Bolliger (Sis. Trudy) on the passing of his father, Ben Bolliger (Rose) of Tremont. At this time of sorrow in the family, may the Holy Spirit provide comfort to each one.

We were able to witness a union of two souls between Bro. Akihiro Ito (Nobuyuki and Kazuyo Ito of Tokyo, Japan) and Sis. Carrie Sauder (Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam). We are thankful they are currently making their home in Tremont. Our prayer is that God will continually be the center of their marriage as they begin this path of life as one in the Lord.

Bro. Elmon and Sis. Janice Koch recently celebrated the marriage of their daughter, Marie Koch, to Andy Williams (Boston, MA). His parents are Terry and Freddy Williams (Tallahassee, FL). May God bless them as they establish their new home together as husband and wife.

Note of mention: Chris Garman (Steve and Sis. Sara) as well as Sis. Sara Menold (Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynnette) were also 2005 Senior High School graduates in May.

Notes of Thanks:

We express a sincere "thank you" for the prayers and kind deeds during the time of our loved one's death. May God bless you.

The family of Bro. Willis Sauder

We again are indebted to our precious Savior for your gifts of love, prayers and the many beautiful cards (with your kind words)

given to us for our 60th anniversary. We thank each one and we love each of you.

Bro. Arnold and Sis. Lydia Rassi

**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Barb Banwart
Nancy Knepp**

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

The King of the universe, our Lord and Savior, is a welcome visitor every Sunday in our congregation. There is a dear sister who has gradually been going blind over the years. As her sight diminishes, the compassion of the King's friends surrounds her. He (or she) is always waiting to open the door for her. He (or she) is always waiting to help her through the crowd in the fellowship area. He (or she) takes her arm and leads her to the lunch table.

Revelations records, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." The works of the blessed among us also go before them and inspire the rest of us to follow after!

Elizabeth proclaimed, "as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy." Does your heart leap for joy when the King comes? Do you look for opportunities to do unto Him? Or do you miss Him altogether?

Other welcome visitors among us have been ministering Bros. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo),

Randall Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit), Andrew Klaus (Sis. Jana, Tokyo) and Glenn Dill (Sis. Marilyn, Tremont) as they proclaimed the King's message.

We rejoice in the wedding engagement of Bro. Kirk Prather (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marlene) and Sis. Wendy Hodel (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Rita, Roanoke). With united hearts, may they always serve each other with joy and compassion as they serve their King.

**INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Amber Steffen
Elizabeth Frauhiger**

Beth Harris (Bro. Mark and Sis. Susan, Bluffton North) and April Fiechter (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda) have made the decision to pick up their crosses and follow Jesus. We rejoice with them and their families as they begin their repentance.

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

I Cor. 15:55-58

Bro. Roger Baumgartner slipped into eternity on July 17 at the age of 91. Mourning the loss of their father are Bro. Ralph Baumgartner (Sis. Jeannie), Herb Baumgartner, Sis. Pauline Gerber (Bro. Jerry D. Gerber, Bluffton North) and Sis. Marilyn

Baumgartner (Bro. Tom). Bro. Roger also left two sisters, Sis. Mabel Moser and Sis. Lucille Steffen (Bluffton North), 16 grandchildren and 38 great-grandchildren.

Joining Bro. Roger in Heaven on July 28 was our dear Bro. Paul Gerber who passed away suddenly at 67 years of age. Bro. Paul's wife, Sis. Mary Jo; sons, Bro. Nathan Gerber (Sis. LeAnn) and Sid Gerber, and daughters, June Fiechter and Tara Edge (Aaron), are left with the faith that their dear one is rejoicing with the angels in Heaven. Bro. Paul also left behind 10 grandchildren and many brothers and sisters, which include: Bros. Don Gerber (Sis. Mary), Earl Gerber (Sis. Pat), Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise, Bluffton North), Les Gerber (Sis. Rose) and Dale Gerber (Sis. Carol, Bluffton North), and Sisters Caroline Roberts, Pauline Gerber (Bro. Larry) and Lois Gerber (Bro. Harry).

August 8 was the day that our Sis. Ida Aschliman (late Bro. Roy) met her Saviour face to face after 90 years of dwelling on this earth. Although her suffering is over, she will be greatly missed, especially by her sons, David Aschliman (Linda) and Bro. Ralph Aschliman (Sis. Rosie), daughters, Delilah Biberstein (Stan) and Sis. Arlene Stump (Steve), 20 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren.

Bro. Bob Reimschisel lost his fight with cancer but won his eternal life in Heaven on August 11 at the age of 68. Bro. Bob leaves behind his wife of 41 years, Sis. Louise; one daughter, Jackie Noder (David), two sons, Kirt Reimschisel and Kraig Reimschisel (Tracy);

four brothers, John Reimschisel, Bro. Roger Reimschisel, Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS), and Jim Reimschisel; three grandchildren and three step – grandchildren.

Our loving sympathy is also extended to our Sis. Elaine Kipfer and Sis. Ruth Baumgartner (Bro. Keith) in the passing of their dear mother, Sis. Marguerite Kipfer (Bluffton North), on August 13.

We appreciated the loving service of Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita, KS) as he shared the Scriptures with us on August 14.

July 24 was a joyous day for Bro. Blare Gerber (Bro. Rex and the late Sis. Lavon) and Sis. Janel Fiechter (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill) as they vowed their lives together before God and many witnesses. We pray that the Lord will bless their marriage that they will continue their work for the Lord as one.

Nick Fiechter and Jessica Williams were united in holy matrimony on August 6. Nick's parents are Bro. Dave Fiechter and June Fiechter.

On August 13, Jill Schwartz and Aaron McCormick began their married life together. Jill is the daughter of Bro. Jim and Sis. Jan Schwartz. We wish these dear couples God's richest blessings as they begin their lives together.

August 6-7 was a blessed weekend as we welcomed five dear souls into the fold. Bro. Ben Gerber (Scott and the late Sis. Melinda), Bro. Vince Fiechter (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda), Bro. Randy Gerber and Sis. Jennifer Gerber (Bro. Gene and Sis. Becky) and Sis. Stacy Troxel (Bro. Brad and Sis. Dahlys) vowed their faithfulness to the Lord before God and many witnesses before they were submerged

in the baptismal waters, rising to new creatures in Christ. Our prayers are with them and their new life in Jesus.

Our prayers are with Herman Fiechter (Phyllis) as he has spent time in the hospital. May he feel the hand of the Lord working in his life.

Also included in our prayers are Bro. Seth Gerber (Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb) and Sis. Kara Drayer (Bro. Herman and Sis. Julie) as they leave our Bluffton congregation. Bro. Seth is leaving to serve at the orphanage in Magdalena, Mexico, and Sis. Kara is moving to Prescott, AZ. We pray that they both will feel our prayers as they follow God's will for their lives.

Finally, our congregation has been touched by many new baby boys this month. Jayden Lee Sharpe is Sis. Andrea Sipe's newest grandson. Jayden was born on July 18 to James and Janelle Sharpe.

Ben and Jackie Dailey welcomed their first child on July 22. Caleb Michael Dailey is Bro. Doug and Sis. Susan Dailey's first grandchild.

August 3 was the arrival date of Landon Joseph Frank. Landon's parents are Nick and Kimberly Frank, and his loving grandparents are Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy Frank.

Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny Isch welcomed another grandson into their family circle on August 5. Jason Lee Isch was born to Lyle and Julie.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Andrea Pfister (Indianapolis, IN) are the parents of Rowan Matthew Pfister born on August 9. Rowan is welcomed by his big sister, Avrie, as well as his thankful grandparents, Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose Pfister and

Bro. Bill and Sis. Lou Ann Rager.

“O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.”

Psalm 95:1

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Tiffani Schladenhauffen
Darren Drayer**

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Over the summer, I had the opportunity to spend six weeks in Prescott, AZ. I enjoyed a time of rich fellowship with the brethren. I encourage everyone to visit Prescott or make it their permanent home.

I wasn't the only one on the move during the summer — on August 7, our pulpit was shorthanded due to traveling. We were thankful to have two ministers from the Bluffton congregation to proclaim the Word: Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan) and Bro. Gary Tonner (Sis. Diane).

Jayde Steffen (Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlise) and Abby Mowery (Neil and Karen) were united in marriage on May 21.

Beth Harris (Bro. Mark and Sis. Susan) was born again this month. Praise the Lord — another soul has come home.

The Holy Spirit has been moving in the heart of Bro. Larry Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge Gerber, Latty, OH). He is now engaged to Sis. Sarah Funk (Gridley, IL), the daughter of Bro. Virgil and Sis. Shirley Funk of Congerville, IL.

Bro. Jarrod and Sis. Amy Gerber adopted a son from South Korea: Isaac Sukhwan was born on March

16. The grandparents are Sis. Melissa Smeckens and Sis. Nancy Gerber.

On July 7, Bro. Mike and Sis. Kay Craighead became the new grandparents of Hutchenson Maxwell. His parents are Bro. Eric and Sis. Annie Craighead of Bluffton.

Bro. Al and Sis. Colleen Ringger also have a new grandson. Evan James was born on July 31 to Dan and Alison Ringger.

Bro. Walter Aeschliman also joined the band of happy grandparents; his granddaughter, Kellyn Nicole, was born on August 14 to Dave and Kim Bertsch.

We extend our sympathies to Bro. Dale (Sis. Carol), Bro. Carroll (Sis. Louise), Sis. Carolyn Roberts, and Sis. Lois Gerber (Bro. Harry T.) on the death of their brother, Bro. Paul Gerber (Sis. Mary Jo, Bluffton) on July 28. Bro. Paul will also be missed by three brothers from Bluffton: Bro. Don (Sis. Mary), Bro. Les (Sis. Rose) and Bro. Earl (Sis. Pat).

On August 13, Sis. Marguerite Kipfer walked into the city where the roses never fade. While this is a victory for her, we grieve with her children, Sis. Mary Gerber (Bluffton), Sis. Ruth Baumgartner (Bro. Keith, Bluffton), Sis. Lois Drayer (Bro. Jerry), and Sis. Elaine (Bluffton). She will also be missed by two brothers, Bro. Harold Meiss (Washington, IL) and Roy Meiss (Fishers, IL); three sisters, Sis. Verena Knapp (Bro. Ralph, Bloomington, IL), Sis. Irene Rinkenberger (Bro. Joe, Goodfield), and Sis. Edna Zeltwanger (Morris, MN); 11 grandchildren (I'm one of them) and 10 great-grandchildren. She

was a wonderful grandma.

We are prayerful for Bro. Phil Stoller (Sis. Aimee), Sis. Eleanor Strahm, Sis. Jayla Steffen and Bro. Dan Keiser (Sis. Lora), as they spent time in the hospital this month.

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Jessica Murray**

Greetings, loved ones, from our church at Francesville. I need to start with the announcement of a wedding that took place on June 19. Our Bro. Jason Huber (Bro. John and Sis. Bev) was united in marriage to Sis. Joy Gutwein (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice). The couple is a delight to have around as they show what the Lord can do for those who love and trust Him and put their lives in His hands first. May you continue to let your lives shine for Him. We love and pray for you.

We want to send our love and prayers to our most recent missionary family, Bro. Jan and Sis. Val Gutwein and their children in Haiti. May you feel God's blessings in your lives for answering His call and doing the will of the Lord as you reach out to so many that need to know Him.

May you feel our prayers and we look forward to seeing you when you return home safely.

Our love and prayers are with our Bro. Ellsworth Pelsy (Sis. Luella) as he is recovering from a fall that he had while working on their new earthly home. We pray for strength for you and your family, as you recover at home after a lengthy hospital stay. May the hands of the Great Physician always be with you and continue to strengthen you in the coming

months.

Our friend, Irvin Knapp, passed away unexpectedly on August 15. His wife, Phyllis, and their families have our sincere sympathy. We pray you will be comforted from the Lord, as He alone can heal the heart. We will miss Irvin and his smiling face, and hope to meet again in Heaven someday.

We would like to extend our thanks to the visiting ministers who came and shared the Word with us this past month: Bro. John Baumgartner (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Lester Huber (Lexington, KY), and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). You are greatly appreciated, and we ask that the Lord continue to give you the strength and desire to share His Word. Your teachings were such a blessing.

This past month the Elders and many others gathered together for the Elder Conference. We prayed for you during this time and now we look forward to what you have to share in the coming months. We pray that our hearts and minds will be prepared to accept what we hear, and move forward from there. Our goal is to always reach to Jesus, and seek and do His will. With this in mind, we can all prepare to hear Him speak clearly to our hearts.

May the Lord be with you all until next time.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Sandy Lichtle
Debbie Anliker**

Greetings from Indianapolis.

We had the opportunity to welcome many visitors this month. Many were ministering brethren and we are thankful they traveled to be with us and were willing to

share God's Word with us.

Elder Bro. Ted Witzig Sr. (Sis. Cindy) and Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. (Sis. Donna), all from Morton spent a weekend with us. We were reminded to make it a habit to view everyone we come in contact with as a soul that God dearly loves.

July 23 was the wedding day of Sean Wuethrich and Julie Willen. Their parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn Wuethrich and Lenny and Karen Willen of Indianapolis. We wish them God's rich blessings as they begin their life together.

Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville), Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville) and Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North) were all with us on July 27.

The following Sunday, Bro. James Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville) and Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley) worshipped with us.

We are thankful Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville) was here with our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign) to share in the testimonies and baptism of Samuel and Carrie Gutwein. Bro. Dennis Kauffman (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington) and Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign) were also with us. It was a blessed weekend. We rejoice with Bro. Samuel, Sis. Carrie and their families.

Kent Levy (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue) has been announced for peace. We are thankful for what God has done in his life, and Lord willing, look forward to his baptism this fall.

August 9 was a special day for Bro. Matt, Sis. Andrea, and Avrie Pfister as they welcomed Rowan

Matthew into their family. Rowan's grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. LuAnn Rager, and Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose Pfister, all of Bluffton.

Our hearts go out to Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Witzig and their family in the sudden loss of their brother-in-law, Bro. Jeff Luthi, Altadena. We continue to pray for the family circle.

Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny Zeller and their family have certainly been in our thoughts and prayers. We commit them, their care and keeping, to the Lord.

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

Proverbs 3:5

**INDIANA, LACROSSE
Shirley Frank
Cathy Nuest**

"But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together let not man put asunder."

Mark 10:9

We enjoyed a blessed weekend when we gathered together with many brethren and friends to witness the marriage of our loved ones, Bro. John Sawyer (John and Thelma) and Sis. Melinda Heinold (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy). Visiting ministers here to share the weekend with us were Elder Bro. William Schlatter (Junction, OH), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Junction, OH), Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott,

IN) and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA).

We also thank Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) for ministering the Word to us on a Wednesday evening.

Little Daniel Heinold (Bro. Eric and Sis. Bobbi) underwent surgery and is home now and doing well.

Summer is drawing to a close and our children are headed back to school. Let us all remember them in our prayers that they will have a safe school year. Let us also remember to pray daily for the parents of our youth, for they have the responsibility of teaching their children the ways of Jesus Christ and to help them avoid falling into the ways of the world. That is a huge responsibility and may the Lord grant each one of us the grace to be a good teacher.

**INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter**

As I sit to write this, there is much activity at Gateway Woods as they prepare for Saturday's Auction. My apartment at Cedar Creek Retirement Home is adjacent to Gateway Woods School, within walking distance.

On July 23-24, Leo hosted the 53rd year of the first Fort Sam reunion. On Sunday we enjoyed the many visitors that stayed over, including Bro. Ben Manz and Sis. Carolyn (Junction, OH). We appreciated Bro. Ben's message and welcome him again.

Bro. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) made his annual pilgrimage to assist in preparation for Gateway Woods Auction and served us on Wednesday evening with a message from Luke 11, where Jesus gives us a sample

prayer in request from one of His disciples. Bro. Wally brought out our need to forgive (vs. 4) and our privilege to ask (vs. 9, 10).

July 30 was the wedding day of Chris Baumgartner (Bro. Bill and Sis. Jan) and Erin Palmer (Jim and Cris, Fort Wayne, IN). We pray their love and joy will increase as they set up a home in Toledo, OH, where Chris is attending the University of Toledo.

I was richly blessed to attend the Conference at Morris, MN. Our prayers continue for our Elders and churches as we draw near to God.

In the home Christ-likeness is kindness;
In business it is honesty;
Toward the weak it is burden bearing;
Toward the sinner it is evangelism;
Toward ourselves it is self-control;
Toward God it is reverence, love and worship.
—*unknown*

**INDIANA, MILFORD
Carol Haab
Carlton Beer**

We are thankful for the gracious rain that we recently received. Now we pray for showers of blessings that souls will turn to the Lord in repentance and be converted that we all can rejoice together.

At the invitation of Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer, a medical team that went to Mexico had a reunion in Milford. Although they brought no ministers with them, we had a weekend of sweet Christian fellowship.

We are blessed to have two young people find employment in

our area and we certainly welcome them. They are Bro. Nathan Virkler (Remington, IN) and Sis. Elise Maller (Bluffton, IN).

Bro. Tom and Becky Price have a new granddaughter born to Jim and Amy Price. Little Alexandra is doing well.

We are renovating our kitchen and dining room area, so we are having our noon lunch at our fellowship hall. We are fortunate to have our hall nearby.

Bro. John Lehman came to help Bro. Dan one Sunday. Although Bro. John is rather new in the ministry, we enjoyed his enthusiastic and sound message. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter ministered to us another Sunday to help Bro. Nelson. He is always welcome here.

On his way home from the Elder Conference, Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler spent the day with us. Also, retired Elder Bro. Gene Pamer was here. We enjoyed them both.

Our Bro. Jeff Beer has felt the call to go to Mexico to help in our orphanage there. We will miss Bro. Jeff, but we pray he will be blessed and protected there. We believe by God's grace he will be very helpful.

We had the World Relief trailer in our area for one week and with the help of our brothers and sisters, restored a house that an ailing neighbor occupied.

Also, one Saturday about 25 young people from several congregations worked on several houses and mobile homes that needed repair. Some of this group stayed and worshipped with us on Sunday. As faith without works is dead, these young people showed their faith by their works.

INDIANA, REMINGTON**Tammy Waibel
Beth Virkler**

On July 30, Gretchen Vaughan (Joe and Betty) became the wife of Paul Fulkerson (Len and Sue, Wolcott, IN). We wish them many of God's richest blessings as they start their married life together at 2072 Puget Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47906.

We're thankful that Bro. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL), uncle of the bride, was able to minister to us on Sunday, July 31. Other visiting ministers were: Bro. Ken Weerts (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL), and Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL).

We welcome Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard from Croghan, NY, to the Remington congregation. They are residing at 5995 Meadow Drive, Remington, IN 47977, and their phone is (219) 261-2606. Hopefully, their eight children will visit often bringing more visitors to our local church. Hospital patients recently were: Sis. Mary Kilgus and Sis. Denise Weerts.

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

"The Sunday school is our delight.

We love it more and more;
'tis here we learn to do the right
and live forever more;
We hear the truth so pure and
clear, of Jesus' love so sweet
and dear,

there we are taught to lift our eyes
to Him who lives on high."

Hymns of Zion #73

Our South Bend congregation held our annual Sunday school picnic this past month and it was a blessing to spend the afternoon and evening together as a church. There is much change taking place in our children's lives this time of year as they head back to school and change Sunday school teachers. As we prepare for the earthly schooling of our children, may we remember to earnestly pray for and take time to encourage their spiritual growth and education. Let us plant the "mustard seed" of faith while they are still young.

We are thankful to have Bro. Nathan Virkler in our congregation now as he has relocated due to work. We are sure he will be missed in Remington but are thankful he has chosen to make South Bend his home.

Bros. Joe Gerst (Iowa City) and Wayne Leman (Roanoke) were visitors here this past month and we are thankful for their willingness to serve.

**INDIANA
VALPARAISO
Lois Bucher**

Greetings of love to all our brothers, sisters and friends.

In July we had our annual Sunday School picnic. We always enjoy hearing about what the children have been studying during the preceding year. Bro. Mike Thomas is our outgoing teacher. The children and the teachers will enjoy a short break and will reconvene the Sunday after Labor Day.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN). Our thanks to these brothers for

their efforts on our behalf. God bless you both!

Bro. Brady Moser (Bro. Andy and Sis. Diane) has begun treatment for his cancer. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

You are welcome to stop in and visit us on your travels. It gives our little church a boost.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Diana Houston
Nettie Haab**

"I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands."

Rev. 7:9

Ky Choi gave her testimony, was baptized, and became our sister in Christ. Ky was born in Hong Kong, grew up in Paraguay, and then came to attend college at Purdue. She met many people in her life who professed to be Christians but their actions belied their words. She heard their words but could not see love in their eyes. Finding an ad where the Purdue Young Group was offering free Bibles in any languages, she called for one. That was when she met some sisters in our church and started to fellowship with them, and then saw the love in their eyes. Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH), our Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), and Bro. Robert Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN) were with us for this blessed weekend.

Sadly we say goodbye to Bro. Lon and Sis. Sarah Vogt as they move near Columbia, South Carolina, where Lon will continue his schooling. Sarah's parents, Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN), spent a Sunday with us and also brought us God's precious Word.

We are looking forward to the return of many of our college students as school is starting once again. Should you be in the Lafayette/West Lafayette area on a Thursday evening, please stop in and worship with us.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Elaine Bahler

Lisa Furrer

We thank Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford) for coming to visit and sharing the Gospel with us.

Sis. Donita Edelman (Bro. Kip) was hospitalized for a short time following surgery. We are thankful for God's healing.

Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler have another grandson to love. Koby Richard was born on August 1 to Don and Jill Bahler. Older brother, Bryce, will enjoy having a playmate.

We wish God's blessings and congratulations to Alex Schieler and fiancé Lisa Lachmund as they have announced their engagement. Alex's parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Merri Schieler.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:7

Emily Bahler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi) and Daveana Schieler (Bro.

Dave and Sis. Merri) have been announced as having peace with God and man.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, and food during Donita's surgery and recovery time. May God richly bless each one of you.

Love, Kip and Donita Edelman and family

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

What precious memories are in the making as the young and older gather together for our annual Sunday School picnic. This year it was held during one of our hot summer days, so we were thankful for the comfort of our air-conditioned fellowship center.

We thank you loving teachers, too, For all your love and care. You teach us of the heavenly home, How we may enter there.

May God richly bless our Sunday School teachers who have completed their terms, and grant the needed wisdom and grace to those who have been elected to replace them. Bros. John Schupbach (Sis. Janet) and Phil Waldbeser (Sis. Charlotte) and Sisters Maria Butikofer and Gloria Frieden will be replacing Bro. Jim Knobloch (Sis. Marcy) and Sisters Sharla Schneider and Kathy Butikofer (Bro. Tim).

We are thankful that our two surgical patients are recuperating well. They were Sis. Sharla Schneider and little Colton Schupbach

(Nathan and Melissa).

Thankful for the safe arrival of little Alexiana Joy Pryor, are her parents, Eric and Becky, her big sister McKenna, and her grandmother, Sis. Gloria Frieden.

We were blessed with two visiting ministers this past month: Bro. Nathan Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield, IL) and Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest, IL). May God richly bless all who labor in His service from across the pulpits, and grant them much grace to quench not the Spirit but speak as the Spirit gives them utterance.

I embrace, O Lord, Thy servants,
Joined to them in love so fervent,
Asking, Lord, that from Thy face
They receive a thousand blessings;
In Thy ways, Thy strength possessing,
Lead them in Thy light and grace.
Zion's Harp #189, vs. 4

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Willa Clark

Once again we praise God for His Word coming forth from our ministering brothers, both visitors and local. Our visiting brothers in the past month have been Elder Bros. LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Doug Schock (Bloomfield/Pulaski, IA), Bros. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA), and Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL). We are so blessed to have fellowship with those who are willing to share the truth of God's plan of salvation. In our small congregation, we also appreciate each one who has worshiped with us, as part of your summer travels.

As the summer draws to a close, we see our youth once again start-

ing to school. Whether a preschooler or a college student, homeschooled or public schooled, there are challenges to maintain a God-centered life. Our thoughts and prayers are for each one. Britany Moser from our congregation will be starting college in Denver, CO. We wish her God's nearness.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer

We extend a huge thank you to our Lord and everyone else who helped with the exterior remodeling project at our church! We really appreciate the time and labor that was offered on our behalf. We pray our Lord will bless your generosity.

Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Sis. Kathy, Burlington, IA) visited recently and covered the pulpit for our own vacationing ministers. Thank you, Bro. Fred, for being willing to be used for His work.

With the General Conference just concluded, we wish to again thank our Elder brothers for their work and prayers on our behalf and the Morris congregation for all of the work they put into hosting the Conference.

We would like to welcome all the new and returning college students to the area and invite each student (and family members) to fellowship with us.

IOWA, LESTER
Dawn Knobloch
Dawn Metzger

As I write this month's news, we are in preparation to begin another year of learning. Our newly elected Sunday School teachers are Sisters Joyce Moser and Joni Wulf, and

Bros. Mike Schmidt, Merlin Meyer, and Jon Blomgren. It is a tremendous responsibility and a privilege to teach these young souls. May God be with each teacher and as parents let us remind our children to be thankful for the opportunity they have every Sunday to glean from the lesson.

This past month brought many visitors to our church along with ministering brothers. Traveling from our Silverton, OR, congregation, Bro. Todd Zollinger was with us on July 24. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) was with us on July 31 as he and Sis. Julie were here for a Banwart family reunion. On August 7, Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Ron Jones (Portland, OR) were here on their way to the Brotherhood Conference in Morris, MN. August 14 brought Bros. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR), Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS) and Gary Sinn (Latty, OH), all on their return home from the Conference. Thanks to all who were used to preach the Word; it was an encouragement to stay on the narrow way that leads to heaven.

"My flesh and my heart faileth; but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever."

Psalm 73:26

Once again this month we have those family circles who are feeling the great loss of a loved one. We extend our sympathy to Dale and Sis. Mary Knobloch and their family as we learn of the death of Bro. Eldon Metzger (Sis. Mary's brother) from

Gridley, KS, on July 29.

Bro. Willy and Sis. Helen Knobloch, Sisters Emma and Paulina and Vera Knobloch feel the loss of their sister-in-law, Doris Knobloch.

Sis. Pauline Esslinger (Bern, KS) passed away on August 15. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Bill and Sis. Erma Gerber.

Louise (Moser) Tolvstad was called Home to meet her God on August 1. She was 94 years old and found a need to repent of her sins just 5 hours before her last breath was taken. Praise be to God that she could leave this life with a hope and peace! Surviving is her husband, John Tolvstad, and daughter, Susan (Dan) Stiles and family of Kokomo, IN.

The passing of Sarah (Schifferer) Feucht, 94, leaves a void for her daughter, Judy and Ed Martin, and their children and grandchildren. She passed away on August 6 after a short illness, and is the last of 14 siblings to leave this earth. We rejoiced that she, too, expressed her desire to repent for her sins and was able to ask family and friends for forgiveness in the last weeks of her life. May God be with each of the above mentioned families in this time of sorrow and separation.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:3

It is with great joy that we report the news of new converts in our congregation. John Tolvstad and Daniel Messner (Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene) have recently begun

new lives in repentance.

Rosalee Mogler (Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev) is engaged to Matt Anderson. These two souls have also come under conviction of the Word and felt the need of repentance for their sins. We pray all of our converts will feel God's grace and rely on the leading of the Spirit.

Sis. Zelma Knoblock and Malachi Van Wyhe (Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan) were hospitalized for tests but we are thankful they are back at home and feeling better.

Stuart and Karin Moser are thankful to have a healthy baby boy, Cody James, who was born on July 28. He will get much love and attention from his sister, Samantha, and grandpa, Jim Moser.

August 20 was the wedding day for Jamie Leuthold (Carl and Deb) and Chris Tiesler. We wish them God's blessings in their new life together.

Sis. Kathy Metzger and Bro. Lynn Doorneweerd's betrothal was made known to us on August 21. They are making plans for a September 18 wedding. May God continue to be their Guide as they prepare for this important day.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Sharla Wiegand
Rosalie Wiegand

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given."

Isaiah 9:6

The Lord blessed Bro. Dave and Sis. Stefanie Stoller with a son, born on July 17. They, along with big sisters, Torri, Noelle and Chelise, are very happy to welcome

little Brett David into their hearts and home. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Teresa (and the late Bro. Ervin) Marti and Bro. Ed and Sis. Patty Stoller.

"Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference."

Jude 21-22

Our prayerful support is with Bro. Tom Steiner as he accepts the responsibility of being the Oakville congregation's representative for Gateway Woods.

We welcomed ministering Bro. Scott Wegman into our midst on July 24. It was a special first visit back to Oakville after being put into the ministry at his home congregation of Taylor, MO. May God's blessings be upon Bro. Scott as he seeks out the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit.

On July 31, joy and blessings were shared at the church singing shower for newlyweds, Bro. Jordan and Sis. Heidi Knapp. Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna Knapp (Burlington, IA). "The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace." (Numbers 6:24-26)

IOWA
BLOOMFIELD/PULASKI
Barbara Schock

When peace like a river, attendeth

my way,
 When sorrows like sea billows roll;
 Whatever my lot, Thou hast
 taught me to say,
 It is well, it is well with my soul.
Hymns of Zion #55, vs. 1

We rejoice with Jenny Schock (Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa) as she has made known that she is at peace with God and man. Our thoughts and prayers are with her as she waits for baptism into the fold.

On August 7, Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove) was here for the weekend. We thank him for allowing himself to be used by the Holy Spirit and to bring the Word to us. May God bless him for his efforts.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Sue Schneider
Lori Skoglund

"Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? ... He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour..."

Psalms 15:1-3

Spiritual benefits have surrounded the recent gathering for the Brotherhood Conference. While traveling to the Conference, several ministers assembled with us: Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR), Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL), Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville, IL) and Bro. Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy, Wolcott, IN).

Returning home following the

Conference, Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Greg Braker (Sis. Wendy, Lamar, MO) ministered unto us. Heartfelt thanks to all of our faithful brothers who speak God's Word to us.

Presently we are assembling weekly to listen to the tapes of the Conference. May we ponder the thoughts provoked in us by the wise counsel of our Elders.

"Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed."

Hebrews 12:12-13

John and Audrey Zaugg are thankful first-time parents of a little boy, Jaxon Dean, born August 12. He will be loved by two sets of grandparents living close by, Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie Zaugg and Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Montag.

Teresa (Joel) Kellenberger is recuperating from ankle surgery following an accident. Sis. Clara Anliker and Jake Bruellman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Deb) have been hospitalized and are improving. Bro. Kent (Sis. Beth) Banwart remains seriously ill in a Rochester, MN, hospital. The prayers of our congregation and of many others will remain with Bro. Kent and his family.

It will be well with our souls to remember and practice prayer as Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi encouraged us during the Conference. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16)

JAPAN, TOKYO Marie Inoue

This year in August marks the 60th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and thankfully the end of World War II on August 15. Much ado is mentioned of these events in the media with photos of the emperor and other dignitaries praying for the souls of the dead, and what not. As a believer in Christ may we be prayerful that this may never happen again, and much more that we can be good examples of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ brought to this country about that many years ago by faithful brethren.

A precious little boy named Shotaro was born on July 24 to Kenichiro and Yoko Suzurikawa, our dear friends who gather with us. His older sisters are Chikako and Yukako. Our prayer for them is to grow in the knowledge and the love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Two days at the end of July were spent at our Fellowship Meeting held annually with the Shioda brethren and friends. Bro. Willis Ehnle taught us of the benefits of salvation: after a true conversion and faith in the living God, we can have clean hearts, free from guilt, and eternal glory with the Father. Bro. Toru Saegusa took us down the road to Emmaus where Jesus walked and talked with two of His brethren, Luke 24:29 "...Abide with us... And he went in to tarry with them." We all enjoyed this time together of special fellowship.

We were blessed by the visit of Bro. Tim Sauder (Leo, IN), who accompanied a group of young brethren and friends to Japan to use their musical talents to glorify God.

They could spend a Sunday with us and certainly gave good support to our singing. Bro. Willis Ehnle could join us for the afternoon service and exhorted us unto the holiness of our God and that "in spite of" trials and tribulation we should be of good cheer, "... I have overcome the world." John 16:33. After our afternoon service, Bro. Tim gave a very interesting presentation of Gateway Woods. It was good to be reminded of the Lord's work many are doing for those who are hurting.

In the past week several have returned from the states after several weeks of visits with family and our churches. Bro. Andrew Klaus joined his family there for a time of rich fellowship. The rest of his family will return shortly. Sis. Kay Kellenberger returned to continue teaching kindergarten at Nishimachi International School. While spending time in the states she was able to complete her Master's Degree in Education. We congratulate her on this accomplishment and wish her the Lord's blessings and guidance as she seeks to glorify Him in her career and in our church circle.

KANSAS, BERN Sheri Edelman Rita Menold

We have been privileged to have visiting ministers on the pulpit this month! Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA), Bro. Greg Braker (Sis. Wendy, Lamar, MO) and Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IA) preached God's Word to us. Thank you for your labors!

On the weekend of July 23 we

witnessed the testimony and baptism of Sis. Emily Strahm (Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen). We rejoice with her and are thankful for another soldier of the cross!

Our dear Sis. Anna Ulmer has been called home to be with the Lord. We gathered to remember her through the funeral service on August 9. She remained single until death but her love of people and children was evident throughout her life, even as a resident of the nursing home! Her kind and compassionate ways will always be remembered!

Bro. Ashley Esslinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty) is moving to Illinois. We wish him God's blessings as he begins a new job there.

Our recent surgical patients have been Sis. Pauline Esslinger (Bro. Waymer) and Bro. Wayne Edelman (Sis. Linda). We pray for God's healing hand on both of them!

We failed to report earlier of the birth of Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie Strahm's first grandchildren! Twin girls, Carolyn and Kathryn, were born to Bro. Brent and Sis. Brianna Strahm (Portland, OR). May God bless this happy family!

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT **Ethel Smith**

Grace to you, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We are ever thankful for the love and faith we have through our great God.

Our Sunday school has been on vacation for this month of August and will resume in September with the new teachers. Bro. Tyler Banwart was newly elected to the Bible class, and Bro. Trenton

Banwart continues with junior Bible class. Sisters Karen Kellenberger, Maria Bahr and Teresa Bahr have three lower classes. We have a number of preschoolers now and Sis. Debbie Banwart assumed that responsibility. We pray God will bless them and guide them in teaching these tender hearts.

Our little Alex Williams, son of Daniel and Taira, was recently hospitalized for a T&A. He is doing very well.

Our visiting ministers for this past month were Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL), and Bro. Chris Wuethrich (LaCrosse, IN). Bro. Chris and his wife had been to the Conference in Minnesota just the Friday before coming here for the weekend. His two sons, Bro. Levi and Landon, and Bro. Joshua Johnson accompanied him. This shows such great dedication to travel so many miles to serve our little church here in Ft. Scott. May God richly bless all of you for spreading the Word and the fellowship.

We welcome Nathan Lemons, grandson of Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Lemons, back for the school year. He is the son of Robin Lemons, Peoria, IL. We are happy for this addition to our Sunday school.

"I expect of pass through this life but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow being, Let me do it now...for I shall not pass this way again." (William Penn)

KANSAS **LAMONT-GRIDLEY** **Eileen Bahr**

About a week before the Ft. Sam Reunion I asked Sis. Dorene Metzger if they were going to the Ft. Sam reunion in Leo. "No, Eldon's legs are bothering him to ride that distance." Returning home from the reunion there was a call message on the phone, "Dorene and Eldon are asking for prayers of the congregation for a decision they need to make." This was on a Wednesday we heard that they found he had two blood clots in his legs and transferred him to a larger hospital where they found that his acute leukemia had returned with a vengeance. Bro. Shawn was already here for the planned vacation for the coming week of their whole family, including Dorene and Eldon. Hospice came on Thursday and Friday evening he ascended to meet the Lord. By the grace of God and feeling their dad would want them to go ahead in their ministry, Bros. Shawn and Cory blessed us with sermons on Sunday. As I helped sing with the funeral choir, I missed Bro. Eldon's singing - he was a song leader and treasurer in our church for many years.

Not now, but in the coming years,
We'll read the meaning of our
tears...

Some time with tearless eyes we'll
see;

Yes, there, up there, we'll understand.

Then trust in God thro' all the
days;

Fear not, for He doth hold thy
hand;

Tho dark thy way, still sing and
praise,

Some time, we'll understand.

Hymns of Zion #165

Bro. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA) blessed us again the following Sunday.

School starts today. May we all pray for God's guidance and watchful eye over our students and teachers.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Rebekah Beyer
Dawn Strahm

Our church family enjoyed a warm Kansas evening fellowshiping at an all church picnic. We remember the families that labored to make this evening possible.

We are sorrowful for our Sis. Liseten Strahm (the late Bro. Loren) as she and her family mourn the passing of her son-in-law, Bro. Eldon Metzger (Sis. Dorene, Lamont - Gridley, KS).

Eleven- year- old Jacob Kaster (Eldon and Lana Kaster) was a surgery patient. We are thankful he can make a full recovery before school begins.

Bro. Edwin Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS) was with us this month to minister the Word.

We are thankful that the General Brotherhood Conference recently held portrayed so many teachings, prayers, lessons, and spiritual edifications. How grateful we can be at times like this when the Spirit moves brethren to help us grow and learn and be renewed as we walk this path together. Our congregation anticipates hearing more about The Armour of God and Watching with All Perseverance as we listen to the tapes this fall. May God always be with the brothers who labored in organizing the event as well as feeding us with spiritual food.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our loved ones, friends and church family for the prayers, cards, calls, gifts, visits and food during Arleta's hospitalization and since her return home. May God richly bless every kind deed done in our behalf.

Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wenger

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

Sunday, August 7, Dwain and RoseAnn Reeves' children hosted a reception honoring their parent's 50th wedding anniversary. Son Ron of New York, daughters Sandy of Kansas City and Ann Michelle of Wichita, their spouses and children planned the event. We as a church were blessed to have guests from the Fort Scott and Kiowa areas that day. The singing was simply beautiful. Bro. Glen Funk described the event as a 'happy noise'.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Max and Bro. Roger Reimschisel in the loss of Roger's twin brother. We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Cori Metzger whose father, Bro. Eldon, of Lamont-Gridley, was buried the week before. The funeral was on a very hot 'dust bowl' type day. This week we are rejoicing in an abundant healing rain.

I, too, am rejoicing in healing. My day a week ago started out with my missing some commitments and ended with my being scheduled for heart surgery. It is at times like these that I give thanks for my devoted children and a loving congregation.

The above paragraphs are from

Emma. I (Chris - Emma's son) am typing this for my mother on the day she was released from the hospital to return home. Her first words uttered upon the removal of the tubes were 'Praise God'. I think that is a fitting tribute to our Heavenly Father and something that you would all appreciate knowing.

MEXICO, IXTLAN
Claudia Gonzalez

"My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."

Exodus 33:14

What a great promise we can have as children of God. May the presence of our God go with each one of us as we walk through this world.

Once again we are thankful to Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy) for the loving work that he and his team do here in Ixtlan. We not only appreciate what he does for eye care, but also for serving on the pulpit.

This month we have also been blessed with the medical team that came down to prepare and support the Red Cross from Ixtlan. Thanks for being willing to come!

"Oh, be careful little eyes" was one of the songs children were happy to sing again for Vacation Bible School. Our theme was "Abraham, the friend of God". It was a blessed week. About 200 children attended. We would like to thank everyone who participated and helped to make VBS possible.

Our little congregation enjoyed many visitors this summer. Thank you for the love you showed by being here!

We ask for your prayers for Sis.

Bertha Gonzalez who recently broke her hand. May the Lord heal her soon.

“They helped every one his neighbor; and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage.”

Isaiah 41:6

MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Rose Watson
Terri Huber**

Our spirits were encouraged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three individuals on August 6-7. Added to our membership are our new Sis. Holly Plattner (Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen) and Bros. Aaron Kaeb (Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne) and Andy Oesch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle). We welcome them with enthusiasm, much as we welcomed the many visitors who came to share their special weekend! We extend special thanks to Elder Bro. Earl Ringger and ministering Bro. Steve Baner (both of Gridley, IL) and their wives for joining us in fellowship that weekend and adding to our blessings by serving on the pulpit.

Congratulations are in order for Tom and Annie Oesch upon their marriage, which took place on the evening of July 29 under a beautiful, blue sky and gently shining sun. Their parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle Oesch, Karen and Jim Eckelstafer, and Rick and Wendy Zalokar. May they seek God and His direction as they start their life together!

We would like to thank Sis. Rose Watson (Bro. Terry) for tirelessly teaching the Kindergarten Sunday School class. Upon the expiration of her term, we welcome and en-

courage Sis. Mary Herrmann (Bro. Robert) as her replacement.

Services were held on Sunday, August 14, at the Byron Center Manor nursing home. Also, we are about halfway through the Conference tapes and encourage any who were unable to attend to ask the ministers for the copy and listen to the tapes on their own.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer**

Now the field is ripe for harvest;
Let us then all garner in;
For if we should stand here idle,
Who would bring the sheaves of
grain?

Hasten gladly to the labor.
Consecrate to God your heart.
Say this day unto your Saviour,
“Lord, I’ll gladly do my part.”

Hymns of Zion #46

It is so hard to believe how quickly the summer months have passed by and that we are now approaching our harvest season. Similarly with our spiritual life may we be ever ready for the Golden Harvest, that we can say, “Lord, I’ll gladly do my part.”

Our prayers are with Sis. Alice Eisenman and Lori (Bill) Bateson as they each have been under physician care this past month. May the Lord be with each of them as they endure the healing process.

We are thankful for our Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) and Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI) who each spent time with our congregation this past month. May each one receive a blessing that stands in faith to proclaim the Word of God.

Many from our congregation traveled to Alto on August 6-7 to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Bro. Aaron Kaeb (Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne). Bro. Aaron is working in our area and worships with us on Wednesday evenings. May the Lord continue to lead, guide and direct our new brother in Christ.

We are thankful that Bro. Josh Steffen (Bro. Derrell and Sis. Sue) has returned home to our congregation. Bro. Josh has been living in the Philadelphia area and worshipping with the brethren there while attending school. May God richly bless Bro. Josh as he seeks His will for his life.

Two great-grandparents are rejoicing this month. Bro. Robert Knochel is thankful for the safe arrival of Jace Rudy Schlatter. Jace’s parents are Bro. Vince and Sis. Tessa (Schamback) Schlatter (Milford, IN). Older brothers, Parker and Reese, also welcome Jace into their heart and home. Sis. Della Erismann welcomes her first great-grandson, Cade. Parents, Ryan and Summer (Erismann) Stephen and older sister, Mercedes, are grateful for this blessing from above.

We are currently listening to the Conference tapes. How thankful we can be that our Elder body can gather together to exhort and encourage the congregations in the day and time we live.

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

Eph. 6:13

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

Our congregation was blessed with the opportunity to gather together and hear Kristi Baran (Craig and Sis. Pat) give her testimony of how God worked in her life so that she could experience true repentance and conversion. The evening was a good reminder of our own calling from a life of sin; what a blessing it is to know that God continues to reward those who diligently seek Him. The next day, we witnessed Sis. Kristi's baptism and greeted her as a new sister in faith. The weekend was extremely encouraging to our congregation here in Detroit as well as those visiting from other congregations.

We are also thankful that God is continuing to call other souls to the way of salvation. We rejoice with Sis. Mira Matejin with the news that her son, Jeff, has answered the Lord's call and is seeking Him in repentance. We wish Jeff an added measure of God's grace in his repentance, and our prayers continue to be with those who have not yet humbled themselves to turn from the world and seek salvation in the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

Just as God adds souls to our spiritual family, he also continues to add to the families within our congregation. Bro. Matt and Sis. Nancy Rocke were blessed with a baby girl, Jodi Lynn. Jennifer, Jessica, and James are excited siblings welcoming their new sister home. We pray that God would give Bro. Matt and Sis. Nancy the grace to raise little Jodi so that she can one day come to know Jesus as her Savior.

We also want to welcome Sis.

Marti Hinrichsen as she has relocated to our area for an internship. We pray that she can feel at home and spiritually uplifted in our congregation in Detroit.

We want to remember Sis. Ethel Rambeau as she has had recent knee surgery. We pray that she has a speedy recovery and is back on her feet shortly.

Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN), and Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL) shared in the ministry while visiting us this month. We want to thank each of these Brothers for lending themselves so that our congregation could be spiritually fed from God's Word.

As summer draws to a close, we anticipate our church's children and young adults returning to school and college. We see the evidence of Satan's work in the evil in the world around us, yet we are encouraged by the words in the first epistle of John 4:4 – "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." As each one of our children continue to grow, mature, learn, and make decisions, we pray that God would go with them and guide them.

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
LaRae Dill**

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord forever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength..."

Isaiah 26:4

Trust seems applicable to many events and situations in our congregation this month.

We've entrusted two dear ladies in our congregation to the Lord. Sis. Esther Lienemann and her granddaughter, Linda Leary, have relocated – Sis. Esther to Apostolic Christian Home (Eureka, IL) and Linda to Oakwood Estate (Morton, IL). We miss both of these ladies very much but have over the past months observed how God miraculously made this move to IL possible; so in this we all rejoice!

Both Esther and Linda had a special place in our congregation. We all remember Linda for her sense of humor and funny jokes, how much she enjoys fellowship and church lunch, and her love of holding all of the local babies. Sis. Esther has the distinction of being the first convert and baptism in the Minneapolis church, and was the oldest member in our congregation. Married in 1935, Esther and her husband Linus moved to St. Paul in 1937. In driving through St. Paul with Esther on different occasions, she shares about the city, her neighborhood history and the changes she had seen through the years. It's interesting to hear her tell of Linus' taxi driving days, the war years, and the difficulty of women finding work in those days. Esther's work ethic and determination are evident as she describes working hard to remain debt free. She says, "We weren't picky about jobs – we took whatever work we could get." Esther worked for 25 cents per hour doing ironing for a large family in St. Paul. As Esther describes her years of doing laun-

dry, waitressing at a Jewish restaurant, working at Montgomery Wards and Western Electric, her spunky personality shows through. She has inspired all of us with her energy in caring for Linda, and her determination in caring for her own home for so many years.

"Take your time, or time takes you." This is a favorite quote of Esther's and she relates that this was nearly a self-fulfilling prophecy for her. Time had come for a change for she and Linda, and Sis. Esther expresses thankfulness for those in her church family who assisted her in this process. Sis. Esther has a great love and fondness for her church family and shares how much she has enjoyed meeting the many people who have lived in the Twin Cities through the years. "I love you all", she says.

We miss Chris and Nancy Williams who have moved to their new home in the Winthrop, MN, area. God's blessings to you, Chris and Nancy. Sis. Ethel Bednarski has also moved to a new home near her daughter. Her new address is: Ethel Bednarski, 540 3rd. St. NW, Richmond, MN 56368.

FAITH—A Fantastic Adventure In Trusting Him. Mid-July, several Minneapolis families, sisters, and Bible class students traveled to Magdalena, Mexico, on a World Relief work team. The team effort was evident among the group as we met up with families and students from nine other churches. Working together at Casa Vida y Esperanza truly enriched our lives and our fellowship. The FAITH acronym shared one morning by ministering Bro. Jim Rinkenberger certainly is an accurate description of our trip and our week together.

Trusting God would provide inspiration, Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) spoke to us at the close of our week of Vacation Bible School held July 25 – 29. After studying each piece of The Armour of God, found in Ephesians 6, it was good to be reminded by Bro. Dale that we need the whole armour. Each piece is essential for a well-armed Christian soldier. Bro. Dale's way of relating to the young students was appreciated, as was his ministry on Sunday. Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) also ministered here that Sunday.

The Conference in Morris, MN, brought many visitors passing through the Twin Cities. The Wednesday evening prior to the Conference we welcomed these visiting ministers – Bro. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Bro. Greg Rassi and Bro. Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL), Bro. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), Bro. Warren Schlatter and Bro. Tony Manz (Junction, OH), and Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT). Bro. Dan was also present on Sunday along with retired Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO).

We're rejoicing in God's faithfulness! A new convert in our church family is Braden Mogler (Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary Mogler). We're reminded to trust Him in calling and converting souls. It is His work.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Katie Koehl
Heidi Nohl**

We were blessed to have visiting ministering Bros. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), John Bradle (Roanoke, IL) and Jim Koehl (San

Diego, CA). May God bless them for their willing service.

Our congregation hosted the annual Brotherhood Conference August 8-12. In addition to the visiting brothers listed above, we had many, many visiting Elder and ministering brothers. It was a blessing to all who took part and who attended. May God richly bless our efforts.

Hospitalized this month was Bro. Frank Messner (Sis. Gladys), Bro. Paul Fehr (Sis. Anna), Bro. Kevin Joos (Sis. Kelly) and Travis Moser (Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karen). May God grant them healing.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Arlene Griner on the passing of her husband, Emil. Our prayers are also with Bro. Reuben and Sis. Crystol Luthi as they laid to rest their son, Bro. Jeff Luthi (Sis. Shirley, Altadena, CA). We pray God will provide for them in the days ahead.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Rachel Steiner
Ginny Stoll**

We would like to thank Elder Bros. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL), Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) and Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) for laboring on our behalf this past month. Also with us this month were visiting ministers, Bros. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA), Arnold Gerst (Sis. Marjorie, Taylor, MO), Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH), Charles Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL) and Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucille,

Eureka, IL). We appreciate their willingness to share God's Word with us.

Our medical and hospital patients were Sis. Hazel Schmidt (Bro. Elmer), Sis. Marcelle Dapper (Bro. Ernie), Bro. Leo Messner (Sis. Georgia) and Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Sis. Hazel). We pray for God's healing hand to be upon them.

We enjoyed a blessed weekend on August 6-7 as Sis. Heather Steiner (Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel) and Sis. Victoria Stoll (Bro. Ed and Sis. Ginny) shared their testimonies with us. May they always seek God's grace and will in their lives.

On August 14, there was a reception held in Winthrop for Bro. David and Sis. Bethany Messner. Since they were married in Silverton, OR, many of us were not able to attend. We pray that God will bless their union and we want to welcome Sis. Bethany to our congregation. Parents of the couple are Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy Messner (Morris, MN) and Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi (Silverton, OR).

The angels rejoice over each and every sinner who answers His call. Adrian Ebling (Becky) has answered the call and has found peace. We are so thankful that He continues to call and souls are willing to answer.

We would also like to welcome Chris and Nancy Williams to our congregation in Winthrop. They have moved here from Minneapolis. What a blessing to have our small church growing.

On August 13, we were privileged to host the World Relief meeting here in Winthrop. We appreciate the time and effort that many brothers put into organizing

and distributing goods and funds to those in need around our world.

As our Elders gathered for the Brotherhood Conference, many prayers were offered for God's wisdom in these troublesome times. We are so thankful God has provided faithful brethren to be shepherds over His flock of believers.

Note of Thanks:

Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Sis. Hazel) wishes to thank those who remembered him with prayers, cards and visits following his surgery.

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

"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath annointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.

To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;"

Isaiah 61:1-2

Recent visiting ministers were Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Nathan Lehman (Sis. Yvonne, Denver, CO). Many thanks to these brothers for proclaiming God's Word.

The engagement of Sis. Janelle Sinn (John and Sis. Carole) to Bro. Chris Wuthrich of Fort Scott was recently announced. Bro. Chris's parents are Sis. Valerie Wuthrich (Roanoke, IL) and Bill Wuthrich (Peoria, IL). A wedding is planned for October 9. May God richly bless

this couple as they will join hands to journey on life's pathway here on earth.

Raegan Marie was born to Bro. Galen and Sis. Shannon Kellenberger on July 22. Grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen Kellenberger and Gary and Sis. Tami Dettwyler (Silverton, OR). May God guide and direct this young family.

Two dear people of our congregation were recently hospitalized and are now at home. They are Bro. Jesse Delph and Mark Mattix. May the Great Physician continue to heal them.

"O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together."

Psalm 34:3

Many, many thanks to the Morris, MN, congregation for hosting the Elder and Brotherhood Conference and for the individual hospitality shown to so many of us. It was a wonderful experience to meet and greet so many from across the country and to hear the Elders address the concerns of this day and age. Certainly the name of the Lord was magnified and exalted. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless the efforts of our Elder brethren.

**MISSOURI, LAMAR
Wendy Braker
Mindy Braker**

Among our visitors this month were Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH). We also appreciate retired Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) for lending himself when we were in need of a minister due to traveling and illness.

We thank them for their willing service in bringing forth God's Word.

Danielle Luthi (Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jody) spent some time in the hospital this past month. We are thankful that she is well and home again.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Jay and Sis. Sharon Braker in the loss of Sharon's brother, Dale Borghardt. May they feel the Lord's presence in this time of sorrow.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Krista Banwart

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL), Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debra, Peoria, IL), Bro. Dave Zehr (Sis. Vicki, Gridley, IL), Bro. Dave Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS), and Bro. Dave Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO).

Bro. Kenny and Sis. Devonne Rinkenberger welcomed another granddaughter, Ashley Kay (Bro. Brandon and Sis. Mindy Rinkenberger, Phoenix, AZ). Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy Schrenk are also enjoying their new role as grandparents and were recently blessed with the visit of their granddaughter from California - Madeline Elizabeth, daughter of Rachel and Josh Miller. In this season of Fall, may we fall often before the throne of grace, acknowledging Jesus as Savior and Lord, the One who enables us to stand. There is comfort in knowing Him, and resting in promises like Jude 24 which remind us the glory belongs "unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy..."

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Sally Haerr

We, here at Taylor, have enjoyed and hopefully grown spiritually, through a series of mid-week Bible studies. The main theme of these studies was "A steadfast mind". "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee." (Isaiah 26:3). Also, "casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of God." (II Cor. 10:5). These were just a few, of many, scripture verses considered.

The final Bible study in this series was given by Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL).

Through all of these Bible studies we have been encouraged to search our lives and remove those "strongholds" that keep us from a closer walk with Christ. We want to thank Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie for coming so far on a Wednesday night. We feel blessed by their love and know that God will bless them.

A Fort Sam Army Reunion was hosted here in Taylor, bringing several ministering brothers. They were: Bros. Jim Ramseyer (Sis. Marlene, Bay City, MI), Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH), Walt Herrmann (Sis. Betty, Princeville, IL), and Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine, Burlington, IA). A special thanks to each of these brothers as well as Bro. Ron Joos (Sis. Christy, Bloomfield, IA) who came to minister to us on August 7. We hope they will always feel that they are "coming back home".

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held this month with a

short program following the meal. A wonderful tradition time for all of us, a time of making precious memories.

Sis. Heidi Heimer (Bro. Rod and Sis. Barb) and Sis. Lindsey Yackley (Bro. Elwood and Sis. Trudie) have returned home from their summer mission in Jamaica. We have prayed for them many times and now we thank God for answered prayer.

We are thankful to have Anna Lynn Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny) back in church and slowly improving. We continue to pray for Sis. Nerys Lightener (Peter) as she continues her cancer treatments.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

It has been a busy summer here in Croghan. We have enjoyed fellowship with those traveling through our area on their vacations. The Word was brought forth to us by ministering Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA) on July 24 and by Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) on July 31. The first weekend we enjoyed additional fellowship with a potluck and singing Saturday evening. May these brothers feel our heartfelt thanks for coming and so willingly being used in Christ's service.

Our annual meeting was held on Monday evening, July 25. We were reminded that each believer holds a special place in the body of our church and are thankful for the labors of each one.

We were thankful to hear of the many exhortations that were brought forth again at the Elder Conference. We look forward to lis-

tening to the tapes in September.

Our annual church Sunday School picnic was on Saturday, August 6, at the Whetstone Gulf State Park. We had a beautiful day and a wonderful turnout!

Our prayers extend to Todd Farney after his recent accident with a saw at work. We are thankful that he was able to return home after surgery and pray that the Lord will grant him healing and return the full use of his arm.

We were sad to see Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard move away from our area. We have certainly enjoyed their fellowship over the past three years and their many labors with the World Relief. May the Lord bless them in their new home in Remington, IN. Also moving from our area were Paul and Emily Virkler who are now settled in Smithville, MO. We will miss them!

OHIO, AKRON **Joyce Gasser**

We rejoice that Brian Demrovsky has turned to the Lord in repentance. His parents are Bro. Andrew and Sis. Vera Demrovsky. May the Lord be with Brian as he grows in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus.

Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana Klaus of Tokyo gave us a visit and Bro. Andrew gave an inspiring message. Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Ursu of Kitchener gave us a visit and Bro. Mike gave an inspiring message. We heartily thank them for visiting us, and we wish them God's blessings as each go on with their ministry — the Klaus' in Japan and the Ursu's in Canada.

Sis. Martha Koehler, who had been a resident at our Nursing Home, passed away and funeral

services were held August 10 at the funeral home by both Akron and Rittman ministers. She has a sister at Akron; Sis. Esther (Bro. Joe) Grossenbacher. Our sympathy goes out to them.

We enjoyed visiting ministers from our nearby churches, and we thank them for coming: Bro. Gary (Sis. Mary Ann) Maibach and Bro. Ron (Sis. Ruth) Steiner.

OHIO, COLUMBUS **Nancy Banks**

This month our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Bros. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH). We appreciate our visitors so much.

It was a joy to meet and greet so many familiar faces at the Leo Children's Home Sale this month. It has been said that "sale day" is much like a large reunion. What a wonderful opportunity to not only reunite with loved ones from all over but to join together in the common bond of helping troubled children. May we continue to strive to do His will and His work.

OHIO, JUNCTION **Cindy Schlatter**

We appreciated the visits of Bro. Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO) and Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL). May God richly bless them for bringing forth the true and living Word to us.

As our children go to Sunday School each Sunday we certainly appreciate the work and labor of our teachers. We will continue to lift up our current teachers in prayer and also pray for the new

teachers, Bro. Chris Manz (Sis. Erica), Bro. Dennis Schlatter (Sis. Laurie) and Sis. Sue Gasser (Bro. Roger). A special thank-you to those whose terms recently expired; may God bless you.

Several families were recently blessed with new babies. Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Manz welcome a new grandson into their family circle. Kyle Matthew was born to Bro. Trent and Sis. Jodi Stoller of our Latty, OH, congregation on July 28. Then on August 15, Elsie Annevah was born to Bro. Larry and Sis. Cheree Manz. Big sister Jaelah welcomes her into the family as well as grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz and Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz of Nashville, TN.

Bro. Pete Hurd (Sis. Helen) recently had surgery. We are thankful that it went well and wish him a speedy recovery.

OHIO, LATTY **Bonny Wenninger** **Amanda Steffen**

We rejoice with two more souls who have found grace to seek God in repentance. Our prayers are with Chet Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce) and Caleb Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb) that they will strive to give their all to their Saviour.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL), Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH), and Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI). We thank them for their willingness to minister God's Word to us.

Kyle Matthew was born to Bro. Trent and Sis. Jodi Stoller on July

28. Welcoming him home is his sister Abby. We wish them God's blessings in raising their children. Grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller and Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Manz (Junction, OH).

On August 7, Bro. Ryan Stoller and Sis. Kori Bauman were united in marriage. Parents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam Stoller and Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman (Smithville, OH). May God's blessings be on this couple as they begin their life together.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Esther Baumann

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock..."

Revelations 3:20

This verse in Revelations was the theme of our 33rd Annual Youth Fellowship Weekend held on July 23-24. We pray each one of the precious young souls who were able to attend will remember and apply the biblical lessons they learned. Special thanks to Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam) and Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice) from our Sardis congregation for ministering to us this weekend.

Bro. Jared and Sis. Stephanie Hill are thankful for the safe arrival of Gabriel Lee who was born on August 5. Also welcoming him are his sisters, Alaina and Aubrey, and grandparents, Bro. Chip and Sis. Sieda Hill and Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Ann Domka.

We were blessed to have two weddings this past month. Bro. Nathaniel Ramsey (Bro. Ed and Sis. Laura) was married to Sis. April Dotterer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mardel) in Rittman, OH, on July 31. Bro. Joshua Boliantz (Bro.

Doug and Sis. Connie) was married to Sis. Jenna Older (Bill and Joyce) in Smithville, OH, on August 14. We wish both of these couples marriages blessed with joy that keeps on growing.

Please continue to pray for God's healing hand in the lives of our recently hospitalized patients, Linda Sauder and Mark Sauder.

Congratulations to Bro. Bob and Sis. Miriam Bird as they celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on August 4.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Anne Widmer

Hannah Beery

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Matthew 24:40

This month we were blessed with the wedding of Sis. April Dotterer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mardel) to Bro. Nathaniel Ramsey (Bro. Ed and Sis. Laura, Mansfield, OH). We are sorry to be losing Sis. April, but are thankful that she and Bro. Nate are seeking God's will for their lives. May He richly bless their new home in Mansfield.

We would like to welcome little Bronwyn Joy to this world. Bronwyn was born on July 17 to Bro. Eric and Sis. Tricia Steiner. Her two older sisters, Braelyn and Brystal, are no doubt excited to have another little one in the house. Her grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Carole Steiner and Bro. Galen and Sis. Cheryl Indermuhle.

Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan Hartzler

are grandparents again. Bro. Eric and Sis. Jamie Hartzler (Sardis, OH) now have a blessing from above in their home. Leah Pauline was born on July 20. God bless Bro. Eric and Sis. Jamie as they begin their journey through parenthood.

Every day is a new day, bringing the word Today with it. For those who keep putting their soul salvation on hold until Tomorrow, won't realize until too late that Tomorrow will never be here. As a congregation, we have enjoyed having Ellen Daw attending with us. We are thankful that she has decided to give her life to the Lord and live for Him. We wish Ellen much grace as she lays down the world and picks up the Cross.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Mark Masters for his work here in our congregation. God's Word is amazing and we are always so thankful for those who are willing to bring it before us.

We would like to welcome Jesse Rufener back after almost two months in Rio Bravo. Jesse was there serving as summer staff, working at the school for the deaf. Thank you, Jesse, for being willing to work for the Lord. May God bless each one of those who are willing to reach out to the lost and take the Word to those who are not as privileged as us to have it right in our homes and communities. God will surely bless those who help the least of His brethren.

This month we have had two of our loved ones in the hospital. Thankfully, both are home safely, touched by the healing hand of God. Jordan Stoller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie) spent some time in Akron Children's Hospital. Also, Bro. Dave Steiner (Sis. Carole) was

hospitalized. We are so very thankful that both are home, back in the care of their families.

OHIO, SARDIS
Jami Hartzler
Terry Zollinger

Abide with me! Fast falls the even-
 tide,
 The darkness deepens, Lord, with
 me abide!
 When other helpers fail, and com-
 forts flee,
 Help of the helpless, oh, abide with
 me!
Hymns of Zion #110

Sympathy, prayers and love are
 extended to Sis. Dee Beard (Bro.
 Ed) and family due to the loss of her
 stepfather, Joseph Gorka. May
 they feel the comfort of the Lord Je-
 sus during this mourning time.

“Lo, children are an heritage of
 the Lord: and the fruit of the womb
 is his reward.”
Psalm 127:4

Parents, Bro. Eric and Sis. Jami
 Hartzler, feel blessed for the safe
 arrival of their precious daughter,
 Leah Pauline, born July 20. Grand-
 parents, Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan
 Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and Bro.
 Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger, are
 thankful for a new granddaughter.
 May Bro. Eric and Sis. Jami feel led
 by the Lord as they raise their little
 girl in His ways.

Ye shepherds, Who the Lord do
 love,
 And through the Spirit from
 above,
 Proclaim to men salvation,
 How much the Lord to you has
 willed,

Who at His blessed kingdom build,
 It is beyond expression!
 Therefore, therefore, Be ye faith-
 ful! How delightful!
 God with pleasure Will impart the
 crown and treasure.
Zion's Harp #210

What a blessing to have visiting
 ministers and their families
 amongst us this month! We were
 thankful to have Bro. Ned Stoller
 (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), Bro. Mat-
 thew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago,
 IL) and Bro. Andrew Klaus (Sis.
 Jana, Tokyo, Japan). We hope they
 enjoyed their visit in Sardis as
 much as we enjoyed having them.
 May the Lord richly bless them for
 their works and labors!

Though often the heart With
 storms be oppressed,
 Afflictions do smart, By Satan dis-
 tressed,
 “O what shall befall us?” We wea-
 rily sighed;
 Still He who protects us, “The
 Lord will provide!”
Zion's Harp #86

Thoughts and prayers are with
 Sis. Ruth Headley because she
 spent some time in the hospital.
 May the Lord have His healing
 hand over her and provide all her
 needs.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Edith Miller
Ruth Gasser

My Lord, an off'ring do I bring;
 My heart I give to Thee.
 I gladly give this heart of mine,
 Which Thou dost ask of me.
Zion's Harp #163

We are rejoicing for another

soul who has expressed a desire to
 give her life to the Lord. We pray
 that Juliet Dotterer (Bro. David
 and Sis. Luanna) will find God's
 rich grace as she seeks the Lord in
 repentance. Our hearts were also
 encouraged to hear that Joy
 Rufener (Bro. John and Sis.
 Janice) and Paul Klotzle (Bro. Bob
 and Sis. Shirley) have experienced
 repentance, conversion and peace
 of heart, and are awaiting baptism.
 May this be a time of growth, as
 they allow the Spirit daily to guide
 their lives.

The Lord has drawn hearts and
 lives together as well in our congre-
 gation. Bro. Ryan Stoller (Bro.
 Todd and Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) and
 Sis. Kori Bauman (Bro. Vic and Sis.
 Brenda) were joined in Holy Matri-
 mony on August 7. On August 14,
 our Sis. Jenna Older became the
 wife of Bro. Josh Boliantz (Bro.
 Douglas and Sis. Connie,
 Mansfield, OH) as they made sa-
 cred vows to the Lord. We pray that
 each of these couples feel the
 Lord's nearness and direction as
 they take on a new role in their re-
 spective congregations.

As they go forth upon life's way,
 Sustain them by thy grace;
 May they Thy holy laws obey
 And live in joy and peace.
Hymns of Zion #286

We were thankful for the
 prompting of the Spirit as Bro.
 Lucas Frank (Detroit, MI) allowed
 himself to be used for our edifica-
 tion in his recent visit here. The
 weddings this month have also
 brought brothers into our midst,
 for which we felt richly fed in the
 Spirit. Elder Bros. John Laukhuf
 (Latty, OH) and Mark Masters
 (Mansfield, OH), and Bros. Todd

Stoller, Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) and Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) have taught us as they shared the Word.

The Elder Brethren at the recent General Conference in Morris, MN, surely had our prayers, and now we hope that we can all benefit by their exhortations, as we will be spending our mid-week services in September listening to the tapes.

The home of Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene Stoller is joyful for the safe arrival of Rose Mary, born August 15. Her siblings are Doyle, Lynelle, Nelson, Warren, Tobias and Clark. Grandparents, Bro. Everett and Sis. Marge Stoller (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Lilas Rufener, are likewise thankful and will certainly add their love to the family.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard

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

Psalm 46:1

Our prayers are with Bro. Walt and Sis. Sharon Rager as he has underwrote heart surgery. May the great Physician heal as He sees best.

Let us remember our students and teachers as they return to school in the coming weeks. Pray that they can not only learn, but be examples for Christ where they are placed.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Melissa Kuenzi
Cindy Metzger

Audrey Kuenzi (Bro. Todd and Sis. Melissa) and Lydia Schneider (Bro. Tim and Sis. Dana) have been announced for peace. We look forward to their testimonies and baptisms in October.

Bro. Zach Kuenzi and Sis. Rachel Petrovic were married on July 24 in San Diego, CA. Their parents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane Kuenzi and Elder Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian Petrovic (San Diego, CA). We welcome Sis. Rachel to our congregation.

Our prayers are with Lowell Ditch (Sis. Golda) as his health is declining.

We are thankful to have several visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego), Bro. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar, MO), and Bros. Garth Steffen (Sis. Connie), Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy), and Ron Jones (Sis. Liz), all of Portland, OR.

Note of Thanks:

We want to express our deep gratitude to all who have offered their support to our family during Kathryn's and Chad's illnesses. The cards, gifts, meals, and especially your prayers, have helped us so much. We are so thankful for our church family and pray the Lord will bless each deed of kindness.

In Christian Love,
 Bro. Chad and Sis. Megan Walter and family

OREGON, PORTLAND
Brianna Strahm

Greetings of love from the Northwest. We've had a very blessed month with many visitors for which we're always thankful.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), Don Sinn (Sis. Linda), and Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer), all of Silverton. We were also thankful to have Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego) among us. We thank each of you for your labors on our behalf.

We were blessed by a group of visiting single brothers the last Sunday in July. Following the afternoon service, many of us enjoyed an all-church potluck supper on their behalf. We surely enjoyed the fellowship we shared.

On August 6, our friend, Jamie Martin (Bro. Denny and Sis. Lori), was married to Sol Jones (Andrew and Lois Jones) of Tonasket, Washington. We wish them well in the days ahead. They plan to live in the Tonasket area.

Our prayers are with Jeremy Martin (Camille) as he will be spending some time in Afghanistan with the Navy. We also remember his parents, Bro. Denny and Sis. Lori, as it must not be easy to see their son travel so far from home.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to especially thank everyone for the many thoughtful cards and gifts we received for our 50th wedding anniversary.

Bro. Garth and Sis. Connie Steffen

PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA
Nathan and

MaryElizabeth Gasser

We were saddened this month to learn of the passing of our Bro. Shawn Metzger's father, Bro.

Eldon (Lamont-Gridley, KS). Our prayers are with Bro. Shawn and his family, as well as Bro. Eldon's family, in this time.

We were grateful to have Bro. Andrew Klaus (Tokyo, Japan) and his family visiting with us this month and sharing God's Word with our congregation.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

We have continued to be blessed with large groups of visitors this summer, for which we thank our gracious Lord. We have been strengthened by the Living Word brought to us by our visiting ministering brothers: Bros. Walt Herrmann (Sis. Betty, Princeville, IL), Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL), Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL), and Trent Schrock (Sis. Heidi, Leo, IN). We have also greatly appreciated the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Chicago, Cissna Park, Eureka, Fairbury, Forrest, and Princeville, IL; Francesville and Leo, IN; and Akron and Latty, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Belvidere, IL (9/25); Rittman, OH (10/2); Bluffton North, IN (10/9); Morton, IL (10/16); Akron, OH (10/23); and Peoria, IL (10/30). If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service and would welcome any mid-week visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis.

Monica Fritz, (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, SAN MARCOS

Amy Ringger Serenity Ringger

Holy Communion was held this month on July 31. Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville) and Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago) served the local church.

We say farewell to Bro. Caleb and Sis. Laura Schafer who are finished with an internship, and are headed back to Muncie, Indiana, to finish Bro. Caleb's education. We have had many blessed times of fellowship and singing with them during the last seven months.

Many thanks to the ministers and wives for their service: Bros. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Oakville), Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty), and Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont). We had several brethren away traveling this month so the other visitors from Kiowa, Latty, Pharr, TX, Rockville, and Fairbury were especially appreciated!

Thanks also go to those from the National Building Committee who paid a mid-week visit to help us in our search for a permanent worship facility. Those were Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury).

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 week-end gatherings. See the ministers'

book for local contact information.

Our congregation continues to meet for services at the Quality Inn in San Marcos, TX. San Marcos is located on IH-35, approximately 20 minutes south of Austin or about 50 minutes north of downtown San Antonio. Take Exit #206; the hotel is on the south-bound frontage road.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Sandy Leman

Another summer has come and gone, and we again look forward to the time when our brothers and sisters from the North will join us for the winter. It will be another month or two until they start arriving again, and one of the first events to be enjoyed this season is the World Relief National Committee Meeting, to be attended by loved ones from all over the country, from Altadena to Rockville and many places between. We are anticipating the fellowship and the opportunity to learn more about the activities of the committee. Having a big gathering will be a welcome change from our current "two or three assembled in His name." Although our group is small, we do appreciate each other's company as we worship together.

Sis. Lillian Koehl has returned to Peoria for a few weeks, and we wish her traveling mercies and look forward to her return.

We appreciate a visit from Bro. Lenny and Sis. Charlotte Meyer to the church in Pharr. May God bless them and their family for their ministry to us.

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2005/2006

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

HAITI					
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY
MEBSH	November 4-11, 2005	Les Cayes	Jon Zeller	Construction/Maintenance	11
AWA-FRW	November 11-18, 2005	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4
AWA-T	November 11-18, 2005	Les Cayes	Troy Struber	Water Aid	5
AWA-B	November 11-18, 2005	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2
MEBSH	December 2-9, 2005	Les Cayes	Ted Habegger	Grade School	11
MEBSH	December 9-16, 2005	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	11
MEBSH	January 6-13, 2006	Les Cayes	Ron Palitto	Grade School	11
MEBSH	Jan. 27 - Feb. 3, 2006	Les Cayes	Dean Pashak	Grade School	11
SEED	February 10-17, 2006	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	9
Palm Grove	February 10-17, 2006	Puit Sales	Stan DesCarpentrie	Grade School	11
SEED	March 10-17, 2006	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	11
AWA-T	March 17-24, 2006	Les Cayes	Troy Struber	Water Aid	5
AWA-FRW	March 17-24, 2006	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4
AWA-B	March 17-24, 2006	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2
MEBSH	March 24-31, 2006	Les Cayes	Rich Bertschi	Grade School	9
Palm Grove	TBD	Puit Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11
AWA-FRW	June 16-23, 2006	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4
AWA-T	June 16-23, 2006	Les Cayes	Troy Stuber	Water Aid	5
AWA-B	June 16-23, 2006	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2
JAMAICA					
CCCD	March 18-26, 2006	Deaf Village	Jon Schwab	Work Place	40/50
CCCD	June 3-10, 2006	Deaf Village	Taylor SS/Rusty Adrian	Work Place	40/50

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

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

Sermon continued from page 2

four very good questions, even if it comes from philosophers. Solomon concludes and we are going to get to that again, I say, in a moment. So let's say that again. Who am I? Where did I come from? What is my purpose here? Where do I go when I leave?

Well the Bible answers all four questions very positively, directly, plainly, clearly and perfectly. The Bible says we are a creation of God. We come from God. As relationship to the creation, we are sons and daughters of God through creation. And our purpose here is to work out our salvation, to get re-acquainted since the fall in the garden, since our separation from God, pulling away from God, is to get re-united with Him. That is our purpose here. And when we leave, we go to two destinations. Heaven being one, referring to the abode of those of the righteous that will live on forever with God and the Lord Jesus Christ. And hell being the other, which is the permanent place of torment, where the soul never dies - in either place, the soul never dies - and a place of torment forever and ever, time without end, and separation from God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the destination when we leave this life.

If you go to the account of the rich man and Lazarus, when the rich man found himself in torment, he wanted Lazarus to come and give him a drink of water. (St. Luke 16:20-31) Dip his finger in water and bring it to him so he could put it on his tongue. He was in this heat, this fire. Abraham said to him, Son, this cannot be. Lazarus cannot go from my bosom to you because there is a great gulf fixed. One cannot pass over from you to him or from the rich man back to Lazarus. What he is saying there is when we leave here, it is permanent which direction we go from that point. So what we do here and now determines what direction we go when we leave.

So the philosophers, they worked hard trying to discover and to answer those four questions. Many of those philosophers committed suicide. Can you believe that? They had the right questions but they couldn't come with the right answers. They didn't have the Word. They didn't embrace the

Word of God. You and I today have the Word of God. We can embrace the Word of God. We can accept and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. Or we can reject Him. And we just talked about that.

So let us conclude what Solomon concludes. He says another thing in one of these chapters. He says, don't go to the house of mirth to know what life is about but go to the house of mourning (Ecclesiastes 7:2-4). Isn't that a strange statement. What did he mean by that statement? This is what he means by that statement. When we go to the house of mirth or the house where the party is going on and there is a big party going on, we look at things very lightly. We don't consider about life. We don't consider about the end of life. We are enjoying what we are in. We are really living it up.

But when we go to the house where one is laid out and we see the finality that all death comes to all, it is a different picture. It is a different setting. It tells us that we don't live forever here on earth. That there is going to be a separation from this earth. Then it gets us to thinking, what is going to happen? What is going to happen to me when I get here? That is what Solomon is trying to draw one to that attention. What is going to happen when I get to that place when I am laid out in a casket? What is after that?

Well, the Bible is very clear about what is after that and what is before that. I want to quote the message that God wants to embrace every human being in this world with. "For God so loved the world..." St. John 3:16. He doesn't hate His creation. Even His fallen creation, humankind, even though they are running from Him and hating Him and cursing Him, He still loves them enough to send His Son into the world, that whosoever believeth on Him will not perish or wind up in that place called hell, but wind up rather in heaven or eternal life.

So what is the chief good? What is the purpose of life? Chief good and purpose of life is to come to know the Lord Jesus Christ. When we come, when the Holy Spirit awakens our soul to the need of the presence of God and the Lord Jesus Christ in our life, the first thing that comes into our heart is

conviction for sin. Immediately the Holy Spirit brings us to the conviction of our sin. That we have sinned against God. We have transgressed His law and His commands. We need to turn from our sin and embrace what God has offered to save us.

That is Jesus Christ crucified. That He bore our sin to the cross, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life. If it wasn't for Jesus bearing our sins at the cross, we would be lost. God's righteous, holy judgment would come falling down upon us. One day it is going to come down on the earth and all men will be brought before God and they will give an account of what they have done in the flesh, whether good or evil.

That is what Solomon concludes here with. Let us go back and just take a look at it. He says here in verse twelve, "And further, by these, my son, be admonished..." or listen up - "...of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh." Ecclesiastes 12:12. What he means by this statement is, as the philosophers studied and tried to figure out what life is all about and couldn't come to a firm conclusion, Solomon is warning us not to take that same course. But rather to embrace the One who created all things and then we will come to the conclusion of what God desires or what life is all about. The chief good, as it is referred to.

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Ecclesiastes 12:13,14. The conclusion is clear. It is clear! God is going to bring every work into judgment. We think we do something in secret. Nobody is going to know about it. Nobody sees it. I go here, I go there. Nobody is going to see me, whatever. God sees us. God knows it and God puts it down on record.

The day of judgment He opens the books and brings all men before Him, if you go to Revelation (Revelation 20:12). He opens the books. What books does He open? He opens the books of your life and my life. That is

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what He is opening. What we have done in our lives. He is going to look in the books and say well, well Bill. This is what your life was. It wasn't in the Lord. I am sorry. Turn aside. Turn to my left. Well John. You served me. You come to know me and you served me. You turn to my right. You go into everlasting life. Bill, you go into everlasting destruction. That's the way it is going to be, based upon your action and mine.

We don't want to close on a negative thought. It is not negative. It is all positive. But we might take it and conclude as negative. So let us draw a positive conclusion, if you will. You don't have to be concerned if you have made the choice today. Today is the day of salvation. Receive the Lord Jesus Christ. See yourself as God sees you and I. God sees you and I as sinners. We are all sinners. No one has measured up to the commands of God. None. Except the One, the Lord Jesus Christ, when He walked on earth.

So we all need a Savior. We all need to repent of our sin and turn to the Lord Jesus Christ. What that means is to allow His Spirit to work in our lives and change our lives. First of all, that restores our relationship with Him. Then the change of life. God wants a relationship with Himself. That is what He created us for.

If we go out in nature - we all love nature. We all love to go to the mountains, the sea, wherever. We look into the universe. We see everything in perfect order. We see everything about us perfectly and wonderfully, lovely. Well all creation is glorifying God. How can we glorify God? Turn back to Him and get reunited with Him in our Spirit and our soul. That is how we can glorify God. Then we will be as the other things that He has created, glorifying Him in the ways that He desires us.

It is interesting to me that this chapter here (I Corinthians 1) opened that kind of relates back to what we fore read. About wisdom. That is one of the words we see here again. Wisdom. How there is two types of wisdom. There is worldly wisdom of man and then there is the wisdom of God. We read in scriptures, in Proverbs particularly, the beginning of wisdom in

God is the fear of God (Proverbs 9:10). That is the beginning of wisdom. If we are to be wise in God and to come to know God and to be relate with Him, and then to be obedient to Him and follow through in our live to Him, the beginning is the fear of God. The recognition of God as God.

When we are in sin, the word fear there should be rendered just like we see it normally. Fear. Something that we are afraid of. Because God is a righteous Judge. One day He is going to come and judge the world as we already stated.

But Paul writes here to the church in Corinth. Corinth, you have got to go back with a little history in order to rightly understand what he is writing about. Corinth was a city of Greece. They were sitting right in, you might say, the worldly wisdom. A lot of philosophers were there. So they had a lot of input of knowledge and stuff. So they considered wisdom or knowledge something to be attained. The more wisdom and knowledge you had, the greater you attained. So looking from that view then is what Paul writes on.

But now he talks about a different wisdom. Wisdom of the world, the philosophies and all the things that pertain to life and to the gaining and getting, as we read in our fore reading, and how to get and gain, we see there in the world, some are very wise. They know how to handle things. They know how to handle money. They know how to handle their talents and stuff to gain and to get. There is nothing wrong with that in essence. But that is only of the present things.

God wants to talk about the wisdom of His wisdom. To gain and to get Him. Which is totally different. That is what Paul is writing about here in his first chapter of the Corinthians, particularly the first chapter here. He is pointing out the terrible contrast between the world's view of life and God's view of life. He is showing here in this chapter, he says the world's view of life is wealth, power, prestige, honor and so forth. All these things that pertain to draw attention to oneself and is centered on self. That is the world's view.

But God's view is to take the things that the world rejects. For an example,

the Romans could not understand the early Christians. Meekness to them was weakness. But to have to see the stark reality of the word true meekness, when here these people were thrown into the coliseum there and thrown amongst the lions, and they didn't reject. They didn't curse. They didn't swear. They weren't angry. They weren't mad. They accepted the will of God in their lives. They knew they could not get into that coliseum, in amongst those lions or with a man with a sword or whatever unless God willed it. So they were willing and they were filled with joy to give their lives for Christ. The Romans couldn't understand that. They couldn't grasp it. Because God had chosen the weak things of this world to confound the wise and the prudent of this world.

So therefore, if you go on in this letter to the Corinthians, he makes a very strong statement. He says there, God's things are spiritually discerned. Meaning you can't receive God's Word, God Himself and His Word except you are spiritually alive.

We know if we go to the book of Ephesians, chapter two there, he says, ye that were dead in your trespasses and sins, God brought alive in Christ Jesus. So when we are going our own way in our life without God, we are in essence, dead in our trespasses and sins. We can't discern spiritual things. We are dead. But when we come under the sound of the gospel - here is the point. How do you awaken a dead man from death? Can we waken a dead man from death? Well, we can't. Not humankind. No, that is not possible. God can though. He raised the dead. He raised the dead in the Old Testament. He raised the dead in the New Testament. Jesus Christ said, I am the resurrection and the life (St. John 11:25). It is written of Him that He was the first born of the resurrection. So He is able, God is able to do the impossible - to raise dead folks to life.

Well, how do you raise a dead, spiritually dead person to life? How you do that is by the Word of God. When we come under the sound of the gospel, the Word of God working through His Spirit brings it to our heart that we suddenly have a need. Suddenly we understand that our life is going the

wrong direction.

I remember when it happened to me and many of us here this morning know when it happened to them. We are going the wrong way. I put it in this example. I was in a tunnel and all I saw was black. There was no light at the end of the tunnel. You talk about a frightening thing! That is frightening. But God now had brought me to a point where I had to repent. I knew about Him. I come to Sunday School like you young people. I had been raised in the church just like you young people. But I didn't know God. God was not in my life. But when He got me to where He could get me and get my attention, He brought me alive in Christ. From that point on it has been totally different than that point back. You can't be the same once you make contact with Jesus. When you make contact with Jesus Christ you cannot be the same. That is not a possibility if you make true contact with Him in the Spirit. He will change your life. It is not a possibility not to change.

He goes on in verse eighteen, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." I Corinthians 1:18. You talk about blasphemy today. We see it on television. We read it in magazines and books. Blasphemy against God and His people. Look at them stupid, foolish people doing this and on and on it goes. Because it is foolishness to the un-discerned spiritual dead man. He can't understand what the Christian is all about.

Why would you deny yourself, he says. Why do you do this? And when you say, well, I have a different purpose in life now. I am looking to the future. I am not looking at the present. They don't seem to get it. They don't understand. That is what Paul is talking about here.

The cross of Christ Jesus was a failure from the human point of view. A total, absolute failure. But to God it was the victory of all victories. Christ had conquered sin. He had conquered Satan and his kingdom and He brought into existence His own kingdom of everlasting life to all those that believe. It was a tremendous victory from God's view. But from the world's

view it was a disaster. It was nothing. And that is what Paul is writing.

"For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." I Corinthians 1:19. Meaning worldly wise and worldly prudent. He is destroying the wisdom of the wise. He is pointing out and he is showing as we go through life and we get closer to the end of our life, hopefully this will happen. To some it seems to close out and they never come to the realization of things. But to many others, they come alive and they start to see. Now what was I doing here? What did I do with my life? What is this all about? What is going to happen to me now when I die? You see, they finally start to think because they are getting toward the end of their life.

Blessed be, Jesus said, blessed are you that hear the Word in your youth. Solomon writes it too. He said you are blest if you hear the Word in your youth and then accept it in your youth. You are a blessed person.

So they go on. They don't really grasp what it is all about and many souls are that way. Because they have their mind closed, shut on the Word of God. They are not open to the truth. They have shut out the truth. What example are you? It is a willful act, in other words, on our part, to shut out the truth. For God is evident even in creation. We can't look amongst us in creation and in the world and see all these wonderful things and say there is not a Creator behind it all. Then if we just get to that conclusion, that there is a Creator behind it all, then that brings flooding to us another question. What is my relationship with this Creator? Or how am I going to be when I come to meet this Creator one day?

It brings a point and that is why evolution come into being. Because men don't want to hear the truth so they put in a false evolution. Because if they ever come to the fact that there is a Creator behind the creation, then they have to answer these other questions and they don't want to answer them. They don't want anything to do with them. Because it points out their sin and their sinful ways. They don't want to hear it. Many men do not want

to hear the gospel because it exposes their life.

That is what John wrote about the Lord Jesus Christ. The light came into the world and they loved darkness more than they loved the light. That is because their deeds are evil. (St. John 3:19)

"Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that... what? "...believe." I Corinthians 1:20,21.

When I worked on the farm, on Schlatter's farm in high school, they had cattle. One of my functions was to go out and bring the cattle in to get milked and fed. They would be out in the pasture. I would go out there and long before I got to the cattle, I would holler out 'come boss'. That was the term we used, for what, I don't know. And here was the reaction. Some lifted up their heads. They heard me. They went back to feeding. Others didn't seem to hear. Others raised up their heads, heard me and started towards me.

That, I believe, is the way in the spiritual. God is giving the call. He is giving the message out there and some are going to raise up their heads and go back feeding on what they are doing. Go back to their life of sin. Others are not even going to acknowledge they heard. Others are going to come towards the Shepherd. Which way are we going? Which one? What way will we take, is what we need to look at this morning.

"For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God." I Corinthians 1:22-24. To those that believe, He is the power of God and the wisdom of God. Power to reunite us. To bring us alive in Him. Power to bring our relationship to Him a reality. And power to get us to live the life that He wants us to live.

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We are so thankful to God for another very blessed Auction this year! We especially want to say thank you to everyone involved. What a great turnout this year! There are so many different ways to support the Auction. Whether it was volunteering at the Food Tent, setting up the computers, or cleaning up, your help is greatly appreciated.

A special thanks goes to so many from around the country who donated all the wonderful items. Thanks also to all of you who made special cash donations.

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The Ties That Bind

The series on "The Ties That Bind" continues. It is helpful to examine the characteristics that have, historically, allowed for the close ties we have in our national brotherhood. One of the great blessings of God's people is traveling from congregation to congregation and feeling a special Spirit-led warmth. There are reasons for this special privilege. The "ties" continue below:

Esteeming Others Over Self

Each believer must strive to overcome fleshly weaknesses. And in this vein, the last thing a believer needs to see are needless liberties taken by others, especially in those areas where he or she is weak.

As we covenant together in brotherhood — humbly and willingly — we are agree to follow the Word which tells us to be likeminded (Romans 15:5) and perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. This is Biblical. Our ties have been close over the generations because the forefathers acknowledged this Biblical precept and made efforts to achieve it among the brethren.

We are not to grieve our brother with our lifestyle choices. We are to follow after the things that make for peace; and things in which one may edify another (Romans 14:19). This is unquestionably Biblical.

Indeed, it has been one of the distinguishing characteristics of our faith that we have followed very seri-

ously the Bible's exhortation not to use our liberty (from sin) to live in ways that can be a stumbling block to those who are weak. We as brethren over the years have seriously adhered to the teachings of I Corinthians 8:9-13:

"But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak. For if any man see thee which hath knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols;

And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when ye sin so against the brethren, and would their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend."

We have always had a high consciousness regarding whatever we do to our brother, we do unto Christ (Matthew 25:45). In this, we have an applicational tradition of walking carefully in order not to offend anyone. We have caught the Biblical vision that in lowliness of mind we should esteem others higher than ourself — and we gauge our behaviour with our fellow believers in mind. In following these Biblical perceptions, our common observation of the Bible's expressions has strengthened the deep ties among us.

Humility and Submissiveness

Surrendering completely to the

Lord, and doing His will without reservation, have been patterns contributing to the ties that bind us. We have preferred lowliness of mind and unity over individualism and diversity. The Bible teaches this.

We, during conversion and then daily, have sought to become crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20). We seek, as the Apostle Paul, to "die daily" (I Corinthians 15:31).

We have seen humility as a condition for receiving God's grace (James 4:6). In fact, we have sought to serve the Lord with all lowliness and meekness (Ephesians 4:2). The Lord Jesus was a man of sorrows and walked in lowliness of heart. That example has been a big influence among the brethren — and as we shed our selfish inclinations it has enhanced a deep tie among us.

In a lowly state, and full of God's grace, submission to Godly authority follows more readily. Obedience to the carefully-considered guidance of the church (of which Christ is the Head, Ephesians 5:23) has been a deeply-held ideal — and a precious tie among the brethren. It takes a humble heart to achieve a God-empowered state of obedience. The reward of humility is exaltation (Luke 14:11); and a by-product is a closer unity with fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord, and a special nearness to God.

By Perry Klopfenstein

Next issue:

More "Ties That Bind"

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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"A Servant's Attitude"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

I believe that the most important thing that can be said about a servant's attitude is that it should not give the impression of being superior to the person being served.

Jesus said in Luke 17:10, "So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do."

Elders in our church are servants of God, of the Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit, but they are also servants to the church. They are servants of the church only so long as the church desires conformity to the Word of God. There may be a difference between being a servant of the church and in being a servant to the church.

In regard to being a servant of God, Peter writes in II Peter 1:1, "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ".

In regard to being a servant to the church, in II Corinthians

4:5, Paul wrote, "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."

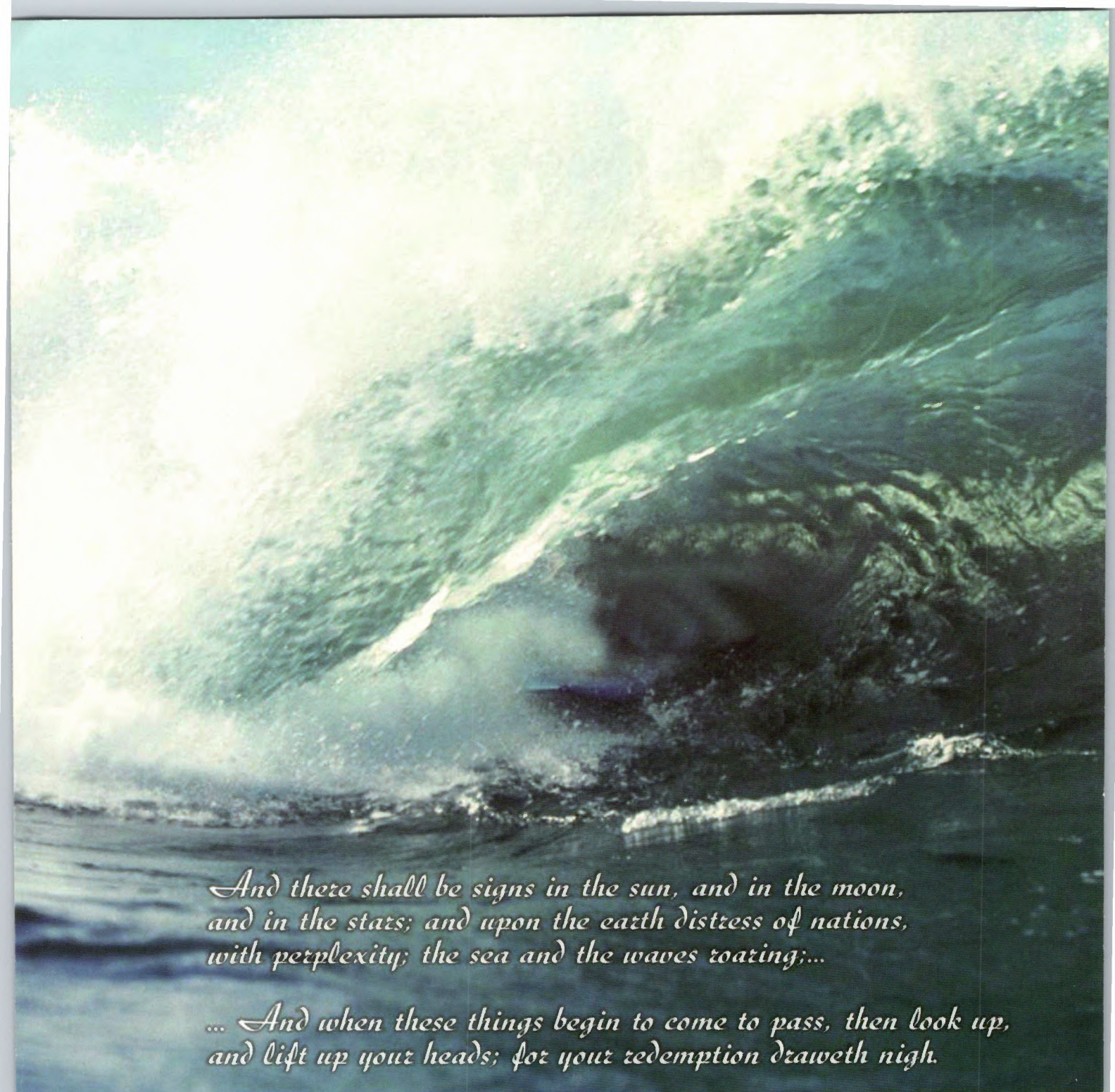
When it comes to considering the attitude of a servant, I like Paul's statement in I Thessalonians 2:7, "But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children." Thus, when we are serving God, our brethren in the church, or just society in general, it is good to have a gentle attitude. It is not good for us to give the impression that we of ourselves, are superior, or have better knowledge and understanding, than those we are trying to serve. We are just poor mortals, trying together to better understand and know, what God's will is, according to the Bible.

The word "attitude" is not found in the King James version of the Bible but there are many teachings encouraging us to have a servant's attitude. When we observe the words and actions of another person,

we receive an impression of a desire to serve, or a desire to be served. That latter one is what we need to be careful about, according to the Bible. Matthew 20:27, 28, "And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Evidently, even when talking to another person about where he or she may be failing, or when exhorting the church to a more spiritual walk of life, it is required of us that our demeanor shows the attitude of a servant. In the past, there have been long periods of time when those with power could tell those without power what they must do and what they must not do, but those days are gone for much of the world. Now, more than ever, we become non-effective, if we do not have the attitude, and give the impression, of a servant.

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*And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon,
and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations,
with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;...*

*... And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up,
and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*

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