

The Silver Lining

*And another angel came out of the temple,
crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud,
Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come
for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.*

Revelation 14:15

October 2005

Sermon by Bro. Jerry Isch, Philadelphia, PA

I Kings 20:1-30 and Romans 8

The love of God that's in Christ Jesus our Lord says that there is nothing that can separate us from it (Romans 8:38,39). Then we start back at the beginning of the chapter and we read that there is no condemnation to those that are in Christ Jesus. No condemnation to those that are in Christ Jesus and we need to finish the verse, don't we. It says, "...who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Romans 8:1. Could we be in Christ Jesus? Could He really be dwelling fully in our heart and we live here after the flesh? Surely not possible, is it? We can't put the two together and expect everything to work out just right. It is kind of like mixing dirt and water and hoping that the water is pure. It just doesn't work.

It says there is no condemnation. If we think of living without condemnation, no guilt, nothing that when we stand before God, that we could be accused of. Then the question comes back, are we in Christ Jesus? How do we decide or how do we know? Then the Word talks about being dead. Are we dead to sin? Or does sin reign in us? Have we knelt at the cross and had the blood of Jesus applied to our hearts? Did we repent?

When we repent, we really come to the place where we realize that God is right. Everything about Him is right. We ourselves were sinners. We want to, really we want to become like Him, don't we? We want to become like God. We want to be pure. We want to be clean. We don't want those sins of our lives to have dominion over us. But we want to overcome. We can't do it ourselves, can we? We just simply can't overcome sin ourselves. But by the grace of God it is certainly possible.

Many of us, God has given us a clean heart. He has given us a new start. What do we do now? What do we walk after? What is our desire, our real desire as we go through life? Is it on self or is our treasure in heaven? Because the Lord said that where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (St. Matthew 6:21). Where your treasure is - where is our treasure? Is it here on earth or is it with God in heaven? Where our treasure is is really going to

be the way our life is directed to or what our life is directed after.

It says, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." Romans 8:2. If we go through Romans and we would read in order through, we see that there is an order or there is kind of a progression of what the children of Israel went through or the way from the old law to Jesus Christ. There is a progression there. There was the law of Moses that was given that really, it made people guilty of sin. It showed people what was right and what was wrong. But it really didn't give them grace to overcome. But it let them know what sin was.

Then it talks about a new law. It says, the law of the Spirit of life. In the Old Testament, the law was given. In the New Testament, the Spirit was given. Given to those that believe. Given to guide the believer through this life to eternity. It doesn't mean that thou shall not kill was taken away. But in our hearts, as believing people, it wouldn't be in our hearts to kill, because God's Spirit is there and it teaches us and it guides us.

It says, "...the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." Romans 8:2. The law of Moses, it was really a law that made us guilty of sin and the wages of sin was death. But Jesus Christ came and gives us victory. He gives us deliverance.

"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh..." Romans 8:3. What was the weakness? It was us. It was our flesh. The law was weak through our flesh.

It says, "...God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:" Romans 8:3. Remember that Jesus came and He lived here as we do. Yet He didn't sin. He had the same opportunity to make choices, didn't He? It tells us He was in all points tempted like as we are and yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). Thus He condemned sin in the flesh.

"That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit."

Romans 8:4. Back again to, what do we walk after? What is important to us? It is important, isn't it dear ones, that we think what is really important to us? We might say, well yes, we already know that. But don't we, don't I, need to be reminded? Need to be reminded that we stay on the strait and narrow way. If it wasn't important for us to be reminded, Peter wouldn't have wrote that he writes these things to bring

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

October 2005

Satan is Real II

In the previous editorial, some of the characteristics of Satan were discussed. This topic will be further developed this month.

Satan's work is like cancer. If left unchecked, it will spread far beyond its original point of impact. Eve's sin spread quickly to Adam and, of course, to all mankind. When Lot allowed himself to choose the better land and separate himself from Abraham, he ultimately moved into the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. King Solomon, having married many strange women, ultimately was led into idolatry. No doubt most of us have known someone who allowed themselves some "small" liberty only to be led further down the path of sin until they were consumed by it.

Satan will try to make saints look as though they are evil or that they serve God only because God has given them some special protection which, if taken away, would cause them to turn against God. When Paul was shipwrecked and landed on the island of Melita, as he stood warming himself by the fire, a venomous beast fastened itself onto Paul. The barbarians immediately assumed he was a wicked man. Even though Satan tried to make Paul look evil to the residents of the island, God turned the evil intent of Satan into good.

Satan tried to convince God that Job only served Him for selfish reasons. God gave Satan much latitude with Job, putting him through many grievous trials, but ultimately Job's faith prevailed. His faith stood the test of trials and his integrity toward God did not fail.

Mixing evil with good is another tactic Satan uses effectively. He sometimes appears as "...an angel of light" (II Cor. 11:14) causing great distress. He will try to remove the good seed (truth) and cause confusion.

As Jesus taught His disciples, He told them that some who hear God's Word will not understand it before "...the wicked one (will come), and (catch) away that which was sown in his heart..." (Mt. 13:19) and it (will) not yield good fruit. In other cases Satan will allow the truth (good seed) to sprout and grow. However, when the blade springs up there are also tares. When asked about the source of the tares, the householder recognized

what had happened. "...An enemy hath done this..." (Mt. 13:28). Of course, Satan also just brings sin into the heart of mankind. As Jesus was with His disciples for the last supper before His crucifixion, "...the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him" (Jn. 13:2).

The overriding impact of all of Satan's devices is to cause deceit in the hearts of man. If he can cause us to either believe evil is not so serious or cause us to believe we are right when we are wrong, he will have accomplished his purpose. Undoubtedly many other examples and tactics of Satan could be cited. From the above, we certainly can understand that the devil will use any means and go to any extreme to cause confusion and bring sin into the lives of mankind.

Fortunately, it is not necessary for us to fall victim to Satan's viciousness. God has given us many tools to help us in our battle against evil. Just as Jesus was able to resist Satan, by God's grace we can do likewise.

Obviously the first line of defense against Satan is to become a child of God. We must repent (Mt. 4:17), be converted (Mt. 18:3), seek and receive forgiveness (Mt. 6:12), be baptized (Acts 2:38), and live pure (I Tim. 5:22) and sanctified lives (Ro. 15:16). If we are truly following the whole counsel of God, we can resist Satan's influence.

A child of God must learn to be watchful. In explaining to His disciples that they would face many trials and temptations, and exposing many of the tactics that Satan would use to try to cause them to fail, He concluded His warning with a very simple and clear warning: "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch" (Mk. 13:37). Familiarity with God's Word will help us in our watch. Studying His Word will alert us to many of the problems we will face.

Perhaps the first and greatest problem is our own weakness. Jesus recognized this when, in His hour of great temptation He said to His disciples "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Mt. 26:41).

We must be watchful because we know the Bible is true and there are many assurances that Christ will return and claim His bride, the Church, which will be made up of those who loved and served Him. Jesus told His accusers at His trial "...Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven" (Mt. 26:64).

There are also others in the scripture who told of the certainty of Christ's return. As Christ was ascending into heaven following His resurrection, two men, apparently angels, said to those who were watching Him being taken up "...this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). In Revelation Ch. 6:12-17, we have a description of the return of Christ in the midst of turmoil when men will try to hide from the Lamb, but will find to their dismay that they will neither be able to hide from Him nor be able to stand before Him.

From these and other scriptures we know Christ will return to earth, not as a baby, but as a King. What we do not know is when He will return. Jesus said that mankind will be engaged in everyday activities - "...eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage..." (Mt. 24:38) when He returns and no one will know the time. "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my father only" (Mt. 24:36). To emphasize the unexpected nature of Christ's second coming, John was inspired to write "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame" (Rev. 16:15). No one really expects a thief to come at a specified time, so we try to take precautions that will have us prepared for an unexpected strike.

Since we do not know when Jesus will come, part of being watchful is to be prepared at all times. All ten of the virgins intended to be ready for the return of the bridegroom. Unfortunately, only five of them were ready at all times. When the five foolish virgins tried to make last minute preparations, "...the door was shut" (Mt. 25:10). Jesus emphasized the importance of readiness when He said that they must watch carefully for His return "Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping" (Mk. 13:36).

This topic will continue in the next article for "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

Sowing the Seed in Ixtlan, Mexico

It is a privilege to be among those who have heard the Truth from childhood and are now able to commit these truths to others who will some day, Lord willing, teach others. During the week we meet with the new converts to disciple them in preparation for baptism. "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

(II Timothy 2:2)

One of these new converts was initially invited to church by a sister in the faith but met with opposition from her husband. However, she persisted in a loving way and now her husband and son have also come in repentance. Another older couple who have been attending church for some time have finally found grace to humble themselves and acknowledge their sinful condition.

The Holy Spirit has also brought conviction to the husband of the first believer here in Ixtlan. The Lord knows how many prayers she has uttered over the years for his salvation. Another convert is a young mother who, too, saw her need for salvation.

As Jesus and His disciples "went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God," (Luke 8:1) we also want to be responsive to every opportunity to spread the Gospel. Years ago we were invited to have a Bible study in a home in a nearby town. One of those in attendance gave heed to the things that were spoken and began attending church. Convinced that she was hearing the Truth, she turned her back on the only teachings she had

ever received and began praying to our God who hears and answers prayer. After she was baptized, she asked for a Bible story book so that she could read the stories to her neighbor children. She lived alone until she took in a young boy as a "grandson" and now spends many evenings reading Bible stories to the many children who live in her neighborhood. Several of these children come to Sunday School and and to VBS. Our prayer is that the seed that is being sown will some day take root in their lives as well.

Bread from heaven

Every year, at the end of June the rainy season begins. With only three months of rain a year, June to August, it is a welcome sight. Before the rains began, the people from town took a statue of St. Francis of Assisi out of the Catholic Church and carried it to the nearby dam to pray for rain. Our hearts ache for the idolatry as we read in Isaiah 46. "They lavish gold out of the bag, and weigh silver in the balance, and hire a goldsmith; and he maketh it a god: they fall down, yea, they worship. They bear him upon the shoulder, they carry him, and set him in his place, and he standeth; from his place shall he not remove: yea, one shall cry unto him, yet can he not answer, nor save him out of his trouble."

"This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." (John 6:50 & 51). We were reminded of this fact again as we were privileged to partake of the "Lord's Supper."

Medical team

From July 27 – August 1, the third Apostolic Christian World Relief Medical Team visited Ixtlan. Following are comments from Sis. Cheryl Herrmann, a member of the team. "Today I had a most incredible experience. I had the opportunity to ride in the Ixtlan ambulance as they transported an elderly gentleman suffering from a stroke to Zamora. Lupeta (15 year old volunteer) took charge of the patient, placed him on a monitor and oxygen, did a blood sugar and asked me to start an IV. Why was it so incredible? A mere 22 months ago, there was only an old ambulance with bare shelves in Ixtlan. Carlos, a physician, had a vision to provide quality emergency medical care for the community. Then a miracle happened, Ixtlan received a new ambulance from the Mexico Red Cross.

God's timing is always perfect — our first medical team arrived shortly after the arrival of the new ambulance. With the donated defibrillator and many other medical supplies, we were able to stock the new ambulance. We provided education for the volunteers and ended the week with a "mock" accident. Since then, two other medical teams have provided education. It was encouraging to see Lupeta, one of our first students, able to use her skills and have the equipment needed to provide emergency care."

The medical team plans to visit Ixtlan annually to support the ambulance with training and equipment. Each team also has the opportunity to plant the seeds of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We trust that the Lord will continue to open doors for His glory. Thank you for your support and prayers for the work in Mexico.



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

Help for Jamaica

Several brethren from the Caribbean Committee recently traveled to Jamaica to meet with organizations we work with and evaluate the effectiveness of our efforts. What was found? Hurting and abandoned children, hungry and destitute elderly that have become “discarded” members of society, and communities with high unemployment and no hope.

Children

Growing up is difficult and it is no different in Jamaica. Abuse, drugs and the lack of a family setting result in young children on the street, in trouble with the authorities and unable to be managed by the adults in their life. Blossom Gardens is a state orphanage for young children through age seven. The babies or young toddlers here often arrive with drug addictions or a history of domestic violence. Others arrive because their families, or mother (as most Jamaican children are born out of wedlock) can't support them.

World Relief currently sends food, blankets, soap, toys and lots of diapers to try and ease the physical needs of the children. What is really missing is the human contact, the daily touching, holding, singing, nurturing that children need. Whenever possible our work teams spend time at Blossom Gardens holding and playing with the children. There are tears on both sides when it is time to go and the little children have to be put back in their cribs.

New Beginnings School for Boys and Granville Place of Safety for girls are places that are trying to help boys and girls ages eight to 18 that, for whatever reason, find themselves on the street or in trouble. Neither facility has the funding to

run appropriately. We provide food, soap, clothes, bedding and cooking oils to help.

When a young child cannot hear or communicate with anyone, their ability to get the proper amount of formal and informal nutrition and education is almost unattainable. They don't even have the chance to learn about Jesus. The Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf (CCCD) is an organization that operates three schools and an adult village for the deaf in Jamaica. There are 258 children currently in the three schools that now have the opportunity to learn to communicate through sign language, learn a trade, or prepare for college, while learning about the word of God and all His promises.

Your donations assist this very important mission with both work teams and material aid. Pray for the spiritual growth of these deaf children... that God would have such a hold on their lives that they will do the influencing rather than be influenced by what they see and experience off campus.

A public school that opens each day with a prayer and teaches about Jesus? Yes, it's Waldensia Primary School located in a rugged area of the country. Sherwood Content, where the school is located, is a poor farming area of Jamaica. The aid we provide not only addresses some of the physical needs of the children but also provides school materials and grooming products for the entire community.

Elderly

Where do the “discarded” elderly and handicapped (both physically and mentally) go for food and shelter in Jamaica? Infirmaries. These are state run homes designed to give

shelter and nourishment to the indigent. We currently provide soap, bleach, beans, clothing, bedding (including beds), and other items to 276 people in three different infirmaries on the island. A resident from the home says, “When you come there's a feeling of togetherness that you are so far away and that you care enough to be able to supply us with all these things that we need.”

Communities

The Falmouth Hospital is a community hospital that is 50 years old this year. It was originally designed for 120 beds, but because of the lack of funds, needed repairs are not being done and they can accommodate less than 70 patients now. Most patients do not have insurance or means to pay. The state pays for about 40% of the costs and they rely on donations and some fees they can collect. We send medical supplies, hospital beds, mattresses, sheets, clothes, beans, soap, etc.

Sherwood Content and Linstead are two communities where unemployment is high and many poor families reside. Our humanitarian aid is sent to these two communities and is distributed by committees who assure the items are given to those in need.

Conclusions

We found that the work and help World Relief has been providing for the past 17 plus years through humanitarian aid shipments and work teams is making a difference to the groups of people that need it the most: hurting children, the disabled and the elderly. And we feel that our help materially is a light to the people we touch. May God continue to bless this outreach.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

We have been experiencing the season of pumpkin harvest here in Morton, IL. With that comes the fun of the annual Pumpkin Festival and parade. It is a time that many of our residents look forward to each year. There are so many different things to experience. As a member of the community, it is a blessing to be there and see different groups of our residents with their family, friends or a staff member. So many times our employees have built relationships with those they care for, and will take the opportunity to enjoy each other's company by taking the resident out in the evening. This, of course, makes the resident feel special and loved, as well as giving them a chance for leisure time away from their home.

The Eleventh Annual Ice Cream Social was also a pleasurable event, recently held at Timber Ridge for the residents, their families, friends and staff of the agency. The picnic area behind Timber Ridge was made accessible this summer for those in wheelchairs, so plans were made to have the social there. It was a pleasant setting and a beautiful day. We had a larger turnout than ever before, serving over 300 bowls of ice cream.

NOVEMBER birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Susan McGinley (11/1), Thomas Manley (11/8), Kay Ellis (11/9),

Amy Tucker (11/11), Samuel Sigulas (11/13), Jennifer Cox (11/17), Janet Worner (11/17), Kristie Furrer (11/18), Vernon Heiniger (11/18).

At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550: Keith Weyeneth (11/4), Marian Funk (11/20).

At Linden Estate, 1000 Linden St., Morton, IL 61550: Duane Craig (11/4).

At 338 E. Hazelwood, Morton, IL 61550: Kenneth Clauss (11/2).

At 652 Detroit, Morton, IL 61550: Alan Unsicker (11/15).

At 241 S. Minnesota, Morton, IL 61550: Rhonda Pullen (11/4), Jane Aberle (11/14).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Kurt and Kristen Slagel

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

I often think about Pilate when he asked Jesus, "What is truth?" He was searching, wasn't he? If we would try to put ourselves in Pilate's "shoes", so to speak, I think we would have been asking the same question.

Here was this common man, a carpenter's son, who claims to be the Son of God. And yet he is on the verge of being sentenced to die the Roman death. We know the end of the story...Pilate did not. Isn't it wonderful to be on this side of the Atonement? We have no excuses to not serve the

Lord with our whole hearts, strength, and soul! And we have no excuses not to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Gateway Woods is just one of the many outreach ministries that provides the opportunity to help those who are searching. We are privileged to help those who have the same question in their hearts, "What is truth?" The truth is that Jesus IS the Son of God, Jesus DOES love us with an infinite love, and through Jesus we CAN have eternal life. That is truth and always will be. We can live the abundant life that Jesus promises. But there's only one way to the abundant, free life and that's through the Atonement of Jesus' blood. Isn't freedom wonderful?

News:

We want to welcome Bro. Adam and Sis. Katie Reinbeck and their four children. Adam and Katie are making the transition from Tremont, IL to start work as Alternate Houseparents. They will be living in a recently purchased house in Grabill. Please remember to pray for them as they adjust to new settings, relationships and challenges. We are thankful for those who continue to allow God to lead them and seek to do His will.

We are also thankful to announce that Houseparents Bro. Bruce and Sis. Heather Drayer are expecting their third child. Please pray for the health of the baby and that things will go smoothly in the months to come.

A new life is always a miracle! Praise be to our Great God!

Please remember that a special collection will be taken for the building of our 4th group home. We anticipate the cost of approximately \$100/sq. ft. for a total of roughly \$700,000. We hope to raise an additional \$100,000 for equipment, furnishings and ongoing maintenance. The Board of Directors has committed to raising significant funds before construction can begin. Gateway Woods has always been a work of faith. God has led us to build this 4th house and it's our faith and confidence that He will again provide the necessary resources through our supporters.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr

“Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”
Matt. 25:13

Dear readers, wasn't it very interesting how unbelievers were wondering if the horrible hurricane was the beginning of the end? This has many people asking for our prayers!

We are grateful to the Altadena Church and their youth for hosting our Sunday School Labor Day weekend. Our group was very joyful when they returned.

Sis. Alice Baumgartner was a surgical patient; please pray for her comfort and God's will to be

done. There are many who need our prayers.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Jane Hodges

There is no news to report for our church between August 22nd and September 22nd, but the Arizona members from all three churches have been ask to pray and seek direction from the Lord in the appointment of an ordained deacon to assist Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich. Pray for us as we seek His will.

“Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go; anywhere He leads me in this world below;” Hymns of Zion #179

Being part of the Medical-Dental team to Juarez, Mexico, I am thankful to report that our team of thirty-nine individuals had a blessed and safe seven days (Sept.14-21).

Amongst the thirty-nine members, twenty of our churches were represented from nine different states, but unity in spirit and love was felt by all of us. We saw over 5,200 adults and children in five different communities around Juarez. The gifts of medicine, clothing, food, etc. that draw them to our clinics, seemed so minute for the great poverty and need that is evident in their lives. But we pray that the love of Christ was evident in our service to them and that the message of the Lord's gift of salvation will make an everlasting impression on their lives and give them hope. May God richly bless all of you that remembered us in your

prayers and also those who helped make and package supplies and provide monetary support for the World Relief efforts. We are all part of the body of Christ and we are all needed.
Romans 12:4-8

ARIZONA, TUCSON
Lisa Knapp

Well, our summer monsoons are gone and hopefully summer will be too very soon! Today is September 15 and as I walked outside this morning it was actually cool. Our evenings are cool also which is very enjoyable. We had much more rain this monsoon season than last year so we are feeling very blessed.

We are also blessed that we have two new faces in our congregation. Krystal Tyler from Remington is attending the University of Arizona studying astronomy. Krystal has also decided to repent and so her presence has been an encouragement and a joy in many ways. We are praying for you, Krystal, as your life is changing so much that God will walk beside you daily. Welcome to Tucson!

Josh Roth from Phoenix is also attending the University of Arizona. We are happy to have you here, Josh. You bring our total of University of Arizona students to 6. Richelle Meiss from Phoenix has returned for her sophomore year at the UA and Mindy and Daniel Bauer and Ryan Knapp also attend the university. May God's presence be felt by all our young people on campus and may

they also find ways to be a godly influence on others.

Our Bible class students and teachers traveled to Altadena for the Labor Day ACYF. Much fun was had by all! The report was that the fellowship was great, the food was great, the beach was great, it was all great! Many thanks to the Altadena church for their love and hospitality and also to the Phoenix church for the much appreciated and enjoyable ride on their bus! God bless you all.

Our Elder Bro. Jon Kukanovich (Phoenix) and his wife, Sis. Nancy, spent a Sunday with us recently. We always appreciate and enjoy their visits. Come again anytime. On the same day Bro. Jim Meiss (Phoenix) and his wife, Sis. Candy, also visited to help their daughter, Richelle, get settled in at the university. We thank both Bro. Jon and Bro. Jim for their service on the pulpit.

Our Bro. Loren and Sis. Joan Knapp returned after their spring/summer travels. We are thankful for their safe return. Shortly after returning, Bro. Loren spent some time in the hospital. After checking him out for a few days, the doctors sent him home with good test results and feeling much better. God does indeed answer prayer.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Robin Moser

“O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the

Lord our God our maker.”

Psalm 95:6

In the wake of Bro. Jeff Luthi's passing, we had reasons to rejoice this month. God has worked in the hearts of three dear converts who hope to be baptized over Thanksgiving weekend: Lydian and Alyson Luthi (late Bro. Jeff and Sis. Shirley) and Jazmyn Jackson (Bob and Deb).

We also welcomed the engagement announcement between Bro. Ben Aberle (Bro. Richard and Sis. Lanae, Atlanta, GA) and Sis. Karla Kieser (Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky, Fairbury, IL) of Champaign, IL. Our prayers are with Ben and Karla as they look to the Lord for His molding.

Our congregation benefited from the fellowship and hosting of the Arizona/California ACYF weekend over Labor Day weekend. About 50 young adults and 20 adults attended. Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) and Bro. Brad Bauer (Sis. Sandy, Tucson, AZ) were here to minister to us. On Sunday afternoon, Bro. Justin spoke with the students about surrendering fully to God in order to be ‘successful’ eternally.

In addition to last month's addition of Braden Mogler (Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary Mogler, Minneapolis, MN), we joyfully welcome Bro. Eric Franz (Joe and Sis. Cheri, Remington, IN), who plans to pursue specialized medical training over the next year. Our singles group has grown

substantially with these two souls.

We are thankful for other visiting ministers who shared God's Word with us this month including: Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Jim Koehl (Sis. Hildegard, San Diego, CA), and Bro. Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Phoenix, AZ). We appreciate visiting ministers and families who are willing to come worship with us, and to support our Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle on the pulpit.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Peggy Jevremov

We are thankful for those visitors that assembled with us this past month. We pray the Lord will bless ministering Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL) for sharing God's Holy Word with us during their stay in San Diego.

We are currently listening to the tapes of the General Conference on Wednesday evenings. It is such a blessing to be able to do so. May we support our dear shepherds by being obedient sheep and lifting them up in prayer daily.

COLORADO, DENVER
Ann Gonglach

“And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”

Matthew 7:27

The damage from the recent hurricane enables us to envision this type of destruction more vividly. As many people have lost all their earthly possessions and even, in some cases, their lives, we hope that it will be a reminder for them and us to build our lives upon the Rock that will never fall.

On September 11, we celebrated the baptism and new life of Robert Gonglach Jr.

Sinful service, sinful lust
are to me forever lost.
If I with the Lord am buried,
must in me His life be carried,
And to God's glorification
prove myself a new creation.

Zion's Harp, #162

Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) visited and shared God's Word with us over the Labor Day weekend.

We're glad to have back with us Bro. Brian and Sis. Becky Pfeiffer and their son Andy, as the Lord, through Bro. Brian's work, has brought them to Colorado again.

The Bible class, along with teacher Bro. Doug Mangers and his wife, Sis. Kary, attended the annual Sunday school get-together in Kansas on September 10-11. We're grateful to the Kiowa congregation for hosting the event this year.

Our annual Sunday school picnic was held on September 17. Thanks to all who participated and made this time of fun and fellowship possible.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Laura Virkler
Amber Reutter**

A Christian now baptized,
to me much grace is given.
Why was this granted me?
That I with Christ am risen!
Zion's Harp #43

This past month we have had the precious privilege of hearing the testimonies of two souls and witnessing their baptism, namely Sis. Miranda Jennings and Sis. Lauren Goric (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lynette). We wish these two dear sisters a strong beginning as members of the body of Christ. With us for this special weekend was Elder Bro. Mark Masters and his wife, Sis. Jeannine (Mansfield, OH).

We have been further encouraged to see more souls make a beginning in repentance. They are Ashley Yurgal, Laura Hills (Bro. Scott and Sis. Luann), Mark Lanz (Bro. Barry and Karen) and Bruce Gottier (Guy and Sis. Beth). We wish them much grace and strength as they begin this walk. It is an encouragement to us all to be witnesses to the miracle of conversion.

Bro. Steven and Sis. Julie Lanz welcome their first child, little Corbin Thomas. Grandparents are Bro. Sherman and Sis. Joanne Lanz and Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody Schultz. We are thankful for his safe arrival and pray that God will grant these new parents wisdom to raise him

according to His will.

Our prayers are with those who have recently been hospitalized. Our thoughts are with Bro. Melvin Gerber (Sis. Millie) as he recently had surgery and Bro. Rudy Virkler (Sis. Susan) who recently was hospitalized and is recovering. May God heal each one as He would see fit.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

This summer we were blessed with lots of visitors. Just a reminder fall is usually nice in the nation's capital — nice weather and not as crowded.

On August 27, our congregation had an end of summer picnic at Lee District Park near Alexandria, VA. Although it was drizzling, we had a shelter to keep us dry and the Sun was shining as we had a time of fellowship and hymn singing.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL), Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI) and Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI). Other visitors this month were from Rockville, CT; Morton and Chicago, IL; Latty, OH; and Philadelphia, PA.

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 to have visiting ministers this month. Visiting were Bro. Ralph Garber (Sis. Lynn, Morton, IL), Bro. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI — Sis. Sue was not able to come this time). We pray that God would bless His servants.

We had our monthly potluck at the beach. It's always a wonderful time of fellowship and good food.

We have been spared any significant harmful effects from Hurricane Rita. We pray for those who were not so fortunate; that God would strengthen them and help them in whatever their need might be.

“Thou has caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; but thou

broughtest us out into a wealthy place.”

Psalm 66:12

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Naomi Vogel**

Our summer attendance remains very small this month, but occasionally we are blessed with the visit of some vacationers or some of our winter residents who are here to do some work on their “winter home”. Very soon our attendance will begin increasing until we are, once again, full to overflowing. We can always find room for more, so come visit us and escape the cold northern winters!

We extend our sympathy to our Sis. Barb Yergler after the death of her father, Robert Randerson, on September 6. He had been living in a nursing home in Sandwich, IL, and had just reached a milestone — his 90th birthday was on August 20. The day after Sis. Barb returned from her father's funeral, her mother, Amelia Nowicki, who has been in a nursing home in Florida, was taken to the hospital and died the next day, September 26. She had just celebrated her 86th birthday on September 15. Her funeral and burial will be in North Judson, IN. May God be with Bro. Ron, Sis. Barb and their family during this sorrowful time!

Our Get Well prayers go out to our winter residents, George Keysor (Paulding, OH), Merna Zimmerman (Morton, IL), Nola Schrock (Bloomington, IL) and Mary Gramm (Leo, IN). Hope to

see you back in Florida real soon!

Bro. Virgil Kaeb came from Sarasota to assist Bro. Marvin Steffen in the ministry last Sunday. It was a joy to have Bro. Virgil and Sis. Sue Ellen in our midst!

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Robin Wiegand**

Greetings to one and all. We were fortunate this month to have Bro. Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and our own Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann to guide us on our pathway of faith. We are so thankful to have four new members in our congregation. On Labor Day weekend, Bro. Clyde and Sis. Jean Early and Bro. Larry and Sis. DiAnne Brown were baptized and welcomed into our Sarasota family. Their testimonies were an encouragement to us all. Praise be to God. We also enjoyed the very special blessing of Holy Communion on the following Saturday evening.

Bro. Virgil and Sis. SuEllen Kaeb hosted our World Relief comforter knotting evening. With joined hearts and hands we completed seven comforters. Thanks to Bro. Frank and Sis. Angie Kiefer for providing a meal before work began.

We are overjoyed to announce the engagement of our own Bro. Aaron Ott, son of Bro. Glen and Sis. Mardell Ott (Congerville, IL), to Sis. Kim Bauman (Smithville, OH), daughter of Bro. Victor and Sis. Brenda

Bauman of Smithville. We are so happy for both of them and welcome Sis. Kim with open arms and hearts. They plan to be married in Smithville on November 27.

We feel very fortunate this hurricane season not to have sustained any damage. News of hurricane Katrina hits close to our hearts and we remember those who are suffering in our prayers. We are very thankful to have been spared. Thank you for your prayers of protection.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

**Kevin Kipfer
Benjamin Stoller**

We are looking forward to welcoming part of the Waldbeser family home from Juarez, Mexico, or in Spanish "Bienvenidos." As the summer comes to a close we look back upon this month and are very thankful for everything God has done.

On Sunday, August 21, Bro. Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL) graced us with his presence. We enjoyed Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN) and their son Kyle on September 4. Thank you, brothers, for your service and we were also grateful for our other visitors.

We enjoyed a potluck at Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Kieser's house on September 10.

We are excited to announce Jon and Mary Brewer for peace and are looking forward to baptisms on October 8.

Will Olar's baptism is September 25 in Mansfield, OH

(Nazarene Church). We are looking forward to him coming back for another school year.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Doreen Moser
Sheila McCoy**

Since our congregation is small, at times we may be a little discouraged. And that makes us appreciate our visitors all the more. This summer there have been many who have included attending our church in Belvidere as part of their vacation plans. Bros. Richard Gramm (South Bend, IN) and Steve Pamer (Akron, OH) were our visiting ministers.

I enjoy watching the sparrows, yellow finches, blue jays, cardinals and hummingbirds on our deck feeders. It is an encouragement to me to know God is watching over us and ever cares for us in our daily walk of life.

Follow me, the Saviour calleth,
Come to me I am the Way
What is lacking I will give you;
Trust in me and watch and pray!
Follow me in true submission;
I have borne all your transgression...

Elder Bro. Robert Walder (Congerville, IL) and Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) were our visiting ministers this month. The unchanging message of salvation was preached and the call sent forth to those that are still lost in sin.

Learn of me, both great and small,
Meekly humbly hear my call

Thru this life I've gone before you,
Serving not earth's vanity;
So should all now choose my virtue
And my true disciples be...

Through our monthly Madison Bible studies and our Old Testament Bible studies we truly are learning and striving to be true disciples. Although we have many questions of why things happen the way they do, and we cannot humanly comprehend all the complexities of this world, we know the Lord has gone before us and has all the answers in His Holy Word.

Bro. Marvin Dotterer's (Forrest, IL) topic for our topical Bible study this month was "How do we know when our prayers are answered?"

Follow me with cheerful spirit
That my kingdom ye inherit
Yea forsake the highway broad;

Follow me on heaven's road.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene Mueller and their families as they have lost their mother, Edna Mueller. While on earth she followed the Lord with a cheerful spirit and is hopefully walking on heaven's road.

Why is there this anxious striving
For the treasures of this earth?
By God's Word they all will perish,
Honor, pleasure, wealth and mirth
And I who have life eternal,
Joy and blessedness supernal
Find so few who will obey
On the straight and narrow way!

As we have heard of all the devastation that hurricanes bring, and the lives that were lost, homes and businesses that are gone, may we continue to follow the One who has life eternal.

Walk thus, cheering one another,
Little flock, e'en to the end...

As we spent a weekend camping this past month with our church family, all the conveniences we enjoy were not available. We had to work together to achieve everything and it took much longer to prepare a meal, wash a few dishes, etc. Oh, the memories we have of a wonderful time of fellowship, the hectic pace of life was gone and we were able to spend time cheering one another.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held at Dave and Sis. Sheila McCoy's. As a little flock, we never tire of taking time to drive the miles to assemble together. We appreciate all the effort and planning that goes into the Sunday School picnic.

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

We welcomed new and returning college students at our August 28 services. We thank Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Bro. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI), Bro. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke) and Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington) for sharing our pulpit that day. We look forward to having the

students as part of our church family while they are away from their homes, and we pray for them as they begin their new academic year.

We also thank Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont) for presenting the message in our September 4 services.

We are thankful for the moving of the Holy Spirit on hearts of two new converts. Theresa (Kim) Logan, and Joe (Carrie) Kieser have begun their walk with Christ. We offer them prayerful encouragement as they continue in their time of repentance.

The engagement of Sis. Rebekah Kaufmann (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie) and Bro. Aaron Plattner of Detroit, MI (Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI) was announced August 28. We wish this young couple God's blessings as they prepare for their wedding.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Steve Endress**

We are thankful to report that Andrew Klumpp (Bro. David and Sis. Barb) has humbled himself before the Lord in repentance. Although our harvest is less than plentiful this year, how gladly we would accept a meager harvest if it meant that more souls would seek the truth and reconciliation with God the Father.

We enjoyed our semiannual church invite-a-guest weekend. We appreciated the labors of ministering Bros. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), and Jed Rocke

(Goodfield, IL).

**ILLINOIS
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
Karla Kieser**

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana! The recent cool weather and the sight of harvesters in the fields is a clear indication that Fall is here. We pray for the safety of all farmers who find themselves working those long hours in the fields.

It is a joy to announce that Convert Erinn Metzger has found peace with God and man and will, Lord willing, give her testimony and be baptized the weekend of November 5-6. She is the daughter of Sis. Jeanne Metzger. This is a very special time for her family and we rejoice with them. Erinn will be sharing her baptismal weekend with another convert, Will Moser.

Sis. Karla Kieser was announced for marriage to Bro. Ben Aberle of Altadena, CA, on Labor Day weekend. Sis. Karla's parents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky Kieser from Fairbury, IL. Bro. Rich and Sis. LaNae Aberle of Atlanta, GA, are Bro. Ben's parents. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings as they begin this new chapter of their lives together. The wedding date has been set for March 19 in Champaign.

Bro. Darin and Sis. Sue Plattner welcomed a new addition to their family on September 30. Trevor Ray was welcomed by siblings Caleb, Haley, Courtney and Zachary. Grandparents are

Bro. Marshall and Sis. Janice Heinold of Ixtlan, Mexico, and Bro. Dan and Sis. Jane Plattner of Goodfield, IL. We rejoice with the Plattner family!

Our prayers are with Sam Finch after his hospitalization and subsequent surgery this past month. We, along with his wife, Dawn, and their 3 children, are thankful that he is home and recovering well.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Rachel Meyer

Greetings of love from Chicago. We are experiencing unusually warm weather for this time of year, and are thankful for the recent rains that have helped our lawns to look green again.

The Chicago church had the opportunity to welcome a new brother-in-Christ this past month. Bro. Greg Eisenmann (Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy) gave his testimony of faith and experienced the rite of baptism. Visiting ministers with us for the occasion were Elder Bro. Jim Plattner and Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL), as well as Bros. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO). We rejoice with Bro. Greg and his family and pray God will bless him as he continues to grow in Christ.

In addition to the visiting ministers at the baptism, we wish to thank Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), and Bros. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), and Dave Steffen (Elgin, IL) for shar-

ing God's Word with us. May God bless you for your efforts.

I have the pleasure, on behalf of our Chicago church, to welcome another dear soul to our Chicago congregation. Molly Hanson of Elgin, IA, is student teaching in Chicago for the semester and assembling with us. We look forward to getting to know Molly, even if for a brief time.

My classes started about a month ago, and I find it enjoyable to have new professors and subjects with which to be involved. I have an especially enjoyable professor who is teaching about disabilities and society. Since there are 250 of us in his class, I assume others are enjoying his material as well. The second week into class, the professor was mid-lecture enthusiastically teaching and, "on a roll," as we would say, when out of nowhere the fire alarm went off. Somewhat organized chaos ensued. The professor was so taken aback at the interruption that all he could do was stand there without saying a word, and watch as all 250 of us streamed out of the lecture hall. Needless to say, that day's lecture was over. The Bible talks about Christ's return as a sudden, unexpected event. "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:27). May we be encouraged to ready our souls for eternity. Unlike my experience in class, there will not be an opportunity to

re-schedule at a later date. "Blessed are those servants whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching" (Luke 12:37).

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Pam Walder Andrea Walder

We were thankful to again have the privilege of listening to the tapes of our recent Brotherhood Conference. May we take these teachings to heart and realize our Elder Brothers are watchful for our spiritual welfare.

Several loved ones from our congregation have recently been hospitalized, including Sis. Rosie Martin, Sis. Nancy Hauptli, Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb (Bro. Elmer), and Lyle Young (Francis). May God provide for the needs of each one.

We extend our sympathy to those in our midst who have lost loved ones. Irvin Knapp of Francesville, IN, passed away. He leaves behind a sister, Sis. Mary Ann Mann (Bro. Charles), and a brother, Bro. Lynn Knapp (Sis. Sylvia), from our congregation. Also, Grace Laubscher of Cissna Park passed away. She is survived by three children, including John and Karen Laubscher of Cissna Park. We trust God's Spirit will be a comfort to the grieving.

Three dear souls were announced for peace. We're thankful for them and anticipate witnessing their baptism in the near future, as the Lord wills. They are Lyle Young (Francis),

Belinda Frank (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita) and Teresa Kaeb (Bro. Eric and Sis. LouAnn).

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Rachel Schrock

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Phil. 1:6

This among many other wonderful, thought-provoking ideas were brought forth through the Brotherhood Conference this year. We enjoyed the privilege of listening to these recordings lately.

We rejoice as Daniel Craig (Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol) begins his walk with the Lord in repentance. Our rejoicing continues with Peg Balducci (Kevin) as she, too, turns her life to the Lord. She is the daughter of Bro. Vernon and Sis. Judy Wettstein.

The good work of repentance is nearing completion in the lives of Ryan Schrock (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet), Audrey Ruegsegger (Bro. Lee and Sis. Alice) and Elizabeth Virkler (Bro. Denny and Sis. Gayle). We are looking forward to hearing their testimonies and welcoming them into the fold, Lord willing, the weekend of October 29-30.

Good works continue to be performed in the lives of those who wait on the Lord. Bro. Ben Craig (Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol) can attest to this as his engagement to Sis. Kristan Keever

(Clair and Sis. Bev) of Mansfield, OH, was recently announced. They are planning a November 6 wedding. Bro. Aaron Ott, currently of Sarasota, FL (Bro. Glen and Sis. Mardell, Congerville) and Sis. Kim Bauman (Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda) of Smithville, OH, have also experienced God's leading, and have chosen November 27 as their wedding day.

The miracle of God's work of the birth of a new life fills the home of Bro. Jay and Sis. Melinda Steffen with gladness. Owen Jacob was born on August 29 and is welcomed home by Nathan, Justin, Molly and Levi.

Note of Thanks:

Words are inadequate in trying to express the gratitude my family and I feel for the overwhelming love, concern and support of which we have been recipients over the past nine months. The cards, telephone calls, visits, gifts and most of all, the prayers in my behalf from people of all walks of life, and especially our church family, have been so helpful and uplifting. At present, all this and the chemo have certainly improved the quality and quantity of my life and, at this time, I am doing quite well. May the good Lord richly bless each of you.

Humbly, Bro. Keith Roth

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser

“The harvest truly is great,

but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.”

Luke 10:2

It was encouraging to meet Karen Weseman and to hear of her decision to seek the Lord in repentance. She is the daughter of Rose Davis, a former resident of Resthaven.

We appreciated the labors of several Ohio ministers who served us in the past month. They were Bros. Earl Beery and Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) and Bros. Gary Maibach and Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH).

May God's blessings rest on two young couples whose lives have been brought together in the Lord. Bro. Todd Schambach and Sis. Paula Angelito were married August 28 in Ixtlan, Mexico. The groom's parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne Schambach. September 18 was the wedding day for Bro. Keith Schambach (Bro. Les and Sis. Alison) and Sis. Emily Bollier (Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie of Indianapolis, IN).

We rejoice with Bro. Chad Heiniger and Sis. Heather Stoller, whose engagement was announced August 28. Bro. Chad's parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Peg Heiniger, and Sis. Heather is the daughter of Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam Stoller (Latty, OH). Bro. Chad moved to West Lafayette, IN, earlier this year, but we're happy that he returns often to visit.

Our joys were mixed with sadness, as we received news of loved ones who were taken to eternity. On August 29, Sis. Mary Gasser's brother, John Fritz, died after an accident near his home in Washburn, IL. Bro. Norm Schock's brother, Howard, passed away September 4 at the Tower Hill Healthcare Center in South Elgin. May the Comforter provide solace to the families in their lonely hours.

The Sunday School's annual Pancake Breakfast on September 10 was served with enthusiasm and provided a hearty beginning to the day. Donations will help cover the expenses of ACYF trips and other events.

In the past month, Sis. Rose Reber moved from her apartment to Resthaven. Though we've missed seeing her at church, we can stop by to visit her and still be inspired by her cheerful disposition.

Sis. Louise Steffen would appreciate our prayers, since she has been ill and required some hospital care. On September 16, Sis. Betty Bachtold (Bro. Sam) had hip surgery but was able to return home soon afterwards and appears to be recovering well. Karen Weseman also had major surgery; but she has felt God's nearness and is making a good recovery at the home of her daughter.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Cindy Stoller
Lisa Metzger

We offer our congratulations

to Bro. Harold and Sis. Mick Hodel as they have recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. May they continue to feel God's nearness and blessings in the years to come.

Sam Wettstein (Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna) and Emily Frank (Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine) have announced their marriage engagement and are planning a November 12 wedding. We wish this couple God's guidance through their lives.

We are thankful for the safe arrival of Jessica Jean, baby daughter of Bro. Phil and Sis. Kristin Wettstein. Jessica's grandparents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary Wettstein and Bro. Ken and Sis. Lora Wuthrich (Bloomfield, IA). May God bless this young family.

It is always a joy to share the news of our new converts. Henry Blunier (Sis. Wilma) and Jared Ehnle (Bro. Gary and Sis. Carol) have begun their repentance recently. We wish these two souls abundant grace in this new way of life.

Our visiting ministers this month include Bros. Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO), Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), and Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT). We thank these brothers for their willingness to serve on our behalf.

We offer heartfelt sympathy to the family of Bro. Joe Dotterer, as he has gone to be eternally

with the Lord. Our prayers continue to be with his wife, Sis. La Vina, and children, Bro. John (Sis. Jeanne), Sis. Carolyn Hoerr (Bro. Mark), Bro. Bill (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO), and Sis. Marilyn Graf (Bro. Virgil, Altadena, CA). May they feel His comfort during this time.

Bro. Merle Stoller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola) and Sis. Rachel Bahler (Bro. Mark and Sis. Benita, Remington, IN) were united in marriage on September 18. Also, Bro. Alan Wettstein (Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Bethany Wiegand (Bro. Art and Sis. Pam, Goodfield, IL) were married on September 25. We pray that God will be the center of each union and we welcome our new sisters to the Eureka congregation.

Note of Thanks:

Special thanks to our family and friends for the beautiful flowers, cards, and gifts of love for our 60th anniversary. The wonderful dinner and picnic made for a memorable weekend. God bless you.

Bro. Harold and Sis. Mick Hodel

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Anna Schmidgall
Lila Fehr

Greetings from Fairbury. Our congregation was blessed this month to be able to witness the testimonies and baptisms of five dear souls. We rejoice with Bro. Dale McCasky, Bro. David Banwart (Bro. Dale and Sis.

Donna), Sis. Bethann Kafer (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carol), Bro. McLane Steidinger and Sis. Sharla Steidinger (Bro. Ted and Sis. Sara). We appreciate the efforts of our visiting ministers and their wives, Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), and Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA).

We are deeply appreciative to our loving God who has provided us with a new under-shepherd. On September 11, our dear Bro. Rick Plattner was ordained of God to lead this flock. As this mantle is passed on from Bro. Art Bahler to Bro. Rick, we want to express a special thanks to Bro. Art for his years of faithfulness to this congregation - only God knows the sacrifices that were made on His behalf. We also want to acknowledge and thank the Elders that put in extra time and effort to help with this transition. May God be your Rewarder, Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL).

The Lord has added an extra blessing to the household of Bro. Michael and Sis. Holly Steidinger. Little Talen Lee was welcomed home by his big brothers, Colton, Wyatt, and Logan, and big sister, Katelyn. Talen's grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger and Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Menold (Sabetha, KS). Thankful grandparents, Ron and Sis. June Slagel, rejoiced over the safe ar-

rival of Jack Andrew (John and Debbie Slagel). First-time parents, Bro. Derek and Sis. Rebeka Rassi, welcomed home a healthy little girl named Bonnie Jo. Her grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane Rassi and Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller (Forrest, IL). Bro. Alex and Sis. Traci Steidinger are rejoicing over the birth of their first baby, Jaydon Lee. Happy first-time grandparents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish Steidinger and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda Fehr.

We are rejoicing with Sis. Lori Welborn and Bro. Nick Roth (Forrest, IL) in the announcement of their wedding engagement. Sis. Lori's parents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Rosetta Edelman and Bro. Nick's parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Deb Roth (Forrest, IL).

We want to express our sympathy to Sis. Lucille Steffen in the passing of her sister, Sis. Esther Reutter (Cissna Park, IL).

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Reuben Huber and Sis. Sharon Kelson. Both are home now and doing well.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jill Wenger

Lori Leman

We were blessed to have visiting ministers, Bros. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) share in our worship services recently.

Our hearts rejoice with new

converts, Kyla Kupferschmid (Bro. Todd and Kim) and Abby Edelman (Warren and Sis. Cindy) as they begin their repentance. Our prayers surround them as they embark upon this heavenly journey.

We also rejoice with Bro. Nicholas Roth and Sis. Lori Welborn (Fairbury, IL) as they have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Deb Roth and Bro. Walt and Sis. Rosetta Edelman (Fairbury, IL). May the blessings of the Lord be with them as they plan for a lifetime together walking with the Lord.

Our prayers are with those who have been dealing with various health issues in our congregation recently. They include Remington Mueller (infant son of Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicki), Sis. Velma Koehl (the late Bro. Ralph) and Sis. Edna Wiegand (Bro. Paul). Sis. Edna is recuperating at ASTA Care in Pontiac, IL, following surgery to repair a broken ankle. May the healing touch of the Lord be upon each one.

We spent four consecutive Wednesday evenings listening to the tapes from the Elder Conference. We are so thankful to have this body of Elders to be watchmen on the wall for us. We know this responsibility is taken very seriously by each one. May the Lord grant them an extra portion of wisdom and grace to follow the example of the True Shepherd of our souls.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Rita Bauman
Amber Grimm**

We thank you loving teachers, too
for all your love and care.
You teach us of the heavenly home
how we may enter there.
And when we leave our father's
house
and journey thru this world of
strife,
Oh, may your loving counsel then
show us the path of life.

Hymns of Zion #73

Our prayers are with Sis.
Marge Bauman (Bro. Ben) and
Sis. Becky Roberts (Bro. Roger)
as they teach our 3 year olds. May
they find a blessing in this new
duty as they learn with the chil-
dren.

We are always thankful for
and welcome our visiting minis-
ters. Special thanks to Bro.
Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kan-
sas City, MO) and Bro. Darren
Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign,
IL) who shared with us this
month.

O God of wisdom, life, and love,
Thine is the blessed plan.
In holy bonds of love to join
the twain, created man.
As they go forth upon life's way
sustain them by Thy grace;
May they Thy holy laws obey
and live in joy and peace.

Hymns of Zion #286

Through faith, God has
brought Sis. Angie Schmidgall
(Bro. Randy and Sis. Cindy) and
Bro. Jared Schieber (Bro. Mike
and Sis. Mary, Congerville, IL)

together. They announced their
engagement on September 18.
We rejoice with Sis. Bethany
Wiegand (Bro. Art and Sis. Pam)
and Bro. Alan Wettstein (Bro.
Jake and Sis. Mary, Eureka, IL)
as they were united in marriage
on September 25. May God be
with both of these couples as they
look to Him to guide their lives.

Tempted and tried we're oft made
to wonder
why it should be thus all the day
long...
When death has come and taken
our loved ones
it leaves our home so lonely and
drear...
Farther along we'll understand
why...
Gospel Hymns #779

Our prayers were with Sis.
Joyce Hohulin (Bro. Wes) as she
spent some time in the hospital.
We pray for her continued
health.

Our hearts go out to Matt and
Angie Knapp as they lost their fa-
ther, Robert Dorn. We also
grieve with Sis. Karen Wiegand
(Bro. Gary) and Sis. Jane
Wiegand (Bro. Gale) as they lost
their brother, Scott Waldbeser.
May God continue to comfort
both of these families in this time
of loss.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you so much for all the
cards, flowers, and gifts I have re-
ceived since my surgery. Espe-
cially appreciated are the many
prayers and thoughts of love.
Psalm 118:23.

Love in Him, Joyce Hohulin

**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein**

On Saturday, September 24,
Justin Wiegand returned to
Gridley after being injured in a
ski-lift accident in Colorado. He
had spent a longtime in a rehabil-
itation and therapy institution in
attempts to heal a serious back
injury. By the grace of God, and
many sincere, supportive
prayers, he has made significant
progress, but his healing still
continues. His mother, Sis.
Kathy, stayed with him during
his Colorado stay, and returned
home with him. He is now in re-
pentance, thanks be to God.

The family of Bro. Roger and
Sis. Kathy sent the following
message to the Silver Lining:
"We want to thank all those who
reached out to us with your over-
whelming love, support, deeds of
kindness, generous gifts and the
many prayers that were offered
on our behalf during the time of
Justin's accident and time of
rehab at Craig Hospital in Colo-
rado. A special 'thank you' to the
Denver congregation for all you
did for us. What a blessed fellow-
ship the Lord has provided. May
He bless you each one. We offer
this thank you humbly and with
much Christian love."

"Bear ye one another's bur-
dens and so fulfill the law of
Christ."

Galatians 6:2

A young daughter has come
into the life of Bro. Steve and Sis.

Ranee Schlipf. Her name is Cristina Rose, and she comes to this family from Guatemala. She has two siblings, Bethany, 8, and Jesse, 6. Her new grandparents are Sis. Marjorie Schlipf, Gridley, and Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol Baurer, of Princeville. May God give this couple much grace and zeal to train up this precious little girl in the fear of the Lord. It is the power of God that gives diligence to couples such as this to expend themselves for the welfare of young children.

The effects of Hurricane Katrina have left the Gulf Coast in shambles, with much devastation, and dire consequences, especially among the poorest of the poor. And yet, an enormous amount of relief, both from the public and private sectors, has unfolded — and one has to think God has a hand in all of this. Lord willing, the Gridley congregation is planning to send relief workers to volunteer in helping to rebuild some of the destroyed areas.

We extend our condolences to Sisters Sarah Wettstein, Janice Wettstein and Bro. Kyle Edelman on the passing of their grandmother, Edna Mueller, of Fairbury. She was in her nineties.

Illness continues to afflict Bro. Ralph Klopfenstein and Bro. Richard Kiefer, Sr. We pray for the Lord's presence to be with them as their bodies weaken. Prayers for their welfare are surely welcomed, and are a comfort.

Regarding praying, a week ago

my wife and I attended the funeral at Roanoke of an aunt, who was 83. The minister told a story of years ago when she was riding in a car pool to her job in Peoria. It was a snowy and icy morning, and the car at one point went out of control due to the ice, etc. Danger seemed imminent, and she cried, "Oh, pray, pray." The car eventually skidded into the ditch, but no one was hurt. The exclamation to pray is a good one today — and if we can think to resort to this avenue to God, our lives will be much more peaceful. "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (I Thessalonians 5:18)

We were thankful for the visit of ministering Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO).

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Julie Bahr
Christie Zeller**

Our Sunday School resumed again August 28. May God continue to bless all those dear brothers and sisters who are willing to teach our children God's Word. And may our children have receptive hearts and ears to His Word.

Bro. Daniel and Sis. Diane Wuthrich have moved to Ohio to continue her schooling. We miss them in our Morton church and wish them God's blessings.

Our Family Worship was held September 7 by our Bro. Jon Zeller. His topic was "Are They Really Children's Songs?" As we listen to our children sing these

songs they learn in Sunday School, we have to wonder that perhaps they are sung by our children for us. May we all take to heart the message of these songs and apply them to our daily lives.

Many were privileged and blessed to help with the Hurricane Relief efforts Labor Day weekend and the weekend of September 9-10. Much needed supplies were gathered and sent by trucks to Louisiana and Mississippi. May we all continue to lift those in need up in prayer.

Our visiting ministers for this month were: Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debbie, Peoria, IL) and Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL). May God bless these willing servants.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Lou and Marjean Lonteen

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

Revelation 4:11

Guest minister, Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), brought us Biblical inspiration at family night on September 7. Thank you, Bro. Andy; we appreciate you.

Special thanks to guest ministers: Bro. Roger Sauder (Fort Lauderdale, FL), and Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA). They ministered to us on August 28. We trust the Lord to reward

you for your faithfulness.

On September 11, Sunday School Classes resumed. We want to remember our students, teachers, and parents in these teaching endeavors.

“Let brotherly love continue.”
Hebrews 13:1

On September 18, Bro. Tim Funk was ordained as Elder over the Peoria congregation and became a part in the Apostolic Christian Church Elder Body. Bro. Chuck Hemmer has retired as our Elder and will minister on a limited basis. Elder Bros. Ron Messner (Washington), Chuck Sauder (Tremont), and Earl Ringger (Gridley) encouraged Elder Bro. Tim, Sis. Debi, their children, Bro. Dustin, Bro. Ryan, Bro. Isaac and Alex.

We are so deeply thankful to Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marian and your family for all the years of sacrifice and dedication as you cared for the family of God. We wish you God's blessings for a restful time of retirement from these duties and pray for much joy and peace in your hearts and lives.

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

Hebrews 13:17

New Babies: Boston Trevor

was born July 20 to Bro. Kyle and Sis. Tammy (Hoerr) Eaton. Gavin and Elijah welcome him home.

Bro. Drew and Sis. Rachel (Waibel) Honegger adopted a little girl. Ella Skye was born on August 25.

Mai Lee was born on August 28 to Bro. Nate and Sis. Brook (Esslinger) Herman.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variable-ness, neither shadow of turning.”

James 1:17

Sympathy to: the Unsicker family in the passing of Bro. Wayne's sister, Esther Noah.

Bro. Ivan and Bro. Harlan Thomas and family in the passing of their sister, Sis. Rose Steiner (Oakville, IA).

Chris and Patty Kummer in the passing of Chris's sister.

We extend deepest sympathy to the family of Bro. Walter Meister (brother of Bro. Ed Meister).

Sympathy is extended to the Binkley family in the death of Bro. Otha Aeschleman.

“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts; for

the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.”

James 5:7,8

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Vera Baer
Kara Blunier**

Our hearts were filled with joy to hear of the news of another convert in our congregation. Shane Martin (Bro. Alan and Sis. Janice) has begun a new life in repentance. We must pray often for our converts and the many who have not yet chosen to walk in the steps of our Lord.

Sisters Edna Martin and Julie Martin (Bro. Mike) are both recovering from surgery. We hope that both will experience a speedy recovery.

Congratulations to Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia Stoller, who are first-time grandparents! Their son, Alex, and his wife, Cassie, of Ft. Wayne, IN, welcomed Caitlyn Louise into their lives last month. May God watch over them as they watch their baby grow.

On September 19, we had the funeral of Sis. Mabel (Stoller) Schafer. She had resided at Apostolic Christian Skylines for many years. Our sympathy is extended to her family. We also think of Sis. Janet Joos at this time as her sister, Ruth Hurst, has passed away.

Thank you, Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL) and Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL), for serving us from God's Word on September 18. “How beautiful are the feet of

them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Dee Fehr
Doris Fischer**

A newborn baby always brings a smile, and our congregation has had lots of reasons to smile lately. On August 13, Tyson Christopher was born to Bro. Chris and Sis. Elizabeth Leman. Tyson's grandparents are Scott and Jane Leman and Gary and Mindy Norbom and Norman and Sharon Seckler. On August 17, Marley Kate came to bless the home of Bro. Scott and Sis. Erin Leman and Bailey and Brady. Marley's grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Shirley Leman and Roger and Gloria Weber. On August 27, Aliya Rose was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Hope Sauder. Aliya's grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sauder and Bro. George and Sis. Fern Knapp (Goodfield). On September 15, Nicholas Scott joined the family of Bro. Eric and Sis. Jodi Hoffman and Ethan and Porter. Nicholas's grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann Hoffman and Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock (Congerville). Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy Kaeb are thankful for a new grandson, Andrew William Plattner. Little Drew was born on September 1 to Bro. Kirk and Sis. Keri Plattner (Leo, IN). Elder Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner (Princeville) are Drew's paternal grandparents. We're thankful for the safe arrival of

each of these babies, and pray their parents will be blessed with much grace as they raise their children to love the Lord.

We're thankful for another kind of new birth – that of the new man arising from the waters of baptism. We were blessed to hear the testimonies on August 27 of three young people: Colin Hodel (Bro. Curt and Sis. Jenell), Landon Isaia (Bro. Richard and Deanna), and Heather Leman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Julie). We welcome Bro. Colin, Bro. Landon and Sis. Heather as our brothers and sister in the Lord, and we also pray for their continued growth in Him.

Feeling that God has directed their lives to be shared with each other, Sis. Wendy Hodel (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Rita) and Bro. Kirk Prather (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marlene, Washington) made their engagement known on August 21. We rejoice with them and pray they will look to God for guidance as they blend their hearts and lives.

We've been blessed to have ministering Bros. Dan Kilgus (Remington), Glen Braker (Princeville), Jed Rocke (Goodfield) and Trent Meiss (Eureka), and Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO). A special thanks to these brothers and their families for making the trip and for their willingness to serve us from the pulpit.

A number from our congregation have been hospitalized or receiving care: Bro. Dick Hoffman (Sis. Ann), Jerry Getz (Raylene),

Bro. Roland Rumbold (Sis. Carol), Sis. Clara Fischer, Sis. Carol Schwab, Sis. Helen Leman and Sis. Carol Metz (Bro. Gene). We're also thankful for the recovery of Jeff Blunier (New Jersey), son of Bro. Marv and Sis. Judy Blunier, after a serious auto accident. Our prayers have been with these loved ones, and we're thankful to see them home and recuperating. "To God be the glory, great things He hath done!"

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Teresa Rowell
Sheri Allen**

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?

Hymns of Zion #46, vs. 3

As the harvest begins in earnest, we see the farmers in their combines, tractors and grain trucks busily doing their work. We should also take note of how God is preparing us for that great harvest, when the wheat and the tares will be separated and He will say "Depart ye workers of iniquity or enter in thou faithful servant". What a day that will be!

We have had several in our congregation who have lost loved ones. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Miriam Sauder (Elder Bro. Charles) in the loss of her brother, John Fritz (Washburn, IL); Della (Willard) Schweigert in the loss of her brother, Milford Streitmatter;

Sis. Sandy (Bro. Don) Kaiser in the loss of her sister, Sharon Unsicker (Tremont); and Bro. Rob (Sis. Marcia) Dennis in the loss of his grandfather, George Birkmeier (Pekin). May God continue to comfort them during this difficult time in their lives.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Rachel Sauder returned from Russia this month after adopting two precious boys. Their names are Luke Germaine (2 ½) and Lane Dmitry (10 mo.). Laura and Logan are very excited to have siblings to play with. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam Sauder and Bro. Cleo and Sis. Nancy Koch.

We had the privilege of hearing Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Elizabeth, Portland, OR) expound on God's Word from the pulpit. May they feel the prayers of the believers as they continue in this very important work.

We have had quite a few souls who have spent time in the hospital this month. Some have returned to worship with us and some are still receiving hospital care. They are Bro. Dean (Sis. Mary Jane) Leuthold, Christina Rocke (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carrie), Sis. Iva Getz, Bro. Pete (Sis. Debbie) Aberle, Betty Hild, Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Bob) Wagenbach, and Bro. Glenn (Sis. Dorothy) Stuber. We pray that God's healing hand will be upon all of them.

Then, we bid a fond farewell to Bro. Adam and Sis. Katie Reinbeck and their girls as they

move to Leo, IN, to become alternate houseparents at Gateway Woods. We wish them the Lord's blessings in this endeavor.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Nancy Knepp
Barb Banwart**

We appreciated our own Elder Bro. Ron (Sis. Pam) Messner's message to us on a Wednesday evening about what it means to love God "...with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind" as revealed in the Scriptures. Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria, IL) spoke to us about the blessedness of drawing nigh unto God. We know that our ministering brothers must often be weary from a day's work and then share in an evening; may the Lord be their strength and their reward for their faithful service to us.

It is a blessing, too, to see children sitting contentedly with their parents and grandparents in church, often listening attentively to the minister. It must warm the Father's heart as He beholds them from Heaven.

September 10-11 was the weekend of the testimonies and baptisms of Bro. Troy Plattner (Bro. Russ and Sis. Sally) and Bro. Matt Slagel (Bro. Tim and Sis. Barb). Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) assisted Bro. Ron with this work. On Sunday, Bro. Earl opened to the account of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and exhorted our young men, and all of us, to the faithfulness and cour-

age we see in those men of old. We appreciated so much the visit and service of Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandra, Eureka, IL) on that same Sunday. The blessedness of humility and a contrite heart were part of his inspired message.

Our hearts are touched with the sorrow of Sis. Martha (and Bro. Lloyd) Moser and Bro. Ed (and Sis. Sally) Fritz in the sudden loss of their brother, John Fritz, of Washburn. John had a soft and friendly heart, one that was appreciative of his heritage of family and faith. He is survived by his wife, Mary (Hohulin), and four children. Many nieces and nephews, cousins and friends will also miss him. May our merciful God be their comfort.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Amber Steffen
Elizabeth Frauhiger**

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

Matthew 5:8

This month the Bluffton congregation is incredibly thankful for three converts, all who desire to have pure hearts before God. April Fiechter (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda), Beth Harris (Bro. Mark and Sis. Susan) and Esther Kaehr (Bro. Jon and Sis. Juli) have all willingly given up their desires of the world to receive the glory of God. We rejoice with the angels in heaven over these future daughters of the King!

There are also four dear con-

verts that have announced a peace and desire to be baptized on September 18. Chase and Caitleigh Rinkenberger (Bro. Linc and Sis. Catrina), Ben Girod (Sis. Carla) and Zach Reinhard (Bro. Gene and Sis. Darlene) have each expressed a love for God and desire to dedicate their lives to Him. Our prayers go with them as they grow in their walk with the Lord.

We rejoice with Bro. Todd and Sis. Lori Reimchisel in the birth of their first grandchild, Livia Rachele. She was born on August 1 to Jeff and Rachele Lindblum.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlise Steffen announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Adrienne, to Bro. Braden Reinhard (Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jan). We rejoice with this new couple and pray that God will use them in mighty ways for His glory. We will be prayerful for them in the coming months.

August 20 was the wedding day for Tracy Bedwell (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Nancy) and Sarah Pickering. In addition, Bro. Ken and Sis. Judy Kipfer's daughter, Alyssa, married Kyle Gerber (Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Jo) of Bluffton North. Our prayers go with each couple as they start their new lives together.

We are also thankful for the visiting ministers who were willing to be used in the Bluffton church. On August 7, we were thankful for Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen) sharing the services here at Bluffton. Fol-

lowing that, on August 14, Bro. Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS) was with us. On August 21 we were graced with three visiting ministers and had a full church on Sunday: Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA) and Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Sis. Judy, Congerville, IL). August 28 brought two visiting ministers to Bluffton: Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL). As each family joined us, we certainly felt the blessings and appreciated the Holy Spirit's insights into the scriptures.

Our dear Sis. Marguerite Kipfer has passed from this life into eternity in the last month. She leaves behind four children, Sis. Mary Ann Gerber, Sis. Ruth (Bro. Keith) Baumgartner, Sis. Lois (Bro. Jerry) Drayer, and Sis. Elaine Kipfer. We continue to lift her family up in prayer during this time of need.

Bro. Melvin Maller's wife, Sis. Bernice, has also joined the saints in heaven, and now rejoices with them. Left behind to await the day they are reunited with her, in addition to Bro. Melvin, are her two children, Sis. Janice (Bro. Doyle) Reinhard and Sis. Carol Maller, as well as her extended family and friends. We lift up in prayer all those who are struggling with the loss of a loved one. The Father can heal all troubled hearts.

Sadly, there are many in our congregation with heavy hearts

this month who have beseeched the church on their behalf for prayers. Our dear Sis. Marie Steffen sent her thanks for the previous prayers and asked for continued supplication in her time of need. Sis. Dahlys (Bro. Brad) Troxel's mother, Doris Hansen, has been diagnosed with cancer and is facing some extensive surgery. Sis. Elenor Strahm suffered from a stroke and is not doing well. Also, Sis. Dorothy Frank has recently been hospitalized. All of these dear sisters are in need of the constant prayers of the body of Christ.

Bro. Ted Neuenschwander (Sis. Deb) underwent bypass surgery on Friday, September 9. Although he is doing well, he desires the prayers of the church. Similarly, Bro. Jeff Gerber (Sis. Rhonda) deeply covets the prayers of the church in his time of need. While on business in Italy, he was hospitalized with abdominal pains. On Thursday, September 14, he underwent surgery in Italy to remove his gallbladder. Our constant prayers are with all these who are in times of distress. Leaning on the Father during these times can be a challenge to our faith. After going through them, our faith is much stronger!

Locally, there have been requests for prayers on the behalf of our dear friend, Jimmy VandenTop and his family. Jimmy has been diagnosed with acute leukemia and is currently undergoing treatment. We continue to lift him up in prayer.

We are faced with many opportunities to pray for those in our church body and community. Still, we are incredibly thankful to God for the many blessings He has shared with us as well.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Darren Drayer
Tiffani Schladenhauffen**

O how lovely 'tis to be
With our Lord in Unity;
And united voices raise
Him to bring our songs of praise.
Zion's Harp #181

We had the opportunity on two occasions this month to feel the close fellowship of our extended church families across the United States. The weekend of the Gateway Woods Sale, the Bluffton North and Bluffton Young Group hosted young groups for the sale. We were blessed to have two visiting ministers that weekend: Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy) from St. Louis and Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kristine) from West Lafayette. Then we were blessed the following weekend with many visitors as Bluffton North hosted the men's hymn sing. There were several visiting ministers for the hymn sing. They were Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith, Elgin, IL), Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL), Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH), and Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL). We were richly blessed by both weekends, and what an encouragement it is when so many

can gather together to hear God's Word.

Also sharing in the Word with us this month was Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi) from South Bend, IN.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlise Steffen were pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Adrienne, to Bro. Braden Reinhard (Bluffton, IN), son of Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jan. We pray that they will continue to base their relationship on Jesus Christ and grow together in Him.

Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Jo Gerber's son, Kyle, was united in marriage to Alyssa Kipfer. We pray for God's richest blessings on this new couple.

We rejoiced with Bro. Ked and Sis. Adrienne Moser as they welcomed their first son into the world, Trace Alan. He was also welcomed by his three sisters, Arissa, Cierra, and Tianna, and by great - grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Becky Maggart and Sis. Pat Moser.

Josh and Sis. Becky Maggart and their son Wyatt will be moving to the San Marcos, TX, area. We are sad to see them move, but our prayers will be going with them, and they will always have a home back here in the Bluffton North congregation.

We are thankful that our Bro. Dan Kieser (Sis. Lora) and Bro. Steve Gerber (Sis. Gayla) both received encouraging reports from their doctors. We are prayerful for Sis. Eleanor Strahm and Bro. Ted

Neuenschwander (Sis. Deb) as they spent time in the hospital this past month. We were reminded this month that no matter where we are the Lord hears our cries. Let us take encouragement in this.

"From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I."

Psalms 61:2

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Jessica Murray**

Greetings dear loved ones, once again, from all of us. This past month has been filled with spiritual growth and much joy for our church family.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Hebrews 11:1,6

It was such a blessing to hear Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL) speak on the nine points of faith. What a great teaching tool this was for us, and to share our faith and what it means with others. Thank you for many scripture verses and the time and love you put into the lesson. May the Lord bless you and your family.

On the other Wednesday evenings this past month we had the

chance to gather and listen to Godly instruction, as the Elder brothers shared their topics as we listened to the Conference tapes. We can go back and reflect on these things often as we learn from each tape.

To hear converts share their life changing testimonies is like a breath of much needed fresh air, as we listened and reflected how lives are changed by surrendering our hearts and lives to Jesus. Lance and Erica Gutwein shared their testimonies of faith and what God had done in their lives on September 10 and were then baptized on September 11. May they always feel the peace of God and the leading of His Holy Spirit in their lives.

“...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Acts 2:38

We want to express our thanks to Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN) as he was here to help with the testimonies and baptisms.

We were also blessed to have Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN) here to share the Word with us this past month.

We seek prayers for those who were in the hospital for surgery or injury this past month. Bro. Karl Westfall (Sis. Donna) and Bro. Chris Lee Wuethrich (Sis. Ruth) had surgery and are now recovering and seeking the heal-

ing of the Lord. May you continue to find strength daily.

Sis. Karel Anliker (Bro. Wendell) suffers from a broken foot and Sis. Sharon Huber (Bro. Chris) has severed a finger. May you feel his healing also.

We share the joy of having two new babies brought into our congregation. Bro. Curt and Sis. Valerie Leman welcome Spencer Benjamin to their family along with brothers, Winston and Garrett. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Sid and Sis. Fern Leman.

The next day, September 8, Colton Austin was welcomed to the world by his parents, Austin and Stacy Metzger. As first-time parents, they are filled with great joy as they learn what a true miracle the Lord creates when He brings children into the world. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene Metzger and Danny and Kris Johns.

With happiness and joy we welcome Steve and Sis. April Young and their two children, Quentin and Hope, to Francesville. They have moved here from Phoenix, AZ. Welcome, and what a joy you and your children are to have.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Debbie Anliker
Sandy Lichtle

On August 17, we were blessed to hear a topical Bible study on “Defending the Faith” presented to us by brethren from Bluffton, IN, and Milford, IN. We appreci-

ate their labors of love in the Lord.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held on August 21 at a local park. We all enjoyed an afternoon of food, fellowship, and activities for the children. We are thankful for the servant hearts of our dear Sunday School teachers.

We rejoice with Bro. Austin Smith (Dave and Loretta, Bluffton, IN) and Sis. Rachel Reinhard (Bro. Larry and Sis. Deb, Bluffton, IN) as they were united in Holy Matrimony on August 21 in Bluffton, IN. We wish them God’s blessings as they begin their lives together as one in the Lord.

The engagement of Sis. Bekah Kaufmann and Bro. Aaron Plattner (Detroit, MI) was announced on August 28. Their parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen Plattner (Alto, MI). We wish them God’s grace and blessings as they prepare for their wedding.

We want to thank our visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL), Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL), Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), and our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), for sharing the Word with us this month. We appreciate their willingness to be used in the Lord’s service.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Shirley Frank
Cathy Nuest

Our love shall not diminish
 Nor fade nor wane away;
 Bind us till life we finish
 And in the grave we lay.

Zion's Harp #137

We want to wish God's blessings to Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Gudeman who recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. We enjoyed gathering together for an evening of fellowship and singing for this occasion.

We also rejoice with Bro. Josh Johnson (Jeff and Carol, Decatur, AL) and Sis. Bethany Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lu Ann, Wolcott, IN) as the announcement of their engagement was made known to our congregation. We are thankful that another Christian home will be established and another young couple will be added to our congregation. Lord willing, they are looking forward to a November 20 wedding.

This past month we were blessed to be able to sit and listen on three Wednesday evenings to the Brotherhood Conference tapes. We would like to thank all the Elder Brothers for their diligence in guiding us. May we all be doers and not just hearers of these tapes, for they are truly inspired by the Holy Spirit.

We were saddened to hear that Shirley Pfeifer was diagnosed with cancer. Shirley's parents were Bro. Ernie and Sis. Emma

Pfeifer who have both gone on to their reward. Shirley makes her home at the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped in Morton, IL. We have learned that Shirley enjoys receiving cards and we have included her address for anyone who is interested in sending her a card to cheer her up.

Shirley Pfeifer
 Timber Ridge
 Apostolic Christian Home
 2125 Veterans Road
 Morton, IL 61550

"For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger and, ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 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 sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? 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 25:35-40

On a Friday evening, some of our congregation came together and packaged food for World Relief. We enjoy the fellowship so much when we come together on an evening like that, that it doesn't even feel like work. The Lord has truly blessed our fellowship. There are so many opportunities

to help others — may we not pass them up.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Lucas Frank (Detroit, MI). We thank them for traveling to be with us and laboring on our behalf.

INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter

August 21, many stayed for Sunday following the Gateway Woods auction, including ministering Bro. Keith Beyer (Sis. Alisa, Detroit, MI), Bro. Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield, IL), Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. William Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI). In both services we were reminded that we are in the latter times; and exhorted to godliness, reading the Word and watching (St. John 16:33).

Labor Day weekend brought more blessings. Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), Bro. Rustin Meister (Sis. Amanda, West Lafayette, IN), Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN) and Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN) spent the day with us. We heard sound teaching in both messages.

Bro. Kirk and Sis. Keri Plattner became first-time parents on September 1, with the birth of Andrew William. Grandparents are Elder Bro. James and Sis. Marlene Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy Kaeb (Roanoke, IL).

Our prayer is for many blessings from our Father.

The youth group met September 12 for fellowship and to listen to Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman's (Roanoke, IL) exhortation from the Conference. May Jesus open their hearts to truth.

On Wednesday evening, September 14, we as a church body began listening to the Conference tapes.

Two international students are worshipping with us. Tashi Bent from Jamaica, who communicates with sign language and is attending Taylor University; and Shingo Naksi is from Japan and visiting Leo for three weeks. We welcome them both.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Carlton Beer
Carol Haab

A special welcome to Sis. Elise Maller and Sis. Heidi Nuest. Sis. Elise has found employment near here and Sis. Heidi is attending a college in our area. We are so happy to have them worship with us.

Once again we were uplifted as the Word was expounded by visiting ministers this month. They were Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN), Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), and Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse, IN). We appreciate their willingness to assemble with us and lend themselves in the service of the Lord.

We continue to pray for loved ones experiencing health problems. Bro. Glenn Price (Sis. Kate) was hospitalized and is now home again. Sis. Dorothy Steffen (Bro. Walt) had hip replacement surgery. She is recuperating nicely and has been able to assemble with us again. We are so thankful to God for His wonderful healing powers.

Please keep praying for the hurricane victims. Although some time has passed, it will be months before many of those people are able to even come close to getting their lives back to normal. May God bless each one with whatever they need.

What would we have
Without faith in our Lord?
What would we have
Without His Word?
Where would we be
Without God's guiding hand?
When perils assail us,
How would we stand?

—Anon.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler
Tammy Waibel

Greetings! Here it is another month that we have so much to be thankful for.

I failed to mention our fall college students last month. First year Purdue University students are Jennifer Pierce and Luke Wahl. Jennifer is living at Devonshire House, 1025 6th Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906.

Bro. Eric Frantz is pursuing further studies in California and

worshipping with the Altadena congregation. He is living at 1155 Sierra Bonita Ave., Pasadena, CA 91104, which is the home of Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody Klotzle.

Bro. Joel Virkler is also pursuing further studies in Missouri and worshipping with the Taylor congregation. His address is 916 Halliburton, Kirksville, MO 63501.

Bro. Nathan Virkler accepted employment in Bremen, IN, and is worshipping with the South Bend and Milford congregation. His address is 1734 E. 1100 N., Milford, IN 46542.

We want to express our thanks to all the families who open their homes to college students and those in employment living away from home. Whether it's for a meal, a weekend overnight or room/board for nine months, it's certainly fulfilling the biblical teaching to use your home for loving hospitality.

Harvest is in full swing here and we wish all farmers everywhere bountiful crops.

The visiting ministers this past month were: Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peggy, Goodfield, IL), Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH), Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandra, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Nathan Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield, IL). Thank you all for letting the Lord lift your voice so that we might hear His words for the truth they are. We also thank the families of these ministers for coming.

We are overjoyed to tell all

that Krystal Tyler (Dale and Marcella) has come to the Lord in repentance. Krystal's address is: 2401 East Glenn #56, Tucson, AZ 85719. I'm sure that she would appreciate some encouraging letters and cards.

"So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen."

Matthew 20:16

Valerie Bahler (Bro. Mark and Sis. Benita) and Loren (Bro. Lloyd and Joyce) and Jenny Honegger (Kirk and Jeanne Johnson) have been announced for having peace with the Lord our Savior. Lord willing, the testimonies and baptisms of these three dear souls will be on October 22-23.

"John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire."

Luke 3:16

We are looking forward for Bro. Chad Heiniger to make Remington his church. We are also pleased to announce his engagement to Sis. Heather Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) and, Lord willing, a marriage on December 11 of this year.

The Junior High Youth Fellowship Day was held here this

year. This is held so that the jr. high students in the surrounding area get a chance to know one another better.

The Indiana churches that participated were: Milford, Valparaiso, LaCrosse, Francesville, Wolcott, South Bend, and Remington. Thank you one and all for coming and having a blessed day of worshipping the Lord.

On September 18, Sis. Rachel Bahler (Bro. Mark and Sis. Benita) and Bro. Merle Stoller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola, Eureka, IL) were united in holy matrimony. We are overjoyed at this union and pray for their closeness to God through everything that comes their way. Other visiting ministers that were with us for this day were Bros. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), and Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI).

"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

Ephesians 5:21

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Melissa Gerst
Stacey Feller**

We appreciated the ministry brought forth by Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), and we thank him and his family for their visits to our congregation this summer.

Kyle Lehman (Bro. Don and Sis. Jill) had recent surgery for a leg injury and is recovering well. Sis. Sharon Flis has been experiencing some health difficulties

and surgery is pending. May God grant His healing and comfort.

Our thoughts and prayers go with Micah Frank (Bro. Tom and Sis. Carolyn) as he recently moved to France for a short-term stay.

Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer traveled to Hawaii for the September 3 marriage of their son, Bill, to Stacey Harmon (both of Phoenix, AZ). Many of us enjoyed a local reception to celebrate this couple and wish the Lord's blessing upon their union.

INDIANA VALPARAISO Ed Lester

"But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord; he is their strength in the time of trouble."

Psalms 37:39

Greetings once again from Valpo. Activities have been a little slow around here this last month. Labor Day has come and gone, but there is still labor ahead. Bro. Brady Moser (Bro. Andy, Sis. Diane Moser) is still in need of your love and prayers. Also, Bro. Byron Frieden was hospitalized after an accident. Please include them in your prayers.

Sunday School has started again. We want to welcome and show our support for Bro. Ken Susdorf and Sis. Dawn Ailes.

We would like to thank Bro. John, Sis. Ruth Ann Lehman (Wolcott, IN) for sharing the

Gospel with us. Also in Valparaiso ministering this past month was Bro. Howard, Sis. Kristen Plattner (Alto, MI). Thank you all for your desire to serve the Lord in this capacity.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Diana Norman
Nettie Haab**

“I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Luke 5:32

What a blessing to announce three dear souls have sought a new life in Christ: Andrea Furrer (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene) and Sydney Leman (Bro. Randy and Sis. Mara); and our dear friend, Krystal Tyler who just moved to Arizona. May our prayers include all of them.

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Romans 6:4

On September 11, we witnessed the baptisms of Matt Widmer (Bro. Neal and Sis. Kris), Sadie Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie), Chad, Natalie and Ellie Hoerr (Bro. Doug and Sis. Peg). God’s blessings and wisdom as they seek the Lord for daily guidance.

Visiting ministers this past

month have been Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Robert Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN), Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), and Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN).

We thank them for traveling from near and far and bringing forth God’s Word.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Elaine Bahler
Lisa Furrer**

O God of wisdom, life and love,
Thine is the blessed plan
In holy bonds of love to join
The twain, created man.

Hymns of Zion, #286

Trusting in the God of wisdom, life and love, Sis. Bethany Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann) and Bro. Joshua Johnson (LaCrosse, IN) have announced their engagement. We offer our love and congratulations to this dear couple and pray God’s richest blessings be upon them as they look forward to their wedding day.

“There are friendships that we cherish” and we enjoyed sweet fellowship on our Invite-a-Friend Sunday. Among the many guests were Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra, Alto, MI) who shared in

the ministry of God’s Word. A special thank you to these brothers for their service!

Our thoughts and prayers for God’s healing powers are with Sis. Ruth Ann Lehman (Bro. John) as she recuperates from surgery. May we also remember to lift up in prayer those whose needs may not be known to us.

**IOWA, BURLINGTON
Brenda Schulz
Laurie Schulz**

We extend our deepest sympathy to Bro. Paul and Sis. Elaine Eisenmann as Sis. Elaine’s mother, Sis. Rose Steiner of Oakville, IA, went on to her eternal reward. We also think of Sis. Rose’s grandchildren, Mark (Jamy), Matt (Monica), Sis. Monica, and Tom. May God bring comfort to all their hearts.

Also this month, Ray Defenbaugh’s mother was laid to rest. Our prayers and sympathy go to Ray and his wife, Alice, and their family. May they feel God’s comfort in their time of sorrow.

We always appreciate our visiting ministers who are willing to serve us, who recently were Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall and Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA). We pray for God’s richest blessings on their behalf.

**IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer**

As we journey through this life, there are times to rejoice and times to mourn. According to

Eccles. 3:1, "there is a season and a time for every purpose under the heaven."

On August 28, Sis. Sharla Schneider (Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue) and Bro. Aaron Frank (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Kathy) were united in marriage. We wish them God's nearness as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

Since there are "times to die", there are sad times of parting. Our sympathy is extended to those who have lost loved ones this past month: Sis. Janet Schupbach (Bro. John) in the loss of her mother, Sis. Rose Steiner of Oakville; and Sis. Millie Butikofer in the loss of her sister, Mable Hodel, of Lodi, CA.

We welcome Rollyn Aberle (Bro. Pete and Sis. Debbie, Tremont) into our midst for a season as he attends the Dairy/Ag program at NICC in Calmar. He is making his home with Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan Frieden.

We are always thankful for visiting ministers. Those here for the wedding of Bro. Aaron and Sis. Sharla were Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) and Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA).

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE **Willa Clark**

Once again God has blessed us with visitors. We are especially thankful for the ministering brothers who shared the precious Word of God. Visiting ministers have been Bros. Glen

Braker (Princeville, IL), Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO), and Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN).

Our Bible class shared a blessing-filled weekend as guests of the Kiowa, KS, church. We are grateful for the all their planning and work.

IOWA, IOWA CITY **Diana Butikofer**

The Sunday School and College Student Picnic was held the third Sunday in September. We appreciate those attending and wish all our students God's wisdom and the ability to learn and discern truth as they begin another school year.

Wyatt James was welcomed into the family of Bro. Jim and Sis. Diana, Kyla and Garrett Butikofer on September 14. His grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold (LaCrosse, IN).

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

We never realize how fortunate we are for good health until we are without it. We think of our loved ones that have required hospitalization this past month and we pray God's healing touch will be with each one as He sees fit. Our thoughts have been with David Warner (Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue), Tim Molitor (Bob and Carol), Sis. Marge Mogler, Robyn Wulf and Sis. Marie Knobloch

(Bro. Ezra).

On September 8, Mathais Lee was born to Bro. Thadd and Sis. Wendy Knobloch. Welcoming him home are his excited siblings, Adam and Adrienne, along with his grandparents, Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knobloch and Bro. Howard and Sis. Lolly Mogler.

September 3 was the wedding day for Curtis Doorneweerd (Bro. Butch) and Cathy Striegel. We extend our best wishes to them. Our congratulations are also extended to Bro. Butch Doorneweerd and Sis. Kathy Metzger as they were united in marriage on September 18. May God's grace and love be with them as their lives are joined together. Visiting ministers here to share in this special occasion were Bro. Brad Funk (Garden Grove, IA), Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) and Bro. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN).

We congratulate Emily Kellenberger and Mike Rozeboom on their engagement. May God's direction be with them as they make plans for their upcoming wedding and future together. Bro. Verlyn and Sis. Linda are Emily's parents.

Notes of Thanks:

We want to express the deep gratitude for each of you who shared in the loss of our dear husband, father, grandfather and brother. We appreciate the prayers for Al and the family's behalf. Every card, caring words spoken, food and memorial gifts

will long be remembered. May you all be richly blessed for your deeds of kindness.

The family of Bro. Alfred Knobloch

We wish to extend our deepest appreciation for all the deeds of kindness shown to our family during Sarah's illness and passing. Special thanks for the cards, gifts of money, flowers, food, prayers, and time taken to visit Sarah in the hospital and at her home. Thanks for your thoughtfulness shown her in the past years and also coming to the Tuff Village for singing and fellowship. Your kindness and love will always be remembered. God Bless You.

The family of Sarah Feucht

IOWA, OAKVILLE

**Rosalie Wiegand
Sharla Wiegand**

We appreciated having visiting ministers, Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA), in our midst this month.

On August 22, Sis. Rose Steiner passed away peacefully from this life. Our sympathy goes out to her children, Bro. John (Sis. Carol) Steiner; Sis. Diane (Bro. Ralph) Lanz of Rittman, OH; Sis. Elaine (Bro. Paul) Eisenmann of Burlington, IA; Sis. Martha (Bro. Al) Wiegand; Sis. Becky (Bro. Larry) Endress of Bradford, IL; Sis. Patricia Steiner; Sis. Gwen (Bro. Ken) Manz of Junction, OH; Sis. Janet (Bro. John) Schupbach of

Elgin, IA; and Bro. Tom (Sis. JoAnn) Steiner. Her quite, serene nature will also be greatly missed by her 43 grandchildren and 53 great-grandchildren.

Note of Thanks:

In grateful appreciation, we thank you for the cards, phone calls, prayers, memorials, and kind deeds during the illness and death of our dear mother and grandmother. Also, thank you to all who came so many miles to be with us. God was so good to permit Mom to stay in her home on the farm until He took her to Heaven. We will never forget her quiet walk of life and loving example.

The family of Sis. Rose Steiner

IOWA

**BLOOMFIELD/PULASKI
Barbara Schock**

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior! This month we were blessed with two visiting ministers. On Labor Day weekend, Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine, Burlington) was here for the day. On a Wednesday night, Bro. Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose, Smithville) was here also. We thank these dear brothers for coming and sharing the Word with us, and for laboring on our behalf.

We rejoice with Bro. Ken and Sis. Lora Wuthrich at the arrival of their first grandchild, Jessica Jean, daughter of Bro. Phil and Sis. Kristen (Wuthrich) Wettstein of Eureka. May God be

with them as they raise their daughter.

"...behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

John 4:35

Harvest is almost upon us here. The corn and beans are starting to turn, and in some areas of the county, some farmers have already begun. Others are bringing out their equipment, and getting it ready for when their crops are ready for harvest. When the time comes, they will begin. Are we ready for the Heavenly harvest that is coming? Or are we lagging behind, saying we'll get ready when we see it coming?

IOWA, WEST BEND

**Sue Schneider
Lori Skoglund**

May God bless our ministers for their willingness to sow the seed.

"And other fell on good ground and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."

Luke 8:8

Visiting ministers have been Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL), Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Christine, Oakville, IA), Bro.

Dale Banwart (Sis. Melissa, Wolcott, IN) and from Minneapolis, MN, Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae) and Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie).

Bro. Kent and Sis. Joleen Fehr are the parents of a boy, Carter Kent, born August 25. Carter has a big sister, Monika, and grandparents, Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose Grimm and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr.

Many prayers have been offered for those recently hospitalized. Sis. Madeline Banwart, Sis. Sandy (Bro. Jim) Knobloch, and Dawson Knobloch (Bro. Denton and Sis. Rose) have been treated and released. Bro. Kent (Sis. Beth) Banwart is thankful to be convalescing at home now. Bro. Paul (Martha) Demiter has appreciated the love and prayerful support he's felt since being diagnosed with cancer. May God continue providing strength and healing according to His will.

A portion of a poem by Henry Beer seems fitting this harvest time of the year:

Preceding the harvest of ripe
golden grain
The seed must be planted – with
sunshine and rain.
The husbandman waiteth for grain
to come forth
Through the glow of the sunshine,
and winds of the north.

'Tis not in the blade, which is vividly green,
Nor the half ripened harvest where
beauty is seen,
But 'tis in the grain so beautiful,
fair,
All golden and bright as it waves in

the air.

How blest, when the toil of the day
is complete,
To turn from our labors, our loved
ones to meet.
How golden the sun often sets in
the west,
The shadows grow long – there's
an inner request
To meet with the Lord of the har-
vest again
Who gives His reward to the chil-
dren of men.

“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.”

Ho. 10:12

KANSAS, BERN
Sheri Edelman
Rita Menold

What an encouragement to our congregation to report several new converts! We rejoice with Austin Esslinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty); John, Doug and Michelle Strahm (Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen); Myron Strahm (Bro. Dale and Sis. Shelby); and Fritz Strahm (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Peggy). We pray that these dear souls may build a firm foundation upon the Solid Rock!

On August 21, the engagement of Bro. Bruce Stoller and Sis. Diane Strahm was announced. Sis. Diane is currently assembling with the Lamar, MO, congregation and we are looking forward to having her back in Bern. Parents of the couple are Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria

Stoller, and Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen Strahm. We wish Bro. Bruce and Sis. Diane God's nearness and direction as they plan for their October 16 wedding!

Matt Meyer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet) has announced his engagement to Kate Hornefer (Fred and Lily Hornefer, Prospect, KY). We wish Matt and Kate much happiness as they will be making their home in the Washington D.C. area.

Our prayers are with Bro. Waymer Esslinger, as his dear wife, Sis. Pauline, was laid to rest on August 18. We are so thankful that Sis. Pauline could heed the call of repentance in her later years in life, and have the hope of life eternal in Heaven!

As so many in our country are suffering from the effects of natural disaster, may we always be thankful for the roof over our heads, the clothing on our bodies, and the food we have in our cupboards. Speaking for myself, it is so easy to take these essentials for granted until we see disaster strike, then it makes us realize how much God has blessed us with! Let's remember to pray for those trying to rebuild their lives from Hurricane Katrina!

Note of Thanks:

The family of Anna Ulmer would like to thank everyone who brought food, sent flowers and gave memorial gifts. A special thank you to the staff at the Sabetha Apostolic Church Home and the Nemaha County Home Health and Hospice for their

kind care during her stay.

Your prayers and concerns are most appreciated.

The Anna Ulmer family

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Ethel Smith

We extend our love and greetings and also our love and prayers for those who are enduring this devastating loss from the recent hurricane. Such a tragedy brings a nation to its knees, and we see the love by the outpouring of aid through the gifts of money and physical help given of those in need. The need for prayer, the highest form of communication available, is felt by the entire world. Help us be available to the call for help, not only in prayer but also in whatever other resources we have.

We rejoice to announce the birth of little Cedrik Jared on August 23, to Alesha and Jared Martin. His two sisters, Madelyn and Emma, also welcome Cedrik home. Bro. Don and Sis. Aleta Banwart and Kirby and Kathy Martin are the grandparents. Our retired Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart is great - grandfather.

Our friends, Robin Braker and Justin Banwart, were announced to have peace and desire baptism. The date of baptism was announced for October 22. We know they look forward to this event as all of us here in Ft. Scott do. Our congregation rejoices as do the angels in heaven.

We are thankful that Ryan Lewis, who has been attending our church since May, has ex-

pressed a desire to become a part of our fellowship and walk a life of faithfulness to his Lord and Saviour.

On Labor Day weekend, our church had the opportunity to host the young groups from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri and Kansas churches. It was a beautiful weekend of spiritual fellowship, not only for the youth, but for our entire congregation. The guest speaker for Saturday evening and Sunday was Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL). There was many spiritual teachings challenging us to use the Christ-like love in our daily walk of life. One practical example was, if you were in grocery store check out line and someone crowded in front of you, do you get angry or do you bless that person because he is really where you wanted to be. If you were Christ-like, you wouldn't get agitated. Our minister, Bro Larry Bahr, had the Sunday evening worship service on the gift of charity after the Sunday picnic at the lake home of Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Lemons. The weekend concluded with a breakfast for all at the home of Bro. Don and Sis. Aleta Banwart. It was truly a blessed weekend.

Our other visiting ministers for this past month were Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville, IN), and Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN). Our Elder Bro. John Lehman was here for Wednesday evening service and to visit with our converts. We very much ap-

preciate all these labors of love on our behalf and God bless all of you for your sacrifices. We do enjoy the visits, the fellowship, and above all the WORD.

Love is the commandment for fulfilling all commandments, the rule for fulfilling all rules.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Jenny Stewart

On September 10-11, the Kiowa congregation hosted the Sr. Bible Class Sunday School Fellowship. We are thankful for everyone who took their time to join us.

Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) was a blessing to everyone as he spoke to the young people for the weekend. We also enjoyed his afternoon sermon and thank him for his visit.

This past month we have had two visiting ministers join us. Bro. Kenneth Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Kenneth Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) were at our congregation. We appreciated the words they had for us.

Our prayers have been with Sis. Janice Bahr. She fell and broke her wrist. She is doing well and slowly recovering.

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Eileen Bahr

For several months on the first Friday of the month the Lamont/Gridley Single group has been meeting and going through various topics using the "Light from the Word" as a

guideline. It is conducted with Elder and minister involvement and has been very beneficial to those who attend. This month's topic was over "The Christian's Cross". It was interesting to learn several things about this cross. In Matt. 10:38 and 16:24, both an admonition to His disciples and us, the Lord emphasized the need that we willingly bear a Cross for Him. In review of life as a whole, "Is every trial of a Christian a cross?" What are some of the earthly crosses everyone bears? Mental, Physical, Emotional, Financial, others? These are not a part of the Christian's cross, for everyone in this world faces various situations of earthly struggles. Matt. 5:45 states, "for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

There are burdens we bear as human beings living in a sinful world which are separate from the cross we carry that is a direct result of our faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. We cannot count every trial, every burden or hardship that we have as "our cross". What is it that we suffer or sacrifice for the Lord? What pain do we endure, what do we give up, what offerings do we make for Christ that really causes us to do without something that we really need? Do many of us really have a heavy cross?

Christians and unbelievers: get sick, suffer accidents and injury, face financial difficulties,

lose their jobs or experience other problems related to our material or physical life, face depression, experience family problems, feel very lonely, or any of a number of other difficulties in life. Many of our problems are not a result of our desire to serve our Saviour.

Taking up the cross and following Christ may not be an easy task, as there is no promise in the Word that our life will be easier. We are cautioned that it may be very difficult at times. Yet, God assures us that we will not receive a heavier cross than we can carry. (I Cor. 10:13)

The cross of Christ would then seem to be those hardships or trials we face that are a direct result of our faith. It is those hardships or trials that we would not have to bear if we were not a Christian.

Four areas that define the "cross of Christ" are: persecution or ridicule as a direct result of our faith, willing to give up some of the entertainment and pleasure of this life, separation from the vanities and pleasures of the world, using our time and talents to serve God when we could spend more time pursuing the riches or pleasures of this life.

Compared to many believers, our cross is so light we hardly know if we are really carrying one. Bearing a cross for our Lord is a privilege as well as a duty. What small price we pay for such a blessed hope.

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

We were thankful to have two visiting ministers this month. Bro. Edwin Strahm (Bern, KS) and Bro. Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS) were willing to bring forth God's Holy Word to our congregation. Often we take for granted the fact that we will hear God's Word spoken on Sunday, but many do not have the opportunity that we do and we are grateful for our ministering brothers.

Sis. Dixie Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN) is once again welcomed into our Sabetha church. Sis. Dixie has finished graduate school and is now working in Manhattan as a school counselor. We are happy to have her back with us and pray that God will bless her in her new duties.

Bro. Troy and Sis. Dawn Strahm were thankful for the safe arrival of Gavin Jace on September 9. He is welcomed home by his big brother, Brendan. Happy grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon Strahm and Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose Grimm (West Bend, IA).

KANSAS, WICHITA **Emma Miller**

Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel were blessed with another granddaughter in July when Sadie Kay was born into the family of Stuart and Andrea Nelson.

The obituary for our Bro. Milton Bowers read as follows,

“John Milton Bowers passed away peacefully September 2, 2005, at his home.” His funeral service was held Wednesday, September 7. His wife of 65 years, Sis. Lillian, and their thirteen children plus the spouses, 36 grandchildren, and 44 great grandchildren survive him. The children and spouses are as follows: Jacqueline and Larry Farney, Cecily and John Holliday, Patrea Miskimon, Sarah and Homer Kreibel, James and Marsha Bowers, Paul and Brenda Bowers, Priscilla and Lynn Frank, Bro. Phillip Bowers, Sis. Phyllis Ruth and Bro. Jonathon Long, Ben and Deana Bowers, Lois and Charles Hallberg, Julia and Larry Beck, and Michael Bowers. Ill health has plagued this dear one over the past years. I always marveled at his resilient recoveries and his desire to come to church as well as the family’s effort to see that he could do so. Philippians 4:8 comes to mind when we think of Bro. Milton’s life. “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

Our dear Sis. Nellie Lambert observed her 99th birthday on September 13. She lives alone in her apartment and is privileged to do so because her children and grandchildren see that her needs

are met. Nellie has a special talent for recognizing one’s need for encouragement. Not long after my husband and I had retired and we were facing health problems, she gave me a devotional book, *Joy & Strength*, by Mary Wilder Tileston. As with most of my books, I read it and put it up on the bookshelf. Recently I was looking for another book and saw *Joy & Strength* and started reading in it. One page was devoted to I Corinthians 9:26-27. “I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air; but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection...” The discussion that followed centered on being punctual and disciplined in our daily activities. The writer was especially concerned about our lax habits affecting others that are inconvenienced by our tardiness. Among those habits to avoid was desultory working. I had no idea what that word meant. According to Webster, desultory is a four-syllable adjective that means, “marked by lack of definite plan, regularity, or purpose.” Yes, this is a good time for me to take note of how I spend my time.

MEXICO, IXTLAN
Claudia Gonzalez

“Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it...”

Solomon 8:7

On August 28, our congrega-

tion, together with many visitors, got together to celebrate the wedding of our Sis. Pauli Angelito and Bro. Todd Schambach. We wish this new couple God’s blessings.

As we walk by the streets, we can see Mexican flags everywhere. Independence Day is approaching! May we be ever thankful for the freedom we have in our country to worship and give glory to our Lord.

We extend our sympathy to the Gonzalez family in the sudden death of Sis. Bertha’s brother, Salvador Carrillo.

Meet Sis. Rosa Segura Figueuroa:

My name is Rosa and I am the wife of Bro. Roberto Sanchez. I am 74 years old and have lived too many years as an angry person. The first time my daughter and I went to church was when “Dr. Loren” (Bro. Loren Schrenk) was examining persons for eye surgery. I was thankful to be one of those he operated on. After that, we went fairly regularly to church even though this brought a lot of criticism from our neighbors.

Some brothers started coming to our home to have Bible studies with us which I liked because I recognized I needed more understanding. One time Bro. Lalo had a message and asked “What if the Word of God is only on paper and someone sets fire to it?” He explained how necessary it is for us to put the Word of God in our hearts.

Time passed and Roberto repented and was baptized. I was happy for him but didn't see my own need at first. I tried to live a better life but I couldn't repent because of my ever-present anger. I didn't have any peace. Roberto encouraged me to repent and when I finally gave in, I had a happy heart. I took the step seriously because I know that the Word of God is no game. I confessed my sins and felt relief and was then baptized on April 3 of this year. My life has changed and I feel gratitude for all His benefits.

"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation."

Psalms 68:19

MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Rose Watson
Terri Huber**

The engagement announcement of Bro. Aaron Plattner was both a surprise and a delight. Bro. Aaron (Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen) has sought God's guidance in seeking as his life's partner Sis. Becka Kauffman (Indianapolis, IN). Becka's parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie Kauffman of Bloomington, IL. We welcome Becka as one of our own, even though Aaron is currently attending school in Detroit and that is where the couple will initially reside.

Our medical news this month seems quite serious. Penny Couch, daughter of Sis. Louise

Desotell, is suffering from third degree burns as a result of an accident. We lift her and her family up in prayer. Bonnie Stauffer (Dave) is undergoing surgery which will keep her bedridden for many weeks. Again, we pray not only for her, but for skill and wisdom for her doctors. Sis. Vivian Feldman (Bro. Lyman) was also hospitalized this month. Thankfully, she is back home and feeling well.

The Sunday School picnic was rained out, but there is a happy ending to the story. We were able to move from the park to the Fellowship Hall and have almost all of the planned activities, the meal and the singing. There was an exceptional turnout for the singing, for which we are thankful!

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer**

Our thoughts are with Sis. Yolanda Jackson (Bro. Richard) as she recently underwent surgery. It is our prayer that Sis. Yolanda makes a speedy recovery and can begin assembling with us again. Little Matisin Wieland (Matt and Terri) also spent some time in the hospital. We trust that the Lord's healing hand will continue to be with her.

Saturday, August 27, was our Sunday School picnic. Sunday, August 28, our Sunday School changed classes and teachers. We want to thank Bro. Jay Schlatter (Sis. Carola), Bro. Brian Wieland (Sis. Char) and

Sis. Sarah Knochel for their years of service to the Sunday School.

It was just last month that we were welcoming Bro. Josh Steffen (Bro. Derrell and Sis. Sue) home from the Philadelphia area and we again say farewell as he has accepted employment with the Cleveland Botanical Gardens. We pray that the Lord will be near Bro. Josh as he seeks to serve Him in this new location.

We appreciate the efforts of Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, La-Crosse, IN) as they were in our area and ministered unto us.

The heavens are praising the name of Jehovah!

His praise through all the world is heard.

The earth and the ocean resound with His glory

Ye mortals hear His wondrous Word.

Consider ye mortals, the wonders of nature

Which God in wisdom did create. Did not our Creator in power and order

For man His wondrous works in-state.

Hymns of Zion #49

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Tiffany Wieland
Mary Weigele**

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

This month, our congregation

in Detroit hosted the annual Michigan Youth Day. There were a number of visitors from the Bay City and Alto congregations as many Sunday School students and their teachers traveled here for the weekend. We often look at our young people with so much hope as we realize that they are the future of our denomination. We pray that weekends like these can leave lasting impressions on their lives as they again have opportunity to hear the Gospel message and are entreated to seek the Lord. We also pray that they can form friendships with those from other congregations and that, in time, those friendships can become one of brothers and sisters in Christ. We were thankful that ministering Bro. Cory Metzger and his wife, Sis. Jodi, and their family traveled from Wichita, Kansas, to share in the weekend. We appreciated Bro. Corey sharing in the morning services and speaking to the students in the afternoon.

Also lending himself this month was ministering Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon) from Bay City. Bro. Neil was in Detroit for a Tuesday evening service at Woodhaven, and we appreciate him taking time out of his busy work week schedule and sharing the Word with our elderly residents.

Bro. Pat and Sis. Jeanie Allen are first time grandparents as their daughter and son-in-law, Carl and Ann Marie Mason, were able to finalize the adoption pro-

cess for their son, Cody. Carl and Ann Marie have been foster parents for Cody for an extended period of time, and we are thankful that God has provided for them in making Cody a permanent part of their family. Also rejoicing for this occasion is Cody's great-grandmother, Sis. Lois Belsley. We congratulate Carl and Ann Marie, and pray that the Lord will give them grace to raise Cody to know and love God.

We are also excited for our Bro. Aaron Plattner as his engagement to Sis. Bekah Kaufmann (Indianapolis, IN) was announced this month. We are thankful that Bro. Aaron and Sis. Bekah let God guide them in making this important decision in faith, and we wish them His continued direction.

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS LaRae Dill

Labor Day marks the end of summer vacation and the beginning of a new school year in our area. Local schools are back in session, and college students from our congregation have begun another semester - some in the area, and others farther away. Emily Messner, Josh Messner, and Christa Deragisch are all attending St. Cloud State, Carissa Deragisch returned to University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, while Kelsey Messner is back for her second year at University of North Dakota. We're always glad to see these students when they return to the Twin

Cities for the weekend. It's nice having a few students attending locally - Alissa Messner is attending Century College, Tyler Messner is returning to Dunwoody Institute, and Tyler Bergstrom, Ben Dill and Brett Messner (Winthrop, MN) are students at the University of Minnesota. Those farther away are Braden Mogler, attending Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA, and Sis. Meg Dill, a student at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL. We wish each student a year of blessing.

The miracle of conversion is again evident, as we have observed God working His work in hearts and lives. Our converts are Jessica and Peter Zarkovacki and Ben Dill (Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae). We were thrilled to hear that Brett Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) has begun his repentance. We're enjoying Brett's fellowship.

A new son and brother, Kyson Aric, was born August 20 into the home of Aric and Rae Lynn Leenderts, and children, Koye and Tayah. Grandparents of this new little boy are Alan and Bonnie Leenderts (Hills, MN), and Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosella Metzger (Lester, IA).

Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN) ministered to our congregation on September 18 as three of the local ministers were traveling. We're thankful Bro. Paul could come and help Bro. Don.

It's nice to have Sis. Vi

Aupperle and Sis. Arletta Bragg back in our fellowship as both ladies were ill for a few weeks. Also, Bro. Doug Messner (Sis. Sue) spent a little time in the hospital, receiving treatment for an injury.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Heidi Nohl
Katie Koehl**

Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) ministered the Word to us. May God bless him for his labors.

We are thankful that Mike Wulf (Corey) has begun his repentance. We pray God will provide for him now and always.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Rachel Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale) and Bro. Chris Moser (Sis. Marion). May God grant them healing.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Ginny Stoll
Rachel Steiner**

Over the past month we have been privileged to listen to the Conference tapes. We thank the Elders for their tireless efforts on our behalf. We pray that God will continue to enlighten the watchmen on the wall.

We are so thankful for our visiting ministers who come and lend of themselves here in our small congregation. Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN), Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) and Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) were with us this past month.

Our medical and hospital pa-

tients this month were Marc Messner (Tina), Bro. Tim Schmidt (Liz), Lowell Demm (Shirley), and Bro. Leo Messner (Sis. Georgia). May God continue to restore strength unto them and help them through this trying time.

Note of Thanks:

Bro. Leo and Sis. Georgia Messner wish to express heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, cards, visits and phone calls during Bro. Leo's long stay in the hospital. (Bro. Leo has since been moved to the Gaylord nursing home to regain his strength.)

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Mindy Braker
Wendy Braker**

We were blessed to have the provings and then witness the baptisms of two dear souls the weekend of August 20-21. We welcome Sisters Emily Banwart (Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda) and Rachel Stoller (Bob and Sis. Janice) into the fold. We thank Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS) for their services that weekend.

We rejoice with Sis. Diane Strahm (Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen, Bern, KS) as her engagement to Bro. Bruce Stoller (Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria) of the Bern, KS, congregation was made known to us. May God be ever near them as they make plans for their future lives together.

Our prayers are with Sis. Ma-

rie Marti as she has spent time in the hospital this past month. We pray God will keep her in His care during this time of recovery.

We appreciated the effort of Bro. Dan Beer (Milford, IN) to visit us this past month and share God's Word.

We rejoice that several souls from our congregation have turned to the Lord in repentance. Our prayers and encouragement are with Evan and Darin Braker (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol), David Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy), Doug Strahm (Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen, Bern, KS), Lisa Stoller (Bob and Sis. Janice), and Myron Strahm (Bro. Dale and Sis. Shelby, Bern, KS). May God give each one much grace to seek the strait and narrow path of life.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Sally Haerr

When we are away from home for a long time, how welcoming are the out-stretched arms of those we love as we return. It makes me think of Jesus, as He sees His loved ones (that's all of us), stray away. Maybe regular church attendance or our Bible reading isn't real important to us anymore. Let's all turn our hearts toward home, our Heavenly Home, and feel the warmth of Jesus' out-stretched arms.

Once again our Taylor congregation received the benefit of a family reunion. August 21, the Henry Aberle family chose the Mark Twain Lake area, near here, for their meeting place. Among those that came were

four ministering brothers: Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL), Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne) and Bro. Ben Wysong (Sis. Janice), both from Sabetha, KS. Thank you for shared blessings.

On Wednesday evening, September 7, Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL) came to present a Topical Bible Study. He chose to talk about seeds and soil, a subject we all know, at least, a little about. He compared the physical seed and the soil to the spiritual seed and soil (Holy Bible, St. Luke 8:11). How is the soil of our hearts? Have we made it ready by the reading and obeying God's Word, the Holy Bible? And I ask myself, "Am I praying for grace to sow seeds of the goodness of salvation in the hearts of others?" "Seeds of goodness we are sowing in the hearts of men today; bless it, Lord, that it may prosper, and bear fruit for harvest day." (Hymns of Zion #46). Thank you, Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane; you drove a lot of miles for us.

On September 11, Bro. Kenny Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN) came for a Grimm family reunion. We felt blessed by God's Word as they shared it with us.

We have been listening to the Conference Tapes for several mid-week services. It is as though we are hosting visiting ministers, and that is always a joy.

On September 18, Bro. Jeff Knobloch and Sis. Bethany Wiegand's (Bloomington, IL) engagement was announced. Their parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Bro. John and Sis. Mary Wiegand (Roanoke, IL). We rejoice with them and pray for God's guidance as they prepare for their wedding. We are especially happy as they plan to make Taylor their home.

On that same Sunday, converts Wes Sutter (Dan and Sis. Tina) and Shane Sutter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Chris) were announced to the church as having peace with God and man. It is so encouraging as we see young people committing their lives to following Jesus.

Those sick or hospitalized: Barb Plank (Buddy, dec.) had surgery this past month and is recuperating and doing reasonably well. Thank you for your prayers.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We enjoyed fellowshiping with visitors to our area during a potluck and singing on August 27. May the Lord richly bless ministering Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) for making last minute plans to come and share the Word with us on Sunday, September 11. It was a great surprise to see that we had a visiting minister with us for the day!

We have concluded listening to the Conference tapes and re-

ceived a rich blessing from all the instructions that were brought forth. May we daily have on the full armor of God to fight against the enemy of our soul. The rewards are great! "O let us then be faithful and stand in firm array. That we may share Thy glory on Resurrection Day. We'll sing the joyful anthem when conflicts shall be o'er. And carry victory's emblems in peace forever more." (Hymns of Zion #261).

Our prayers are with Sis. Polly Farney who has underwent surgery. May the Lord comfort her with His healing and presence each day.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

We rejoice that Jacob Rufener has turned to the Lord in repentance. Jacob's parents are Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener. God is with Jacob to continue to grow in grace and the knowledge of the Lord.

Patricia Demrovsky gave her testimony of repentance and peace with the Lord Jesus and she was baptized Sunday, September 11. We rejoice to have her added to our church. Her parents are Bro. Andy and Sis. Vera Demrovsky. Also, Bro. Andy and Sis. Vera's son, Tom, and his wife, Christine, gave their testimony that they had repented and received peace with God previously, and they were received and welcomed into our faith. Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg, NY) assisted our Elder Bro. Dave

Graf for this weekend.

We appreciated our visitors for the holiday weekend. Our visiting ministering brothers were: Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North), and Bro. Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose) and Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie), both of Smithville. An added treat was that our single young people took care of the noon church meal, and thus giving the local Sisters that time to be with the guests.

Bro. Emery and Sis. Erika Gal were blessed with a baby boy, Mark Brian. A sister, Tiffany, is fond of her baby brother, Mark. Grandparents are Sis. Sherri Schlatter of Forrest, and Eugene and Helen Gal of Florida.

We welcome into our midst two sons of Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon Gherian of Junction. Bro. Justin is going to be studying at the Akron University and Bro. Ted took a job in our area. We are glad to have them worship with us at Akron.

Bro. Daniel and Sis. Diane Wuthrich of Morton have come to this area, living at Cleveland. Also Bro. Joshua Steffen, son of Bro. Derrell and Sis. Sue Steffen of Bay City, Michigan, has moved to Cleveland. We welcome all.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

In the last month, we have had the pleasure of several visiting ministers with us on the pulpit. We are thankful for Bros. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN), Jesse Bedolla (Detroit, MI) and Bill

Brake (Sardis, OH) sharing God's Word.

Our annual College Welcome Day was held September 20 and Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce Wenninger (Latty, OH) joined us for the day. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet our new students and their families and to welcome our returning students for a new school year.

We were so pleased to hear that two of our recent graduates, Sis. Kristi Hill (Bro. Mick and Sis. Delores, Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Matt Saurer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH) have accepted employment in the Columbus area. We wish them God's richest blessings in their new endeavors.

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to those who have family or friends in the areas of devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Sis. Gwen Manz (Bro. Ken) in the passing of her mother, Sis. Rose Steiner, of the Oakville, IA, congregation. We pray our Heavenly Father will grant comfort and strength to this dear family.

We appreciated the efforts of ministering Bro. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA) over Labor Day weekend. May the Lord richly bless him for his labors on our behalf and as he continues to preach the Gospel.

Bro. Pete and Sis. Helen Hurd

welcome a granddaughter into their family circle. Kyla Elizabeth is the daughter of Shawn and Shawna Hurd. We pray for guidance and direction for this young family as they raise their children.

Sis. Kathryn Emch (Bro. Harold) recently suffered a fall, which resulted in a broken bone in her knee. We miss seeing her in church and pray for God's healing hand to be upon her.

OHIO, LATTY Amanda Steffen Bonny Wenninger

"And he that reapeth received wages, and gathered fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together."

John 4:36

The days are very evidently becoming cooler and the time of harvest is nearly upon us. It is a time of year to see what the results of spring planting and summer experiences has brought. This is also true on a spiritual level, too. What are each of us harvesting spiritually this fall?

Two souls have begun sowing their seeds in repentance. Joel Dunham (Bro. Byron and Sis. Jody) and Alyssa Nuest (Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula) have started repenting. Two others have been announced for peace. They are Shannon Schlatter (Bro. Gus and Sis. Leann) and Darren Eisenmann (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol). They are anticipating an October 22-23 baptism date.

May God be with all of these young people.

We had many visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH), Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH), Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), Doug Harmon (Sis. Lana, Toledo, OH), Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH), Walter Herrmann (Sis. Betty Lou, Princeville, IL), Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) and Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS). God bless and keep all of them for their efforts on our behalf.

There is a lengthy number of hospital and surgery patients this month. They include Bro. Charles Dunham, Sis. Dolores Grant (Bro. Tom), Haleigh Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam), Bro. George Keysor (Sis. Sharon) and Bro. Wayne Stoller (Sis. Dorothy). It is our prayer that God will grant healing where He sees fit.

Our Latty congregation was pleased to hear the marriage engagement of Sis. Heather Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam) to Bro. Chad Heiniger of Remington, IN. He is the son of Bro. Don and Sis. Peg Heiniger (Elgin, IL). They are planning a December 11 wedding date.

We also witnessed a wedding in our congregation on August 28 when Sis. Emily Stoller and Bro. Howard Harmon were united in marriage. Ricky Nichter and

Trina Whitman were married on August 13. Her parents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen Whitman. May God be with all of these couples, now and in the future.

We took part in Holy Communion on September 10. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) was here to assist Elder Bro. John with the sacred rites.

Sis. Paula (Bro. Lee) Nuest's mother, Sandy Emerson, died recently. May God be with her and her family in their time of loss.

Construction is nearing completion for our addition. Half of the parking lot has been cemented and the assembly room was emptied this week so that new carpet can be laid. Painting is ongoing in the foyer along with trim work. Toilets and sinks are being installed in the bathrooms. We should be back in the completed building by the end of October.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Esther Baumann

Our church rejoices with Sis. Kristan Keever (Clair and Sis. Bev) and Bro. Ben Craig (Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol) of Congerville, IL, as they announced their engagement on September 11. We pray they will continue to lean on God for guidance.

Special thanks to Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) who willingly served us in the ministry this past month.

We are also thankful for the blessed opportunity to listen to the tapes from the General

Brotherhood Conference.

OHIO, RITTMAN Anne Widmer Hannah Beery

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
safe on His gentle breast;
There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.

—Fannie Crosby

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Ken Rupp and his family in the loss of his beloved wife, Sis. Lillian. We praise the Lord that Lillian was a child of God and lived for Him for many years of her life. May God comfort her family and help them to know that He is there in this time of sorrow. Our prayers and sympathy also go to the family of Sis. Martha Kohler. We are grateful for the examples of both of these sisters and are thankful that they are "safe in the arms of Jesus, safe on His gentle breast."

In one of our recent sermons, we were taught that there are two steps in our lives that we know about, but never remember, our births and our deaths. On August 29, Emma Rose was born to Bro. Brad and Sis. Jody Widmer. She is welcomed home by her big sister, Sabrina. Emma's grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Carole Widmer and Randy and Sis. Bev Moore. Both sets of grandparents are thankful for the wonderful addition to their family. May Emma grow and live safe in the arms of Jesus.

This month, we have had

many who have been hospitalized. We pray that God will continue to heal our loved ones. Those in the hospital were Sis. Amber Rufener (Bro. Matt), Sis. Vivian Ramsier (Bro. Harlan), Sis. Erma Ingold, Bro. Aquilla Barna and Sis. Deloris Maibach (Bro. Jack).

OHIO, SARDIS
Jami Hartzler
Terry Zollinger

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 faithful! How delightful!
 God with pleasure
 Will impart the crown and trea-
 sure.

Zion's Harp #210

It's a blessing each time we have a visiting minister come to give the Word to us and we receive it into our hearts with gladness. Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and his family were together with us for the weekend. There was a carry-in supper Sunday evening. We are thankful the Hartzler family makes the effort to come and we are blessed to have them visit.

Though I meet with pain and sorrow,
 Oft must feel how hard it be
 Through afflictions here to strug-

gle,
 Yet my God shall faithful be.
 Thou dost help my burden carry;
 Should I comfortless then tarry?
 Guided by Thy hand alone,
 "Thine and not my will be done."
Zion's Harp #93

Some of our loved ones have had afflictions this month with injury, tests and hospitalization with surgery. We pray for Bro. Ed Beard (Sis. Dee), Sis. Paula Figel (Bro. John) and Malachi Blough (Bro. Alan and Sis. Renee). We are glad to see them all in church again and are thankful the Lord's healing hand touched each one.

Our hearts and prayers go out to the ones involved in the recent hurricanes and who lost so much. May the Lord comfort and provide during this trying time.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Ruth Gasser
Edith Miller

Now I have vowed to fear and love
 thee
 And to obey Thee, Lord, alone;
 I feel Thy Holy Spirit move me
 And freely pledge myself Thine
 own,
 Renouncing sin to keep the faith
 And war with evil unto death.

Zion's Harp #41, vs. 3

We welcomed two souls into the fold on August 21. Sis. Lydia Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim) and Bro. Aaron Marty (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Marie) brought forth testimonies the evening before and then were baptized on Sunday. May God continue to give grace sufficient to meet the

needs of each day. We thank Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) for assisting Bro. Andy in this important work.

We also appreciate the efforts of Bros. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) and William Brake (Sardis, OH) as they visited and brought forth the Word this past month. May God continue to inspire those who are called to preach the Gospel.

It is encouraging that there are still souls who are seeking their salvation. We rejoice that Janelle Bauman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie), Peter Fetzer (Bro. Andy and Sis. Elizabeth), Laura Gasser (Bro. Ken and Sis. SueEllen Maibach and the late Bro. Greg Gasser) and Jacob Rufener from Akron, OH (Bro. John and Sis. Janice) have made known their desire to repent and be converted. We trust that each one will seek diligently to build their house of faith upon a firm foundation. We are also thankful when souls feel they have repented and have peace with God. Aaron Bauman (Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda) was recently announced and is awaiting baptism in the near future.

We wish God's blessing on Bro. Aaron Ott (Sarasota, FL) and Sis. Kim Bauman, as their engagement was recently announced. Parents of this couple are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Mardell Ott (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman.

The wedding of Jeff Beery (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl) and Michelle Wolgamott took place on August 27.

Bro. Garth and Sis. Sheila Gucker welcomed a new little daughter, Brooke Nicole, on September 7. Two big brothers, Max and Brett, as well as grandparents, Bro. Stan and Sis. Gloria Hartzler, are thankful for her safe arrival. May this home be blessed and may the parents feel God's direction as they strive to raise their children in the fear of God.

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Michael Beery, as he has relocated to our area, having been in the Eureka, IL, area for a time.

We are currently listening to the tapes from the 2005 Brotherhood Conference. We are thankful for our shepherds, and continue to pray for them that they be given godly wisdom to lead God's people.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard

Christian greetings to each and everyone!

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

I Corinthians 15:58

Joining us on the pulpit this past month were: Bro. Keith Beyer (Sis. Alisa, Detroit, MI), Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman), Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction), Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction), and Elder Bro. Andy

Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville). May these Brothers continue to preach the true Word of God!

Our prayers are with Bro. Walt Rager (Sis. Sharon) as he has undergone surgery and is now home recuperating.

The church was filled on a recent Sunday when we welcomed back our college students. It warms our heart to see a lot of our former students returning with their children as college students.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to express sincere appreciation for the many cards, gifts, visits, both in the hospital and at home, and the all important prayers whispered on my behalf during my recent emergency surgery and convalescence. Thank you so much and may the Lord bless each of you.

Bro. Walt Rager

OREGON, PORTLAND
Brianna Strahm

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

Hebrews 6:10

Our visitors this past month included Elder Bros. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR), and ministering Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West

Bend, IA). We sincerely appreciate the willingness of these brothers to be used in the Lord's service on our behalf.

John Folia, brother of Bro. Peter (Sis. Elizabeth), passed away on September 11. He was a member of the Apostolic Christian Church of the Nazarene in California. We pray the Lord will comfort the Folia family in their loss.

The Sunday school, is our delight,
 We love it more and more;
 'Tis here we learn to do the right,
 And live forevermore.

Hymns of Zion #73

We have resumed Sunday school in our congregation after a break during the month of August. Many of our Sunday school students will also be returning to school this fall. May we be mindful to keep our Sunday school teachers and their students in our prayers throughout the upcoming year.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Cindy Metzger
Melissa Kuenzi

We welcome our new Brothers and Sisters in the Lord. Kenton Sinn, Craig Schurter, Juanita Sinn, and Betsy Dettwyler were baptized August 21. Thanks to Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) for traveling here for the weekend.

Sunday School is back in session after a one-month break. We wish to welcome as new teachers Bros. Tom Sinn, John Wiegand, Mark Tribbett, and

Sisters Jo Kuenzi, Lisa Kuenzi, Jodie Dettwyler, and Sara Kuenzi. Thanks to each of the outgoing teachers for their part.

There are two new babies to welcome. Kylie Jean was born to Bro. Travis and Sis. Tammy Dettwyler on August 24. Her grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky Wulf (West Bend) and Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene Dettwyler (Silverton).

Kailey Mary was born to Bro. Mark and K'Ren Kuenzi on September 5. Her brothers are Cole and Nicholas. Her grandparents are Gary Conmy and Ruth Conmy (Silverton) and Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi (Silverton). Our prayers are with K'Ren as she remains hospitalized.

Congratulations to Bro. Tyler Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann) and Sis. Amy Knobloch (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jackie, Goodfield, IL) on the announcement of their engagement.

Our prayers go out to Sis. Golda Ditch at the loss of her husband, Lowell.

What a blessing to have visiting ministers. In addition to Elder Bro. John Lehman, Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN), and Bros. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) and Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) of Portland were here to minister to us in the past month.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE **Mike and Monica Fritz**

We are thankful to have Bro. Otto and Sis. Pat Schlatter (Alto, MI) gathering with us on a regular basis as they are in the area

for business.

We have been greatly blessed this past month as visiting ministers have so capably shared God's Living Word for our encouragement and admonition. Our visitors have included Bros. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH), Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI), Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL), and Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN). We have also experienced much joy in the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Bradford, Chicago, Princeville, Tremont, and Washington, IL; Francesville and Indianapolis, IN; Lexington, KY; Alto, MI; and Junction 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: Akron, OH (10/23); Peoria, IL (10/30); Mansfield, OH (11/6); Taylor, MO (11/13); and Oakville, IA (11/20). We do not have a minister scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend (11/27), but if any local brethren are in the area, we will meet at church for a tape service. If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

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

We've enjoyed much fellowship with our ministers and their wives this month. We thank Bros. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign), Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott), Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton), Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington), Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North), Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata) and Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar). We also appreciate the many visitors from Kiowa, Rockville, Fairbury, Pharr, and Congerville.

Upcoming churches serving us in October are these: Sabetha (2), Junction (9), Winthrop (16), Phoenix (23), and Remington (30).

We extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in the area to worship with us. Please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch. Also, because visitors add much to our local fellowship times, it helps if we know about your visit well in advance so that we can accommodate you more readily in our weekend gatherings. See the ministers' book for local contact information.

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

TEXAS, ZAPATA 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 mer-

cies and look forward to her return.

We appreciated 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.

VERMONT, NORWICH Areli Reutter

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, ...that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, thy God reigneth!"

Isaiah 52:7

Greetings one and all, from far and near!

We thank God for the ministering servants which He sent to publish salvation upon the mountains: Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH), and Bros. Duane Reutter, Everett Gerber, and Dan Stoller (all from

Rockville, CT).

The Lord has opened the way for us to hold services on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. The following churches are participating in the minister rotation: Rockville, CT; Akron, OH; Mansfield, OH; Rittman, OH; Smithville, OH; and Tremont, IL. We thank these beloved congregations for being willing to share their servants.

If you have plans to visit beautiful New England this fall, please worship with us! Give us a call in advance to help us plan for your attendance.

Also, please disregard the incorrect information listed in the "minister's book." Services start promptly at 10:15 in the morning and 12:15 in the afternoon. Take exit 13 from Interstate 91 and proceed to 344 Main Street, Norwich, VT 05055.

For more information or directions, please contact Morey Weiss at (802) 295-5981 or Brother Kirby Reutter at (802) 776 - 5293.



Sermon continued from page 2

them to remembrance (II Peter 1:12). It wouldn't be written that we shouldn't neglect the gathering together of God's people (Hebrews 10:25). But because it is necessary, because we are human and we do tend to, if I could say, decline in our values, maybe, our ways, thus we are reminded. We are encouraged that we should put ourselves in a position that we can be reminded.

"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit." Romans 8:5. Kind of a test, isn't it, we can put in our own lives. What is it that we mind? What is it that is really important to us? We are instructed, aren't we, in the Word that we earn a living, that we work with our own hands (I Thessalonians 4:11). That we pay our way in life. But then, is that what is the most important to us? I guess that is really the question, isn't it? What is really the most important? Or is it pleasures of life? Or is it being a child of God? If being a child of God is at the top of the list, isn't that really what we are talking about here? Minding the things of the Spirit. That is what God desires for us. Desiring to have fellowship with us and us with Him. Guess it is pretty hard, isn't it, to have fellowship with somebody that simply won't talk to us. It just really wouldn't work, would it? So we have fellowship with God and He with us. There is an open way. There is an open communication. There is a love that goes between.

We think that it wouldn't have to be that God loves us so, would it? I think back to the Creation. God made everything that He made and He saw that it was good. He made man. He looked. He made him in His own image. In His likeness. Breathed in him a living soul. Separate. Different from all the rest of the creation that He made. (Genesis 1,2) There could be fellowship then. There could be a relationship. He wouldn't have had to do that. But He chose to. He gave us an undying soul. A living spirit, breathed within us. Now He desires to have fellowship with us. But He gives us the choice, doesn't He? He gives us a free choice. We can choose what we want. We can choose,

yes I will have fellowship with God and we can enjoy it. Or we can choose, no I won't have fellowship with God and we can live that way, enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season. But we know the rewards. The one the great reward. The other the great punishment.

The one, if we walk with God, we have a reward while we live here, don't we? The reward of peace in our hearts, of contentment, of hope. The other way, we might enjoy the pleasures of sin but it will be for a time. We think of the rest of what we have, what we as believers, what we had when we walked in our own way, in our sin yet, before we were converted. When we walked in a way that wasn't pleasing to God, there was an unrest in our hearts. We didn't have that fellowship with God that He desired for us.

It says, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Romans 8:6. Really, just what we was talking about. The way that God has for us. The way of life and peace. We look at the two choices that we have; carnally minded - death, spiritually minded - life and peace. We wouldn't have to be very wise, would we, to make a right choice. We would be pretty foolish to make the wrong choice.

It says, "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." Romans 8:7,8. We stop and we say, well, we all carry fleshly bodies. What is he talking about? He is not talking about this fleshly body, is he? But what do we follow after? What is our heart's desire? The desire of our life? Is it to fulfill the desires of the flesh and the mind? Or is it to fulfill that inner desire to have communion with God, to walk with Him? For in the flesh, it says, we cannot please God. If that is our desire, if that is our heart, to walk after the flesh, we cannot please God.

Now the flip side. He says, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you..." Romans 8:9. What is in our hearts? Is it God's Holy Spirit dwelling therein? If it is, then he says we are not in the flesh but we are in the Spirit.

Setting the difference. It isn't a difference that you can just walk down the street and say, ah there is the Spirit. I see it. And there is the flesh. We can see fruits. We can see actions. But you know, what is really in our hearts - we can be at church and we can maybe think that we know, but God knows. He knows what is in our hearts. He knows if we are living according to the Spirit or if we are living according to the flesh. What we are walking after, what we are following, if His Spirit really is in control in our heart.

Says, "...Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Romans 8:9. It is an all or none sort of deal, isn't it? It is not a part way. Either we have His Spirit in our hearts or we don't.

"And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." Romans 8:10,11. The hope, the resurrection. The hope that while we live here, there's this Spirit lives in us, that we are made alive spiritually. Then we walk according to the Spirit. Why? Because of what He has given us. Because He has given us new life as believers.

"Therefore, brethren..." Romans 8:12. Because He has given us His Spirit, because we have hope, He says, "...we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh." Romans 8:12. It says here that we are debtors. It would almost sound that we owe something. In the natural way, if we are in debt, we owe. But it says, "...not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Romans 8:12,13. We are debtors, aren't we? That we mortify the deeds of the body. We read in other places, put off these things. Put on these things. It is our responsibility. It is a debt that we owe. We can't pay for our salvation. It can't be bought. But it is our responsibility to put off certain things, to put on certain things.

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Sermon continued from page 45

(Colossians 3:8-14)

"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Romans 8:13. It tells us that there is going to be a conflict, doesn't it? We have the Holy Spirit as believers, dwelling in us. And we have Satan, the fleshly body, the fleshly mind with it's desires. They don't always agree, do they? They don't agree. They simply don't agree. But we are given grace. Grace is given to the humble, to those that believe, so that we can discern, so that we can put off. So that we can mortify, put to death, the deeds of the body. It says then we can live.

Why us? Why did God choose us as believers? Why did He call us? Who were we among all the people of the world? We were just as much a part of the world as anyone else. And yet He chose us and He called us. He brought us to a place where we could hear the truth. We could hear the gospel of salvation. For some reason He called us, even to be His own. Do we stop and take time to think? To consider what God has done for us? Why He would want us? You go back just a little bit to the time when we were walking after the flesh. Why us? We were sinners just like everyone else. Yet He chose us to be His sons.

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." Romans 8:15. Adoption. Making us part of His family. Us that were lost. That were without a true father, a father in heaven. He called us then to be part of His family. Can't we go back to verse twelve where it says we are debtors? Not that we can pay back. But we are debtors to overcome sin.

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with

him, that we may be also glorified together." Romans 8:16,17. We like to live here and we don't like to suffer. I don't think there is any of us that would say, I just really enjoy physical pain. We don't.

What about the suffering of the putting away of sin? Or what if we needed to suffer because we believed in Jesus Christ? And in a sense we do, don't we? We suffer - if you want to call it suffering - we suffer because there is a struggle with sin. I don't think any of us could say we are simply not tempted anymore. There is a battle that is going on. Sometimes we need to make decisions that say, no I won't do that. In a sense there is a bit of suffering. But the other side far outweighs, doesn't it, the saying no to sin.

Maybe taking ridicule from our fellow man. I guess verse eighteen really says that then. "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Romans 8:18. If we suffer here, we can have confidence that there will be that glory that we can't compare to the sufferings. The one is so far different than the other.

"For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." Romans 8:19-21. Liberty. Do we have freedom as believers? Don't we really have the greatest freedom that could be given to man? Freedom from the fear of death. Freedom from worry. If my life is taken, if my things of this life were taken away, that my real treasure remains. Isn't that what we seek? We have liberty, that we can live here as God's children, being overcomers. Not being bound by the things of this life. Being free because we have hope of the life to come.

"For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." Romans 8:22,23. We live here and the victory isn't complete, is it? We repent. We are converted. God's Spirit is given to us. The battle isn't over. It is really just beginning. But we are looking forward to the time that it will be. That it will be won.

We read in the Old Testament of the kings that thought, the King Benhadad that had the great army. And the small army of the Israelites. We see that when God was with them, when God fought the battle, they could win. It wasn't even, you could almost say it wasn't hardly a battle. Yet the odds looked so much against them. (I Kings 20:26-30)

Who's battle are we in? Or who fights the battle? Who's is the battle? We read in, I believe it was in the David and Goliath account, for the battle is the Lord's (I Samuel 17:47). As we live here, the battle is the Lord's. It is up to us to trust Him. That is what David did. He trusted.

There is much more here. We read, "...that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28. If we can remember that as we go through life, that as things happen in our lives that we don't always understand, let's remember to give God the honor, the praise, the glory. Trusting that somehow He knows what we need. He knows what is really good for us. What is good for His church. Maybe what is going to strengthen someone else through something we've gone through or that we go through. Maybe we will never know. But can we trust God? He is faithful. He is true to His word.



Apostolic Christian Publications Book Store

Apostolic Christian Publications now has CD sets and cassette tape sets of the Children's Harp Hymn book. These are recordings of children from the Apostolic Christian Churches singing all of the Hymns from the Children's Harp. It would be a great gift idea for Christmas, birthday etc. These are available at the book store in Eureka for \$18.50 per set.

The revised 2nd Edition of our Church Welcome book is now available at no charge at the bookstore in Eureka.

To order either of these or other material either stop by the book store between the hours of 8:30am to 11:30am Monday thru Friday or Call 309-467-3611 during those hours to order by phone. If you call after hours you may leave your order on the answering machine or fax your order to the same number.

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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	Novmber 4-11, 2005	Les Cayes	Jon Zeller	Construction/Maintenace	11
AWA-T	TBD	Les Cayes	Troy Struber	Water Aid	5
AWA-B	December 2-9, 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
MEBSH	April 21-28, 2006	Les Cayes	Jon Zeller	Construction/Maintenance	11
MEBSH	April 29-May 6, 2006	Haiti	Tom Hitz	Caribbean Evaluation	Invitation
MEBSH	June 3-10, 2006	Haiti	Tom Hitz	Elder Evaluation	Invitation
AWA-T	June 16-23, 2006	Les Cayes	Troy Struber	Water Aid	5
AWA-FRW	June 16-23, 2006	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4
AWA-B	June 16-23, 2006	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2
JAMAICA					
CCCD	March 18-26, 2006	Deaf Village	Wolcott SS/Jon Schwab	Work Place	40/50
CCCD	March 24-April 1, 2006	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40/50
CCCD	June 3-10, 2006	Deaf Village	Taylor SS/Rusty Adrian	Work Place	40/50
CCCD	July 1-8, 2006	Knockpatrick	Mansfield SS/Pete Webel	Deaf School	40

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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

Mexico Work Teams 2005

Location	Date	Project	Coordinator	Phone	E-mail
Magdalena	November 19-26, 2005	Construction	Loren Dettwyler	503-873-5784	lmdettwyler@peoplepc.com
Agua Prieta	Dec. 26 - Jan. 2, 2006	Construction	Mike Fiechter	260-579-7330	mfiechter@adamswells.com
Magdalena	Dec. 26 - Jan. 2, 2006	Construction	Kirk Schambach	630-377-5271	klyndon@comcast.net
Magdalena	January 21-28, 2006	Construction	Max Burnham	620-343-5394	
Magdalena	February 11-18, 2006	Construction	Dennis Zimmerman	815-657-8810	zimmerman@characterlink.net
Magdalena	February 18-25, 2006	Construction	Norm Rechkemmer	309-231-0098	jannorm67@earthlink.net
Magdalena	Feb. 25 - Mar. 4, 2006	Construction	Marvin Hodel	309-263-0050	dove@dpc.net
Juarez	March 4-11, 2006	Construction	Kurt Ifer	260-824-2829	k.ifer@mchsi.com
Agua Prieta	March 4-11, 2006	Construction	Gerald Fiechter	260-597-7494	fiechter@adamswells.com
Agua Prieta	March 11-18, 2006	Construction	Bob Meyer	260-824-3236	bobmeyer@adamswells.com
Magdalena	March 11-18, 2006	Construction	Arlan Miller	309-747-2683	seek_truth@yahoo.com
Agua Prieta	March 18-25, 2006	Construction	Denis Fry	260-824-3055	fry.d@mchsi.com
Juarez	March 25-April 1, 2006	Construction	Jay Grube	260-565-3402	grube@adamswells.com
Agua Prieta	March 25-April 1, 2006	Construction	Jim Fiechter	260-565-3248	jimfiechter@adamswells.com
Magdalena	March 25-April 1, 2006	Construction	Courtney Pfister	260-824-5161	fizz@parlorcity.com
Juarez	March 30-April 6, 2006	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann	309-385-1082	cheryl@mtco.com
Magdalena	April 8-15, 2006	Construction	Kevin Fischer	309-923-7684	kafischer80@msn.com
Magdalena	June 3-10, 2006	Construction	Jim Plattner	309-385-4811	jplattner@verizon.net
Magdalena	July 8-15, 2006	Construction	Rick Kaisner	847-942-1174	rick@kaisner.org

If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or mfiechter@adamswells.com

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REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The Ties That Bind

This continuing series examines the reasons, historically, why our churches across the land are so closely knit together and our sense of brotherhood is so profound. This did not just happen — it has resulted due to the implement of Biblical ideals that foster closeness and warmth. More ties are listed below:

Maintaining Sound Doctrine

History has taught that falsehoods and the trends of apostasy have occurred throughout the eras of Christianity. History also shows that over the centuries devout Bible-following believers have had to leave doctrinally leavened denominations and thence shield themselves from error as they strove to stay true to the Word — and to be able to perpetuate a Godly, Bible-adhering heritage.

Shortly after the Protestant reformation began in 1517, the Anabaptists had to pull away (from Luther in German and Zwingli in Switzerland) to form a church based more closely on the New Testament

Likewise in the 1820's, Bro. Samuel Froehlich and his early associates made efforts to re-establish a new church based on the exactness of the Word's teachings. They fled the doctrine and practice of the state church which included such things as infant baptism, faith only, participation in warfare and lax living to name a few — to build a new church where the Word's contents were followed and carefully adhered to. The brethren, by God's grace, bowed to the authority of the Bible. Things like the holy kiss, a woman's veiling, separa-

tion from the world and a lay ministry served as examples (among many other distinctives) of "following" Christ according to what His Word taught.

Our church has taken great care in preserving and protecting sound doctrine. It has resisted ecumenicalism (the coming together of all religions). It has avoided ties with mainline and evangelical churches because of doctrinal variances that do not square with what the Bible teaches. To keep it's doctrine pure, our church has made sincere efforts to avoid teachings like instant salvation, faith alone, unconditional eternal security and individual liberty (in doctrine and practice).

In some fashion, it can be said we have not communed with outside groups because of a potential to be influenced by doctrinal differences. This is for the sake of preserving a true doctrine. Since the Froehlich days in Europe, we have held to a policy of closed communion with respect to the Lord's supper. Also, our pulpits have been open only to our own ministers; and we have not sent our minister candidates to seminaries where they would likely be influenced by diversities foreign to the Scriptures. By abiding closely to our established doctrinal truths, to the exclusion of the multitude of outside varieties, it has contributed to likemindedness in belief and practice — and such unity in this respect is indeed a precious tie that binds us.

In these policies we have avoided doctrinal confusion. It has helped to keep our doctrine(s) from being watered-down. Doctrinal separation, and the theological purity it fosters, has helped to create a deeply appreciated tie among our members.

Fervent Love

The Word teaches followers of Christ to have fervent charity among themselves (I Peter 4:8). This is the highest priority (i.e., "above all things"). To be fervent is to be ardent and glowing, with sincerity and loving kindness.

Fervent love embodies not only friendliness and social warmth, but includes a genuine concern for the spiritual welfare of others, in body and soul.

This includes an empathy extension whereby one can see life through the eyes of another (his/her fellow brothers and sisters in faith). Fervent love is thus sensitive to the joys and sorrows of others. One has the discernment to take note of what lifts up or discourages his fellow believers.

In the sphere of fervent charity a soul, by the grace of God, seeks to do nothing that will discourage or grieve other believers. The idea of denying self to smooth the road for others is truly a special Christian trait. This has been a blessed tie that has helped to bind us together in a special way as converted believers.

Once a person cools toward the idea of having a concern about causing discomfort to others, and becomes indifferent about causing offence to a weaker brother or sister, the tie of fervent love will begin to fade. Pleasing others to help them spiritually is one of the most noble traits of brotherhood, and we are privileged to have that as an ideal that has bound us together.

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue: More ties that bind

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“Justice Was Maintained”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

When I was a teenager in Sunday School in our Princeville, Illinois, Apostolic Christian Church, a friend of mine said to me, “I don’t understand why Christ had to die for our sins.” I thought I understood, it was to pay the penalty for our sins and imperfections. However, that raises another question, “Why didn’t God simply forgive us out of love and forbearance? If I do something bad against a friend and he forgives me, no one is required to pay a penalty.”

In Acts 3:14 we read, “But ye denied the Holy One and the Just.” The word “Just,” which is used as one of the names for our Lord Jesus Christ, means, among other things, “Legally valid.”

God told Adam and Eve as recorded in Genesis 2:17, in regard to eating of a certain tree, “For in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” This is repeated in Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death.” Now, if God set up a

standard or law which states that the penalty for sin is death, He cannot say that He feels sorry for us and simply forgives us, without losing His credibility for justice, or conformity to the law. There is also the problem that if people on earth knew that they can do anything they want and they will automatically be forgiven, because of the love and mercy of God, people might do more and more terrible things, and not feel any remorse or responsibility for their conduct. Therefore, for the sake of justice, it was necessary that Christ be crucified for us, and that anyone wanting to enjoy the forgiveness offered, should also be crucified with Him. The Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ.”

Next we wonder what qualifications Christ had which made Him qualified to be our Saviour. First, He was born of a virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit, so He was not under the curse of sin. It is written concerning

Mary, the mother of Jesus, “She was found with child of the Holy Ghost,” Matthew 1:18. Christ is the Son of God, Mark 1:1 “The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” Also, “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself,” II Corinthians 5:19.

In God’s sight, if He Himself, in the person of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, paid the penalty for our sin and imperfections, then He the Judge, the Creator, has born the punishment for us and He is justified in forgiving us. Justice was not compromised, it was maintained by what Christ did for us, but there is the requirement that we also must die to self. It is one of the central teachings of the New Testament.

Why did Christ have to die for us instead of God simply forgiving us? Because God is a righteous God and justice must be maintained, if He is to keep that reputation. Mercy, yes, but justice was maintained.

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*Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves:
 be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.
 Matthew 10:16*

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